

Apocalypse 701

Chapter 701

Translated by: La0o9

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The space vortex.

A medium-sized ship was quickly approaching Drifting Sand world.

One of the subordinates reported: "Boss, our ship has been flying at hyper speed constantly for a while now, the engine might not be able to hold out for long"

A grey giant stood on the deck of the ship, staring into the space vortex.

"Don't worry, it's just a ship" the grey giant pointed ahead and laughed, "look, we're going to reach Drifting Sand world soon, the Holy Church of Death's bounty will definitely be ours!"

The entire bounty hunter squad cheered.

"Where's Sky Eye?" the grey giant asked behind himself.

"I'm here Boss"

A man with four vertical eyes answered and stepped forward.

The grey giant asked: "The two on the bounty, did you take a good look at them yet?"

"I did" Sky Eye answered.

The grey giant asked: "Are there any problems?"

Sky Eye puffed his chest out: "Don't worry, Boss. If they appear anywhere at all on Drifting Sand world, I will immediately notice them"

The grey giant ordered: "Good, then start now, report to me right away if you find the target.

"Yes, Boss" Sky Eye answered.

He sat down on the deck of the ship, closed his eyes, and fell asleep.

A few fierce-looking subordinates walked up to the grey giant and knelt down on one knee: "Boss, leave catching this time's target to our team"

Several other teams immediately shouted in disagreement.

They all stepped out, asking the grey giant to let them do it.

The grey giant waved his hand dismissively: "No need to argue about this, I'm not picking a single team out of any of you"

The subordinates all exchanged glances, not knowing what the Boss meant.

The grey giant spoke: "You still think this is one of our normal jobs? No, this is a huge opportunity that will affect all of our futures!"

He grinned cruelly and loudly declared: "Once Sky Eye finds the target, our entire bounty hunter squad will move, we're not sparing any effort!"

...

The small town.

Back inside the work center

But this time, 'Wang Cheng' was treated a lot more respectfully.

In a room deep inside the work center, he was reporting the information he had.

"It was a coincidence that I happened to see that man and woman on the wanted posters at that time" he told them.

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Sitting across from him, the captain and vice-captain of the black market guard force carefully listened to his story.

Wang Cheng continued: "It's probably because I was hunting and was hidden beneath the sand while concealing my presence that those two didn't notice me. I saw them hurriedly flying somewhere, passing where I was briefly"

"Which direction were they heading in? Do you still remember the exact coordinates?" the guard captain asked.

"Of course, please give me a map" Wang Cheng replied.

Very quickly, he was provided with a map.

Wang Cheng took a careful look before marking a location on the map.

"They probably went here. Also, after they went away from me, I started to feel a sort of familiar energy signature, now that I think about it, it seemed a lot like that thing that cultivators use for defense, what was it called again..."

Wang Cheng was racking his brain.

"A spirit energy defensive formation" the guard captain chimed him for him.

Wang Cheng clapped his hand and spoke: "Yes! That! A spirit energy defensive formation! I could clearly tell that it was energy signature from those things"

"You mean, they weren't too far away from where you were?" the guard captain asked.

"Yes, the energy signature I felt was quite intense and stable, so I assume they couldn't have been too far from where I was" Wang Cheng replied.

"Very well, we will verify your information" the guard captain spoke.

He glanced at the vice-captain.

The vice-captain reported: “Our fastest scout has been dispatched, we’ll get some confirmation soon”

Just a bit after he said that, a voice came from a small device on his shoulder.

[Report, discovered cultivation-type defensive and concealment formations. Estimated to be several dozen layers, I can’t undo them. Over]

“Clear. Maintain your position and wait for orders. Over”

[Understood. Over]

The voice went away.

The two guards exchanged glances.

The guard captain took out a small spherical rock that gave off a milky white light.

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“Good, now we need you to put your hand on the lie detector rock to prove that you have indeed seen those two” he said.

Wang Cheng placed his hand on it without hesitation and declared: “I swear that the two people on the wanted posters definitely did enter those formations. Furthermore, I guarantee that location I gave was also correct”

The rock didn’t react.

The guard captain grinned: “Very good, you did well, here’s your reward”

He nodded to the vice-captain.

The vice-captain took out a small bag and an ID, putting them on the table.

Wang Cheng put the two items away and cheerfully spoke: “Thank you sirs”

“Hm, you may leave now”

“Yes”

Wang Cheng bowed and quickly left the room.

The door closed behind him.

“What do you think?” the guard captain asked.

“What else can I think? The information was real, now we just need to secure the Holy Church’s bounty and get the rewards” the vice-captain appeared ready to fight.

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The captain also replied: “Hm, so we’re in agreement, bring everybody, just to make sure—— the Church didn’t limit the number of people that they’ll reward anyways”

“Got it!”

...

After receiving the payment from the black market guard force, Wang Cheng came out of the work center and walked randomly through several twists and turns all over town.

Wang Cheng muttered: “Shannu, let’s switch”

“Now?”

“No, after a while”

“Understood, gongzi”

As they spoke, Wang Cheng suddenly disappeared from an intersection.

A few moments later.

Several Professionals appeared where he originally stood.

“Lost him” one of them dejectedly reported.

The others tried to use other means to search for him, but couldn’t find any traces of Wang Cheng at all.

It was now that they knew the other party already noticed them tailing him, as well as had a method to conceal himself.

“Seems like a capable one” another person commented.

“Should be, otherwise he wouldn’t have gotten the guard’s payment” another chimed in.

These people were still unwilling to just give up and stood right there, using several other means to try and search for him.

——but none of them could locate Wang Cheng.

They all left irritated.

At the same time, a blue-dressed female cultivator silently walked up to the warp point in the middle of town.

She showed the ID to the guards there.

“First time into the black market?” the guard asked.

“Yes” the female cultivator admitted.

“The black market is in the sky, just follow this path and you’ll reach it—— this is a type of spatial spell” looking at Shannu’s charming appearance, the guard warmly explained to her.

“I understand, thank you very much”

The female went straight into the path without turning around and continued to head deeper.

A few moments later, light could be seen ahead.

She arrived at the black market.

The guard standing at the other end of the path took a glance at Shannu before waving his hand, signaling her to pass.

As Shannu stepped into the black market, she slowly looked around.

——rather than calling this a market, it would be more accurate to call this a huge floating port.

Countless ships were docked at the outer rim of the port, with living beings of all shapes and sizes moving up and down, various noises and sounds were mixed against each other, creating a bustling atmosphere.

Within the black market, it was mandatory for every race to use their human forms, not only to facilitate easier communication between everyone but also to minimize the use of space.

“Gongzi, this place is so lively” Shannu spoke emotionally.

“Stop watching for now and find somewhere covert, switch with me” Gu Qing Shan’s voice came from her chest.

He was currently in his card form, hiding on Shannu as he cautiously observed their surroundings.

Hearing the uneasiness in his voice, Shannu lowered her voice and asked: “Gongzi, what’s the matter?”

“I feel a grave omen shrouding this place, we must leave this world immediately” Gu Qing Shan spoke with a heavy tone.

Chapter 702

Translated by: La0o9

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The black market.

Shannu turned back into her sword form and hid in the void of space behind Gu Qing Shan’s back.

Gu Qing Shan once again took Wang Cheng’s form as he quickly walked through the streets.

Weapon shops, item appraisal shops, auction house, bars, restaurants, arenas, armor shops, technology central stores, slave market, recruitment central square, Drifting Sand world real estate center, unknown lifeform and event registration office, Black market Security office, Professionist Salon, Bounty hunter Association, Thieves’ Guild, skill shops, and so on and so forth... Gu Qing Shan was walking by all sorts of buildings and structures.

According to Gu Qing Shan’s original plans, he would have had to visit many of these places.

For example, the item appraisal shop—— he needed to know what the black branch’s abilities were and its uses, under a controlled environment.

The weapon shop, the bar, Professionalist Salon, skill shops, and others, he would've loved to visit any of these places.

Originally, Gu Qing Shan even thought about going to the Thieves' Guild to see if they could open the black-clothed man's item bag.

But now, Gu Qing Shan gave up the idea and only wanted to leave this world as soon as possible.

An unprecedented shroud of darkness was lingering on his mind.

While Gu Qing Shan quickly walked forward, his breathing was becoming a bit heavy.

— not due to fatigue, but rather because his body felt tense unlike never before.

He quickly scanned his surroundings.

Within the black market, with constant patrolling by the guards, living beings of different races were obediently adhering to the rules, moving along peacefully and orderly.

But Gu Qing Shan was still feeling uneasy.

For some unknown reason, he found himself in a battle-ready state, as if he was prepared to risk his life at any moment!

"Karmic adversity..."

He lightly muttered.

That was right, without any warnings, his final and most dangerous karmic adversity was silently creeping closer.

This was an unclear and indescribable feeling as if the fork road of life and death was already right in front waiting for him.

Damn it!

This is not a good feeling.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan was feeling nostalgic of the Lightning Tribulation, because in comparison, the pressure that a karmic adversity gave was nowhere on the same level.

He forced himself to maintain clarity of mind and continued forward.

A few moments later, he reached the end of the road.

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— the floating port.

This place was at the border of the black market, where various flying transits were moving in and out of the dock.

This was where one must go so that they could leave from this world!

Gu Qing Shan quickly walked in.

“Welcome, sir, how may I help you?”

A staff member took notice of Gu Qing Shan and slowly walked over.

“I need to board the next ship that’ll go off-world” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“Where would you like to go?” the staff member asked.

Gu Qing Shan’s gaze quickly scanned through the various signs near the dock.

“Nine Stars Empire” he replied.

Besides this one, the rest of the ships were marked red— which meant they were already full.

According to the sign in the center, the ship heading for Nine Stars Empire would leave in about 10 minutes.

This was only a small ship, but at least there were still seats, and it would be the quickest method to leave.

So this was his best choice.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t want to remain in this world for even a moment longer.

The staff replied: “Let me check the seating... Ah, yes, there are still four seats left, would you like to reserve one of them?”

“Yes”

“How would you like to pay sir? Although this is only a small ship, we don’t accept #8 coins or below”

“I’ll pay with #10 coins”

Gu Qing Shan took out a coin out of a small bag and showed it to the staff member.

The ‘head’ side of the coin depicted a creature with various sharp, spinous, sawtooth-like long limbs, together with a description: [Void Render, likes to eat their prey alive, its body is sharp and poisonous]

The ‘tail’ side was carved with a single number [10]

This was a #10 coin, and also what Gu Qing Shan received from the guard captain as payment for his information.

Seeing #10 coins, the staff member’s attitude instantly became a lot better.

He spoke: “27 pieces of #10 coin will be enough”

Gu Qing Shan then counted 27 coins and gave it to him.

The staff member quickly arranged everything.

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“Please come this way, I’ll lead you onto your ship, dear customer” he respectfully spoke.

“Yes, thank you” Gu Qing Shan replied.

When they had just taken a few steps, a female voice came from behind:

“Wait, there are still 3 seats left? Then we also want to board”

The two of them looked back.

A beautiful mature woman was heading towards them, behind her was a rough-looking man with black-stained skin, leading a 6-7 years old boy.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

This woman was very familiar to him because they had just fought not too long ago.

The Demon Scorpion Empress!

She took human form to come here!

“It’s you?” Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but exclaimed.

“I am, I’ll buy the seats first, then we’ll talk” the Demon Scorpion Empress waved her hand at him dismissively.

The staff member spoke: “This lady, there are three seats left, are you going——”

“I want all of them” the Demon Scorpion Empress answered.

“Ah, yes, I’ll do it right away” the staff member replied.

He then quickly tapped various points on the void of space, apparently operating something.

Behind her, the black-skinned man waved to Gu Qing Shan and smiled.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t really understand why, but he reluctantly smiled back.

The black-skinned man thought briefly and put up one finger.

An endless green glow flowed out from his finger.

Gu Qing Shan immediately recognized this green glow.

——*this is the same presence I felt from that tree in the desert.*

Gu Qing Shan then glanced at the boy next to the man.

The boy was staring at him, constantly gulping.

After a bit of thinking, Gu Qing Shan chuckled bitterly and understood.

So this boy was that little black scorpion, and this black-skinned man must be the Demon Scorpion Empress’ husband.

Which means he wasn’t a tree at all—— it’s very clear what his true form is.

“What a coincidence, I didn’t think I’d run into you here” Gu Qing Shan said.

“That goes both ways. I knew your battle abilities were impressive, but I didn’t think your instincts would be this good as well” the black-skinned man replied.

Instinct?

What does he mean?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking that, the staff member had already finished their registration.

The Demon Scorpion Empress scowled and reluctantly took out some money to pay for it.

“Please follow me, all four of you” he smiled.

The group stopped talking and followed the staff member through a large waiting area before arriving at a small-sized ship.

It was a literal ship, very similar to the kind that the Spire Keeper Association provided.

“A magic-type ship, hm, very nice, should be a bit better than a technology-type one” the Demon Scorpion Empress nodded in satisfaction.

The four people boarded the ship.

The ship was arranged so that a cabin contained four passengers each.

The staff member led them to the final room and lightly pulled back the sliding door.

There wasn’t anyone inside, but there was a table, four armchairs, and more than enough room for a human passenger to stretch their legs.

Various fruits and snacks were laid out on the table as well as four cups of steaming hot tea.

A large glass wall was installed to allow passengers a full view of the scenery outside from inside the ship.

After bringing them here, the staff member smiled: “We will be setting sail in a few minutes, I wish you all a comfortable trip”

As he was about to bow, he stopped.

The Demon Scorpion Empress, her husband, the child as well as Gu Qing Shan all braced themselves.

The very next second.

Boom!

Deep underground, a huge sound of an impact was heard.

Although the black market was in the sky, the shockwaves that traveled through the air allowed them to estimate the magnitude of the quake.

Everyone’s expressions changed.

Gu Qing Shan wiped the cold sweat off his forehead—— he knew what was actually going on.

The family of demon scorpion exchanged worried glances.

“It’s coming out, papa, that thing is coming out!” the little boy hugged the man’s arm and cried fearfully.

Chapter 703

Translated by: La0o9

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“It’ll be fine, we’ll be fine, we’re leaving this place soon”

The black-skinned man quickly consoled his son.

The staff member was obviously shocked, quickly bowing to them and left the cabin.

He closed the door behind him.

The air froze for a few minutes.

Everyone silently felt the shivering and shaking of the earth.

The entire Drifting Sand world was currently trembling, this unnatural phenomenon couldn’t be explained with a simple earthquake anymore.

“How many minutes left until we take off?” the Demon Scorpion Empress suddenly asked Gu Qing Shan.

“Half a minute” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“It’s a good thing that we’re leaving” the black-skinned man sighed.

“Wait a minute, I have a question—— there were several thousand people on the port just now, how did you immediately realize it was me?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The black-skinned man grinned: “Because you’re still carrying my stinger without using it after all this time”

“So that’s why”

The black-skinned man laughed bitterly: “Truthfully, you could’ve just used it without worry”

Gu Qing Shan spoke awkwardly: “Actually, I haven’t touched it at all because I don’t know how to use it”

Now that the cabin door is closed and there was no one else here, he returned to his original appearance.

The man explained: “When you bring my stinger with you, no creature in the desert will try anything against you. Furthermore, any enemy who gets stung by it will definitely die—— trust me, my venom is very hard to cure”

“I understand, thank you” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

The Demon Scorpion Empress suddenly reached her hand out to Gu Qing Shan.

“Yes?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“You killed that black-clothed man, share the spoils” the Demon Scorpion Empress demanded.

“But you weren’t there at the time, did you see me do it?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I don’t care, I spent quite a bit of effort helping you silently” the Demon Scorpion Empress kept her hand reached out.

Gu Qing Shan chuckled.

A Combatant of her level wouldn’t lie for such a minor thing.

And Gu Qing Shan also knew that she didn’t carry any killing intent when they fought.

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“But there’s a problem, I can’t open this bag” Gu Qing Shan honestly said.

“Don’t worry, no one in the entire black market can open that guy’s bag, but my husband can” Demon Scorpion Empress boasted.

The black-skinned man smiled awkwardly.

His wife then glared at him.

“Meaning?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“We’ll help you open it and split the things inside 50/50” the Demon Scorpion Empress offered.

“With your strength, do you really need to care about this little bit of money?” Gu Qing Shan asked, a bit confused.

The Demon Scorpion Empress spoke worriedly: “Now that we’re leaving home, we’ll be using money constantly. Our child will need money for his education as well as for his nourishment, not to mention basic necessities. It’s never going to be enough, so we’ll take any money we can get”

“Make sense, we’ll split then” Gu Qing Shan sighed.

He took out the black bag without hesitation and tossed it to them.

The Demon Scorpion Empress then tossed it to the black-skinned man.

The man caught the bag, estimated it briefly before lightly touching the opening of the bag with his finger.

Bam!

With a tiny noise, the bag opened.

The man was about to offer the bag back to Gu Qing Shan, but the Demon Scorpion Empress glared at him again.

So he reluctantly put the bag on the table instead.

“It’s ok, you can pick out your portion first” Gu Qing Shan said.

“So generous?” the Demon Scorpion Empress smiled.

“Hm, I’m only a single person, after all, I don’t have nearly as much of a pressure on daily necessities as your family does, so you can pick first”

The Demon Scorpion Empress’ smile became a lot more sincere.

Since this youngster doesn’t know what’s in the bag, and I get to pick first, doesn’t that mean I can take more or less what I want?

But since he had offered that so openly, she wasn’t in as much of a hurry to pick anything, since that’ll be lacking manners.

So she directly declared: “I’ve seen how strong you are, by cultivator standard, you should be at Tribulation realm late stage, and quite close to breaking through as well”

“Ah, yes I am” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“As far as I can see, you should have one last karmic adversity to go through”

“Yes”

“If that’s the case, come with us for the time being, we’ll accompany you for a short while”

“Thank you very much!” Gu Qing Shan vigorously clasped his fist immediately.

For him, a karmic adversity was a big deal, but to someone of the Demon Scorpion Empress’ level, as long as she wanted to care, it would be nothing but a walk in the park.

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“No need to be so formal, since we’re leaving together, lending a helping hand is nothing big” the Demon Scorpion Empress generously said.

Suddenly——

Oom!

An intense tremble.

The entire world was shaking.

This time, the magnitude of the quake was several times that of before, the shockwaves were strong enough to even scatter clouds in the sky.

However, the ship was already taking off.

The ship quickly went past the layer of clouds and turned into a blurred white streak as it sped up.

“So we’re finally leaving”

The Demon Scorpion Empress’ expression was a bit pale.

“Hah, I really didn’t want to leave the Abyss of Sin, but what can you do, surviving is more important” the black-skinned man sighed.

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but be curious: “Why did you have to leave?”

The Demon Scorpion Empress sighed: "Same reason as you"

"Yeah" the black-skinned man added, "that thing is about to wake up"

He stroked his son's head.

All of a sudden, a golden rune appeared out of thin air.

This rune formed a string that wrapped around the black-skinned man, pulled him away and disappeared in an instant.

Before the Demon Scorpion Empress could do anything, another glittering golden string had wrapped around her as well.

"Damn it, this is the God's—"

The Demon Scorpion Empress angrily cursed before disappearing as well.

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Right after that, when their son had only just started crying, he was also brought away by a golden flash.

Almost instantaneously, all three of them disappeared without a trace.

All Gu Qing Shan saw were three flashes of golden light, and it was already over.

On the table, the four cups of tea were still steaming.

He was the only person left in the cabin.

Gu Qing Shan slowly stood up.

The current situation was already beyond his imagination.

Both the Demon Scorpion Empress and the black-skinned man were considerable powerful existences.

But both of them were taken away without even a chance to retaliate.

Even though Gu Qing Shan knew that whatever force took them was more than even the Demon Scorpion Empress could handle, he still instinctively drew the Six Paths Great Mountain sword.

Oom!!!

The tremor was getting worse.

An intense omen of death descended from above, tightly gripping Gu Qing Shan's body and mind.

The karmic adversity is here!

Gu Qing Shan calmed himself down and silently prepared.

Then, he looked outside the wall of glass meant for sight-seeing.

He saw ship after ship burning as they fell from the sky.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at those ships' number plates.

...a match.

These are all the ships that took off not too long before mine.

Why are they falling?

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to search the sky.

Countless ships were burning, falling from their flight, as if the end of the world was coming.

All of a sudden, the ship that Gu Qing Shan was riding on also began to shake uncontrollably, with various of the ship's own magical signatures reacting all at once.

Not good—

Gu Qing Shan immediately felt heavy.

He put the black bag on the table away, raised his sword, and thrust the sword with all his might towards the outer wall of the ship.

Secret Art, [Water Flow Severance]

Dong dong dong dong dong!

No matter how sturdy the wall of the ship was, it couldn't handle his full strength and a large hole was immediately formed as intense cold winds began to rush inside.

Gu Qing Shan lightly leapt out, turned into a blurred shadow as he escaped through the hole.

Boom!

As soon as he leapt out, the ship exploded into a giant fireball, quickly falling down like the rest of the ships before it.

While hovering in the air, Gu Qing Shan looked up.

A faint layer of golden runes was slowly manifesting.

This layer of runes encompassed the entire sky.

Gu Qing Shan stood still for a few moments, watching as more and more powerful Combatants escaped their various burning ships.

But no one seemed to know why that happened at all.

Everyone was confused and panicked.

As they looked up, they could clearly see that various ships still managed to enter the Drifting Sand world's atmosphere through the runes without accidents.

But on the contrary, as soon as a ship attempted to leave this world, they would explode and burn as soon as they touched the runes.

— it was very clear, entry was allowed, exit was not.

Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes at the golden runes and muttered: "These are Divine Script..."

Back in Triste's collection world, on top of the snow peak of the Gods, he witnessed similar runes in action once.

But he didn't expect to see them again in the Strife Zones.

In hindsight, the thing that took the scorpion empress' family away was most likely something left behind by Divinity as well.

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan's heart started to beat faster and he shivered.

What are Divinities trying to do?

Aren't they already dead?

Could it be they managed to predict that the Angel of Condemnation – Xi would one day escape the seal, and so they prepared something else to trap the sinful creature inside this world?

A few moments later, a resounding echo came from the Divine Script that encompassed the world.

「 Summon, Desolate World Eater Demon Bug 」

As soon as that was heard, the golden runes in the sky slowly faded away.

— they disappeared because they had just used up all their powers for the summoning.

A layer of fleshy red substance suddenly enveloped the sky to form a new barrier.

The fleshy barrier slowly moved.

Quite a few tried flying upwards, wanting to go through the red fleshy substance, but they were all attacked by some sort of invisible force and pummeled to a pulp while they were still in the air.

Gu Qing Shan saw with his own eyes how a Combatant with a presence similar to that of a Lord got squished into a ball of flesh and blood by some invisible force as they tried to fly up.

When this Combatant died, they were still several meters away from reaching the flesh barrier.

Several long and thin fleshy tentacles came out from the flesh barrier and quickly absorbed what remained of the Combatant through them.

— obviously, from this point onwards, the flesh barrier would be the obstruction for anyone trying to leave.

Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth, silently thinking of how to go through that barrier.

Suddenly, a female voice complained from inside his sleeves.

“Hahhh, so noisy~”

Gu Qing Shan took out a card.

Within the lapis-colored card, Little Dusk was still sitting on her bed as she yawned: “What's going on? Can't I even get a good night's sleep?”

“Look at the sky” Gu Qing Shan told her.

Little Dusk glanced upward and completely woke up.

“Oh no, this is a demonic bug that can eat an entire world whole, Drifting Sand world was already swallowed by it!” Little Dusk exclaimed.

“Are there any ways to get out?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“This demonic bug was born even before Divinities, it’s extremely powerful. My current strength is nowhere near enough to deal with it” Little Dusk answered.

The two of them exchanged glances, feeling heavy in their hearts.

...

On the other side.

To be exact, on the other side of the world, a ship had just entered Drifting Sand world’s orbit.

Aboard the ship.

Sky Eye opened his eyes and reported: “Boss, I found our wanted man”

Chapter 704

Translated by: La0o9

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Aboard the bounty hunters’ ship.

The grey giant pulled back his gaze from the sky.

He felt uneasy when he looked at the wall of flesh in the sky, but for now, something else was more important.

“You found our guy?” he asked.

“Yes, Boss”

“How’s his strength?”

“According to a cultivator’s power level, he should be around the standard for a late-stage Tribulation realm cultivator ”

The entire bounty hunter squad broke into laughter.

Normally, against a cultivator, if their target reached the level of Chaotic Star, Origin Aspect, Radiant Soul, or Void Beholder, then the entire bounty hunter squad would have to be wary.

—-after all, their bounty hunter squad wasn’t even in the top rankings of the Strife Zones’ 200 million World Layers.

But if it was just a Tribulation realm cultivator, they had more than enough leeway.

The grey giant looked at his subordinates and declared: "Alright, no matter what's happening to this world, our goal is to make money, first and foremost!"

"All teams, roll out, we're going to kill that man!"

"Yes! Boss!"

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...

Gu Qing Shan was slowly descending.

The sky had already been blocked out by the demon bug.

—no, the entire world had actually been devoured whole.

As this world fell into the bug's stomach, it had become strangely quiet.

The same silence that came before a storm.

"The demon scorpion family got caught" Gu Qing Shan said.

"What happened?" Little Dusk asked.

Gu Qing Shan told her everything from the beginning.

"That sounds like a method of restraint that Divinities liked to use" Little Dusk commented, full of thoughts.

She turned back into her real form and drew a card from thin air.

The Summoning card, [Demon Scorpion Empress]

As Little Dusk looked at it, she found that there wasn't anything depicted on it.

"I can't summon her? Seems like something really did happen" Little Dusk scowled.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the blank card and asked: "Was she also part of the Condemnation— Fugitive deck?"

"No, she was only a creature that thrived within the Abyss of Sin. Because she once happened to have contact with my power from before I scattered it, she willingly signed a contract card with me"

"What is the Abyss of Sin?"

"Below the drifting sand, in the abyss where the seal was— the Divinities placed a few wardens in that area to watch over the seal, so that when something happens, the wardens will immediately notify them about it and perform emergency measures to stop the seal from breaking" Little Dusk explained.

"But Divinities have been gone for a long time" Gu Qing Shan commented.

"Which is why they've been living so peacefully and freely in the Abyss of Sin, never having to go anywhere" Little Dusk.

“But they didn’t expect that the Divinities would have already put counter-measures to prevent them from ever leaving” Gu Qing Shan sighed.

The two of them went silent briefly.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly raised his sword.

Little Dusk also threw out a card.

It was a card depicting a white net bag.

Defensive card, [Reflective Net Bag]!

[Reflective Net Bag: Fully reflecting the first attack of an opponent back at them]

[Note: An eye for an eye!]

[Note: This net bag cannot reflect a sure-kill attack, it also can’t reflect attacks that surpasses three times an Envoy of Condemnation’s strength]

Sha!

The card scattered.

A net of light made up of white glowing strings manifested in the air.

The net blocked in front of the two of them, stopping a glittering pillar of light.

The pillar of light slowly sank deeper and deeper into the net, stretching close to their faces.

“It’s fine, the net is still far from reaching its limit, this attack can still be reflected” Little Dusk said.

As soon as she said so, the pillar of light was rolled into a ball and shot back.

Not too far in the sky, a ball of fire erupted.

A ship had just exploded, breaking into pieces.

Gu Qing Shan and Little Dusk stared closely at the ship.

It seems the attack just now was an ambush that came from that ship.

“Did you offend somebody?” Little Dusk asked.

“I didn’t, but someone is trying to catch us” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Who’s trying to catch us?” Little Dusk asked curiously.

“The Holy Church of Death, of course” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Little Dusk finally realized what was going on.

Where the ship fell, over a dozen people jumped out from the explosion, quickly flying towards them.

The two sides weren’t too far apart.

Those people quickly approached and surrounded them.

Little Dusk asked: "These people don't look like divine officers, what are they trying to catch us for? Or are they the Divinities' new weapons?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "No, it's because the Holy Church issued a bounty on us"

"What's a bounty?"

"..."

Gu Qing Shan understood Little Dusk a little bit better.

Little Dusk knew a lot of ancient secrets and was a decent fighter, but she didn't have much common sense.

So he briefly explained to her what a bounty was.

While they were talking, a grey giant stepped out from among the dozen humanoids.

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He was holding a wanted poster.

After confirming the man and woman on the wanted poster with the two in front of him, the grey giant nodded.

We have the right targets.

He curtly ordered: "Go, kill them!"

As the leader of a squad, he has always believed that there is no need to chat with an enemy.

With his order, the entire bounty hunter squad attacked all at once.

Little Dusk quickly spoke: "You're too weak, just focus on protecting yourself, I'll be the main attacker"

"Got it" Gu Qing Shan easily agreed.

Those people are too strong, if I was by myself, I would have already tried to run away.

He fully equipped his Shen Wei general armor and prepared for battle.

Little Dusk quickly leapt forward with a card in her hand.

She was taking on the majority of the enemy's forces.

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But 7-8 people still managed to slip past towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan scanned them with his inner sight.

None of them were weaker than him.

Briefly sensing their power levels, the weakest of them was equal to a Tribulation realm cultivator.

Some were even as strong as a Virtualized or Cryptic realm cultivator.

One of them had even surpassed Cryptic, faintly appearing to be around that of Chaotic Star realm!

Gu Qing Shan carefully avoided that person, held both his swords in hand and suddenly appeared in between the three weakest people.

Sha.

[Life Seeker]!

Two of them were instantly killed.

One of them managed to block Gu Qing Shan's attack purely by instinct.

The others became vigilant.

"Careful, his sword can attack from afar" the strongest of the bounty hunters cautioned the rest.

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

He only managed to kill two people even though he acted so unexpectedly.

The other side no longer tried to approach him, instead, they kept their distance and used long-ranged spells instead.

The strongest bounty hunter and two other close-ranged fighters carefully kept their attention on the casters in case Gu Qing Shan suddenly appeared between them again.

And the casters unleashed their spells as fast as possible.

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[Chaotic Void Cutter]!

[Explosive Fireball]!

[Ray of Petrification]!

[Air Cracker]!

[Hammer of Frost]!

Various spells give off blinding light as they shoot towards Gu Qing Shan.

— all of them at once!

The spells were shot in a way so that they perfectly sealed off Gu Qing Shan's escape routes.

Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to prepare to use [Shadow Shift].

Suddenly, one of them who hadn't done anything up to now jumped out.

He shouted: "Law: All spell attacks will instantly hit!"

In the blink of an eye, the speeding rays of magic instantly stretched into thin strings that crashed into Gu Qing Shan.

Boom!

Being hit head-on by this barrage of spells, Gu Qing Shan was sent flying into the desert, kicking up a huge wave of sand.

The sand and dust settled.

Gu Qing Shan stood up among the sand, spitting blood out from his mouth.

The Shen Wei armor managed to block the barrage of spells for him, but it was also now broken.

Not only were the enemies skillful and experienced, but their combination of Professions was also well-thought-out, taking advantage of the element of surprise, Gu Qing Shan fell into their trap.

Using the power of a single person to go against enemies that were both stronger and well-coordinated was never an easy feat.

—–not to mention that this was the Strife Zones, and these were professional combat-type bounty hunters.

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

He lightly shivered to drop all the broken pieces of the armor off his body.

“A single sentence to allow so many spells to hit the target, this must be word magic...”

“How interesting to run into such a thing”

He muttered.

While facing this deadly karmic adversity, Gu Qing Shan had nothing but endless killing intent.

He grabbed the void of space again.

Taking both the Chao Yin sword and Six Paths Great Mountain sword in his hands.

Gu Qing Shan was about to leap upwards.

When all of a sudden, a figure fell from the sky, landing next to Gu Qing Shan.

Little Dusk.

She was breathing heavily and said: “Not good, too many, very hard to deal with”

Gu Qing Shan stopped and looked at her: “You’re hurt as well?”

In the sky, under the command of the grey giant, the two of them were quickly surrounded again.

One of his subordinates laughed: “Boss, this job seems to be quite easy, isn’t it?”

“Yes, too easy, which makes me think of something else” the grey giant fell into thought.

“What is it?” the subordinate asked.

“If the Holy Church wants them dead so badly, could it be because they know some sort of secret...”

“Boss, you mean?”

“Pry it out of them before we kill them”

“If we do that, wouldn’t that upset the Holy Church?”

“Yes... so I’m a bit hesitant”

While they were talking, Little Dusk and Gu Qing Shan were also quickly discussing among themselves.

“They have the number advantage, are better-coordinated and stronger than we are, do you have any ideas?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Dusk shook her head: “I fight mainly through spells and magic, so now that I’ve lost the majority of my powers and they’re ganging up on us like this, it’s very hard to get through”

Gu Qing Shan sighed and spoke: “Then we can only...”

Before he even finished, Little Dusk cut him off and continued: “Looks like we’ll have to fight together”

Gu Qing Shan was slightly confused and asked: “What do you mean?”

Little Dusk reached two of her pearly white fingers out into the void of space and lightly drew.

She took out a single card.

This card was unlike a normal card.

A gentle 7-colored light lingered around the card, making it seem like it was glittering.

Depicted on this card were two beautiful angels standing back-to-back, both of them praying.

Little Dusk stared closely at the card and said: “I’ve never had a partner before, so this is the first time I’ve used this card as well”

She threw the card out.

It instantly disappeared.

A grey glow came out from Gu Qing Shan’s body.

While a lapis glow came out from Little Dusk.

The two glows melded together and formed a string.

The string formed a connection between Gu Qing Shan and Little Dusk.

The string of light only appeared for a split second before fading away.

Little Dusk muttered: “Now it’s different”

Gu Qing Shan looked at the War God UI.

Several lines of glowing text had already appeared on the UI.

[Unique card: Duo Image, has been activated]

[Envoy of Condemnation – Gu Qing Shan is currently synchronizing]

[Angel of Condemnation – Dusk is currently synchronizing]
[Synchronization complete]
[Duo Image battle mode, on!]

Chapter 705

Gu Qing Shan continued reading the War God UI.

Lines of glowing text were still scrolling past his eyes.

[Duo Image battle mode: In this mode, the two Envoys of Condemnation can instantly synchronize their battle cards as well as their card-type battle experience]

[You've obtained permission to use all battle cards belonging to the lapis-grade card: Angel of Condemnation – Dusk]

[You've learnt how to use these cards]

[Currently, you are a grey-grade lv0 card, Angel of Condemnation – Dusk is unable to obtain any battle card from you]

[As you've never fought using cards before, Angel of Condemnation – Dusk is unable to obtain any card-type battle experience from you]

[Under these circumstances, whenever you use three of her cards, Angel of Condemnation – Dusk will be able to draw upon one of your abilities and manifest it as a card for her to use]

[You may select one of your abilities to manifest as a card, placing it into Angel of Condemnation – Dusk's Duo Deck]

Gu Qing Shan quickly finished reading.

Little Dusk told him: "It's fine, now that you've obtained my lapis-grade card deck, it will be the same as two of me fighting at the same time, so we should be able to beat them"

She continued: "According to the rules, you can choose one of your abilities to put into our shared Duo Deck, but I prefer the caster-type fighting style, so I won't be able to use your close-ranged abilities, just randomly put one of them in"

Gu Qing Shan thought for a single second and told her: "Wait"

Now that he had obtained Little Dusk's experience as a card user, he focused his mind to choose one ability as a shared card.

A grey card manifested in front of them.

Depicted on the card were two arrows cycling around one another, constantly changing places.

[Card: Shadow Shift]

[Spatial-type Divine Skill, instant cast, you can switch places with any creature within the range of your inner sight]

[Note: This Skill is a Law-grade Divine Skill, no living being will be able to resist it, no barrier of sealing technique will be able to stop it]

Little Dusk was surprised, quickly caught the card in her hand, and exclaimed excitedly: "Whoa! For a caster like myself, this is certainly the best evasion card right now!"

Gu Qing Shan also grinned.

He was currently absorbing Little Dusk's battle experience.

"Little Dusk"

"Hm?"

"I... kind of understand now why Divinities were afraid of you"

"Hehehe, this is nothing, I'm still very weak right now"

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In the sky, the grey giant finally made his decision.

"Regardless of what the secret is, we can't offend the Holy Church"

He shouted: "Go! All teams, kill them on the spot!"

The entire bounty hunter squad moved into action again.

Gu Qing Shan and Little Dusk quickly noticed it.

Little Dusk shifted her focus onto the enemies in the sky and began to draw card after card.

She asked: "Should we do a combined spell attack?"

Gu Qing Shan also began to draw card after card.

While drawing cards, he answered: "No, I already received your battle experience and now I know how I should be fighting, so..."

"So?" Little Dusk asked.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "So I'll take care of the close combat and you take care of the long-ranged spells, that is the correct way to form a combination!"

He flung one hand up.

A card was thrown out and turned into a cluster of light that was absorbed into Gu Qing Shan's body.

[Rapid Strikes]

[After activating this card, your attack speed will be increased by 30%]

Gu Qing Shan let the nine other cards in his hand go.

The cards began to spin around his body, slowly fading into the void of space.

Wielding two swords at once, Gu Qing Shan shot to the sky.

During his flight, the second card suddenly lit up.

It swiftly glowed bright green before vanishing from the void of space.

A full plate metal armor carved with multitudes of majestic and intricate runes appeared behind Gu Qing Shan.

The armor scattered itself into its components and equipped itself onto Gu Qing Shan's body.

[Lapis-grade armor: Plate of Life's Gracious Gift]

[Equipping this armor grants you the Unique Skill: Immersion of Life's Fountain]

[Unique Skill description: Half the power of attacks you receive will be converted into healing power, treating your wounds over a duration of 8 seconds]

Gu Qing Shan immediately activated the Unique Skill.

A faint bright green misty glow appeared around his body.

He then vanished on the spot, directly appearing in the middle of the bounty hunter squad.

"He just blinked again! Kill him!"

Someone shouted.

Everyone attacked at once.

But the misty glow around Gu Qing Shan's body absorbed half the power of the attacks and turned them into healing power instead.

In other words, the wounds he suffered were being treated at the exact same rate.

Not to mention, most of the attacks couldn't even go through Gu Qing Shan's armor to hurt him, only bouncing off the sturdy armor with a chime.

A sword cultivator who didn't need to defend was the worst nightmare to face on the battlefield.

Gu Qing Shan's dual swords moved.

Sword Array – [Taiyi].

Intense sword-infused wind manifested around his enemies, forming a meat grinder of a tornado as various screams and cries rang out.

A storm of blood was brewing!

"Fall back! I'll stop him!" one of the bounty hunters shouted.

He charged straight at Gu Qing Shan, his body gradually turning into a transparent, glittering crystal-like substance as he did.

The sword-infused wind had almost no effect on his transformed body.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan let go of his swords, allowing them to freely fly through the air and form the rest of the sword array.

Instead he grabbed one of the cards circling around himself.

A crimson red card.

A card that depicted a blinding cluster of crimson light.

Being obscured by the blinding light, it was impossible to tell what the card actually depicted.

“True Crimson Demon Spear”

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Gu Qing Shan muttered.

A spear cloaked in an endless crimson glow appeared from the void of space as he grabbed it.

At the same time, the armor he was wearing quickly crumbled and disappeared.

[Rare Item: True Crimson Demon Spear]

[While equipped with this spear, you can't wear any armor at the same time]

[This demon spear carries the Law-grade property: Absolute Sharpness]

[Note: This is the first weapon created by Divinities from the Age of Old that can hurt them]

[Unstoppable!]

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Gu Qing Shan held the spear and changed his equipped [War God Title] to [Shen Wei General]

[Shen Wei General: Your attack speed is increased by 20%]

The previously buffed [Rapid Strikes] was now further reinforced by [War God Title], making Gu Qing Shan's attack speed reach a ridiculous level!

At this time, the bounty hunter whose body was transformed into diamond had already reached Gu Qing Shan.

As he was about to use a close combat technique to attack, a crimson light swiped at him.

This light was so fast that he couldn't even react to it.

His reflexes made him put both of his arms in front to try and stop that light.

The air screeched, moving away like broken waves in the ocean as space itself was ripped apart.

Sha!

A strike with such an extreme speed combined with an unrivaled sharpness, the results could be only one---

The diamond man was cut into crumbling pieces of crystals and fell from the sky.

Still standing in the desert, Little Dusk smiled.

“That's it, as expected of my partner”

She drew something from the void of space.

— as Gu Qing Shan had used three of her cards, she could draw one of his abilities to use.

Originally, she didn't expect much from this, but [Shadow Shift] alone had immediately shocked her.

So right now, Little Dusk was feeling expectant of Gu Qing Shan's abilities.

She drew the second card.

This was a pink card that depicted a kiss mark left by red lipsticks.

[Ability card: Kiss of the Love Saint]

[Activating this card allows you to give the most unforgettable kiss in history”

Little Dusk was stunned, then her face flushed.

“Bah! First time I’ve seen such a card”

She angrily put the card back.

On the other side.

The grey giant who was just standing to watch changed his expression.

The cultivator had clearly let go of both swords, but they were still constantly slicing and flying through the air, showing off the immense power of a large-scale sword array.

“Damn this luck, it’s a Sword Saint!” the grey giant cursed.

He knew Sword Saints were a type of incredibly rare cultivator with a ridiculous level of power to their attacks.

I can’t let him keep doing as he pleases!

The grey giant took out a giant maul from somewhere and flew down towards the chaotic tornado of swords below.

Half-way through, he suddenly stopped and slammed his maul downwards with all his strength.

—-*bam!*

It had no effect!

Two humanoid puppets carrying shadowy blades in their hands suddenly appeared and stopped the maul on its path.

“Shit!” the grey giant shouted.

He glanced back down at the desert.

In the desert, Little Dusk had just let go of two puppet cards.

“Hmph, you think I’m just here for decoration?”

She drew cards again.

This time, she finally reached the two cards she wanted.

She threw one of them towards Gu Qing Shan.

The card disappeared.

At the same time, five transparent hexagon barriers appeared, circling around him.

[Shield Spell: Shields of the Dead]

[This spell can continuously block up to 5 attacks at once]

Although Gu Qing Shan wasn't able to equip any armor due to the True Crimson Demon Spear, he could still benefit from this type of magic shield.

Little Dusk then pointed another card at the grey giant and uttered: "Weapon Prohibition, Maul!"

The giant maul disappeared from the grey giant's hand and reappeared on her card.

The grey giant was unable to hold back his rage and shouted: "Dark Blade, use your shadow form, I want that caster card user dead right this instant!"

A bounty hunter dual-wielding daggers answered him.

"Leave it to me, I only need one minute"

After saying so, he turned into a shadow that quickly slithered towards Little Dusk.

This was an extremely rare ability called 'shadow form' that allowed the user to pass through any spells or magic without being affected, and as long as he could kill the enemy within a certain amount of time, the Law of shadow would take the dead enemy's soul away while leaving the user immune to any spell damage he took.

Little Dusk casually put several cards around herself.

And then—

She took out the first card that she got from Gu Qing Shan.

[Shadow Shift], activate!

In an instant, the bounty hunter appeared where Little Dusk was standing.

He looked around in confusion.

Huh? Why am I suddenly standing in the desert already?

And then, he noticed several glowing cards around his feet.

At the same time, Little Dusk who was standing in the air muttered: "Explode"

Boom boom boom boom boom!

Intense explosions reverberated in the desert.

Chapter 706

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The shockwaves and wind caused by the explosion were kicked up into the air, combining with the intense tornado of swords to form a huge storm of death.

And Little Xi didn't stop there, she was still drawing card after card, unleashing devastating spells one after another towards the remaining enemies.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan let go of the True Crimson Demon Spear, the Plate of Life's Gracious Gift once again returned to him.

The five faint hexagon barriers were still circling around him on the outside of the armor.

Someone attempted to attack him, only to find that they couldn't even get through the hexagon barriers.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand.

The two flying swords returned to his hand in a flash.

Now that his defensive power had been reinforced to the point that the enemies couldn't even pierce through it, as a sword cultivator, Gu Qing Shan knew exactly what he should do.

[Ground Shrink]

Slash!

[Ground Shrink]

Kill!

[Ground Shrink]

Slash!!!

In conjunction with Little Xi's devastating spell attacks, Gu Qing Shan was picking off enemy after enemy.

Like a highly efficient meat grinder.

The entire bounty hunter squad only had around a few dozen people, and they were dropping like flies to Gu Qing Shan and Little Xi's combination attacks.

All of a sudden, the grey giant shouted in fury: "Gather! We will fight to our deaths!"

His remaining subordinates quickly gathered around him.

As they did, they combined their furious roars and battle cries of unwavering conviction.

Gu Qing Shan's sword stopped.

If this many powerful Combatant gathered all at once and attacked without regard to their own lives, even if he had the reinforcement of countless cards, he wouldn't get off easy.

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Then the grey giant glared grimly at him and Little Xi, loudly asking: “Our bounty hunter squad was founded over 700 years ago, but we still haven’t been destroyed, do you know why that is?”

Little Xi curiously asked: “Why?”

“Because in the face of a decisive death, we would always use a secret spell scroll to sacrifice part of our life force in exchange for overwhelming power that kills our enemies” the grey giant smirked cruelly.

He carefully took out a scroll and unrolled it.

Behind him, his subordinates also funneled all of their powers into the scroll.

“Tremble, snot-nosed brats!” the grey giant shouted.

At the same time, the Combatants behind him also showed a frenzied and excited look.

They were chanting in unison.

“Fight to the death, never retreat!”

“Fight to the death, never retreat!”

“Fight to the death, never retreat!”

The atmosphere was filled with intense fighting spirit, as if everyone had already made their preparations for one final gamble.

As Gu Qing Shan gazed at their unwavering will, he also felt moved: “If that is so, to show my respect, I also give it my all”

He raised his swords, silently circulating all of his spirit energy to prepare for a serious clash.

Little Xi also said nothing and only silently drew more cards to prepare for their final attack.

In the sky, the grey giant activated the scroll!

As soon as the scroll gathered enough power, a blinding light erupted from it that enveloped all of the remaining members of the bounty hunter squad.

With a thunderous boom that cracked open the earth—

Like a speeding comet, the blinding light took off and headed faraway.

With a few flashes of light, they disappeared out of sight, completely couldn’t be seen anymore

They ran away.

“...” Gu Qing Shan.

“...” Little Xi.

They were fully prepared to take a desperate attack, but not for this.

“That’s quite an impressive speed, we probably won’t be able to catch up” Little Xi commented.

“Hm, they really are too fast to catch up” Gu Qing Shan agreed.

The grey giant didn’t lie at all.

—— with that impressive of a runaway technique, combined with those acting skills and shamelessness enough to put lawyers to shame, no wonder their bounty hunter squad managed to survive for 700 years without being destroyed.

While standing in the sky, Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt like something inside his mind was gradually passing.

New vitality rushed around his body, forming a mad tide of spirit energy unlike ever before.

Gu Qing Shan realized.

So my karmic adversity has already passed.

A group of several dozen bounty hunters who vastly overpowered me came specifically for my head, but were beaten black and blue thanks to Little Xi's [Duo Image] and were forced to run away.

So I made it through my adversity.

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“I need to settle down for a bit” Gu Qing Shan said.

Without even landing, he arranged several dozen formations in the sky, sat cross-legged, and began to manipulate the overflowing spirit energy in his body.

In just a few moments, he fell into deep meditation.

He broke through, gradually but irreversibly, his strength was growing.

This was a breakthrough that could be accomplished without needing to face a Lightning Tribulation.

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But his three karmic adversities weren't any less dangerous than a Lightning Tribulation. In fact, if Gu Qing Shan had a choice, he would rather face a Lightning Tribulation rather than a karmic adversity.

And this only went so swimmingly because Gu Qing Shan's personal merits were so great that he only needed to go through three karmic adversities.

Cultivators who frequently did evil things usually lost their lives during Tribulation realm—— because they had at least several hundreds of these karmic adversities to go through.

They could literally choke and die while drinking water.

Their lives were simply unimaginably miserable.

A minute later.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

I've finally reached Virtualized realm!

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

[Your advancement is complete]

[You've successfully reached Virtualized realm]

[You are now a Virtualized realm cultivator]

[Due to your natural spirit sense being passively increased during Tribulation realm to be able to sense karmic adversities, your spirit sense has been overworked and will fall dormant for a short period of time, the duration of this dormant state differs from one individual to another]

[Special attention, breaking through Projection realm, Tribulation realm and Virtualized realm will not bring any opportunities to awaken a new Thaumaturgy. You can only awaken another Thaumaturgy after breaking through Cryptic realm]

After displaying the message, the glowing text faded away.

Gu Qing Shan wasn't too concerned about his Thaumaturgy since he already knew about that when he broke through to Tribulation realm.

His spirit sense becoming dormant might prove to be a challenge.

Since cultivators had a habit of using their instinct to feel the connection between them and the outside world, he would have to get accustomed to suddenly losing spirit sense like this.

He looked around.

Little Xi appeared to be extremely sleepy, already bobbing her head back and forth, but was still forcing herself to maintain clarity and silently protect him.

"I'm done here" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Great, you've finally advanced" Little Xi yawned.

"Why are you so tired to this degree?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Because of [Duo Image]"

"[Duo Image]? But I don't feel like I was affected at all"

"Of course you aren't affected" Little Xi rubbed her tired eyes and explained: "Your level is so low that you couldn't activate cards to fight, so during [Duo Image] battle mode, I had to bear all the expenditures for the usage of both of our cards by myself"

"I'm sorry, then tell me how to become stronger as an Envoy of Condemnation, I'll do my best to get stronger and share the burden with you next time" Gu Qing Shan spoke apologetically.

Little Xi answered: "There are three ways to get stronger. The first is like what you're doing and naturally advance; the second is to consume other cards; the third is to find any heritage of the Old Gods from the Age of Old and use them to increase the grade of your card"

Heritage of the Old Gods?

Gu Qing Shan suddenly recalled what happened not too long ago.

In Triste's collection world, the [Demon King Order – Origin] schemed and plotted to its best abilities to obtain a heritage of the Old Gods, successfully evolving into [Revolution].

Who would've thought, one day I would be the same as an [Order] and need something like that to advance.

Little Xi continued: "Natural advancement is the slowest, consuming other cards is much faster—but not every card will do, you need to find cards that have relative suitability to yourself in order for the consumption to work. As for the third way, using a heritage of the Old Gods from the Age of Old will be fastest, but those things usually are secrets wrapped within secrets, they aren't something you're going to find randomly"

"Bah, I said enough. I'm deathly exhausted, going to sleep for a while"

Little Xi left those words before turning back into a lapis-colored card and fell into Gu Qing Shan's hands.

Inside the card, she had already changed into another cute pajama, snuggly laid on her bed sleeping.

Gu Qing Shan gently placed the card back into his jade box and put it inside his sleeves.

He looked at the War God UI.

Currently, a card has appeared in the middle of the UI.

It was a grey card, depicting him dual-wielding swords, hovering in the center.

[Grey card sword cultivator Gu Qing Shan]

[Grade: Grey card Lv0]

[Partner: Condemnation Angel – Xi]

[Residence deck: Fugitive Deck]

All the information suddenly disappeared.

A line of text appeared below the card.

[Your personal strength has increased, leveling up from lv0 to 1 star]

[You became a 1 star card]

[You received the grey-grade ability card: The Injury Deepens]

A grey card with grey background appeared on the UI.

At the center of the card, a Blade was depicted with a gleam that periodically appeared on its edge.

[Ability card: The Injury Deepens]

[When using this card, whenever you deal damage to your opponent, your opponent will receive an extra 3 points of damage]

[Note: This is a grey passive ability card when you equip this card in battle, its effect will persist until you cancel it]

[As a grey card, it is already trying its best]

Reading the effect, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but feel that his card was a lot weaker compared to Little Xi's cards.

...it's alright, I'm still low-leveled, having a card to use at all is already a good thing.

Gu Qing Shan silently consoled himself.

Chapter 707

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

Gu Qing Shan stood alone in the night sky, silently checking his own status.

The spirit energy tide inside his body had already begun to settle down.

I'll probably need a few days to fully grasp and control the newly acquired spirit energy.

And during this period, my spirit energy can always return to an agitated state.

So I won't be able to break through again right away.

—alright, even with the help of Soul Points, breaking through shouldn't be done too rapidly, haste makes waste after all.

Gu Qing Shan stopped thinking about becoming stronger for now and instead took out a small black bag.

This was the black-clothed man's personal item bag that the Demon Scorpion Empress' husband helped him open.

Unfortunately, their family of three was taken away.

So Gu Qing Shan intended to check and see the items inside first.

He was currently still in a very bad situation, so if there was anything that might possibly help him escape, he would be a fool to not use it.

Rummaging through the bag, he found a coin.

This was a dark blue coin.

Depicted on the 'head' side was a giant octopus-like monster, grabbing dozens of large ships all at once within the space vortex— using its massive, chilling tentacles lined with thorns.

Just by holding this coin, a layer of frost had already covered Gu Qing Shan's hand.

—alright then, compared to this monster, the monster on the #7 coin from before really did look like a small and cute animal.

Gu Qing Shan flipped the coin around to check the number on its 'tail' side.

[109]

Something of this level is still only #109, no wonder everyone was so careful when they were traveling through the space vortex.

After all, there were a total of 1001 numbered coins.

This was quite a bit out of Gu Qing Shan's expectation.

The hard-earned money that Devil Summoner Wang Cheng saved for half his life only amounted to a full chest of #7 coins.

By selling information about himself to the black market, Gu Qing Shan earned 1000 pieces of #10 coins— and that was already enough to cause Professionals to want to tail him.

He didn't think the black-clothed man would be carrying with him a piece of #109 coin.

Searching through the bag again, Gu Qing Shan didn't find any other coin of the same type.

Which meant the black-clothed man also only owned a single piece of this coin.

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As Gu Qing Shan stared at the #109 coin in his hand, several lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[#109 coin]

[Using this coin, you can summon a personal mini-fridge]

[How to use: Hold the coin in your hand and silently chant 'Iced Drink']

Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes.

So the coins can be used in other ways, that's surprising.

Or could it be, the higher-numbered coins have their own unique uses?

Gu Qing Shan shook his head, feeling that his understanding of the Strife Zones was still too shallow and insufficient.

Wang Cheng was pretty much an illiterate who couldn't even read the free books flying outside the town, his knowledge was too limited, barely even passed the beginner mark on his own Devil Summoner Profession.

Wang Cheng had been using nothing but the #7 coins for his entire life, so never mind the #109 coin that Gu Qing Shan currently had, he probably hadn't even seen coins numbered above #50.

Gu Qing Shan did obtain his memories, but a lot of the time, the memories only made Gu Qing Shan feel like he was an incredible idiot.

Just like right now.

—-*should I try Soul Reading on some more cultured people to at least be a bit more knowledgeable?*—-

Gu Qing Shan was now seriously considering the possibility of this.

While thinking about that, he chanted in his mind: "Iced Drink"

The giant octopus on the dark blue coin suddenly spat out a large wooden trunk about as tall as a grown man.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly caught the trunk and carefully placed it on the ground.

When he opened it, he found that it had been carefully divided into several layers, each full of colorful bottles of alcohol of various kinds.

Gu Qing Shan's mood got a lot better.

After some hesitation, he picked out and opened a few of them for a taste test.

Gu Qing Shan quickly noticed that the 1st layer was about 10-16 degrees C, consisting of mostly mild fruity liquor.

The 2nd layer was about 7-9 degrees C, containing mostly beverages.

While the 3rd layer was where the essence truly laid, full of chilled strong spirits and vodka.

Damn, the guy really knows his drinks.

Unfortunately, he was an enemy, otherwise, we might have gotten along.

Gu Qing Shan happily put the wooden fridge back into the coin and carefully tucked it away on himself.

Only after that was done did he look back into the bag again.

Besides the #109 coin just now, there was also a small mountain of coins inside the bag, all of them were #10 coins.

A small fortune.

Gu Qing Shan decided that if the Demon Scorpion Empress appeared again, he would evenly split this mountain of coins with her.

When it comes to splitting money, I'll definitely be fair.

Naturally, I wouldn't mind taking the slightly shorter end of the stick and let them take their fill first and gave me the rest.

As for...

Erm... the fridge, that's probably nothing I need to show her.

There wasn't anything else besides the coins inside the bag.

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Not even the black-clothed man's card binder was in there.

So Gu Qing Shan felt a bit regretful.

He prepared himself properly again before heading back to the black market.

At this point, the commotion in the sky was calming down.

The broken ships would naturally be taken care of by the black market's personnel.

Since those riding on ships were most likely Professionals with a certain level of strength, it was unlikely for them to die in an accident.

If not to save their stamina and avoid void monsters, most of these people wouldn't even bother to use ships to travel the space vortex in the first place.

Even when the terrifying barrier of flesh covered the sky.

Even when ships were falling and crashing everywhere.

Even when various fights and chaos broke out everywhere.

The people who rode on the fallen ships didn't care, they were all heading towards the floating port to demand a refund.

A few individuals with particularly powerful auras even ordered their subordinates to go express their concerns.

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Gu Qing Shan sighed emotionally.

The entire world had already been eaten by the Desolate World Eater Demon Bug

But these people were ignoring all of that to demand a refund from the black market.

Are a few coins really more important than your own life?

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

But when talking about money...

It is true that traveling the void has always been the more costly activity in the Strife Zones.

And the ticket for the magic-type ship I rode earlier cost me 27 pieces.

27 whole pieces!

Of #10 coins!

That amount would cover at least a couple dozen days' worth of living expenses in the black market.

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but want to go towards the floating port as well.

On his way here, he had already turned back into Wang Cheng.

...

On another side.

Two groups of escorts belonging to the Holy Church of Death and Holy Church of Fate had arrived at the center of the Strife Zones.

They came to bring Su Ke Er and Anna back.

They two girls were saying their goodbyes.

"So you're saying you're Su Xue Er's younger sister?" Anna asked.

Su Ke Er stared closely at her and answered: "Yes, my sister said you're not a decent person and have been looking to kill you for a while now, but since you saved her life, she couldn't find it in herself to do so"

"So she sent you to kill me instead?" Anna smiled.

"I originally would have" Su Ke Er showed a complicated expression: "But in that situation earlier, even though the rest of them only wanted to run away when I called for help, you didn't even hesitate and instead came to save me"

Su Ke Er continued: "Regardless of what my sister thinks about you, Su Ke Er isn't someone to return a favor with a grudge"

Anna was curious: "If your big sister wants to find beef with me, why didn't she come herself?"

"She's currently taking a sort of card user test, she hasn't come out for a while now" Su Ke Er replied.

After a bit of thinking, Su Ke Er continued: "Big sis Anna, do you know where Gu Qing Shan is?"

"Huh? Why are you looking for him?" Anna asked cautiously.

She looked closely at Su Ke Er.

Su Ke Er's face looks very different from her big sister.

But their figures...

Anna couldn't help but recall when she saved Su Xue Er before.

Su Ke Er answered: "I'm curious, what kind of person could cause two excellent women like yourselves to hate each other so much, so I want to check him out"

Just when Anna was about to say something, a person from the Holy Church of Death arrived and presented her a black note.

This was the Holy Church of Death's way of conveying secret intel, normally only affiliated personnel or very high-ranking members of the church would get to see it.

Anna read what was inside.

Some recent important matters of the Church were simply conveyed in the note.

Her gaze wavered slightly before casually putting the black book back to him.

"Got it, these are minor things, no need to bother me" Anna said.

The other side apologized and returned.

Anna turned back and told Su Ke Er: "I don't hate your sister"

"You don't hate her? But isn't she your love rival?" Su Ke Er curiously asked.

Anna gently answered: "Everyone's romantic interest is their own, and she hasn't done anything to ruin my happiness yet. Furthermore, your sister is a very pure person, her only flaw is that she pays too much attention to minor details, otherwise, she's a decent girl"

Su Ke Er looked at Anna in shock and muttered: "You think of her that highly?"

Anna kept talking: "Alright, now about your question, Gu Qing Shan should currently be in a certain cultivation world, but I don't know that place's coordinates. Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li know about it quite clearly, so you can return to your sister's original world to look for the two of them"

"But don't forget, once you leave to find Gu Qing Shan, you would probably not be able to return to the Strife Zones for the time being"

Saying so, she turned and left.

Su Ke Er was stunned, watching as Anna gracefully left.

Even after the Holy Church of Death's ship had left, she was still standing there.

"I don't care if I become a God, I just want to find him"

Su Ke Er muttered to herself.

"But then, you said you... don't hate Su Xue Er"

"How is that possible"

She silently thought for a few moments, thinking that something wasn't quite right.

After a while, she suddenly asked: "What was that book that Anna read earlier?"

Her escorts from the Holy Church of Fate exchanged glances.

A particularly aged escort answered her: "That book seemed to be the Holy Church of Death's internal affairs notifying book that they always used"

"Do we have access to the intel inside?"

"We also have our own intelligence department to collect intel on what happens with the other Holy Churches, so as long as it isn't too secretive, we should know about it"

"Very well, I'd like to take a look"

"Yes miss, please wait for a second"

A few moments later.

A white notebook was presented to her.

Su Ke Er quickly read through it.

She scowled and muttered in a low voice: "He's clearly being wanted by your people, and you still wanted to trick me into leaving the Strife Zones..."

Unconsciously, a thick grey fog emerged out from her body.

The intense power of Fate coming from her body caused the ship of the Holy Church of Fate to lightly tremble as well.

"What's going on?"

A divine officer noticed that something was wrong and came out of the ship.

He looked at the girl with the chilling expression and couldn't help but ask: "Did the people of the Holy Church of Death disrespect you in any way, miss Su Xue Er?"

Chapter 708

Translated by: La0o9

Edited by: Dr.Lock

Proofreader: Arya

The Drifting Sand world.

The black market.

The floating port.

Gu Qing Shan was standing outside of the crowd, silently watching the situation change.

Everything was in chaos.

Due to not being able to leave this world as well as being caught in the ships' explosions, the angry mob of Professionalists were flooding towards the floating port, demanding a refund of their tickets.

But very few the members of the black market's guard force actually came to maintain order, not even the captain and vice-captain showed up.

They were said to be out on a mission.

But then a few powerful Combatants started to notice that not even the owner of the black market, Greyhan, was currently in this world.

News spread like wildfire and silently rushed through the entire black market.

A few people who were more ambitious than they were capable took the opportunity to do what they wanted.

The first commotion broke out at the auction house.

The flames and smoke billowed so high that it could clearly be seen even at the furthest point of the black market, which was the floating port.

Acting almost like a signal, the entire floating port was plunged into chaos as well.

Quite a few people charged through, wanting to steal the flying transits for themselves.

The guard force stopped persuading and proceeded with direct combat against the Professionalists.

And that sparked the chaos in the entire place.

At various points in the black market, powerful presences began to rise.

Numerous opposing forces fought against each other in the sky, causing this once-peaceful city in the sky to occasionally tremble from the shockwaves.

Gu Qing Shan watched as everything unfolded from afar.

He took a step back, then another, and then turned to leave.

The situation was too chaotic, and he didn't intend to participate in the crime spree.

He flew to a restaurant at the very edge of the floating port and sat at a table on the porch.

"Clerk——" Gu Qing Shan called out.

As he glanced around, he found that the entire restaurant was empty.

The waiting staff were all smart enough to flee the gunpowder barrel that was the floating port beforehand.

Gu Qing Shan had to go behind the counter and served himself a portion of premade food.

He tried a piece.

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Hm...

Sure enough, there's a reason why this restaurant sits in the most secluded location of the floating port.

Spitting the food back out, Gu Qing Shan decided not to check the kitchen.

If a chef can make such a horrible dish, then his taste couldn't possibly be good no matter what kind of food he makes.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly understood Barry and Kitty a better.

Fortunately, their safety is currently guaranteed.

Gu Qing Shan returned to his table and fell into thought.

The flesh barrier in the sky was still writhing and convulsing, disgusting without a doubt.

But the strange thing was that after the world was eaten by the Desolate World Eater Demon Bug, the earthquake had slowly stopped.

And yet no one was able to leave this world.

What are the Divinities planning for this world?

Boom——

Gu Qing Shan immediately turned to look.

Extremely far away in the desert, a green giant hand as big as the floating market itself came out from the sand and reached for the sky.

Unlike any other shades of green, the green of this hand appeared indescribably nauseating.

The green arm tried its best to reach upwards as if it wanted to grab something.

But unfortunately, there was still quite a distance between itself and the Desolate World Eater Demon Bug, so it couldn't quite reach the red fleshy barrier of flesh.

The green arm reluctantly stopped, but it quickly moved again.

It was still trying to grab something.

Whose arm is that?

If an arm is that size, how humongous would its body be!?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking that, a constant, loud sound of impact rang out in his ears.

Bang bang bang bang bang bang bang!

The endless string of impacts echoed across the entire world.

Gu Qing Shan slowly stood up from his seat and stood by the very edge of the floating market to oversee the endlessly vast desert.

Behind him, the fighting and commotion in the black market also faded.

The entire black market went silent.

Everyone stopped what they were doing to look at the desert.

Giant arms.

One after another, giant arms with hands the size of the floating market came out from the sand blow, taking over the entire desert below them.

No———

They took over the entire Drifting Sand world!

These giant green arms were unable to reach the barrier of flesh in the sky.

In fact, they were still a bit short of being able to reach the floating market itself.

But they were still wiggling, writhing uncontrollably in the air, trying to grab whatever they could grab.

“Look!” someone shouted.

Below the floating market.

The small town in the desert had already been grabbed by one of the giant green arms, slowly pulled down beneath the sand.

Many figures could be seen flying out of the town, trying to escape this calamity.

But the other green arms around them that were flailing about, grabbed them.

——as if it was swatting away flies or mosquitoes.

Blood splattered in the air.

The green arms seemed to have some sort of unique power, as everybody who tried to run away from them was sucked back in and got stuck on the hands.

Not just the runaway people, but even birds flying far above screeched as they fell from the sky.

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Anyone caught by the giant arms were squished and turned into bloody pulps.

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One arm.

Two arms.

Three arms, four arms, five arms...

The arms came in large numbers and caught everyone.

Not even a single person escaped.

Everyone in the town was now dead.

The arms carried the bloody pulps in their grips back into the desert.

The ground began to tremble as the flowing sand formed a sinkhole, one so deep that it looked like an abyss of darkness.

This trembling was very light, not at all like an earthquake, but more like something was slowly chewing, enjoying, and swallowing its food.

In the sky, everyone stopped breathing as they stared at this while being stunned.

A sudden loud female voice screamed: "It's coming!"

Everyone looked up.

One arm finally reached higher than any others and grabbed towards the floating market.

The entire floating market panicked.

Everyone was desperately attacking the green arm.

Everyone— or at least those whose attack could reach the green arm were using their full power.

But the arm only reached higher and higher, unfazed by the barrage of attacks.

"It's useless!"

"It's unaffected by our attacks!"

"We can't do anything to it!"

While cries of despair rang out across the entire place, the green arm only continued upward, grabbing at the floating market.

With a 'pop', the meticulously constructed defensive barrier around the floating market broke like a bubble, easily destroyed by the slightest touch of the green arm.

It continued to get closer.

But as it was just about to reach the floating market, it stopped!

Even though this arm has already reached higher than any other, it was still a little bit away from being able to reach the floating market!

Just a little bit!

The giant green arm covered in pus lightly scratched the very bottom of the floating market, bringing with it intense screaming wind and stench.

The floating market shook.

“Go higher already!!!!”

Someone cried out.

Everyone suddenly regained their sense.

They shouted the same thing at the top of their lungs.

All the panic stopped.

They looked towards the center of the black market— the floating device control center.

The equipment used to control the height of the floating market was right here.

Several black market personnel quickly rushed in and operated the intricate machinery.

A large group of Professionals stepped up and surrounded the control center, protecting it.

This was only their natural reflex.

Because even a moron wouldn't try to attack the control center of the floating device at this point in time.

Time passed, second by second.

It wasn't easy to control the entire market to fly up.

Everyone understood this, so they couldn't do anything but silently wait.

And then, the giant green arm came again!

This time, it seemed to have reached a bit higher.

It fully extended all of its fingers, trying to touch the bottom of the floating market.

The Combatants around once again attacked it with all they had.

Earlier, some people were still holding back, but right now, no one dared to be lax with their strength anymore.

Again, even after being attacked by all sorts of long-ranged spells, the green arm did not budge even a little bit.

Under everyone's desperate gazes, the arm's green fingers managed to touch the bottom of the floating market.

One finger.

Two fingers.

Three fingers...

The giant green arm could almost grab the floating market in its hands.

Suddenly!

A loud noise came from the floating market itself.

Ooongg—

It was activated!

The market could now raise or lower itself!

The silent and despairing crowd of people suddenly erupted.

Everyone screamed with insane zeal.

“Hurry up!”

“Hurry!”

“Do it!”

“Damn it, GO UP!”

“GO UP!!!”

Fwoom—

White smoke shot out from the bottom of the floating market.

It began to rise.

Slowly but surely, it escaped from the giant green hand’s touch and took to the fly.

The entire market went silent for a moment.

All of a sudden.

Cheers and cries of joy erupted all over the floating market.

Chapter 709 & 712

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

As soon as the floating market lifted up, Gu Qing Shan also sighed in relief.

Since the start of the fiasco, Little Dusk had already appeared next to him at some point, silently watching everything unfold.

“So it still came out after all” Little Dusk sighed.

“That’s the creature?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Yeah, these arms are nothing but the creature’s skin, its real self should still be in a half-asleep state” Little Dusk replied.

Gu Qing Shan looked at her: “So you once managed to fight and won against an opponent with this level of strength? How unimaginable”

Little Dusk fell into thought: “I had thought that the Desolate World Eater Demon Bug might be able to contain it, but seems like it already failed. I wonder if the Divinities still have other means prepared”

“Ignoring what the Divinities did for now, do we have a way to run away from here?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“There isn’t, I’m still too weak” Little Dusk sighed.

The two of them suddenly felt something and looked back at the black market at the same time.

The entire black market, besides the control center in the middle, was plunged back into chaos again.

Skirmishes, murder, robbery, sabotage...

Everyone made a mad dash into the stores to seize whatever is useful for them, if they met with any resistance, they would fight.

A few others were enacting their revenge for one reason or another.

So fights broke out all over the place.

Fortunately, the location Gu Qing Shan chose was a particularly secluded area at the very edge of the floating port; there wasn’t anything worth stealing here, so no one bothered to come for now.

Listening to the commotion and chaos, Little Dusk was confused: “It’s already a desperate situation where anything but death is assured, so why are they still doing this?”

Gu Qing Shan glanced back at her and asked: “Before you were sealed, did you not have a lot of contact with living beings?”

“I didn’t, besides fighting against various monsters, all I did from day to day was sleep...” Little Dusk stared at the bloody scenes all over the black market and asked again: “Why are they acting so insanely?”

Gu Qing Shan answered: “This is just the nature of living beings”

“The nature of living beings...” Little Dusk still couldn’t understand, “so when they’re in a desperate situation, living beings will always change so greatly like this?”

“No, they don’t change greatly at all, because this is how they really are— only after the powerful ones have had their fill will things like this calm down temporarily”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan took out something from behind the counter.

A pot.

Together with various spices and cooking ingredients.

He formed a hand seal to control water and thoroughly washed the pot before he prepared the ingredients.

Little Dusk asked in surprise: “What are you doing?”

“Ah— this is also a part of a living being’s nature” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Ever since he arrived at the Strife Zones, he hadn't eaten a proper warm meal, and after taking a bite of that terrible food just now, he couldn't help himself wanting to make something to eat and wash away the taste.

He was going about it at a very decent pace, quickly finishing a few side dishes and a pot of hot soup.

"Since the enemy is too strong to face with raw strength, I need to eat something— you can't think on an empty stomach after all" Gu Qing Shan explained.

Little Dusk looked at the table full of food, twitching her nose slightly as she had a look of admiration.

"You can eat this much alone?" she asked.

"Of course not, come, eat with me"

Gu Qing Shan gestured for her to sit down.

Hearing that, Little Dusk acted a bit awkwardly.

"What's with you?" Gu Qing Shan noticed she wasn't quite herself, narrowed his eyes, and asked.

Little Dusk hesitantly spoke: "I— I'm probably not suitable for this"

Gu Qing Shan felt that a bit unexpected: "It's just a meal, what is there to not be suitable with?"

Little Dusk looked at the steaming hot food and gently replied: "The Divinities told me that in my life, I should only be doing two things: fighting and sleeping"

"Fighting to vanquish evil, and sleeping to recover my stamina"

"Other than that, I can't participate in any activities of living beings, because doing that will slowly taint and corrupt me"

After a brief moment of silence, Gu Qing Shan asked: "So you have never eaten food before?"

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"I haven't"

"Besides fighting and sleeping, you haven't done anything else?"

"...That's not true either. When I gradually got used to observing the world, I could sense a certain change inside me"

"What change is that?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Dusk replied: "I began to feel that there are a few things I can get close to"

"For example?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Dusk took out a card and gave it to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan looked at it.

The card depicted a bundle of pink flowers.

He lightly shook the card once.

A bundle of pink flowers giving off a faint fragrance appeared in his hands.

“How beautiful” Gu Qing Shan commented.

He offered the flowers back to Little Dusk.

Little Dusk received the flowers, gently smelled them and smiled.

“There was a time, when I had just vanquished sin from a certain world, right before I left, I noticed a cluster of flowers, growing near where I had fought. And for some unknown reason, I decided to collect one of them”

“From then on, whenever I come to any world, I would find and collect a few flowers from that world”

“The Divinities soon discovered this and were confused, asking me why I did such a thing”

“How did you answer them?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Dusk appeared nostalgic as she answered: “I said— that I liked these flowers, and that I liked traveling between worlds”

“From then on, the attitude of Divinities towards me changed”

“Changed?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“They seemed to be avoiding me— but some female Divinities also liked flowers, so why is it that they can like them, but I can’t?” Little Dusk asked in confusion.

Facing her clear and pure eyes, Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

Little Dusk continued: “After that happened, the Divinities sent me to this world to fight against that creature underneath the sand. As soon as I used all of my powers to seal that monster away, the Divinities appeared”

“They sealed me away, forcing me into slumber— until very recently”

Gu Qing Shan then spoke: “Then, let us return to the first question, the Divinities forbade you from doing anything but fight and rest, but did they ever eat?”

“Ah, yes they did, the Divinities seemed to enjoy banquets and parties a lot” Little Dusk had a faint look of admiration as she recalled something.

Gu Qing Shan silently smiled.

He then poured a bowl of soup and placed it in front of Little Dusk.

“Try it” he told her.

Little Dusk was still a bit hesitant: “But I’ve never eaten anything before”

Gu Qing Shan smiled: “I guarantee, the soup I make is definitely worth trying once”

Little Dusk looked at him.

He nodded.

Little Dusk took a deep breath and muttered: "In truth, I've always been curious to know. What kind of feeling is 'eating something'?"

She picked up the bowl and carefully took a sip from the edge of it.

"How does it taste?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

He suddenly found himself feeling a bit anxious.

Ever since he first opened shop years ago, this was the very first time he felt such emotions.

Little Dusk stayed silent for a while.

She lowered her head and wiped the corners of her eyes.

"I... don't know how to describe this feeling"

She muttered softly and once again picked up the bowl.

Chapter 714

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

Once it finished speaking, the figure of light scattered into specks of light and disappeared.

The world returned to silence for a brief moment.

Then the black market erupted into noise as countless people loudly discussed among themselves.

Some quick-witted people even sneakily ran into bookstores.

The seven Holy Bibles!

Each Holy Bible depicted the words, actions as well as the view of the Gods towards all things, the teachings they had towards their followers as well as their predictions of the future.

To find the labyrinth, they needed to look for the 21 poems of divination that lie within the 7 Holy Bible!

Fortunately, within the Strife Zones, the 7 Holy Bibles had always been the most well-circulated books, sometimes, the Holy Churches would even give the Holy Bibles out to their followers for free.

In the Strife Zones, the books with the most copies within any bookstore had always been the 7 Holy Bibles.

After another short period of chaos, everyone managed to gather an ample amount of Holy Bibles from several different bookstores.

A Combatant had the thought of wanting to take all the books for himself but quickly gave up on it.

Because he knew that if he tried to do that, everyone would gather and risk their lives to kill him.

Because this was a teaching of God!

Even before the issue of faith comes into play, the figure of light had already said that it had only bought a bit of time for living beings – for them.

If they couldn't find the labyrinth, they wouldn't be able to find the Divine Armaments, and the sinful creature wouldn't be sealed again.

If his impulsive actions caused the search for the Divine Armaments to fail at the last minute, then he would die together with everyone else within the belly of the monster!

So the Combatant took a deep breath, pulled out a copy of the Holy Bible from inside his chest and quickly flipped through.

This was a Holy Bible of Death, depicting many of the Death God's actions and words, with an addendum of his poems predicting the future at the end.

There are probably a few thousand of these poems.

And this was only one of the Holy Bibles.

There are a total of 7 Holy Bibles...

He shook his head and quickly focused on reading through the poems.

This was going to be a vast undertaking, but no matter how tough it was, they needed to find the poems that fit the current situation as fast as possible!

The entire black market fell into tranquillity.

A path that leads directly to becoming a Demigod was now in front of them.

No one had the time to kill and struggle for mundane riches.

At the edge of the floating port.

Gu Qing Shan gave Little Dusk a cup of steaming hot tea while he leaned on a chair and read his newspaper.

This was the Spire Keeper Association's newspaper.

After being silent for so long, it finally updated with more news just now.

"You're not going to try and read those prediction poems?" Little Dusk asked him as she drank her tea.

Gu Qing Shan was focused on the newspaper as he casually answered: "Ah, I won't; I've already given up my faith, remember?"

"It's actually fine you know, you can give it a try" Little Dusk encouraged him.

"Why?"

"Because according to those words just now, the Divinities don't care whether or not you're their follower, as long as you can collect the Divine Armaments, they will help you fully light your Tree of Divinity— and make you a Demigod"

“Will they actually be that generous?” Gu Qing Shan was still reading the newspaper as he asked.

“Trust me, I know the Divinities very well” Little Dusk said: “They are very keen on sealing away all the unknown and powerful creatures of sin, and mortals who help Divinities achieve that goal will always receive their favour and rewards”

Gu Qing Shan hesitantly spoke: “But wouldn’t directly becoming a Demigod be too much of a leap for living beings?”

Little Dusk smiled: “Demigods aren’t really all that either, it’s just the first step on becoming a real God”

“Are there any Demigods in the Strife Zones?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Dusk answered him: “The serving deities being worshipped in the 7 Holy Churches are all Demigods”

Gu Qing Shan muttered: “Serving deity...”

According to the dead general’s memories, Gu Qing Shan knew that each God had their own serving deities.

The serving deities would deal with complicated matters and management in place of the Gods, loyally adhering to their orders.

Gu Qing Shan then recalled the black hound that lingered around Anna.

—*how strong is it?*

“Demigod huh... do you think I should give it a try?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Dusk told him: “You should, becoming a Demigod will greatly increase your strength, your cultivation will jump several realms, your card grade will also leap several levels at once from a grey card to something else”

“Hmm... that does sound enticing” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

In truth, he was very interested in it right now.

Little Dusk stood up: “Let’s go, we should try looking at the poems in the 7 Holy Bibles— I know the 7 Divinities quite well, so we should be able to find those 21 poems very quickly”

She continued: “From there we can analyze the poems and find out where the labyrinth is”

“We can then simply search through the labyrinth, bring the Divine Armaments out and seal the sinful creature away”

Gu Qing Shan silently looked at her and asked: “You’ve also been sealed by them, so why are you trying to help them? Don’t you want to take revenge?”

Little Dusk asked confusedly: “Revenge? What’s revenge?”

Gu Qing Shan considered briefly before explaining: “It’s... whenever someone does something bad to you, you also want to make them feel what you felt”

Little Dusk casually smiled: “The Divinities were only afraid of me”

Gu Qing Shan said again: “But they sealed you away”

Little Dusk looked at him: “That was already in the past, what I’m doing right now has nothing to do with them, I just want to help you become a Demigod”

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

He put the newspaper back on the table.

— — — unlike before, this time the newspaper was white with black text, it was completely black, like a shroud of darkness that covered everything.

Lines of text burned through the black background.

[Final notice]

[The 900 million World Layers alliance has been destroyed]

[Billions of worlds have been plunged into darkness]

[The monster is currently wrestling with the Demon King Order for the right to destroy it all]

[Regardless of who wins in the end, the only path waiting for living beings everywhere is enslavement or death]

[Attention please, this is the final notice of the Spire Keeper Association before our collapse]

[Everything is over]

[Goodbye forever, my friends]

When Gu Qing Shan no longer looked at the newspaper, the burning text started to spread on the black paper.

Flames quickly ate through the entire thing.

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Within the burning flames, what remained of the once-glorious Spire Keeper Association also turned into ash, completely erased from the 900 million World Layers.

The 900 million World Layers alliance had also been destroyed.

This was the end of an era.

The great shroud of the apocalypse was slowly being pulled open.

For now, the only lucky survivors were those within the Strife Zones, hidden away by the power of the Divinities.

But no one knew how long this luck could actually last.

Gu Qing Shan deeply sighed, clasped his hands together, and formed a seal.

“I have something to ask you”

He told Little Dusk.

Specks of light gathered at his fingertips, forming a terrifying visage.

It was a face made of light, half-man, half-women, their eyes were filled with insanity and hysteria, both carrying an expression of pain with wide-open mouths as if they were screaming in silence.

Indeed, this was the creature that rested within God Institute.

———the eerie monster that no one could go against!

“Do you know what this is?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

As Little Dusk stared at the monster, her expression slowly became solemn.

With a slow and cold tone, she told him: “It has many names, the Predator, Enemy of Divinity, God Eater Sin, Ender of the Desolate Age”

Gu Qing Shan was glad and asked: “So you know about it?”

“I do” Little Dusk nodded: “This is a creature from the Age of Desolation—— the age before the Divinities were born”

“This creature brought an end to the Age of Desolation after the Divinities were born, even the powerful True Gods with vast, unimaginable power could only become its food”

“The reason why the Divinities created myriads of living beings, even breaking all taboos in search of forces much more powerful than themselves was because of fear, and the majority of that fear came from this creature”

Gu Qing Shan asked further: “Have the Divinities ever won against it?”

Little Dusk replied: “The Divinities once had a decisive battle against it—— I was present at the time as well”

“So you already fought against it?”

“Not me alone, all the most powerful creations of the Divinities participated in that battle, some of them were even stronger than I was”

“And you won?”

“We did, but barely, the majority of Divinities at the time lost their lives for it, powerful creatures the likes of which I couldn’t believe also died in that battle”

“What about the monster?”

“We couldn’t thoroughly destroy it, so we sealed it away—— that was all we could do, but that way, the Divinities were temporarily safe”

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

Little Dusk asked curiously: “How do you know about this creature?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “It has reappeared”

Little Dusk was speechless.

For the very first time, Gu Qing Shan saw her making an expression of fear and anxiety.

“Now that the Divinities are no longer here, does that mean it is invincible?” Gu Qing Shan tried asking.

“No” Little Dusk shook her head, “the Divinities would never allow that terrifying past to persist once again”

“Once the creature was sealed away, they studied for countless years and finally found a way to deal with that creature”

Gu Qing Shan’s eyes lit up and asked: “What was it?”

“It was a secret, a secret of Divinities” Little Dusk shook her head as she looked at him.

Gu Qing Shan’s expression turned solemn: “Listen to me, Little Dusk, you have to tell me, otherwise more and more people will be killed by that monster, and all the worlds will be destroyed”

“It’s not that I don’t want to tell you, but because after the Divinities won the war, the Divinities no longer trusted weaponized beings like myself who only existed for war, so I don’t know what that secret was” Little Dusk explained.

“Is there no trace of it at all?” Gu Qing Shan was still unwilling to let go.

“Of course there is, I know where the Divinities hid that secret” Little Dusk replied.

“Where?”

“It was a unique number, one that represented endless death within the language of the Gods—— it was 944, yeah, the #944 coin”

“Coin? The Divinities left their secrets within a coin?” Gu Qing Shan was in total disbelief.

Then he suddenly recalled the #109 coin that he had.

This coin had the ability to summon a fridge.

Which means——

A lot of the other numbered coins actually have their own unique uses as well?

Little Dusk explained: “Yeah, every coin after #900 no longer represent wealth, and they aren’t in circulation, these coins were forged by the Divinities themselves using eternal materials, hiding truths and secrets that should never be spoken”

Gu Qing Shan lowered his gaze and muttered: “Are these coins the same as those numbered below 900 as well? With their numbers depicting how crucial they are?”

“No, you can’t use the same scale for measuring wealth to measure truths and secrets, every coin after #900 has its own meaning, none of which is more important than the rest”

Then Little Dusk seemed to recall something as her voice became neglectful and indistinct:

“All coins above #900 are equally important, except... the final three coins, only one copy of each were ever made...”

Gu Qing Shan didn’t notice the change of tone in her voice.

He was only thinking about how to win against the monster.

Only one copy of each— the fewer there were, the more important the secret it held, this should have been a very simple thing to conclude for Gu Qing Shan.

“The #944 coin...” Gu Qing Shan muttered, “alright, I’ll keep it in mind and try to find this coin”

He stood up: “As for now, we need to find those three Divine Armaments and quickly leave this world as soon as we can”

Little Dusk also stood up: “Then we’re going to a bookstore?”

“No, we’re heading for the desert” Gu Qing Shan told her.

Little Dusk was confused: “But we still haven’t found the 21 poems of divinations and still don’t know where the labyrinth is”

Gu Qing Shan said: “Just follow me”

“Do you have a way?” Little Dusk asked.

“Yeah” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“You can bypass looking for the poems and directly look for the Divine Armaments?” Little Dusk couldn’t help but ask him again.

“Yeah” Gu Qing Shan replied again.

“I don’t believe you, what kind of way is it? Can you tell me?” Little Dusk pursued further.

“Ah, it’s probably the same way that the God Eater Sin used to hunt the Divinities for food in the past”

Gu Qing Shan told her.

He had just spent a few thousand Soul Points on his War God UI.

The Mystic-type skill from God Institute, [Miracle Search] had been activated

Chapter 715

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

Within the long flow of the river of time.

Scattered worlds were like tiny sparks that fell out from the burning fire in the middle, you blink and you would miss it.

Powerful organizations within the 900 million World Layers, as well as Lord-class Combatants, would rarely direct their attention to places like these.

—-which was why there was almost no notable resistance here against the [Demon King Order].

It frequently went through these tiny and weak worlds one after another, gathering slaves, Soul Points, World Origins, anything that is needed.

But now, the situation has changed.

An unimaginable occurrence had put a pause on the corrosion of the [Demon King Order] against the Scattered worlds.

The Ender of the Age of Desolation had awoken with the help of God Institute.

Against its unrivalled power, the Spire Keeper Association and the 900 million World Layers alliance were destroyed and crumbled one by one.

Layer by layer, it was destroying the entire 900 million World Layers.

The Ender swept through like an unstoppable storm.

It took the lives of everything on every world that it passed.

And then it reached the Fallen Zones.

There, the [Order] had just completed another evolution, reaching an unprecedentedly high level and obtaining a never-before-seen ability.

That was—- Demon King descent.

Within the 900 million World Layers, nothing was a match against the Ender, and the Fallen Zones were no exception.

It destroyed over half of the Fallen Zones.

Countless demons, demonized people, as well as True Demons had their souls sucked away, becoming its food.

At the very last moment, the Lord of True Demons accomplished a certain feat.

Under the guidance of the [Demon King Order], he used up all of the Fallen Zones' powers to summon a corpse from within the river of time.

Besides the [Order] and the Lord of True Demons, no one knew where this corpse arrived from.

The Lord of True Demons gathered all remaining True Demons to heal and repair this corpse without rest.

When the Ender was about to destroy the entirety of the Fallen Zones, the [Order] had finally awoken that corpse.

Finally, the Ender of the Desolation Age met its match, falling in a long battle of attrition.

The battle continued on.

The 900 million World Layers were on the verge of destruction.

But thanks to that, the [Demon King Order] no longer had time to pay attention to the Scattered worlds.

The [Order] pulled back its forces from all the Scattered worlds.

And so these worlds welcomed a brief period of peace.

When Gu Qing Shan had just arrived at Drifting Sand world.

Shen Wu world.

Bai Hua sect.

Everything was silent in the night.

Qin Xiao Lou closed his door, pasted talismans all around the walls of his room, arranged several dozen layers of formations before briefly sighing in relief.

He turned around and looked at everyone else in the room.

The white goose, Xiuxiu, Qing Rou, Wan Er, and himself.

All disciples of Bai Hua sect, not including Gu Qing Shan, were here.

The white goose asked: "Xiao Lou, what's the matter that you had to sneakily summon all of us here at this late time?"

Xiuxiu yawned: "Yeah, I was already half asleep when your communication talisman flew in, you frightened me for a bit"

Qing Rou had a worried expression: "Second brother, your talismans and formations should be enough to block out everything already, so say what you need to"

Xiao Lou looked at everyone with a stern expression: "About that little girl, are none of you worried about her?"

As everyone heard that, they all calmed down.

Wan Er rubbed her eyes, returning to a sluggish state: "So that's what it was about, and here I thought it might've been something bigger"

A few days ago.

A little girl suddenly appeared on the Throne of Ten Thousand Flowers, claiming herself to be Bai Hua Fairy.

Then, she proceeded to teach Qin Xiao Lou, who ran his mouth, a lesson.

When everyone else came due to the commotion, the little girl hesitated a bit before changing her tone and calling herself Bai Hua Fairy's guest.

Under everyone's suspicious gaze, she showed several token items that belonged to Bai Hua Fairy.

At the same time, Bai Hua Fairy also sent her disciples a communication talisman.

In the talisman, Bai Hua Fairy said that she would be busy with something outside, telling her disciples to take good care of the little girl.

Because of the tokens as well as their Shifu's communication talisman, the girl naturally became an esteemed guest of Bai Hua sect.

—-what problem could there be?

Qin Xiao Lou shook his head in disappointment as he saw everyone's reactions: "Can't none of you really see anything wrong with the little girl?"

"Xiao Lou, what exactly are you trying to say?" the white goose asked curiously.

Xiuxiu followed up: "Yeah, she had both Shifu's tokens as well as a message from Shifu herself, we should just treat her like we do with any other guests"

Wan Er, on the other hand, was interested and asked: "What does second brother think is wrong with that little girl then?"

"If you carefully think about it, there's a lot that is wrong with her" Qin Xiao Lou spoke mysteriously.

Was there something wrong?

Everyone fell into thought.

Wan Er shook her head: "She played happily whenever she was with me, I like her"

"What did you play?" Qin Xiao Lou asked.

"Climbing trees, jumping rope, I accompanied her to the riverside to collect some pretty rocks, feeding spirit beasts within the spirit beast garden... all in all, I didn't notice anything wrong with her for the last few days" Wan Er replied.

Qing Rou nodded: "Last time when I brought her to go around the marketplace, she played happily for a whole day, even when it got dark she still didn't want to return—- but that's just how children are, there's nothing wrong with that"

Xiuxiu also commented: "During meals, she would also snatch the pork belly from me, but that's nothing worth noting at all"

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Seeing how carefree everyone was, Qin Xiao Lou quickly reminded them: "The plush doll! Didn't any of you pay attention to it? She always carries a plush doll with her!"

Wan Er replied: "I do notice, the one that looks like Shifu right? What about it?"

Qin Xiao Lou swung his finger forward and spoke: "That's exactly the key!"

“Think about it carefully, who would carry a plush doll that looks exactly like the master of the sect that they came to as a guest?”

Hearing that, everyone froze.

That’s true... that certainly is strange.

Qin Xiao Lou then continued in a low voice: “I don’t know if you’ve noticed it or not, but wherever she goes, she always carry that doll with her”

“Then what do you think is the problem?” the white goose asked.

“I feel like something must be strange about that plush doll, perhaps it contains some sort of power” Qin Xiao Lou answered.

“How would a doll carry power?” the white goose continued to ask.

“I used a total of 1794 types of measurement and calculation spells, but no matter what I did, I couldn’t gauge the little girl’s power, and even her location was hidden away. I believe that the power interfering with my calculations must have come from that doll” Qin Xiao Lou declared.

The white goose silently nodded.

How unexpected for Qin Xiao Lou to be so sensitive.

The doll was something that Yun Ji gave her before they went their separate ways back in the 900 million World Layers alliance world.

The doll did indeed have the ability to conceal her presence and prevent clairvoyance from those holding ill-will.

The white goose felt a bit emotional.

It seems that not just Gu Qing Shan alone, but Qin Xiao Lou was also maturing, he may be able to handle matters by himself soon.

This is the good fortune of the sect.

While she was thinking that, Qin Xiao Lou continued.

“You might not have noticed another very crucial point, that little girl’s appearance”

Everyone froze again.

“Her appearance? She’s very pretty” Xiuxiu spoke with admiration.

“She certainly is a charming and pure little girl, I really wonder what she would look like as she grew up” Qing Rou praised.

Wan Er also nodded in agreement.

“Wrong! Your observational skills are too lacking” Qin Xiao Lou shook his head.

“What did you notice from her appearance?” the white goose asked.

Qin Xiao Lou pursed his lips before telling them the shocking truth he had noticed.

“I feel like she looks a bit like Shifu”

Everyone was shocked.

They quickly compared the two in their minds.

“Now that you say it... they really are similar” Xiuxiu commented.

Qing Rou fell into thought: “No wonder I feel like I’ve seen her somewhere before”

Wan Er was still comparing between them, muttering as she did: “She is innocent and carefree, but her facial features really are similar to Shifu”

The white goose was even more glad.

To be able to reach the truth from those clues, Xiao Lou’s observational skills really are extraordinary.

It’s likely that not even Gu Qing Shan would have been able to do better if he was here.

The white goose cleared its throat and spoke: “Indeed, I also feel that she’s very similar to Shifu——so, Xiao Lou, have you reached a conclusion?”

Qin Xiao Lou solemnly nodded and spoke with a stern voice: “I’ve found the truth”

The white goose urged him: “Alright, then tell us”

Qin Xiao Lou hesitated: “I’m not sure if I should say it or not”

The white goose smiled: “It’s fine, we’re all family here, just tell us what you think, no one will tell anyone else”

Qin Xiao Lou looked at the white goose, then at Xiuxiu, Qing Rou, and Wan Er respectively.

The girls all nodded.

“Alright, then I’ll say it”

Qin Xiao Lou took a deep breath as his expression turned serious.

“This little girl looks so much like Shifu, and she carries around a plush doll in Shifu’s image, as well as being protected by a powerful force that conceals her presence, so she must actually be——”

“Be what?” Xiuxiu couldn’t help but ask with bated breath.

Qin Xiao Lou clenched his hands tightly and spoke in a low voice: “She must actually be Shifu’s illegitimate daughter”

The entire room was plunged into a deathly silence.

Xiuxiu covered her mouth.

Qing Rou and Wan Er exchanged glances.

Qing Rou seriously thought about it and shook her head: “That can’t be it, Shifu’s body is still that of a maiden”

“That’s right, what you said before makes a lot of sense, but the little girl is definitely not her daughter”
Wan Er agreed.

Qin Xiao Lou was stunned and asked: “How do you know Shifu doesn’t have a Dao companion?”

Wan Er waves her hand dismissively: “This is a matter of us women, don’t ask about it, just know that we can guarantee this”

Qin Xiao Lou opened his eyes wide.

“First brother, you were very supportive just now, so do you think what I said or what they said is true?”
he quickly looked at the white goose to ask for help.

The white goose was lowering its head as its entire body shook nonstop.

Endure it,

Endure it,

Endure it,

There’s no way I can possibly endure this!

“Xiao Lou, you moron!!!”

Bam—

Chapter 716

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

Inside the Desolate World Eater Demon Bug’s stomach.

Drifting Sand world.

The black market.

Someone loudly called out: “We’ve found a poem of divination! Anyone who would like to know, bring your treasures here and make a trade. #200 or above coins, treasures of similar value or a different poem of Divination will also be accepted!”

Everyone turned to look.

The one who said that was a well-known Combatant.

After he made the announcement, he had members of his organization get into battle formations, and got ready to fight.

Because someone might come with ill intentions, wanting to use violence to know what that poem of divination was.

An over-3-meter tall muscular man stepped forward and stopped near them.

This was another well-known close-combat Combatant by the name of [Beheader].

“So you’re the famous Beheader? Do you want to exchange information with us for the poem of divination? Or do you want to fight?” the Combatant asked.

“Of course I’m here to exchange information” the Beheader answered in annoyance, “there’s a total of 21 poems, even if someone knows them all, they still have to analyze it to find out where the labyrinth is, I don’t have time to waste”

“Very well, my thoughts exactly, then let’s conclude our transaction quickly” the Combatant said.

The Beheader pulled out a coin and showed it to him: “This is the #337 coin, I think you already know what it does, I want to exchange it for your information”

The Combatant took the coin and smiled.

“Very well, I’m very happy with this offer, I accept”

Everyone silently watched them complete their trade.

A few moments later.

The entire black market began to exchange information regarding the poems as well.

There were almost no large-scale battles.

Because battles took time, and every second wasted fighting was a second where others were using to step closer towards becoming a Demigod.

Soon enough, everyone found a total of 9 poems of divination within the Holy Bibles.

— — —-only 12 left to go!

...

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan and Little Xi were quickly flying through the vast, endless desert.

They went past sand dune after sand dune, flying towards a certain direction.

Little Xi still couldn’t contain her surprise, asking Gu Qing Shan again: “So you actually managed to learn the Skill that the Divinities’ enemy used to hunt them, how incredible”

“Do you want to learn?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Xi hurriedly nodded, extremely excited.

“But how should I teach it to you?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“There’s no hurry, after your card grade increases a bit more, when you can create cards on your own, you’ll just have to teach it to me through a card” Little Xi smiled.

“I can do that?” Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

Little Xi replied: "Of course, you're currently only a grey card. You don't even know simple card terms like treasures, summoning tools, and card creation, so the more complicated ones are out of the question. You just have to quickly increase your own card grade, and I think becoming a Demigod is the best shortcut for that"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Didn't your power also decrease by a lot? Why aren't you aiming to be a Demigod instead?"

"Because I already have a plan and a clear idea of what to do to get stronger, while you're still a blank slate, you can use the Divinities' way to become stronger first before anything else"

While they were talking, a male voice suddenly called out.

"Where are you going?"

The black-skinned man suddenly appeared in front of them, blocking their way.

He was a ruler of the desert, a powerful creature from the Abyss of Sin.

"Ah? It's you?" Little Xi quickly reacted and smiled: "We're going to—"

Gu Qing Shan quickly chimed in: "—go around the desert, searching for a way to leave this world"

"Let me talk to him" he sent his voice to Little Xi.

Little Xi was surprised, but kept quiet.

The black-skinned man stared at the two of them and asked: "How strange, why aren't you trying to read and analyze the Holy Bibles, that's the only way to seal the monster"

Gu Qing Shan didn't answer him and instead threw something to the black-skinned man.

He caught it and took a look.

It was a small black bag.

"I've checked the bag, there's nothing but money in there, you can use it when you leave" Gu Qing Shan said.

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The black-skinned man put the black bag away and continued to ask: "What are you going around for?"

"I already told you, looking for a way to leave"

The black-skinned man said: "The entire world is already eaten by that bug in the sky, how is there a way to leave?"

"Yeah, because it's a bug, there should be various openings and hollow areas within its body, our goal right now is to search for those hollow areas" Gu Qing Shan answered with a serious expression.

The black-skinned man said nothing.

"Find a way to leave this world from here..." he muttered in a low voice.

“Look, I’m not wasting time standing here chatting with you anymore, we’re going to keep looking” Gu Qing Shan told him.

“Alright, I hope you’ll find the way” the black-skinned man smiled at them.

He moved out of their way.

Gu Qing Shan brought Little Xi and flew past him, quickly disappearing into the horizon.

The black-skinned man silently watched as they left and muttered: “The way to leave... I hope you’ll find it...”

He disappeared from the sky.

A sand storm began to brew in the desert of sand.

...

After Gu Qing Shan and Little Xi went far enough away.

Gu Qing Shan finally stopped.

Little Xi also stopped and asked him: “Why did you say that to him? Weren’t we looking for the labyrinth?”

“Where’s the Abyss of Sin?” Gu Qing Shan asked her back.

“Ah, with our current speed, we’ll reach it in about 2 hours” Little Xi answered him.

“Are all the wardens inside the Abyss of Sin powerful wild creatures like that black-skinned man?” Gu Qing Shan asked again.

“Of course not, only a few of them are like him, there are other different types of powerful wardens as well” Little Xi replied.

“Can they deal with the monster in the seal?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Xi froze.

She suddenly recalled how the giant green arms practically covered the earth before as the sinful creature tried to break free from the ground.

It was a terrifying monster that she could barely seal away at the peak of her power!

Indeed, when the giant green arms took over the surface of the world, no creatures outside of the black market could possibly escape.

Even the powerful wardens of the Abyss of Sin couldn’t stop themselves from being devoured by the monster.

“They can’t, the most they can do is immediately notify the Divinities, but there are no longer any Divinities here... yet he’s still alive and well!” Little Xi wondered in confusion.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and spoke: “That scorpion is no longer his original self...”

“According to my deductions, perhaps the appearance of the figure of light was the final struggle of the wardens from the Abyss of Sin before their deaths”

Little Xi asked: “Why do you think so?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Because he appeared exactly where the labyrinth is—— he was blocking our path into the labyrinth”

Gu Qing Shan slowly continued: “He and his family sat with me on a ship, wanting to do everything to leave this world, but now he appeared to block my way, giving off such clear killing intent. It was obvious that he isn’t welcoming me into taking the Divine Armaments away”

“But what kind of creature would want to prevent me from taking the Divine Armaments?”

“The entire world is currently hoping to activate the Divine Armaments, except a single creature who doesn’t want that”

“——the sealed creature”

“The creature must’ve used a method that we don’t understand to bypass the figure of light’s seal and entered the scorpion’s body”

Little Xi couldn’t help but shook her head: “You were suspicious that he was no longer the original him with just that?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Of course not, I used the process of elimination. I assumed that there could only be one thing that could deal with a powerful wild creature like himself, as well as taking over his body”

“In fact, I only confirmed it after I gave him the bag of coins—— because we had already decided to split the money inside the bag, but earlier he acted like he didn’t know about that at all”

“The real him felt very awkward about taking the money, so he wouldn’t have just taken the money without saying a single word like he did just now”

Gu Qing Shan’s voice became a bit done: “If he’s already dead, the Demon Scorpion Empress is most likely in a similar situation, if you want further proof, you can try to check your summoning card of her”

Little Xi took out her Demon Scorpion Empress summoning card.

It was blank.

Little Xi sighed as she looked at Gu Qing Shan: “You’re right, looks like we’re going to have to think of some way to deal with him before we can enter the labyrinth”

Gu Qing Shan chuckled bitterly.

“It’s not just him, I’m guessing that every warden in the Abyss of Sin are currently within the labyrinth”

“That monster had already taken over their bodies, it would definitely not allow anyone to take any Divine Armament away, nor let them unleash the new seal”

Chapter 717

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

In the desert.

Gu Qing Shan was currently standing in mid-air, operating a formation plate.

Periodically, light would come off of the formation plate and turn into a streak that shot itself into the vast desert below.

While watching him, Little Xi couldn't help but speak up: "We need to hurry up, quite a few poems must've already been found and analyzed already"

"I know" Gu Qing Shan told her.

Little Xi muttered: "But that scorpion is so powerful, with it watching over the entrance to the labyrinth, with our current strength, it'll be a very hard battle"

"Hm, I know" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He changed positions and continued to set up more formations.

Little Xi exclaimed: "The wardens from the Abyss of Sin are basically all at his level, some of them even more powerful than he is. With such a force watching over them, no one would be able to enter the labyrinth and bring the 3 Divine Armaments out"

"I also know that" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Little Xi reached her hand to grab his arm and shook him: "If we can't get the Divine Armaments, you won't be able to become a Demigod, the creature won't be sealed again, and we might even possibly die here!"

Since his arm was shaken, the formation he was arranging got interrupted.

He couldn't keep on arranging the formations.

So he stopped and weakly told her: "I already know everything that you just said, so I'm preparing for it right now"

Seeing him so indifferent, Little Xi felt a bit relieved.

"What are you trying to prepare?" Little Xi asked curiously.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "I can't confirm for sure whether or not the scorpion is actually dead, so I'm setting up a non-lethal measure against him"

"Ever since a long time ago, I've always considered what I should do in case I don't want to kill someone outright, and the result was this formation— — this is a combination of formations that I came up with after my long years of practicing formations"

"A cultivation formation right? I know a bit about them, but I've never seen a formation being set up like what you're doing" Little Xi scowled.

"Time is always changing" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He resumed arranging formations and asked her: "Little Xi, you said you sealed his creature away countless years ago, how did you do it at the time?"

Little Xi thought for a while before answering: "I just beat it and beat it over and over again, I beat it until it couldn't resist anymore and then sealed it away"

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

"Did the monster just stand still and let you beat it?" he asked.

"It used its countless arms trying to catch me while unleashing a sort of devastating invisible attack over and over again" Little Xi answered.

"Invisible attack?"

"Hm, I don't know what it was, but it didn't affect me. Everyone else as well as the Divinities seemed to be very wary of that invisible attack though" Little Xi told him.

Gu Qing Shan thought about that: "It seems you have some sort of unique power that allows you to be unaffected by the creature's invisible attacks..."

While talking, his hands were still quickly operating the formation plate.

Beautiful and colorful lights shined all over the desert.

The lights melted together, slowly converged into one before fading into the void of space.

The formation was complete!

Gu Qing Shan carefully checked it before putting the formation plate away: "Let's go, we need to collect more intel"

"Go where?" Little Xi asked.

"The seven Gods' labyrinth"

"You're going to fight that scorpion head-on?" Little Xi was surprised.

"No, I'm just asking him some questions"

"You think he's going to answer you honestly?"

"It's worth a try"

"... I really don't understand what you're thinking" Little Xi sighed.

The entrance of the labyrinth.

Gu Qing Shan and Little Xi landed.

He was holding onto Little Xi with one hand while hiding the formation plate inside his sleeves with the other.

The black-skinned man appeared, facing him again.

“Why did you return?” the black-skinned man asked.

“I forgot something” Gu Qing Shan said.

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“What?” the black-skinned man asked.

“According to what the seven Gods said, if I go into the labyrinth to collect the 3 Divine Armaments, I’ll be able to seal that creature away, I think we might be able to do that” Gu Qing Shan said.

“And what are you going to do?” the black-skinned man asked.

“I discovered that the entrance to the labyrinth is hidden right under the sand dune behind you” Gu Qing Shan explained.

“Is that so?” the black-skinned man grinned.

“That’s right, so how about you come with us into the labyrinth and look for the 3 Divine Armaments together” Gu Qing Shan offered.

He was carefully observing the man’s face.

His face became slack slightly before reluctantly curving the corner of his mouth to form a smile.

“So that’s what this is about, then did you find the way to leave yet?” the man asked in a gentle tone.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

“I think that’s better left for after we find the Divine Armaments” he slowly spoke.

Immediately, he triggered the seal he prepared on the formation plate.

A flash of light.

A long-distance warp formation was activated!

Both he and Little Xi disappeared.

Right as they disappeared, the sound of the air being ripped apart could be heard .

Shill—

A long black tail stinger arrived from the air, piercing the area where Gu Qing Shan originally stood, turning all the yellow sand a sickly green color, sizzling as it was melting.

“Gone? How regretful, just a bit more”

The black-skinned man muttered in a low, cruel voice.

In the desert.

Very far away.

Countless light appeared in mid air, slowly forming a 5-colored light.

As the light scattered, the figure of two people appeared in the desert.

Gu Qing Shan and Little Xi.

“Did you set up a warp formation?” Little Xi asked.

“Yep, so that we can leave whenever we want to” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The two of them stood still and said nothing for now.

After this, the scorpion’s intent not to let them enter the labyrinth was clear, ripping all pretense away.

“Now that we’re confirmed to be enemies, should we go take him on?” Little Xi asked.

“No, I’m curious about something. He was very insistent on whether or not we could leave” Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

Little Xi told him like it was obvious: “If the creature was controlling him, of course, the creature would want to leave”

Gu Qing Shan continued: “We’re going to try something again”

Little Xi reminded him: “We really should hurry up, the others might have already found and analyzed quite a few poems of divination”

Gu Qing Shan casually replied: “The more we’re in a hurry, the less hurried we should be, let’s go”

A few moments later.

They once again stood facing the black-skinned man.

Without waiting for him to do anything, Gu Qing Shan shouted: “We found the way to leave, do you want to come with us?”

He black-skinned man was initially taking an offensive stance, but as soon as he heard this, his fighting spirit disappeared.

“The way to leave, the way to leave, the way... to leave...” he muttered again and again.

“Yeah” Gu Qing Shan offered: “Let’s go, come with us and leave this damned world”

The black-skinned man’s eyes were hollow, but still tried to make a smiling expression: “Damned world, yes, well said, we should leave”

He began to walk towards Gu Qing Shan and Little Xi.

“Wait a minute! There’s something else” Gu Qing Shan put his hand forward.

The black-skinned man instantly appeared furious, his voice becoming cruel and mad: “What? You don’t want to take me?”

“I just think that since this is such a good chance, why don’t you bring your wife and child with us as well” Gu Qing Shan smiled and said.

Chapter 718

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

Hearing Gu Qing Shan speak, the black-skinned man went silent.

He seemed puzzled on how to answer Gu Qing Shan.

An entire minute later, he finally answered: "My wife and child are already dead"

"Dead?" Gu Qing Shan smiled, "don't joke around, your wife is even stronger than you are, if you're still alive, how could she be dead?"

The black-skinned man went silent again.

He was struggling to come up with something to say.

While Gu Qing Shan appeared to be smiling, his focused gaze was extremely cold.

It's quite clear, that's a fake

But his aura, presence, even the stinger attack was exactly the same as the real scorpion.

Without waiting for the black-skinned man to give his answer, Gu Qing Shan activated his formation plate.

He disappeared together with Little Dusk again.

Faraway in the desert.

The light of the formations lit up again.

Gu Qing Shan and Little Dusk appeared.

Gu Qing Shan pulled the formation plate out of his sleeves and took out the spirit stones that were in there before.

As soon as he took them out, the spirit stones turned into dust and scattered to the wind.

The spirit stones Gu Qing Shan used on this formation plate were perfect-grade spirit stones, normally usable for quite a few times.

But to escape from the scorpion, he had been overclocking the formation plate with the priority for speed, so their energy was drained incredibly fast.

Gu Qing Shan quickly put in new spirit stones for the formation plate.

"It has the scorpion's outer appearance as well as his form of attack, quite the perfect replication" Gu Qing Shan commented.

"Then did the black scorpion die or not?" Little Dusk asked.

"I have a feeling that the entire scorpion family still isn't dead" he said.

"How did you arrive at that conclusion?" Little Dusk asked.

“If the Demon Scorpion Empress was already dead, the creature would have immediately said: My wife and child are dead, you can just bring me alone”

“This is the simplest and most direct reaction, to be more convincing, it could’ve even shown me her corpse”

Gu Qing Shan continued: “But he didn’t answer right away, instead he stood there thinking about what to say”

Little Dusk commented: “He did think for a bit too long”

Gu Qing Shan chuckled and continued: “And so we understood another thing—— that the creature doesn’t know how to communicate with other people, it doesn’t know that staying silent for a long time will cause suspicion”

“So what do we do now?” Little Dusk asked.

“Now that we have so much intel, we need to go one last time to clear up everything” he said.

“What are you going to do? Are we going to use this series of formations?” Little Dusk asked.

“Not quite, the situation has changed, before making things clear, we can’t just kill off the scorpion” Gu Qing Shan answered.

The black-skinned man stood still under the sun of the desert.

He was very angry right now.

What was that man just now?

How did he use spatial powers so freely to escape from me?

It’s unfortunate, because of the figure of light’s appearance, the majority of my power is being suppressed under the desert.

Otherwise, I would’ve been able to easily catch that man and interrogate him about how to leave this world.

While he was standing dejectedly, the man appeared again.

——Gu Qing Shan and Little Dusk once again appeared in front of him.

“My wife and child are really dead, lead the way, let’s leave this world together” the black-skinned man immediately said.

That was the answer he took so long to come up with.

“You’re not the black scorpion” Gu Qing Shan curtly said.

“Ah? Why do you say that?” the black-skinned man asked.

“Because I found the real him just now” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The black-skinned man shook his head: “That’s impossible, I’m standing right here, where did you see my imposter?”

“Come” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

A flash of light came from the formation plate in his hand.

A second later, another black-skinned man appeared standing next to him.

This black-skinned man looked exactly the same as the scorpion guardian of the labyrinth, not even a single bit different.

They both stared at each other.

“That’s a fake!”

“You’re the fake!”

They both roared in anger and rushed in, clashing against one another.

With a huge boom, invisible shockwaves spread in the air.

They both retreated.

“How is that possible...”

The labyrinth guardian muttered in disbelief.

The presence, power, means of attack, and habits were exactly the same as his— in fact, that one felt like he was actually more experienced when it came to fighting.

“This is the real one, you’re just an imposter” Gu Qing Shan declared.

The black-skinned man was at a loss of words.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “We’re going to bring the real one and leave this world with him”

Leave... this world...

They’re going to leave

The black-skinned man suddenly blanked out.

Not good, it’s too late to change to another body to stop them from leaving.

But the other side isn’t weak, and there’s another black scorpion with similar strength to myself, I’m not going to be able to stop them.

At this time, Gu Qing Shan looked at the black-skinned man and shook his head: “An imposter like you should just stay right here, we’re leaving”

Seeing him about to leave for real, the black-skinned man couldn’t hesitate any more and shouted: “Wait a minute, he’s the fake one! I have the scorpion’s soul right here!”

Gu Qing Shan stopped.

Soul?

—-he has the soul?

Following that vein of thought, the scorpion's body must be under his control.

The creature probably used some sort of method to enter the scorpion's body and took it over.

Quite similar to possession in the cultivation world.

But possession is normally a very dangerous thing to do, if you're careless, you might lose everything instead.

There are quite a few wardens in the Abyss of Sin, and a single cultivator wouldn't be able to possess more than one person.

Yet all the wardens are nowhere to be seen.

That confirms one thing—- the creature has the ability to control many people at once.

But even now, the other wardens still haven't appeared.

Which confirms something else—-

Although the creature can take over the body of many living beings at once, it can only use one of those bodies at a time.

In other words, the Demon Scorpion Empress is still alive, but she's currently being left as a spare body for the creature.

Which means there's only one thing I should do right now.

After confirming his thoughts, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but laugh.

It was a real laugh, so he was laughing very refreshingly.

He told the girl next to him: "Little Dusk, you have to socialize and get to know people better, don't be like him, staying sealed so long that everything he tries to do is seen through instantly"

Little Dusk sighed: "I think the only problem he ran into was meeting you"

The black-skinned man standing next to Gu Qing Shan asked: "Gongzi, what should we do now?"

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Gu Qing Shan answered her: "Simple"

He threw the formation plate on the ground.

A flash of light appeared on the formation plate.

The warp formation was about to be activated again!

Grabbing onto the black-skinned man and Little Dusk with his hands, Gu Qing Shan suddenly disappeared.

Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift]!

The labyrinth guardian black-skinned man suddenly appeared where Gu Qing Shan originally stood.

The formation activated!

In the blink of an eye, he was transported away.

While Gu Qing Shan and the other two appeared where the black-skinned man originally stood.

“Let’s go, we’re entering the labyrinth” Gu Qing Shan said.

“What about the black scorpion?” Little Dusk couldn’t help but ask.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Since it’s now so far away, the creature wouldn’t be able to return here right away, but we’re going to enter the labyrinth right now—— so it will immediately give up the black scorpion’s body and use the body of another warden within the labyrinth to protect the Divine Armament”

“That way, the creature wouldn’t know where I am in the labyrinth to track me down, and the black scorpion will also be free”

“In that case, the black scorpion will definitely come back here to save his wife and child, and when he enters the labyrinth, he might be able to help me distract the creature’s attention”

“This is the time when we should act”

Gu Qing Shan looked at the black-skinned man.

“Shannu, you can turn back now”

“Yes, gongzi”

The black-skinned man transformed into a blue-dressed girl.

The girl gave a jet black tree branch back to Gu Qing Shan.

——this was the stinger that the black scorpion gave Gu Qing Shan before.

And Shannu used it to perform [Mystery of All Beings Equal]

Looking at the stinger, Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

Originally, he wanted to also turn into the black scorpion, taking him on two-on-one while Little Dusk attacked from the rear and quickly killed him.

But now that he knew the creature was only using the black scorpion’s body, and that he could still be saved, that wasn’t an option anymore.

Uncle black scorpion was such a nice guy as well, so he felt a bit guilty about randomly killing him just to get Soul Points.

“Keep it on you, it might become useful later on” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Yes” Shannu put the stinger away on herself.

Little Dusk looked at the blue-dressed girl's beautiful but aloof appearance and praised: "Wow, so beautiful, who are you, big sister?"

"Nice to meet you, I am Gongzi's sword, my name is Shannu" Shannu greeted her politely.

Little Dusk quickly greeted her back: "Nice to meet you too, I'm your Gongzi's partner, my name is Dusk, you can call me Little Dusk"

"Yes, Little Dusk" Shannu smiled and lightly called her name.

She was always with Gu Qing Shan and saw everything that she needed to see, so she had a good impression of Little Dusk.

Gu Qing Shan told them: "Alright, enough chatter for now, we need to go in"

Shannu turned back into the Six Paths Great Mountain sword and went into the void of space behind Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan brought Little Dusk towards a certain dune of sand.

As they approached, the drifting sand quickly parted ways to make way.

A flight of stone stairs heading downwards appeared in front of them.

On the other side.

The light of the formation faded.

The black-skinned man appeared inside the formation.

"No, this is a spatial warp"

His expression became grim as he gazed far away.

I have to return now!

The man turned his body and was about to take off.

A flash of light came.

He suddenly disappeared and reappeared several dozen meters away.

The man looked around.

I got warped again.

He tried turning again.

Another flash of light.

This time, without even taking a step, he was transported to the inside of another formation.

—continuous linked warp formations!

While inside this formation, even the slightest movement would trigger the formation.

He would be transported in a continuous loop around 36 warp formations unable to leave.

A high-ranking formation expert might be able to resolve them one by one.

But if you use violence instead—

The black-skinned man punched the ground.

Krak krak!

The formation gave off a light cracking sound and seemingly would break the very next second.

The black-skinned man slightly relaxed.

If that's the case, I just have to break it!

Right immediately, another flash of light came.

He got warped to another formation.

—this was a completely intact formation.

The black-skinned man angrily struck it with all his might.

The entire formation broke apart.

But as soon as he struck it, the formation was also triggered.

A flash of light.

The warp was complete.

He got transported to another intact formation!

The black-skinned man took a deep breath.

I would have to destroy the majority of these warp formations to be able to leave!

But there's no time!

That man must've already entered the labyrinth!

"I have no choice, I need to leave this body and return directly" the black-skinned man muttered.

A second later, his entire body trembled as he fell into a blank state.

A few moments later, the black-skinned man's eyes regained their clarity.

"Why am I here?"

He looked around and began to recall what happened.

"...So that's what happened, it was using my body"

"Oh no, honey, junior, wait for me, I'll save you!"

The black-skinned man dashed forward.

A flash of light.

He got transported to another formation.

He immediately understood what happened.

The black-skinned man commented emotionally: "Good, good, good, this really is the only way for it to hurriedly return without paying attention to me"

As he spoke, he had already extended his long tail stinger and attacked the formation.

Chapter 719

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

The labyrinth.

Rather than a labyrinth, it would be better to call this place an exceedingly large divine temple.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan came down from the desert above, he felt like he actually entered a completely different world.

Standing at the entrance to the temple, he was completely awestruck by the sight in front of him.

A bright green glow.

The Dark blue starlight.

An endless misty grey light.

A holy white light.

A dark purple mystical light.

A glorious golden light.

And a waterfall of dark light.

The seven shades of light each formed a silhouette, silently floating above the divine temple.

"Are these Divinities?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"No, they only represent the existence of the Divinities' powers here" Little Dusk told him.

The entire divine temple was giving off a solemn air, even just standing at the entrance, one could already see the countless interconnected structures behind it, extending far away into the horizon under the constantly drifting sand.

The outside of the temple was glorious yet elegant, where countless pure white, life-like statues with graceful demeanor stood, highlighting the solemnity and holiness of the temple.

In the sky, the seven silhouettes were completely ignorant of Gu Qing Shan's appearance there.

But a wax-sealed envelope descended from the sky, hovering in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan received the envelope.

It spontaneously exploded.

A solemn voice appeared out of nowhere.

「 Listen well. As the first mortal to ever arrive at this sanctuary, you have obtained our explanation of this matter, as well as the only reward offered 」

「 Countless years ago, we had already anticipated this day 」

「 If one day, we were to depart and the seal was removed, the sinful creature might be able to control many powerful warriors, or perhaps control some of the wisest among you, attempting to steal or destroy the Divine Armaments 」

「 Do not worry, once the figure of light appears, the creature's sinful powers will be suppressed, it will not be able to take over your bodies or trap your souls 」

「 Furthermore, to prevent any shortcomings; we had created this labyrinth and buried the 3 Divine Armaments inside 」

「 The sinful creature will not be able to find the Divine Armaments within a short period of time, and so both sides will begin on the same starting line 」

「 To aid you in overcoming the obstruction of sin, we will temporarily provide you something until the end of your trial 」

「 That is—— the ability to travel through time and space! 」

A coin appeared in the air, landing on Gu Qing Shan's hands.

The solemn voice continued: 「 Using this coin, you will be able to travel against the river of time, returning to exactly five minutes earlier 」

「 Remember this, the coin can only be activated once, to use it, simply chant the incantation: As the Gods will 」

「 This will be enough to save your life 」

「 Now go, go and find the Divine Armaments 」

「 Mortal, this is a sinful creature the likes of which the Gods despise, you must seal it away once more 」

「 When you accomplish this, you shall become a Demigod 」

「 This is a Divine Assurance 」

As it finished, the voice slowly faded away.

Gu Qing Shan held the coin in his hand and carefully observed it.

The coin was completely smooth on both sides, without any patterns or writings on it.

It barely qualified as a coin, as crude as it was.

In front of Gu Qing Shan, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Attention please, this is the first time the War God System has come into contact with this item]

[The War God System cannot tell you any details regarding this coin]

[Only one thing is sure, this item seems to be a crudely made rip-off]

A rip-off?

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Gu Qing Shan was very surprised.

A mere rip-off has the ability to send someone five minutes into the past?

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask: "System, aren't we also able to travel against the river of time and return to the past?"

[Ting]!

The War God System responded: [Before you had entered the 900 million World Layers, we indeed still had the ability to regress and return through the river of time]

[But ever since you entered the 900 million World Layers, from a timeline perspective, you have changed too many events, countless occurrences that were fated to begin and end were forcefully altered by your actions]

[Within the battle of the Bramble Birds, the fate of the 900 million World Layers underwent an unprecedented transition. Too many variables were born within the void of time, the fate of millions of billions of billions of people were also changed accordingly]

"And so?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[The changes you brought were too vast and too varied, causing huge ripples and tsunamis within the river of time that still haven't settled down, the variables created from this are also silently causing their own butterfly effects. As such the System can no longer isolate your flow of time, space and fate, and is no longer capable of attempting regression as we did before]

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "Which means, this replica coin is actually quite valuable?"

The War God System answered him: [Indeed, although it is only a rip-off, the power it carries can indeed bring you back in time 5 minutes before, the power of which is inconceivable, immeasurable and imponderable]

Gu Qing Shan muses: "But it is only a replica... are you sure it's only a rip-off?"

[Correct, it is a crude rip-off] the System confirmed.

"You really don't know anything else?" Gu Qing Shan was unconvinced.

[I do not, this is also the first time I came into contact with this coin] the System replied.

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

Using this coin, I can travel 5 minutes before any 'event' occurs.

In this case, the 'event' can be anything, perhaps my death, the obtaining of a certain item, when I ran into something or missed something.

In a crucial moment, this coin can change a person's fate.

— — *if a replica is this powerful, what about the real thing?*

Could it be that the real thing is among the 1001 numbered coins?

Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized.

He showed Little Dusk the coin and hastily asked: "Have you ever seen this coin before? Are there any coins among the 1001 numbered coins that can go back in time?"

Little Dusk also rubbed the coin in wonder, answering him: "This is also the first time I've seen this kind of coin"

Seeing Gu Qing Shan's disappointed look, Little Dusk tried consoling him: "None of the Divinities had the ability to go back in time, otherwise they wouldn't have died"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Which means none of the coins could possibly do that either?"

"Yeah" Little Dusk replied.

Gu Qing Shan still hasn't given up: "But we have a coin capable of exactly that right here, if this was something made by the seven Daemons, couldn't the other Divinities have made something that can travel over an even longer period of time for themselves? A few years maybe?"

He can't be blamed for being so interested in this, because he had already experienced time travel once before, he knew very well what it was capable of.

Not only could this change his own fate, but it could also change the fate of all of the worlds, the fate of quintillions of people!

If I can go back in time again...

There's actually no need to return too far at all, if I can find the secret hidden within the #944 coin, the Ender of the Desolation Age's weakness, I'll be able to use the time travel and kill it during the first contact with it!

That way, not only will I be able to save a lot of people, lady Darksea wouldn't have died in battle either.

Lady Darksea knows something about me!

As long as I can save her, I'll be able to learn everything.

Little Dusk shook her head: "The seven Daemons believed that going back in time would mess up the past and present of many worlds, so they were very against the idea of time travel"

She looked at Gu Qing Shan and hesitantly told him: “It might be disrespectful to them, but the seven Daemons, in fact, did not have the power to travel through time, among the Divinities, they were the weakest— for example, they only created the first 700 coins among the 1001 numbered coins, the latter 301 coins were actually created by the four Pillar Gods”

“Can the four Pillar Gods travel through time?”

“They couldn’t either— so this coin might be something that the Daemons happened to obtain”

“Why didn’t they keep it for themselves then?”

“The power of the Divinities are involved in many things, perhaps this coin can allow a mortal to travel five minutes back in time, but it doesn’t affect them at all”

Little Dusk gave the coin back to him.

Gu Qing Shan received it and sighed.

Fine then, the most important thing, for now, is to survive.

—let’s go look for the Divine Armaments.

Chapter 720

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

The black market.

A lot of people had the 7 Holy Bibles opened right in front of them, flipping through while scowling in thought.

There were also those who gathered and exchanged information with one another.

A few disappeared into the darkness, silently leaving.

Less and less people were in the black market as time passed.

One Professionalist suddenly had a feeling and looked up, asking in confusion: “Huh? Why do I get the feeling there are fewer people left here?”

Another person beside him was focused on their Holy Bible and didn’t bother to look up, but answered him: “Most likely they already found all the poems of divination and figured out where the labyrinth is, so they’re probably on their way”

The man exclaimed in shock: “You mean we already lost our chance?”

His companion answered: “Not necessarily, this is a labyrinth set up by the Gods, not something you can just waltz in and find a Divine Armament— so quit talking and quickly find the remaining poems”

...

The door of the labyrinth was pushed open.

Inside the long hallway, statues armed with weapons lined the two sides.

At the very center of the hallway, a giant statue stood still.

It was a statue of a fully-armoured giant.

A large battle-axe was held in his hand, raised upwards as if preparing to attack someone.

Although this battle-axe wasn't being used by anybody, faint overlapping shadows could be seen drifting about the edge of the axe, leaving black rip marks all over the void of space around it.

"This is a Soul Artifact"

Little Dusk pointed at the battle-axe and told Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

He recalled back in Triste's collection world, Laura once gave up a Soul Artifact as a form of payment for Li Yang's cooperation.

At the time, afraid that he might not understand just how precious a Soul Artifact was, Li Yang specifically gave him a detailed explanation.

Soul Artifacts contained all sorts of unimaginable power, the stronger their wielders were, the more power a Soul Artifact could manifest.

Soul Artifacts are well-known to be precious treasures above all else.

Within the Strife Zones, besides the 1001 numbered coins, only this level of precious items had universal circulation value among the races.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze fell onto the giant's statue.

"This is a warden from the Abyss of Sin, I've met him once before, the others around here are all of his servants" Little Dusk told him.

"Seems like when someone's soul gets imprisoned by that creature, their bodies will turn into stone statues like this" Gu Qing Shan commented.

Little Dusk urged him: "Let's go in quickly, otherwise if the creature possesses this warden's body, it'll be a lot more troublesome"

"You're right, it will probably come back soon" Gu Qing Shan agreed.

The individual power of every warden in the Abyss of Sin was fearsome, and this one even carried a Soul Artifact—— although it wasn't clear what level it was, any Soul Artifact is tough to deal with.

He took Little Dusk's hand and flashed.

Divine Skill, [Ground Shrink].

The two of them appeared on the other side of the hallway.

They quickly left the hallway only to find themselves in a garden of flowers on the other side of the gate.

The seven lights were still giving off their glorious glows.

But unexpectedly, snow was falling.

The intense snowy weather brought with it chilling winds that blew across the garden.

There were various paths within this garden that lead to over a hundred other gigantic structures, including a towering mountain—— yes, this labyrinth contained inside it a mountain, complete with a great waterfall on its side with several buildings and towers at the top of it.

Various statues of the wardens of the Abyss of Sin were scattered around the garden.

The statues stood still without moving, protecting entrances of each path.

“As expected of a labyrinth, there are at least 10 open paths just here alone, with so many structures, you’re going to need to lead the way for us to find where the Divine Armaments are” Little Dusk glanced around and commented.

Gu Qing Shan carefully looked around.

Every path was covered in a thick blanket of snow without a single footprint on it.

——*it seems these wardens from the Abyss of Sin have been taken over for quite a while.*

Furthermore, these structures were all constructed based on the style and scale of the Holy Churches, and according to the memories he got from soul reading the dead General, it was possible to guess what a few of these structures were used for by their appearance alone.

Following the three directions reported by his [Miracle Search], Gu Qing Shan picked out the closest structure.

It was a library connected to a church.

Indeed, the very first Divine Armament was hidden inside a library.

Gu Qing Shan pointed: “Should be that direction”

“Let’s go” Little Dusk was about to go out ahead.

Then Gu Qing Shan stopped her.

“What are we waiting for?” Little Dusk asked him in confusion.

“If we consider the time; that creature should have already returned, two people aren’t as covert as one, so turn back into your card form and hide on me, I’ll call when I need you” Gu Qing Shan offered.

“Alright” Little Dusk agreed right away.

She took a step back as a rectangular lapis border manifested around her.

She then quickly turned into a lapis-coloured card and fell into Gu Qing Shan’s hands.

Gu Qing Shan put the card away and turned into a snow hawk.

The snow hawk took to the air, flying as high as it could in the air.

Nothing reacted inside the garden.

The creature had already turned all of the wardens into statues.

——and statues couldn't possibly fly in the sky.

Even if one of the statues noticed this snow hawk, they wouldn't be able to attack it right away, as it was flying so high.

So if the creature suddenly appeared, Gu Qing Shan would still have some time to react.

The snow hawk flew over the library.

It then transformed into a honey bee mid-air.

The bee landed on a snowflake, descending slowly with the wind, only ever flapping its wings when absolutely necessary.

The snowflake silently landed on top of the library building.

The bee crawled in through the thick blanket of snow.

As it reached the ceramic tiles that lined the top of the building, it turned into an ant, which was smaller in size.

The ant suddenly stopped.

He released his inner sight and sensed something in the garden.

A warden from the Abyss of Sin who was giving off a terrifying presence began to walk around.

——the creature had returned.

The ant stood still for a while.

It patiently waited; until the creature finally entered one of the buildings

At that point, the ant finally crawled through a tiny hole between the tiles and reached an air duct.

The ant entered the air duct.

Following the long air duct, it slowly made its way to the air vent on the ceiling of the library.

It then stopped shortly after and peaked its head out to look below.

Countless books neatly lined the many bookshelves around the library.

A single statue was sitting at the center of the library.

The light from the fireplace peered out, illuminating him, highlighting his aged and sorrowful features.

——this was a human man with a cloak and staff.

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To be able to become a warden of the Abyss of Sin as a human, this man must be exceedingly powerful.

The ant quickly pulled back after a glance.

The statue didn't react at all, but it was better to be safe than sorry.

Because he didn't know if the man below was a wizard or warlock.

If he was a wizard, Gu Qing Shan could choose to fight in close-range, swiftly killing him in a few blows.

— as a wizard, he had to first return from being a statue before casting his spell, more than enough time for Gu Qing Shan's [Life Seeker] to do its job.

But warlocks weren't the same.

Warlocks didn't just know how to use magic.

Quite a few warlocks were equally potent in close combat as they were at magic.

With his current strength, Gu Qing Shan personally admitted it would be tough to kill a warlock at the same level as the black scorpion.

And turning into the scorpion right now would be a waste of Soul Points.

If I could help it, I'd rather save as much Soul Points as I can.

And even more importantly, even if he killed this old man, other wardens would quickly come to replace him.

While he was wondering what to do, a female voice came from inside his mind.

Little Dusk asked: "Have you found the Divine Armament yet?"

She was curious where it could be hidden.

Gu Qing Shan sent his voice: "I did, right next to the statue, hidden in the wall behind the fireplace"

Little Dusk was surprised: "Why was it hidden so deeply?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Just now when the Divinities gave me the coin, they also gave me a hint"

"What hint?" Little Dusk asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "They said that they built this labyrinth and buried the 3 Divine Armaments inside— 'buried' was the keyword"

Little Dusk commented: "Seems like the Divinities were afraid that the Divine Armament would fall into the hands of the creature— because it would definitely have destroyed the Divine Armament"

Gu Qing Shan said: "Seems like the Divinities understood this creature quite well, they knew that with the creature's mental capacity, it wouldn't have thought that there were things hidden inside the walls"

Little Dusk asked: "If we go down there right now, do you think the creature would know?"

“It will definitely know” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“Why are you so sure about that?” Little Dusk asked.

“Because the creature specifically left a statue here, meaning that as long as a statue is present, it will most likely have the ability to know everything that happens, as well as being able to possess the statues at will” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Then what do we do now?” Little Dusk asked.

“I’m still thinking about it” Gu Qing Shan told her.

Little Dusk suggested: “How about I lead him away?”

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “With your current strength, you’ll definitely be stalled until a more powerful warden arrives to kill you”

Little Dusk smiled and said: “It seems you still don’t understand how an Envoy of Condemnation fights”

A card appeared out of nowhere in front of the ant.

There was nothing depicted on this card, only three lines of text.

[Angel of Condemnation – Dusk is requesting to become your first summoning card, do you accept?]

[The summoning contract is as follow: non-binding]

[If you agree, please lightly touch this card]

The ant paused for a second before touching the card with its antenna.

The contract card then turned and glowed in a lapis coloured light before shrinking and hovering in front of the ant.

Little Dusk was now standing in the card, laughing as she covered her mouth.

The ant was stunned.

“Alright, you got me, I’m shocked” Gu Qing Shan sent his voice.

“What is there to be shocked about, an Envoy of Condemnation would naturally have the ability to sign summoning contracts” Little Dusk explained.

“What do we do now?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Dusk boastfully spoke: “Here, let big sis teach you... first, you need to call me...”

...

Inside the silent library, a huge explosion suddenly came.

The ceiling broke and collapsed as a white-dressed girl descended from above.

She was already holding several cards in her hand as she fell down.

"[Forging Sunbeam]!" she uttered.

A card was thrown out.

The card scattered and turned into intense scorching flames that burned the statue.

As soon as the girl appeared, the statue had already returned to life.

The old man swung his staff and summoned freezing air to cover himself.

"I'm going to kill you!" the old man shouted.

The white-dressed girl stuck out her tongue at him, turned and ran.

She broke through the door of the library and ran into the garden.

The old man tapped his staff on the ground several times.

A black snake suddenly manifested from below, carrying him to chase her with incredible speed.

The two of them quickly went away from the area.

At this point, a person appeared in front of the fireplace.

Gu Qing Shan.

He lightly swung his sword at the fireplace.

Wherever the sword passed, the wall was easily cut.

A beautiful box appeared, silently embedded inside the wall.

Gu Qing Shan lightly waved his hand and put the box inside his Inventory Bag.

A split second later, Gu Qing Shan disappeared.

The entire process took a single second.

He returned to the air duct and uttered: "Dismiss summon!"

The garden just outside the library.

As Little Dusk was still fleeing, her body turned into mist and disappeared from the old man's sight.

He was stunned.

"Damn it!"

He shouted and blasted where Little Dusk originally stood with a spell.

Boom—

A hole was drilled into the ground.

On the other side.

A summoning card appeared in front of the ant.

Little Dusk stood beautifully inside the card, smiling while waving at the ant.

A few moments later.

The old man finally remembered something and angrily stormed back to the library to check.

Only to see nothing but a large hole in the wall.

At this point, a butterfly had already flown out from the top of the library, borrowing the wind to glide towards another building.

Chapter 721

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

Boom!

A sun-like ball of scorching light continued to burn.

Under the destructive light of the spell, the entire library slowly collapsed and got burned to ash.

The warlock stood among the debris, incredibly angry.

Damn it!

A Divine Armament was taken!

I already know that a building under the blessing of Divinities can obscure my sense, but I didn't think they would bury it inside the wall.

But now that I know about that—

The warlock wielded his staff.

Under his manipulation, the ball of light shot off rays of light in all directions, striking the surrounding buildings.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

One by one, the structures collapsed.

But there were still so many buildings left and even more on the faraway mountain.

The warlock continued casting spells one after another.

The light of his spell illuminated the entire labyrinth structure.

Under the howling wind and snow, the scene of carnage continued.

—until the door to the hallway opened once again.

The black-skinned man appeared.

The warlock stopped to look at him.

“Bastard, release my wife and child!” the black-skinned man shouted furiously.

The warlock coldly replied: “You were taken back here by the Divinities, what does that have to do with me?”

“You stole our souls and took control of our bodies” the black-skinned man gritted his teeth.

The warlock suddenly laughed: “The damned had died, the living will naturally live”

The black-skinned man was a bit surprised, unable to understand what he was saying.

He said nothing else and leapt forward, attacking the warlock.

On another side of the labyrinth.

Most structures here have already been levelled by the spells.

At a secluded area, a butterfly was hiding behind the branch of a certain tree.

It had pulled its wings back, tightly holding onto the backside of the leaf to make sure it wouldn't be blown away by the gusts of snowy wind.

This was Gu Qing Shan.

He silently watched as the warlock destroyed the structures one by one until the black-skinned man arrived.

“The damned had died, the living will naturally live”

He silently pondered his statement.

What does ‘the damned had died’ mean?

And what is ‘the living’?

What standard is the creature using to determine if someone lives or dies?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking about this, Little Dusk suddenly called out to him in his mind.

“Gu Qing Shan, if it destroys all the structures here, will the remaining two Divine Armaments also be destroyed?”

Little Dusk seemed a bit anxious.

Gu Qing Shan regained his focus and told her: “I heard that a warlock siphons their power for their spells from the Weave of Law, so each of their attacks is just as powerful as the last, enough to destroy everything”

Little Dusk was surprised: “So you knew? Wait a minute! When you took the Divine Armament, did you purposefully leave a trace to make it destroy the building?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Yeah, but I need it to be angry more than calm, because no matter who or what it is, when angered it will subconsciously reveal more about itself one way or another, allowing us to understand it better”

Little Dusk said: “Then what about these buildings? The Divine Armaments might have already been—no wait! You already know where the other two Divine Armaments are!”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “The second Divine Armament is right under the bell tower, and the creature just helped us level it to the ground. Over there, the second building on our left, it’s a product of alchemy that didn’t have an entrance, but there was a hidden underground path, and now we can go straight down from here instead”

Little Dusk: “You... used the creature to make an entrance...”

“Let’s go, time to get the second Divine Armament” Gu Qing Shan said.

The butterfly took a chance and lightly flapped its wings, landing on a snowflake that drifted towards the thick blanket of snow below.

Then the butterfly disappeared without a trace.

A mole appeared below the layer of snow.

It stopped breathing, rubbed its claws together to activate a presence concealment seal, then after a bit of hesitation, turned into a smaller ant.

The ant activated its skill in the direction of the bell tower.

It suddenly disappeared.

A snowflake appeared where the ant originally was while the ant replaced the snowflake, silently hiding beneath another thick blanket of snow.

From the outside, the snow seemed absolutely still as if nothing had happened at all.

Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift]!

Originally, the ant was already smaller than the tip of a nail, now that it has the reinforcement of the presence concealment seal, as well as using [Shadow Shift] to move, it was as good as nonexistent.

After moving once, the ant remained still.

It was staying close to the ground, silently listening.

On the other side of the labyrinth, the battle was becoming quite intense.

The warlock was quickly unable to endure the black-skinned man’s intense attacks, stepped back and turned back into a statue.

A second later, another Abyss of Sin warden appeared.

——the creature had just changed bodies.

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This time, it chose a slender shadowy assassin.

The assassin wielded two long daggers as he slowly crept up behind the black-skinned man in just a few steps.

A cold gleam.

Kih!

The dagger and tail stinger clashed with a sharp, ear-piercing sound.

The assassin snuck back into the shadow.

The man angrily roared and pursued.

The battle began anew.

On the other side.

The ant sat still underneath the snow, waiting for two breaths.

As soon as the assassin and the black-skinned man clashed again, the ant activated [Shadow Shift].

This time, it went directly where the bell tower once stood.

— — —sure enough, a flight of stairs heading downward was right among the rubble.

The ant followed the stairs downwards.

But the path was long, after just a few minutes, it had become so steep it was almost a cliff.

The ant felt a bit impatient and leapt from the wall, free-falling down the path.

A few moments later, it landed on the ground at the bottom.

This place was a relatively primitive storage facility that contained various alchemy tools.

After countless years of wear and tear, these tools were already ancient and were in no state to be used again.

The ant nimbly avoided the tools as it crawled to the center of the storage and expanded its senses.

It quickly found what it came for.

An unassuming brick at a corner of the room.

The ant crawled over and touched the brick with its antennae to sense the aura of a creation of the Gods.

After confirmation, the ant slightly stepped back.

A sword suddenly appeared out of nowhere above the ant and lightly tapped the brick.

The brick let out a faint, invisible wave as if it was sensing what kind of creature the attack came from.

Sha!

Then the brick shattered into tiny grains of fine sand and fell to the ground.

A beautiful box about the size of a hand appeared.

Gu Qing Shan dispelled the [Mystery of All Beings Equal] and put the box away.

He took out a formation plate, arranged several presence concealment and trace erasure formations before setting up a warp formation.

After preparing everything, he took out the two boxes.

Two boxes.

One came from the library, while the other came from the bell tower.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the boxes and fell silent.

“What are you hesitating about?” Little Dusk asked doubtfully.

“I think something seems a bit strange” Gu Qing Shan told her.

“What is?”

“Little Dusk, you said that to seal this creature away, you had to exhaust your powers, that’s why you were restrained and sealed by the Divinities, is that right?”

“Yeah”

“That’s what seems strange” Gu Qing Shan slowly muttered, “back then, your powers exceeded that of the Divinities, yet you had to exhaust everything in order to seal the creature away— but now, the Divinities are nowhere to be found, all that’s left are three Divine Armaments that doesn’t have an owner, so how could they seal the creature away?”

Little Dusk froze briefly before thinking: “Maybe during the years that I’ve been sealed, the seven Daemons became stronger and they could easily seal this creature away”

“That makes even less sense if the seven Daemons have become truly that strong, how did they die in the first place”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan’s expression turned serious.

“Due to the lack of information, I can only assume one of three circumstances”

“Firstly, the seven Daemons aren’t actually dead, they have become so powerful that they can now easily seal this creature away. So why didn’t they appear? I think it might be because they have some sort of hidden agenda, so they hid in the shadow, preparing for something. Which means these three Divine Armaments are actually under their control, and that’s how they plan to seal the creature”

“Secondly, the seven Daemons aren’t actually dead, but they’re still the same as all those years ago and don’t have the power to seal the creature”

“Thirdly, the seven Daemons are already dead, their powers aren’t enough to fight against the more powerful sinful creatures that later showed up. According to this line of thought, we can assume that they didn’t actually become that much strong, which means they still aren’t as powerful as the past you”

“If it’s the first situation, we don’t need to do anything and simply do as we’re told; but if it’s the second or third situation, then these three Divine Armaments must have some sort of unknown use”

While talking, Gu Qing Shan had already opened the two boxes.

The two Divine Armaments silently laid inside.

Only one more until everything was done.

According to what the figure of light said, the creature will be sealed away again, and since Gu Qing Shan was the one to obtain the Divine Armaments, he will receive untold praises and honour ——— he will become a Demigod.

And Gu Qing Shan does in fact knew exactly where the third Divine Armament was hidden.

If it was anyone else, they would have already made a mad dash towards the final Divine Armament and quickly sealed the monster away.

But Gu Qing Shan didn’t do so.

He was staring at the two Divine Armament with a slightly anxious expression.

Seeing his expression, Little Dusk encouraged: “What are you worried about? Don’t worry about it. Divinities may like to make all sorts of hidden arrangements, but they wouldn’t bother to do anything against a mortal like yourself. In fact, they actually love mortals like you who help them seal away sinful creatures”

“You can’t think that way, Little Dusk. You had better remember well, we can never let our fate become dependent on the joy or sadness of anyone, not even a Divinity”

“...I’ll keep that in mind”

Gu Qing Shan muttered: “The current situation is one where we can’t guess what the Divinities are thinking, and we can’t determine what would happen after the three Divine Armaments are gathered, so we have to stop”

“We do?”

“Yep, we need to collect more information to reassess our current circumstance”

Chapter 719

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

The labyrinth.

Rather than a labyrinth, it would be better to call this place an exceedingly large divine temple.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan came down from the desert above, he felt like he actually entered a completely different world.

Standing at the entrance to the temple, he was completely awestruck by the sight in front of him.

A bright green glow.

The Dark blue starlight.

An endless misty grey light.

A holy white light.

A dark purple mystical light.

A glorious golden light.

And a waterfall of dark light.

The seven shades of light each formed a silhouette, silently floating above the divine temple.

“Are these Divinities?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“No, they only represent the existence of the Divinities’ powers here” Little Dusk told him.

The entire divine temple was giving off a solemn air, even just standing at the entrance, one could already see the countless interconnected structures behind it, extending far away into the horizon under the constantly drifting sand.

The outside of the temple was glorious yet elegant, where countless pure white, life-like statues with graceful demeanor stood, highlighting the solemnity and holiness of the temple.

In the sky, the seven silhouettes were completely ignorant of Gu Qing Shan’s appearance there.

But a wax-sealed envelope descended from the sky, hovering in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan received the envelope.

It spontaneously exploded.

A solemn voice appeared out of nowhere.

「 Listen well. As the first mortal to ever arrive at this sanctuary, you have obtained our explanation of this matter, as well as the only reward offered 」

「 Countless years ago, we had already anticipated this day 」

「 If one day, we were to depart and the seal was removed, the sinful creature might be able to control many powerful warriors, or perhaps control some of the wisest among you, attempting to steal or destroy the Divine Armaments 」

「 Do not worry, once the figure of light appears, the creature’s sinful powers will be suppressed, it will not be able to take over your bodies or trap your souls 」

「 Furthermore, to prevent any shortcomings; we had created this labyrinth and buried the 3 Divine Armaments inside 」

「 The sinful creature will not be able to find the Divine Armaments within a short period of time, and so both sides will begin on the same starting line 」

「 To aid you in overcoming the obstruction of sin, we will temporarily provide you something until the end of your trial 」

「 That is—— the ability to travel through time and space! 」

A coin appeared in the air, landing on Gu Qing Shan's hands.

The solemn voice continued: 「 Using this coin, you will be able to travel against the river of time, returning to exactly five minutes earlier 」

「 Remember this, the coin can only be activated once, to use it, simply chant the incantation: As the Gods will 」

「 This will be enough to save your life 」

「 Now go, go and find the Divine Armaments 」

「 Mortal, this is a sinful creature the likes of which the Gods despise, you must seal it away once more 」

「 When you accomplish this, you shall become a Demigod 」

「 This is a Divine Assurance 」

As it finished, the voice slowly faded away.

Gu Qing Shan held the coin in his hand and carefully observed it.

The coin was completely smooth on both sides, without any patterns or writings on it.

It barely qualified as a coin, as crude as it was.

In front of Gu Qing Shan, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Attention please, this is the first time the War God System has come into contact with this item]

[The War God System cannot tell you any details regarding this coin]

[Only one thing is sure, this item seems to be a crudely made rip-off]

A rip-off?

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Gu Qing Shan was very surprised.

A mere rip-off has the ability to send someone five minutes into the past?

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask: "System, aren't we also able to travel against the river of time and return to the past?"

[Ting]!

The War God System responded: [Before you had entered the 900 million World Layers, we indeed still had the ability to regress and return through the river of time]

[But ever since you entered the 900 million World Layers, from a timeline perspective, you have changed too many events, countless occurrences that were fated to begin and end were forcefully altered by your actions]

[Within the battle of the Bramble Birds, the fate of the 900 million World Layers underwent an unprecedented transition. Too many variables were born within the void of time, the fate of millions of billions of billions of people were also changed accordingly]

"And so?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[The changes you brought were too vast and too varied, causing huge ripples and tsunamis within the river of time that still haven't settled down, the variables created from this are also silently causing their own butterfly effects. As such the System can no longer isolate your flow of time, space and fate, and is no longer capable of attempting regression as we did before]

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "Which means, this replica coin is actually quite valuable?"

The War God System answered him: [Indeed, although it is only a rip-off, the power it carries can indeed bring you back in time 5 minutes before, the power of which is inconceivable, immeasurable and imponderable]

Gu Qing Shan muses: "But it is only a replica... are you sure it's only a rip-off?"

[Correct, it is a crude rip-off] the System confirmed.

"You really don't know anything else?" Gu Qing Shan was unconvinced.

[I do not, this is also the first time I came into contact with this coin] the System replied.

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

Using this coin, I can travel 5 minutes before any 'event' occurs.

In this case, the 'event' can be anything, perhaps my death, the obtaining of a certain item, when I ran into something or missed something.

In a crucial moment, this coin can change a person's fate.

—-if a replica is this powerful, what about the real thing?

Could it be that the real thing is among the 1001 numbered coins?

Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized.

He showed Little Dusk the coin and hastily asked: "Have you ever seen this coin before? Are there any coins among the 1001 numbered coins that can go back in time?"

Little Dusk also rubbed the coin in wonder, answering him: "This is also the first time I've seen this kind of coin"

Seeing Gu Qing Shan's disappointed look, Little Dusk tried consoling him: "None of the Divinities had the ability to go back in time, otherwise they wouldn't have died"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Which means none of the coins could possibly do that either?"

"Yeah" Little Dusk replied.

Gu Qing Shan still hasn't given up: "But we have a coin capable of exactly that right here, if this was something made by the seven Daemons, couldn't the other Divinities have made something that can travel over an even longer period of time for themselves? A few years maybe?"

He can't be blamed for being so interested in this, because he had already experienced time travel once before, he knew very well what it was capable of.

Not only could this change his own fate, but it could also change the fate of all of the worlds, the fate of quintillions of people!

If I can go back in time again...

There's actually no need to return too far at all, if I can find the secret hidden within the #944 coin, the Ender of the Desolation Age's weakness, I'll be able to use the time travel and kill it during the first contact with it!

That way, not only will I be able to save a lot of people, lady Darksea wouldn't have died in battle either.

Lady Darksea knows something about me!

As long as I can save her, I'll be able to learn everything.

Little Dusk shook her head: "The seven Daemons believed that going back in time would mess up the past and present of many worlds, so they were very against the idea of time travel"

She looked at Gu Qing Shan and hesitantly told him: "It might be disrespectful to them, but the seven Daemons, in fact, did not have the power to travel through time, among the Divinities, they were the weakest— for example, they only created the first 700 coins among the 1001 numbered coins, the latter 301 coins were actually created by the four Pillar Gods"

"Can the four Pillar Gods travel through time?"

"They couldn't either— so this coin might be something that the Daemons happened to obtain"

"Why didn't they keep it for themselves then?"

"The power of the Divinities are involved in many things, perhaps this coin can allow a mortal to travel five minutes back in time, but it doesn't affect them at all"

Little Dusk gave the coin back to him.

Gu Qing Shan received it and sighed.

Fine then, the most important thing, for now, is to survive.

—let's go look for the Divine Armaments.

Chapter 720

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

The black market.

A lot of people had the 7 Holy Bibles opened right in front of them, flipping through while scowling in thought.

There were also those who gathered and exchanged information with one another.

A few disappeared into the darkness, silently leaving.

Less and less people were in the black market as time passed.

One Professionalist suddenly had a feeling and looked up, asking in confusion: "Huh? Why do I get the feeling there are fewer people left here?"

Another person beside him was focused on their Holy Bible and didn't bother to look up, but answered him: "Most likely they already found all the poems of divination and figured out where the labyrinth is, so they're probably on their way"

The man exclaimed in shock: "You mean we already lost our chance?"

His companion answered: "Not necessarily, this is a labyrinth set up by the Gods, not something you can just waltz in and find a Divine Armament— — — so quit talking and quickly find the remaining poems"

...

The door of the labyrinth was pushed open.

Inside the long hallway, statues armed with weapons lined the two sides.

At the very center of the hallway, a giant statue stood still.

It was a statue of a fully-armoured giant.

A large battle-axe was held in his hand, raised upwards as if preparing to attack someone.

Although this battle-axe wasn't being used by anybody, faint overlapping shadows could be seen drifting about the edge of the axe, leaving black rip marks all over the void of space around it.

"This is a Soul Artifact"

Little Dusk pointed at the battle-axe and told Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

He recalled back in Triste's collection world, Laura once gave up a Soul Artifact as a form of payment for Li Yang's cooperation.

At the time, afraid that he might not understand just how precious a Soul Artifact was, Li Yang specifically gave him a detailed explanation.

Soul Artifacts contained all sorts of unimaginable power, the stronger their wielders were, the more power a Soul Artifact could manifest.

Soul Artifacts are well-known to be precious treasures above all else.

Within the Strife Zones, besides the 1001 numbered coins, only this level of precious items had universal circulation value among the races.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze fell onto the giant's statue.

"This is a warden from the Abyss of Sin, I've met him once before, the others around here are all of his servants" Little Dusk told him.

"Seems like when someone's soul gets imprisoned by that creature, their bodies will turn into stone statues like this" Gu Qing Shan commented.

Little Dusk urged him: "Let's go in quickly, otherwise if the creature possesses this warden's body, it'll be a lot more troublesome"

"You're right, it will probably come back soon" Gu Qing Shan agreed.

The individual power of every warden in the Abyss of Sin was fearsome, and this one even carried a Soul Artifact—— although it wasn't clear what level it was, any Soul Artifact is tough to deal with.

He took Little Dusk's hand and flashed.

Divine Skill, [Ground Shrink].

The two of them appeared on the other side of the hallway.

They quickly left the hallway only to find themselves in a garden of flowers on the other side of the gate.

The seven lights were still giving off their glorious glows.

But unexpectedly, snow was falling.

The intense snowy weather brought with it chilling winds that blew across the garden.

There were various paths within this garden that lead to over a hundred other gigantic structures, including a towering mountain—— yes, this labyrinth contained inside it a mountain, complete with a great waterfall on its side with several buildings and towers at the top of it.

Various statues of the wardens of the Abyss of Sin were scattered around the garden.

The statues stood still without moving, protecting entrances of each path.

“As expected of a labyrinth, there are at least 10 open paths just here alone, with so many structures, you’re going to need to lead the way for us to find where the Divine Armaments are” Little Dusk glanced around and commented.

Gu Qing Shan carefully looked around.

Every path was covered in a thick blanket of snow without a single footprint on it.

—*—it seems these wardens from the Abyss of Sin have been taken over for quite a while.*

Furthermore, these structures were all constructed based on the style and scale of the Holy Churches, and according to the memories he got from soul reading the dead General, it was possible to guess what a few of these structures were used for by their appearance alone.

Following the three directions reported by his [Miracle Search], Gu Qing Shan picked out the closest structure.

It was a library connected to a church.

Indeed, the very first Divine Armament was hidden inside a library.

Gu Qing Shan pointed: “Should be that direction”

“Let’s go” Little Dusk was about to go out ahead.

Then Gu Qing Shan stopped her.

“What are we waiting for?” Little Dusk asked him in confusion.

“If we consider the time; that creature should have already returned, two people aren’t as covert as one, so turn back into your card form and hide on me, I’ll call when I need you” Gu Qing Shan offered.

“Alright” Little Dusk agreed right away.

She took a step back as a rectangular lapis border manifested around her.

She then quickly turned into a lapis-coloured card and fell into Gu Qing Shan’s hands.

Gu Qing Shan put the card away and turned into a snow hawk.

The snow hawk took to the air, flying as high as it could in the air.

Nothing reacted inside the garden.

The creature had already turned all of the wardens into statues.

—*—and statues couldn’t possibly fly in the sky.*

Even if one of the statues noticed this snow hawk, they wouldn’t be able to attack it right away, as it was flying so high.

So if the creature suddenly appeared, Gu Qing Shan would still have some time to react.

The snow hawk flew over the library.

It then transformed into a honey bee mid-air.

The bee landed on a snowflake, descending slowly with the wind, only ever flapping its wings when absolutely necessary.

The snowflake silently landed on top of the library building.

The bee crawled in through the thick blanket of snow.

As it reached the ceramic tiles that lined the top of the building, it turned into an ant, which was smaller in size.

The ant suddenly stopped.

He released his inner sight and sensed something in the garden.

A warden from the Abyss of Sin who was giving off a terrifying presence began to walk around.

——the creature had returned.

The ant stood still for a while.

It patiently waited; until the creature finally entered one of the buildings

At that point, the ant finally crawled through a tiny hole between the tiles and reached an air duct.

The ant entered the air duct.

Following the long air duct, it slowly made its way to the air vent on the ceiling of the library.

It then stopped shortly after and peaked its head out to look below.

Countless books neatly lined the many bookshelves around the library.

A single statue was sitting at the center of the library.

The light from the fireplace peered out, illuminating him, highlighting his aged and sorrowful features.

——this was a human man with a cloak and staff.

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To be able to become a warden of the Abyss of Sin as a human, this man must be exceedingly powerful.

The ant quickly pulled back after a glance.

The statue didn't react at all, but it was better to be safe than sorry.

Because he didn't know if the man below was a wizard or warlock.

If he was a wizard, Gu Qing Shan could choose to fight in close-range, swiftly killing him in a few blows.

——as a wizard, he had to first return from being a statue before casting his spell, more than enough time for Gu Qing Shan's [Life Seeker] to do its job.

But warlocks weren't the same.

Warlocks didn't just know how to use magic.

Quite a few warlocks were equally potent in close combat as they were at magic.

With his current strength, Gu Qing Shan personally admitted it would be tough to kill a warlock at the same level as the black scorpion.

And turning into the scorpion right now would be a waste of Soul Points.

If I could help it, I'd rather save as much Soul Points as I can.

And even more importantly, even if he killed this old man, other wardens would quickly come to replace him.

While he was wondering what to do, a female voice came from inside his mind.

Little Dusk asked: "Have you found the Divine Armament yet?"

She was curious where it could be hidden.

Gu Qing Shan sent his voice: "I did, right next to the statue, hidden in the wall behind the fireplace"

Little Dusk was surprised: "Why was it hidden so deeply?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Just now when the Divinities gave me the coin, they also gave me a hint"

"What hint?" Little Dusk asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "They said that they built this labyrinth and buried the 3 Divine Armaments inside—— 'buried' was the keyword"

Little Dusk commented: "Seems like the Divinities were afraid that the Divine Armament would fall into the hands of the creature—— because it would definitely have destroyed the Divine Armament"

Gu Qing Shan said: "Seems like the Divinities understood this creature quite well, they knew that with the creature's mental capacity, it wouldn't have thought that there were things hidden inside the walls"

Little Dusk asked: "If we go down there right now, do you think the creature would know?"

"It will definitely know" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Why are you so sure about that?" Little Dusk asked.

"Because the creature specifically left a statue here, meaning that as long as a statue is present, it will most likely have the ability to know everything that happens, as well as being able to possess the statues at will" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Then what do we do now?" Little Dusk asked.

"I'm still thinking about it" Gu Qing Shan told her.

Little Dusk suggested: "How about I lead him away?"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "With your current strength, you'll definitely be stalled until a more powerful warden arrives to kill you"

Little Dusk smiled and said: "It seems you still don't understand how an Envoy of Condemnation fights"

A card appeared out of nowhere in front of the ant.

There was nothing depicted on this card, only three lines of text.

[Angel of Condemnation – Dusk is requesting to become your first summoning card, do you accept?]

[The summoning contract is as follow: non-binding]

[If you agree, please lightly touch this card]

The ant paused for a second before touching the card with its antenna.

The contract card then turned and glowed in a lapis coloured light before shrinking and hovering in front of the ant.

Little Dusk was now standing in the card, laughing as she covered her mouth.

The ant was stunned.

"Alright, you got me, I'm shocked" Gu Qing Shan sent his voice.

"What is there to be shocked about, an Envoy of Condemnation would naturally have the ability to sign summoning contracts" Little Dusk explained.

"What do we do now?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Dusk boastfully spoke: "Here, let big sis teach you... first, you need to call me..."

...

Inside the silent library, a huge explosion suddenly came.

The ceiling broke and collapsed as a white-dressed girl descended from above.

She was already holding several cards in her hand as she fell down.

"[Forging Sunbeam]!" she uttered.

A card was thrown out.

The card scattered and turned into intense scorching flames that burned the statue.

As soon as the girl appeared, the statue had already returned to life.

The old man swung his staff and summoned freezing air to cover himself.

"I'm going to kill you!" the old man shouted.

The white-dressed girl stuck out her tongue at him, turned and ran.

She broke through the door of the library and ran into the garden.

The old man tapped his staff on the ground several times.

A black snake suddenly manifested from below, carrying him to chase her with incredible speed.

The two of them quickly went away from the area.

At this point, a person appeared in front of the fireplace.

Gu Qing Shan.

He lightly swung his sword at the fireplace.

Wherever the sword passed, the wall was easily cut.

A beautiful box appeared, silently embedded inside the wall.

Gu Qing Shan lightly waved his hand and put the box inside his Inventory Bag.

A split second later, Gu Qing Shan disappeared.

The entire process took a single second.

He returned to the air duct and uttered: "Dismiss summon!"

The garden just outside the library.

As Little Dusk was still fleeing, her body turned into mist and disappeared from the old man's sight.

He was stunned.

"Damn it!"

He shouted and blasted where Little Dusk originally stood with a spell.

Boom—

A hole was drilled into the ground.

On the other side.

A summoning card appeared in front of the ant.

Little Dusk stood beautifully inside the card, smiling while waving at the ant.

A few moments later.

The old man finally remembered something and angrily stormed back to the library to check.

Only to see nothing but a large hole in the wall.

At this point, a butterfly had already flown out from the top of the library, borrowing the wind to glide towards another building.

Chapter 721

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

Boom!

A sun-like ball of scorching light continued to burn.

Under the destructive light of the spell, the entire library slowly collapsed and got burned to ash.

The warlock stood among the debris, incredibly angry.

Damn it!

A Divine Armament was taken!

I already know that a building under the blessing of Divinities can obscure my sense, but I didn't think they would bury it inside the wall.

But now that I know about that---

The warlock wielded his staff.

Under his manipulation, the ball of light shot off rays of light in all directions, striking the surrounding buildings.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

One by one, the structures collapsed.

But there were still so many buildings left and even more on the faraway mountain.

The warlock continued casting spells one after another.

The light of his spell illuminated the entire labyrinth structure.

Under the howling wind and snow, the scene of carnage continued.

---until the door to the hallway opened once again.

The black-skinned man appeared.

The warlock stopped to look at him.

"Bastard, release my wife and child!" the black-skinned man shouted furiously.

The warlock coldly replied: "You were taken back here by the Divinities, what does that have to do with me?"

"You stole our souls and took control of our bodies" the black-skinned man gritted his teeth.

The warlock suddenly laughed: "The damned had died, the living will naturally live"

The black-skinned man was a bit surprised, unable to understand what he was saying.

He said nothing else and leapt forward, attacking the warlock.

On another side of the labyrinth.

Most structures here have already been levelled by the spells.

At a secluded area, a butterfly was hiding behind the branch of a certain tree.

It had pulled its wings back, tightly holding onto the backside of the leaf to make sure it wouldn't be blown away by the gusts of snowy wind.

This was Gu Qing Shan.

He silently watched as the warlock destroyed the structures one by one until the black-skinned man arrived.

"The damned had died, the living will naturally live"

He silently pondered his statement.

What does 'the damned had died' mean?

And what is 'the living'?

What standard is the creature using to determine if someone lives or dies?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking about this, Little Dusk suddenly called out to him in his mind.

"Gu Qing Shan, if it destroys all the structures here, will the remaining two Divine Armaments also be destroyed?"

Little Dusk seemed a bit anxious.

Gu Qing Shan regained his focus and told her: "I heard that a warlock siphons their power for their spells from the Weave of Law, so each of their attacks is just as powerful as the last, enough to destroy everything"

Little Dusk was surprised: "So you knew? Wait a minute! When you took the Divine Armament, did you purposefully leave a trace to make it destroy the building?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Yeah, but I need it to be angry more than calm, because no matter who or what it is, when angered it will subconsciously reveal more about itself one way or another, allowing us to understand it better"

Little Dusk said: "Then what about these buildings? The Divine Armaments might have already been—no wait! You already know where the other two Divine Armaments are!"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "The second Divine Armament is right under the bell tower, and the creature just helped us level it to the ground. Over there, the second building on our left, it's a product of alchemy that didn't have an entrance, but there was a hidden underground path, and now we can go straight down from here instead"

Little Dusk: "You... used the creature to make an entrance..."

"Let's go, time to get the second Divine Armament" Gu Qing Shan said.

The butterfly took a chance and lightly flapped its wings, landing on a snowflake that drifted towards the thick blanket of snow below.

Then the butterfly disappeared without a trace.

A mole appeared below the layer of snow.

It stopped breathing, rubbed its claws together to activate a presence concealment seal, then after a bit of hesitation, turned into a smaller ant.

The ant activated its skill in the direction of the bell tower.

It suddenly disappeared.

A snowflake appeared where the ant originally was while the ant replaced the snowflake, silently hiding beneath another thick blanket of snow.

From the outside, the snow seemed absolutely still as if nothing had happened at all.

Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift]!

Originally, the ant was already smaller than the tip of a nail, now that it has the reinforcement of the presence concealment seal, as well as using [Shadow Shift] to move, it was as good as nonexistent.

After moving once, the ant remained still.

It was staying close to the ground, silently listening.

On the other side of the labyrinth, the battle was becoming quite intense.

The warlock was quickly unable to endure the black-skinned man's intense attacks, stepped back and turned back into a statue.

A second later, another Abyss of Sin warden appeared.

— — —the creature had just changed bodies.

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This time, it chose a slender shadowy assassin.

The assassin wielded two long daggers as he slowly crept up behind the black-skinned man in just a few steps.

A cold gleam.

Kih!

The dagger and tail stinger clashed with a sharp, ear-piercing sound.

The assassin snuck back into the shadow.

The man angrily roared and pursued.

The battle began anew.

On the other side.

The ant sat still underneath the snow, waiting for two breaths.

As soon as the assassin and the black-skinned man clashed again, the ant activated [Shadow Shift].

This time, it went directly where the bell tower once stood.

— — —sure enough, a flight of stairs heading downward was right among the rubble.

The ant followed the stairs downwards.

But the path was long, after just a few minutes, it had become so steep it was almost a cliff.

The ant felt a bit impatient and leapt from the wall, free-falling down the path.

A few moments later, it landed on the ground at the bottom.

This place was a relatively primitive storage facility that contained various alchemy tools.

After countless years of wear and tear, these tools were already ancient and were in no state to be used again.

The ant nimbly avoided the tools as it crawled to the center of the storage and expanded its senses.

It quickly found what it came for.

An unassuming brick at a corner of the room.

The ant crawled over and touched the brick with its antennae to sense the aura of a creation of the Gods.

After confirmation, the ant slightly stepped back.

A sword suddenly appeared out of nowhere above the ant and lightly tapped the brick.

The brick let out a faint, invisible wave as if it was sensing what kind of creature the attack came from.

Sha!

Then the brick shattered into tiny grains of fine sand and fell to the ground.

A beautiful box about the size of a hand appeared.

Gu Qing Shan dispelled the [Mystery of All Beings Equal] and put the box away.

He took out a formation plate, arranged several presence concealment and trace erasure formations before setting up a warp formation.

After preparing everything, he took out the two boxes.

Two boxes.

One came from the library, while the other came from the bell tower.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the boxes and fell silent.

“What are you hesitating about?” Little Dusk asked doubtfully.

“I think something seems a bit strange” Gu Qing Shan told her.

“What is?”

“Little Dusk, you said that to seal this creature away, you had to exhaust your powers, that’s why you were restrained and sealed by the Divinities, is that right?”

“Yeah”

“That’s what seems strange” Gu Qing Shan slowly muttered, “back then, your powers exceeded that of the Divinities, yet you had to exhaust everything in order to seal the creature away—— but now, the Divinities are nowhere to be found, all that’s left are three Divine Armaments that doesn’t have an owner, so how could they seal the creature away?”

Little Dusk froze briefly before thinking: “Maybe during the years that I’ve been sealed, the seven Daemons became stronger and they could easily seal this creature away”

“That makes even less sense if the seven Daemons have become truly that strong, how did they die in the first place”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan’s expression turned serious.

“Due to the lack of information, I can only assume one of three circumstances”

“Firstly, the seven Daemons aren’t actually dead, they have become so powerful that they can now easily seal this creature away. So why didn’t they appear? I think it might be because they have some sort of hidden agenda, so they hid in the shadow, preparing for something. Which means these three Divine Armaments are actually under their control, and that’s how they plan to seal the creature”

“Secondly, the seven Daemons aren’t actually dead, but they’re still the same as all those years ago and don’t have the power to seal the creature”

“Thirdly, the seven Daemons are already dead, their powers aren’t enough to fight against the more powerful sinful creatures that later showed up. According to this line of thought, we can assume that they didn’t actually become that much strong, which means they still aren’t as powerful as the past you”

“If it’s the first situation, we don’t need to do anything and simply do as we’re told; but if it’s the second or third situation, then these three Divine Armaments must have some sort of unknown use”

While talking, Gu Qing Shan had already opened the two boxes.

The two Divine Armaments silently laid inside.

Only one more until everything was done.

According to what the figure of light said, the creature will be sealed away again, and since Gu Qing Shan was the one to obtain the Divine Armaments, he will receive untold praises and honour —— he will become a Demigod.

And Gu Qing Shan does in fact knew exactly where the third Divine Armament was hidden.

If it was anyone else, they would have already made a mad dash towards the final Divine Armament and quickly sealed the monster away.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't do so.

He was staring at the two Divine Armament with a slightly anxious expression.

Seeing his expression, Little Dusk encouraged: "What are you worried about? Don't worry about it. Divinities may like to make all sorts of hidden arrangements, but they wouldn't bother to do anything against a mortal like yourself. In fact, they actually love mortals like you who help them seal away sinful creatures"

"You can't think that way, Little Dusk. You had better remember well, we can never let our fate become dependent on the joy or sadness of anyone, not even a Divinity"

"...I'll keep that in mind"

Gu Qing Shan muttered: "The current situation is one where we can't guess what the Divinities are thinking, and we can't determine what would happen after the three Divine Armaments are gathered, so we have to stop"

"We do?"

"Yep, we need to collect more information to reassess our current circumstance"

Chapter 722

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

As the two boxes were opened, the two Divine Armaments were revealed to Gu Qing Shan, showing off their ancient presence.

A long piece of bone with weakly glowing rays of light.

A pair of eyeballs enveloped in darkness.

As soon as the two items noticed one another, they caused a reaction.

The eyeballs began to absorb the bone's light.

And the bone began to give off even more light, as if it was triggered.

That way, the eye slowly absorbed more and more power.

Gu Qing Shan was silently surprised.

He couldn't help but curiously reach his hand out, wanting to see what the War God UI thought of these items.

But when he tried to touch them, an invisible force emanated from the 2 Divine Armaments stopped him.

I can't touch them?

While Gu Qing Shan found that unexpected, a notification had popped up on the War God UI.

[A force protects these two items and blocks out all forms of clairvoyance, the System has no way to learn more about them]

A foreign energy wave appeared out of nowhere.

Far in the sky, something had seemingly sensed the appearance of these two items.

——the only notable thing in the sky right now were the seven silhouettes of light representing the Divinities.

Something was about to happen.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly closed both boxes.

If these boxes were able to preserve and conceal the Divine Armaments from being damaged for so long, they most likely carried a powerful isolation property.

Let's hope that they could still isolate these two Divine Armaments for now!

As soon as he closed the box, the supernatural phenomena all disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan was successful.

He sighed in relief.

Right now, I still have a lot of questions, so I'm not willing to give these Divine Armaments up just yet.

"How strange, I thought they would be some sort of intricate tools, but instead they were body parts" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Little Dusk explained: "In the beginning, Divinities have always used body parts like these, only after many years later when they learned the ability to create better tools did they give up on this primitive usage of power"

"Where did these body parts come from?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Dusk answered naturally: "From the bodies of void monsters from the Age of Desolation, of course"

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "Divinities used void monsters' body parts as weapons?"

Little Dusk replied: "Yeah, void monsters in the Age of Desolation were exceedingly powerful, some of them so powerful that not even Divinities were their match"

Gu Qing Shan smiled bitterly: "Even now, those most powerful void monsters are still without a match"

He put both boxes away.

"Next, we need to consider——"

While he was talking, ripples appeared around his formations.

Countless streaks of light focused into one large ball of light were heading here from the sky above.

Gu Qing Shan became silent and stared closely at them.

As soon as the ball of light stopped, several dozen powerful auras could be felt landing on the ground.

Immediately followed by the sound of discussions and arguments.

“Who do we help?”

“Ignore these monsters, we need to go”

“Everyone, follow me! I know where one of the Divine Armaments is! This king is going to become a Demigod!”

“Hmph, just by you alone?”

“Get searching already! Ignore them!”

Gu Qing Shan’s expression changed.

“The people of the black market are here”

He muttered.

A second later, Gu Qing Shan flew out of the underground room, quickly making his way back to the surface along the underground path.

Sure enough, the Combatants of the black market have arrived, they quickly scattered all over the labyrinth searching for the Divine Armaments.

While the black scorpion and a giant were locked in an intense battle at the very center of the labyrinth.

Obviously, the giant was the new body that the creature possessed.

Gu Qing Shan quickly left.

He entered one of the intact buildings, leaned on the wall and silently released his inner sight to observe his surroundings.

When Little Dusk looked at him, she found that his uneasy expression was only getting worse.

“Gu Qing Shan, what is it?” she asked.

“I keep having this feeling that there’s a lot of points that don’t make any sense” Gu Qing Shan told her.

Little Dusk turned back into her human form and smiled: “It’s ok, I’m right here so if anything happens, I can protect you”

While they were talking, the sound of cursing and shouting could be heard from afar.

“Damn it, the Divine Armament isn’t here”

Gu Qing Shan looked over there.

Three people were at the ruins of the library, searching around in a frenzy.

Several others were running towards the bell tower.

They already managed to solve the poems of divination!

More and more people were joining into the search for the Divine Armament.

And the possessed giant saw all of this clearly without fail.

It roared in anger before striking the black scorpion with a heavy punch coated in scorching hot flames.

Bam!

The earth trembled!

The full-powered attack caused the flames to erupt outwards, reaching even the clouds in the sky.

The snow melted,

Rain began to pour.

In the labyrinth, the black scorpion was sent flying several hundred meters backwards by the punch.

He rolled like a ragdoll across the ground, crashing into and destroying a prayers hall before he was able to stop.

The black scorpion spat up blood and wanted to get back up, but he didn't have the strength to do so.

The giant stood still in the middle of the garden.

Heavy rain poured all over him but was quickly evaporated by the intense heat he was giving off.

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The creature took a deep breath, looked up at the sky and howled: "Zá gè rě bàn me sī tuō, ā hē bō zhě ní tì!"

The howl sounded extremely lonely, filled with sorrow and anger.

Although the Combatants were shocked at the giant's might, they still didn't halt their search for the Divine Armaments and instead sped up.

Gu Qing Shan silently listened to the giant's howl and scowled but said nothing.

Even after learning so many languages, Gu Qing Shan still couldn't recognize what language this was.

This is probably the creature's natural language.

Only under the desperate situation where it couldn't do anything but wait for itself to be sealed again did it ignore other languages and use its original one.

Which means the creature was no longer wary of being heard.

...whatever it's saying, it must be very crucial!

Gu Qing Shan turned around, only to see that Little Dusk's expression was a bit off.

“Little Dusk, do you know what the creature is saying?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Little Dusk told him: “That was the common language for both monsters and Divinities during the Age of Desolation, but it was already replaced by the Divinity’s own language during the Age of Old. Because I had to fight with these creatures, the Divinities made me learn it”

While she was talking, she took out a lapis-colored card.

The card depicted an ancient and tattered-looking book.

Little Dusk pressed the card on Gu Qing Shan’s chest: “This is called Desolate Tongue, not only is it very old, it was made to fall out of use by the Divinities, so there’s probably no one that knows about it now, let alone speak it. Take this card and put it into your deck, you’ll be able to understand the creature and use this language as well”

Gu Qing Shan accepted the card.

The card then turned into a lapis-colored light that slowly sank into Gu Qing Shan’s body.

A few moments later, Gu Qing Shan tried recalling what the monster said and found that he was able to understand it.

While carefully recalling that moment, Gu Qing Shan muttered: “First the Divinities, then you, why do you all want to seal me away’... is what the creature meant, huh?”

“Yes” Little Dusk sighed and lowered her head: “In hindsight, this creature has been sealed away ever since its birth, truly a pitiful one”

Gu Qing Shan was completely stunned, to the point that he didn’t even hear that Little Dusk said.

He felt a shiver welling up from deep inside his own chest.

“That’s not it” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Little Dusk refuted: “It isn’t wrong though, there are so many people around here, and its powers were already sealed by the figure of light, so it must be feeling despair”

“Despair?” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

“Yeah, because it can only possess a single Abyss of Sin warden at a time, but with so many people, there’s no way it will be able to kill them all” Little Dusk explained to him.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly shook his head: “No, that’s not it at all”

“Then— wait, what’s the matter with you?” Little Dusk looked worriedly at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan was completely pale, his eyes completely frozen, no longer as calm and indifferent as before.

Gu Qing Shan spoke in a low voice: “You may not have noticed it, but when it said that, the creature was looking at the sky”

“In order words, the creature wasn’t talking to us, the ones looking for the Divine Armaments”

“It was talking to whoever is setting up this time’s seal”

Gu Qing Shan once again repeated: “The creature was asking—— ‘first the Divinities, then the bunch of you, why are you even trying to seal me away?’”

“That is...” Little Dusk completely froze, speechless as well.

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded and sent his voice: “Yes, the ones who set everything up this time weren’t the Divinities”

“But then, then——” Little Dusk stuttered, unable to speak the words she had in her mind.

“Yes, if the creature isn’t lying...” Gu Qing Shan continued: “Since this was also done by the figure of light, then from the very beginning, what the figure of light announced about lighting the Tree of Divinity was never the will of the seven Divinities in the first place”

“Most likely, the Divinities are already dead”

“Something else is behind all of this, impersonating the Divinities, attempting to raise more Gods”

Gu Qing Shan spoke in a low and cold voice.

This was a horrifying truth.

This was possibly the most terrifying secret in all of the 900 million World Layers.

As Gu Qing Shan and Little Dusk exchanged glances, they both sensed the fear in each other’s eyes.

They both looked at the giant at the same time.

At this point, the giant had already changed its expression.

No longer having a look of despair, it rushed towards the nearest Professionists.

With its flaming fist, the giant easily killed the Professionists in a few swings of its hand.

The giant then roared.

“Accomplices and hounds, you may not know about any of this, but you will all die right here!”

This time, Gu Qing Shan understood what it was saying.

It was speaking in the giant’s language.

Immediately the giant dashed towards another group of Professionists.

The strong Combatants of the group tried to fight back, but they were vastly overpowered by the giant.

It was clear that this giant was one of the most powerful wardens in the Abyss of Sin.

The giant began its massacre.

Everyone felt a chilling fear of death, but very few actually tried to flee the labyrinth.

They were all thinking of the reward.

— as long as I find a Divine Armament, I will become a Demigod!

There's treasure with danger.

And this is a once in a lifetime chance, so no matter what, I won't let it slip from my hands!

The frenzied search for the Divine Armaments continued.

The only people who did not move at all in the labyrinth were Gu Qing Shan and Little Dusk.

"What do we do now?" Little Dusk asked anxiously.

"Run, let's run out of this place first!" Gu Qing Shan decisively made a choice.

Just as he was about to pull Little Dusk and leave, a voice declared.

"Ahahahah, I found a Divine Armament! I found a Divine Armament!"

The old man stood with a frenzied look on top of a building.

He was holding a beautiful treasure box with both hands above his head.

Gu Qing Shan's expression warped as he shouted: "No! Don't open it!"

But it was too late.

Many people were running towards the old man.

So he had to quickly open the box as soon as he could.

The presence of primal chaos erupted from the box, reaching all the way up to the sky.

The old man looked up at the 7 silhouettes in the sky and loudly declared: "O' Gods, I am your most devout believer, I have found the Divine Armament, please bestow upon me the power of a Demigod!"

Chapter 723

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

The old man opened the box and raised a crown made out of bones, high above his head.

The seven silhouettes in the sky immediately noticed him.

「 So it was one of my believers 」

One of the silhouettes spoke.

A holy aria resounded from above.

Boundless solemn divine power enveloped him, forming a bright green glow that illuminated the entire labyrinth.

Those who attempted to attack or steal from the old man immediately recognized this boundless power.

"It's a God! The God of Space and Time!"

Someone shouted in a mix of despair and awe.

Everyone quickly prostrated themselves on the ground.

Under the gaze of God, no one dared to steal from the old man anymore.

Because if someone did, it would be the same as provoking the dignity of the Gods.

A mortal can never provoke a God, otherwise they would be hunted down and executed by the Holy Churches.

Within the Strife Zones, faith was something that followed you for your entire life.

The dignity of the seven Gods were absolute, to the point that even their clergy are never to be shamed.

And at this moment, the God of Space and Time had descended upon them.

Watching as all of this unfolded, Gu Qing Shan made his decision.

Gritting his teeth, he took out the coin.

The coin that allows him to travel 5 minutes back in time!

Just as he was about to chant the activation, the coin escaped from his hand and lightly hovered to the sky.

A hand gently grasped it.

It was the figure of light.

The seven silhouettes from before had now merged into one, manifesting a humanoid form that sprouted a pair of wings and radiated blinding holy light.

The figure of light closely observed Gu Qing Shan and asked him in an unsure tone: "O' lucky one, first to enter the labyrinth, why do you want to travel back 5 minutes in time?"

The blinding light around it surged like the rapid stream of a flooding river, tightly encasing Gu Qing Shan inside.

Gu Qing Shan felt like he was currently stuck in an intense storm, that he could easily be crushed and decimated by the overflowing and boundless divine power at any moment.

Gu Qing Shan knew he was treading at the border of life and death.

He pointed at the old man and shouted: "I came here first, I want to return to five minutes ago and take that Divine Armament for myself!"

After a moment of silence, the figure of light gently tapped Gu Qing Shan's shoulder with its finger.

Two treasure boxes came out from Gu Qing Shan's Inventory Bag, lightly landing in the figure of light's hand.

They opened by themselves.

A pair of black eyeballs.

A long bone.

As the figure of light looked at the two Divine Armaments, the intense surging divine power around it began to calm down.

The bone crown also flew over, hovering in front of the figure of light.

The three Divine Armaments silently floated mid-air.

They have all been gathered now.

The figure of light told him: 「 There is no need to explain, I have felt your reverence 」

It then chanted an incantation towards the three Divine Armaments.

The figure of light then swung the long bone at the warden giant and uttered a long sigh.

With this sigh, a cluster of light shot out from the bone and struck the giant's body.

A huge black shadow came out from the giant's body, screaming as it did before sinking and disappearing into the ground.

The creature couldn't endure the attack from the figure of light and had to flee from the body it possessed to return underground.

The giant regained its consciousness.

As he saw the figure of light in the sky, he hurriedly prostrated himself.

The black scorpion did the same.

Next to him, the Demon Scorpion Empress and their child had already appeared from somewhere.

The two of them seemed to be unharmed.

The figure of light looked pleased as it told Gu Qing Shan: 「 You do not need to return to the past, in fact, being able to find two of the Divine Armaments has proven you to be quite an excellent mortal 」

And then, it said the words that would haunt Gu Qing Shan for years to come.

「 Even more impressively, yes, you found her 」

Her?

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

The figure of light chanted a short incantation.

If Gu Qing Shan didn't hear it wrong, it was an incantation chanted in the language from the Age of Desolation.

「 Capture 」

Following the figure of light's words, the bone crown landed on Little Dusk's head.

The bone shattered, turning into pieces of pale white yet graceful armor, fully equipping itself onto Little Dusk.

And finally, the pair of eyeballs went into Little Dusk's eyes.

During the entire process, both Little Dusk and Gu Qing Shan were unable to move at all.

Foo!!!

Boundless wind erupted from Little Dusk's body, sweeping all around.

Little Dusk panicked as she looked at Gu Qing Shan and called out: "Qing Shan..."

Those were her last words.

Because immediately after, Little Dusk went limp, completely going into a coma.

As the figure lightly swiped the void of space, it opened up to swallow Little Dusk.

And Little Dusk was gone from this world.

Gu Qing Shan was completely stunned.

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The figure of light stopped looking at him and slowly ascended to the air.

The pair of wings behind it flapped once.

In that instant, the entire 200 million World Layers felt its divinity.

Every single being in the countless worlds prostrated themselves to the ground at once, praying sincerely unlike never before towards the figure of light.

The scene at the labyrinth, as well as the figure of light's appearance was shown to the living beings on every world.

Everyone within the 200 million World Layers were witnessing everything that happened in the labyrinth.

With a solemn tone of voice, the figure of light spoke: 「 Mortals of the infinite worlds, mark these words well, as what happens today will be known as the day the Gods themselves bestow upon you the truth of the universe 」

Everyone kept prostrating, chanting the names of their Gods as they expressed their understanding.

The figure of light glanced towards the old man who found the crown of bones and gently asked: 「 You have aided the Gods to once again seal away the sinful creature. I hereby ask, what wish do you have? 」

The old man wept tears of joy, frantically declaring: "O' benevolent God, I wish to become a Demigod!"

「 Are you sure? 」

“Yes, o’ benevolent God”

「 Kneel, devout believer of the God of Space and Time, the light of your Tree of Space-Time shall illuminate the worlds 」 the figure of light spoke.

The old man knelt down without hesitation.

The figure of light hovered closer and gently tapped between the old man’s eyebrows.

A blinding deep blue light erupted from the old man.

This light came out bit by bit, like strings of a yarn, slowly but surely encasing the old man to form a lapis-colored cocoon of light.

The figure of light placed its hand on the cocoon and asked: 「 Where are the servants of the Holy Church of Space and Time? 」

Faraway within the 200 million World Layers, inside the Holy Church of Space and Time, the Pope and the 8 Cardinals were all kneeling as they replied: “O’ spirit of the seven Gods, the servants of the God and the Master of Space and Time awaits your teachings”

With a push, the figure of light sent the cocoon through countless words and fell directly into the Holy Church of Space and Time.

The figure of light spoke: 「 I hereby order you to choose a group of the purest believers to surround this sleeping Holy Apostle, chanting the verses of the Holy Bible of Space-Time for seven days without end, until the Holy Apostle complete his ascension and awaken as a Demigod 」

“””As God wills it”””

The Pope, the 8 Cardinals, all members of the Holy Church as well as all followers of the God of Space and Time within the 200 million World Layers harmonically answered at once.

After that, the figure of light returned in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Standing above all in the sky, it announced to billions of worlds: 「 In front of me, is an even more reverent servant of God, one who had accrued even more merit than he who came before 」

「 He aided the Gods in obtaining two Divine Armaments to seal away the sin 」

「 He aided the Gods in sealing away a weapon that was too powerful 」

「 The mercy and favor of the Gods remains for this faithful and outstanding servant 」

「 Although he had not joined any of the Holy Churches, I hereby make an exception and allow him to light the Tree of Divinity of any Church 」

「 Come, in front of all living beings here, tell me your choice 」

The figure of light looked straight at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan also looked back at it.

In front of billions of worlds, witnessed by countless living beings, right at this moment, Gu Qing Shan will have to make his choice on which Tree of Divinity he wanted to light.

After a brief thought, Gu Qing Shan weakly smiled.

“O’ God, is your promise true?” he asked.

「 The Gods utter nothing but the truth 」 the figure of light answered him.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and praised: “O’ mighty, omnipotent, omniscient God, I do not wish to become a Demigod, I only have a single small, tiny wish”

「 You do not want to become a Demigod? 」

“I do not”

「 Then, tell me your wish 」 the figure of light spoke.

“That girl just now, yes, the one you just took away, I want her back” Gu Qing Shan said.

The figure of light spoke: 「 Pitiful mortal, your eyes were clouded by mere representation, causing you to seek the wrong thing, I must remind you, this is a dangerous omen 」

Gu Qing Shan insisted: “She is but an innocent life, and Gods have always been merciful to all living beings, I do not believe the Gods would refuse me in maintaining a life”

The figure of light: 「 Mortal, she is a weapon created for the sake of war, and now it’s time for everything to come to an end 」

「 Mortal, remember well, today is the most glorious and honorable moment of your life, there is no need for you to insist on such a minor thing 」

Gu Qing Shan spoke in a lower voice: “No, this isn’t at all a minor thing, she is a person, an innocent young girl, o’ mighty God, I am willing to exchange all the glory I would obtain for her”

The figure of light spoke: 「 Do you have any idea what you are giving up? If you are willing to become a Demigod, you can choose any of the 7 Holy Churches, from now on, you will become an envoy of the Gods, one that walks the path towards true Godhood with our combined blessings 」

「 Mortal, once you become a True God, your powers will cause heaven and earth itself to pale in comparison. Where you stand is where mortals will be willing to prostrate themselves 」

「 So give up your illusory thoughts, kneel before me, and I will grant you untold power 」

Gu Qing Shan sighed and muttered: “No matter how much power I possess, it is only a means to an end. Living beings do not crave the power of a Demigod or a God for the power itself”

「 How ridiculous, then why do you think living beings pursue power? 」 the figure of light asked.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes.

Everything he went through together with Little Dusk so far flashed before his eyes.

"Th... this is a robbery!" she nervously said.

"You want to kill me?" she sobbed as she asked.

"If I use that method, I'll have to painstakingly take care of you" she worriedly said.

"Amazing, I finally have a partner!" she joyfully jumped.

"I've never had a partner before, so this will be the first time I use this card" she lightly caressed the card as she said.

"There's only two things I know in my life, fighting and sleeping" she said with a lonely expression.

"I like flowers, and I like travelling between the worlds" she said expectantly.

"Revenge? What is revenge?" she said cluelessly.

"I... don't know how to describe this feeling" she held the bowl tightly, wiping the corner of her eye.

"I just want to help you become a Demigod" she gently said.

Yes.

She only wanted to help me become a Demigod.

That was all she wished for.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly opened his eyes and shouted: "My only wish is for you to let an innocent person live!"

"I want her to truly live her life, just once!!!"

Chapter 724

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

As Gu Qing Shan made his declaration, the countless number of people from the billions of worlds all felt emotional.

No one expected that there would be a person who dared to go against the will of God, insisting on changing the fate of a weapon.

"How besotted, do you know what sin you have brought upon yourself?" the figure of light's tone was no longer amiable like before.

Gu Qing Shan looked straight at the figure of light and spoke: "I only know that a God speaks nothing but the truth"

The figure of light froze.

This was what Gu Qing Shan had asked the figure before he made his wish.

And the figure of light answered him 'Gods speak nothing but the truth'.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged and silently snickered: “What is it, o’ noble and peerless God, do you wish to go back on your words in front of the billions of living beings?”

“Imbecile!”

The figure of light shouted furiously.

Its boundless divine power surged like a storm at sea, exerting immense pressure on the entirety of the 200 million World Layers as countless living beings couldn’t help but shiver under its solemnity.

Everyone was shocked.

A weak and insignificant living being dared to go against a God, making them deeply furious, this was the very first time this has happened in the long history of the world.

Nothing was ever written about this in the Holy Bibles, not even the myths or the legends.

However— --

It was also true that up until now, a God had never gone back on their words.

Will the Gods go back on their words ?

A faint seed of doubt was silently being sowed within the minds of many.

The figure of light raised the staff of bone in its hand at Gu Qing Shan: “Mortals, make sure you witness this clearly with your own eyes”

Everyone looked up.

The figure of light spoke: “No matter what contributions you’ve ever made, this will be the results of going against God’s will”

Within the labyrinth, grass and plants began to grow under a vast green glow, bathing everyone under the light of God.

The figure of light was shining even brighter, hovering in the sky.

Except where Gu Qing Shan was standing, which was turning into a desolate desert.

The figure of light spoke: “This world is to seal away a creature of heavy sin, and this mortal harbors thoughts not unlike that of the sinful creature”

“I shall seal both him and the sinful creature away in this world ”

Saying so, the figure of light wielded the bone staff and pointed straight at Gu Qing Shan.

Holy light enveloped Gu Qing Shan’s body.

The figure of light declared:” I shall bestow upon you enough power to fight against the sin, nothing more, nothing less”

“Within the seal, you will serve as the servant of God that will hold off the creature”

“Once you lose, you will be swallowed whole by the sins within ”

“ But even if you continue to fight without end, the power bestowed upon you will start to weaken after 10 minutes”

“ Once the power that the Gods bestowed upon you scatter, you will truly know just how insignificant you are”

“ The sins within the seal shall devour your soul and body whole”

“Only before death, shall you truly learn the truth: That only the power bestowed by the Gods will allow mortals to win against evil”

“You shall live the last moments of your life in misery and regret as you discover what you gave up can never return ”

The figure of light shouted:” Being sealed in this place, devoured by sin, that is how you shall repent in your death! ”

Following its will, the sand around Gu Qing Shan moved.

Gu Qing Shan was unable to escape, only standing still as he slowly sank into the desert.

Like he was being devoured by the drifting sand.

At the end, the figure of light spoke: “Mortal, Gods are merciful. Even when you are to serve your sentence, I shall allow you to confess”

“Come, confess your true feelings with all of the mortals bearing witness, let them remember why you have accepted your death”

Gu Qing Shan sank into the sand.

He said nothing.

Only at the very last moment before he was thoroughly swallowed whole, he raised his arm.

With billions of living beings within the 200 million World Layers bearing witness, he gave’God ‘ a middle finger. Silence pervaded across the infinite worlds.

Everyone watched this in disbelief.

He dared to do such a thing!

This human gesture of insult was universally recognized by every race of the infinite worlds.

Gu Qing Shan simply kept this middle finger up, not moving a single bit.

This seemed to be his final answer.

He maintained that gesture all the way until his body had completely sunk into the sand.

When the sand was about to swallow his raised arm as well, his hand suddenly moved!

He pulled his middle finger back, clenched his fist and pointed his thumb downwards.

Under the sand, his scoffing voice could be heard.

“Going back on a mere promise, you claim yourself a God?”

The sand proceeded to swallow his hand and fingers as well.

The drifting sand slowly settled.

Everything was over.

The revolt of a mortal ended with his contempt.

He mocked this God who went back on his words.

This emotional scene was carved deep into the minds of all who stood witness to it, unable to forget it for the rest of their lives.

The figure of light froze still for a while.

It couldn't do anything else to this sinner as he accepted his punishment.

All the Holy Bibles wrote that a God does not go back on their words .

And it had already gone back on its words once, with billions of mortals bearing witness.

If it tried to punish Gu Qing Shan once again for his actions, that would show that it can keep on going back on its words.

An omniscient and omnipotent God cannot do such a thing.

Time slowly passed.

The figure of light finally spoke and announced: “Sin has been sealed away and the sinner has been appropriately punished”

“The Gods bestowed upon mortals the path to Godhood, but the Gods will also punish sinners who goes against them”

“Remember what happened today”

“From now on, no one is to ever set foot on this sealed world of the sin and sinner”

“Only death awaits those offenders!”

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After saying so , the figure of light flew up, scattered into sprites of light that slowly melted into the void of space.

God has left.

Within the infinite worlds, mortals bowed once more to send off the Gods.

...

In a certain place among the infinite worlds.

A cigarette was lit.

Zhang Ying Hao took a deep drag and puffed out a cloud of smoke.

“Great...”

He muttered to himself and quickly went off the ship.

Someone called out: “Oi , do you want to ride the ship or not?”

“Not anymore” Zhang Ying Hao waved his hand dismissively.

“No refunds” the man stared at him.

The price for each ticket is quite considerable, so once it was paid for, there was no coming back.

“Ah, alright, good luck on your trip” Zhang Ying Hao smiled.

The man looked closely at him, then glanced around.

This place is a relay world so it's incredibly desolate, there's no large civilizations or markets around here at all.

Why did he pay for the ticket, but refused to go?

The captain of the ship muttered: “Crazy guy”

He decided to just ignore him and gave the orders to take off.

The ship left the world.

Zhang Ying Hao stood still and took out a pair of sunglasses.

Silence.

His voice slowly turned cold: “What arrogance, treating my business partner like that, did it ever think of the consequences?”

He threw a card out.

Poof!

A dark green giant lizard appeared.

“Little Ying Hao, what's the matter? Do you need help?”

The lizard cautiously glanced around.

“Relax, boss, I just have a small question I need to ask you” Zhang Ying Hao said.

Hearing that, the lizard calmed down and lazily spoke: “If it's just a small question, did you really have to summon me specifically? Alright, ask”

Zhang Ying Hao breathed out another thick puff of smoke.

The smoke obscured his expression.

He then threw the cigarette on the ground and grinded it with the sole of his feet.

“Ah, I just wanted to ask, the Gods who died in history, how were they killed?” he lowered his head and casually asked.

The lizard stared at him, only speaking up after a long silence: “You call that a small question?”

...

Gu Qing Shan sank into the desert.

He felt himself sinking into a layer of formation that wasn't a formation, rather, it seemed to be some sort of barrier that was similar to a formation.

Seems like I'm going into the seal.

Sure enough, that self-proclaimed 'God' isn't going to give Little Dusk back.

It would rather go back on its words in front of so many people rather than give Little Dusk back to me, so it must be planning something.

What does it need Little Dusk for?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, he glanced below.

Below the drifting sand was more drifting sand.

But this area was now wide enough to move around.

Gu Qing Shan lightly leapt out and landed on the sand below.

This place was extremely spacious, seemingly about as big as the black market.

But there wasn't anything here.

Forward and backward, left and right, up and down, there was nothing but sand.

Gu Qing Shan looked back at himself.

He was still glowing from the residue power given by the figure of light.

However, this power was silently seeping away.

The figure of light hoped that he would slowly lose power during his struggle against the sinful creature, slowly unable to take the monster's attacks and powerlessly die in a meaningless, desperate struggle.

Truthfully, this was a form of slow and cruel torture, designed to drive the victim deep into despair.

“Gongzi, are you alright?”

Shannu's worried voice echoed out from the void of space.

“I'm fine, just a bit emotional, sorry for making you worry” Gu Qing Shan told her.

“Shannu, make sure to observe and remind me from now on, against this kind of ‘God’ that suddenly appears... tch, not only are its methods cruel, I can’t even fight back at all, I really have to be calmer next time” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

“Understood, gongzi” Shannu spoke.

“Hm, now let’s go see the other guy that’s been imprisoned here” Gu Qing Shan crossed his arms and looked forward.

Streaks of light came from every direction, slowly manifesting as a huge shadow of darkness mid-air.

“Sealed again...”

The shadow roared in sorrow and anger: “Sealed away for eons, never knowing the light of day, do you have any idea how painful this is?”

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “My condolences”

The shadow suddenly roared at him: “Damned mortal, since you carry that power on you, I will kill you and eat your flesh! Only then can my grudge be relieved somewhat!”

Gu Qing Shan pointed at the divine glow around himself and asked seriously: “You mean this?”

The shadow didn’t respond.

It scattered into hundreds of dark streaks then attacked Gu Qing Shan from every direction.

Gu Qing Shan stood still, arms crossed without any intention of blocking.

Several hundred heavy dark streaks completely surrounded Gu Qing Shan, cutting deep all around his body.

Even when he was about to be sliced to pieces, Gu Qing Shan still didn’t move.

All the streaks suddenly stopped moving at the same time.

Because of something that Gu Qing Shan said.

“Hey, do you want to leave?”

He casually asked.

Chapter 725

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

The space vortex.

Two ships had crashed on a certain desolate world.

The divine officers of the Holy Church of Death, as well as the holy knights of the Holy Church of Fate, were gathered on two sides, both forbidden to move a single step.

An unprecedented intense battle was currently ongoing several thousand meters away from where they stood.

Boom!

The shockwaves created by the two people's battle rippled across the air to create intense wind pressure, keeping everyone on their toes.

The leader of the Holy Church of Death's divine officers loudly asked: "When will your superiors get here?"

A holy knight from the Holy Church of Fate helplessly sighed: "I'm not sure, we've already sent the news through an emergency channel, so they should be here anytime now"

He then looked at the divine officer and asked: "What about your superiors, when will they arrive?"

The divine officer appeared troubled: "My superiors wouldn't be able to do anything. Probably no one can stop her right now"

The two of them had clear looks of empathy in their eyes.

It was still fine when they separated, but Miss Su Xue Er suddenly ordered their ship to catch up to the Holy Church of Death's ship.

And then a fight broke out.

At first, both sides were ready to get at each other's throats.

But Anna and Su Xue Er both shouted for them to stop.

And they proceeded to fight, just the two of them. Through their shouts in battle, everyone understood that it was a personal grudge between them.

Well, calling it a unique kind of rivalry is more accurate.

So it couldn't be helped, not only could they not interfere to stop the fight, they didn't have anything that they can try to persuade the two girls.

Either way, since everyone here was vastly weaker than the girls, they could only watch as the two of them duked it out.

Several thousand meters away.

Anna and Su Xue Er were immersed in their battle.

The misty grey light of fog and the deathly darkness of the black flames kept clashing, creating intense shockwaves that ravaged the world.

Seeing how they couldn't get out of this stalemate, Su Xue Er gritted her teeth and unleashed all of her powers.

Anna wasn't one slow to follow and unleashed all of her powers as well.

The battle became even more desperate.

Finally, Su Xue Er's staff was pressed right in front of Anna's neck as the blade of Anna's scythe was wrapped around Su Xue Er's own.

At that moment, something occurred across billions of worlds at the same time.

The figure of light appeared.

At first, it praised the old man and Gu Qing Shan with all of the living beings bearing witness within the 200 million World Layers of the Strife Zones.

Seeing that unfolded in the sky, Anna and Su Xue Er stopped their hands.

They continued to watch, all the way until a certain moment.

When Gu Qing Shan was being sunk into the drifting sand and sealed away by the God.

The Gods only left him 10 minutes of power.

Following that, he would be swallowed whole by the sinful creature, dying a horrible death.

As the supernatural phenomenon in the sky faded, the projection showed of that world also did.

Everything had come to an end.

Since the one who acted was a God itself, Gu Qing Shan's fate was already set in stone.

The two girls stood still, frozen.

"Qing Shan..."

Su Xue Er collapsed on her knees, tears streaking down her face.

A moment later, she dashed without hesitation towards the black flames of the scythe.

"What are you doing!?" Anna shouted.

She quickly stepped back, raising her scythe up so that Su Xue Er couldn't touch the burning flames on it.

Su Xue Er shook her head as she bitterly sobbed and laughed at the same time: "He is the only thing left I care about in this life, now that he had left it, I want to join him"

Anna was incredibly shocked, staring speechlessly at Su Xue Er.

Su Xue Er put her staff away and pulled out a gleaming white dagger, thrusting at her own throat.

As the dagger was about to reach Su Xue Er's neck, Anna acted.

Kih!

The dagger was sent flying.

Su Xue Er was still sobbing, but turned to Anna an unexpected look.

"Didn't you want to kill me? Isn't this exactly what you wanted?" Su Xue Er asked.

Anna shouted: "You moron! I'm not going to bother attacking a woman who easily wishes for death like you"

Su Xue Er sorrowfully chuckled, but a bit of warmth returned to her expression.

“Anna, I know you seem to be cold and merciless, but it is a fact that you’re an incomparably good girl, otherwise you wouldn’t have saved me before... Right, consider the matter between us solved, I wish to embrace my own fate now, I hope that you won’t stop me” she said.

Layers upon layers of fog drift out from her body, slowly forming a card in the air.

The card depicted a holy angel, kneeling on one knee, offering up a golden apple with both hands.

Su Xue Er spoke: “I will now activate this self-sacrificial card to call upon an ancient blessing in exchange for my death”

“Anna, I will give you the blessing, granting you true luck in anything you do”

“This will be my final gift as thank for your goodwill”

“Anna, I will reunite Qing Shan now, goodbye”

As she spoke, Su Xue Er reached her hand out to touch the card.

“YOU MORON!”

Anna jumped forward, grabbing Su Xue Er’s neck with her hand and pulled her several dozen meters forward.

Losing Su Xue Er’s control, the self-sacrificial card in the air gradually faded away.

“Why do you insist on interfering with me!?”

Su Xue Er coughed and loudly questioned her.

Anna glared angrily at Su Xue Er, berating her: “I really can’t stand your selfishness, he still hasn’t died yet and you already want to seek death first”

Su Xue Er’s tears were still flowing as she shook her head: “There are only 10 minutes left. A God wouldn’t make a mistake with their own power, Qing Shan will definitely be killed inside the seal after the time is up. I’ve seen the records of the Holy Church, the sealed creature was so powerful that not even the Gods themselves were able to eliminate it, Qing Shan couldn’t possibly survive”

Anna sighed deeply and spoke with a complicated expression: “At least wait until you confirm he’s dead before you kill yourself”

She continued: “Don’t worry, you crybaby. At that time, there won’t be anyone to stop you”

Su Xue Er froze, but a glimmer of hope appeared in her eyes filled with despair.

“You... what do you mean by that?” Su Xue Er asked.

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Anna waved her hand dismissively and spoke: “It’s only 10 minutes, and 7-8 minutes have already passed. Let’s wait together, we’ll see what happens soon”

Su Xue Er couldn't help but ask: "How do we confirm whether Qing Shan is dead or not?"

Anna replied: "After 10 minutes if you see me die, that means he will have also died"

Su Xue Er froze again.

"I don't understand" Su Xue Er muttered.

Her expression was full of confusion, no longer carrying the determination to die like before.

Anna told her: "A few thousand years ago, our Medici clan came into contact with the Death God and obtained a Holy Artifact from it"

"What kind of Holy Artifact?" Su Xue Er asked.

"The token of the Death God, the Life Replacement Contract" Anna answered.

Su Xue Er thought about it: "That sounds familiar, I think it was a famous item from years ago, wait a minute... I remember now!"

She stared closely at Anna.

"That's right, it's just as you think" Anna casually answered.

Her gaze met Su Xue Er head-on and spoke: "During the final moments of the Frozen Calamity, he became the Devil King, commanding the dead people of Huang Quan to repel the demons before going away from our original world"

"What happened then?" Su Xue Er pursued.

Anna answered her nonchalantly: "I happened to put the Life Replacement Contract on him before he left"

Su Xue Er spoke right away: "The God of Death will preserve the life of a person who wears the Life Replacement Contract on the edge of their death. But such a miraculous ability does not come from nowhere, as the Law of Death will draw twice as much of life force used from the previous holder of the Contract"

Anna nodded: "Exactly. This is my promise of life and death with him, if I die right in front of you, then his death will not be far"

"But if I'm unharmed..."

Su Xue Er loudly cut in: "Then he didn't die either!"

But she was still a bit unconvinced: "What if he took the Contract off, or gave it to someone else?"

"I know the Holy Artifact is still on him because I can feel that my life is still connected to his" Anna patiently explained: "Furthermore if he isn't carrying the Life Replacement Contract and gets killed by whatever is sealed in that world, the Contract will return to my hand"

Su Xue Er quickly calculated the time.

"It's been nine minutes" she muttered.

“Yup”

“Only one minute left, let me watch over you” Su Xue Er said.

She drew a card and threw it out.

Poof!

The card turned into a grandfather clock, ticking loudly as each second went by.

The ‘seconds’ hand kept ticking.

Anna and Su Xue Er both stared at the clock.

They both went silent.

This final minute was exceedingly long.

Su Xue Er felt more and more nervous as time passed, as the hand passed the halfway mark, she couldn’t help but tightly grasped Anna’s hand.

“Please, don’t let anything happen to you”

Su Xue Er’s eyes were red and moist as if more tears would come streaming out at any second.

Anna was also anxious, but forcefully kept herself calm and gritted her teeth: “It’s fine, we have to trust Qing Shan”

If the Life Replacement Contract shows up in her hand or if she turns to ash, it will mean that Gu Qing Shan has died.

The ‘seconds’ hand kept on ticking.

And ticking.

Su Xue Er suddenly spoke: “Anna”

“What?” Anna kept her gaze closely on the clock as she replied.

“If Qing Shan doesn’t die, then you saved my life again just now” Su Xue Er commented.

“It’s nothing, don’t mind it” Anna said.

“If Qing Shan doesn’t die... I swear I won’t try to kill you again” Su Xue Er spoke.

Anna scoffed: “You’re such a big crybaby, not only do you keep on seeking death, but you’re also always looking to kill somebody, why does Qing Shan see in you again?”

“I take back what I said just now!” Su Xue Er said.

“Hm? Didn’t you swear on it?” Anna asked.

“A woman’s vow has never been anything to be trusted” Su Xue Er replied.

While they were bickering, the anxiety in their voices clearly increased, so much so, that even Anna's voice was trembling.

Because the final moments had arrived.

The 'seconds' hand ticked once again.

Time was up.

10 minutes had passed.

According to what the Gods said, Gu Qing Shan will have completely lost the power given to him and now has to face that terrifying creature alone.

Su Xue Er hugged Anna tightly.

"Please don't die, I beg you, I'll do anything you want, just don't die, please!"

She leaned on Anna's shoulder, speaking while sobbing as tears streamed down her face.

Anna let go of the scythe in her hand and also hugged Su Xue Er softly.

She said nothing, but her tears were also flowing.

Tick

Tock

Tick

Tock

The only sound left in the world seemed to be that of the clock.

One minute passed,

Two minutes passed,

Three minutes,

Every minute felt like an eternity.

But after another 10 minutes, to Anna and Su Xue Er, the painfully long minutes began to return to their normal speed.

Su Xue Er covered her mouth with her hands, crying as she asked: "He's alive?"

Anna heavily nodded.