

## Apocalypse 726

### Chapter 751

An airship flew in from above and landed next to the slaughterhouse.

The door of the airship opened and three figures walked out.

They were the cooks of the 23rd reserve corps, head chef Zhang, uncle Lu, and Zhang Xiao Yun.

“This is the place, Zhang Xiao Yun, you’ll have to stay here for 5 days until you can return” uncle Lu told him.

Old man Zhang and uncle Lu both pinched their noses and scowled as they looked at the slaughterhouse.

A thick stench of blood filled the air, so much that they couldn’t isolate it even if they used spirit energy, a really uncomfortable smell.

Furthermore, when so many monsters die in a single place like this, it was natural that the 5 Elemental Roots would become highly agitated and chaotic, causing those who frequently cycle spirit energy inside and outside their bodies, which are most cultivators, even more discomfort.

“Xiao Yun, are you feeling ok?” old man Zhang asked worriedly.

When Gu Qing Shan was about to answer, a shrill howl could be heard resounding from deep inside the slaughterhouse.

Oooo——

A cloud of blood as thick as dust soared through the sky, followed by panicked voices of discussion.

“Too shallow, it didn’t die”

“What now? It’s struggling too much, I can’t hold it for long”

“A! It bit me!”

“What!? You got bitten!? Enforcers come quickly, someone got bitten!”

Several streaks of light flew towards that direction.

But the cloud of blood that erupted before had dyed an entire area bright red.

A cold voice rang out:

“Leave the monster’s body, carry the dead person away”

“Continue your work”

The commotion quieted down.

The slaughterhouse returned to silence.

But the smell of blood in the air seemed to have thickened a bit.

Standing outside the slaughterhouse, uncle Lu couldn't help but back off, shrinking visibly.

He tugged old man Zhang by the shoulder and forced a smile: "Xiao Yun will be fine, he's young and strong so he should be suitable for this, let's go back"

Old man Zhang was still a bit uneasy as he glanced at Gu Qing Shan and told him: "Zhang Xiao Yun, I'll come to pick you up after 5 days, you..."

Halfway through, he stopped speaking, completely stunned.

Because Zhang Xiao Yun was taking a deep breath next to him.

"This thick stench of blood is so nostalgic..."

He was squinting his eyes, visibly ecstatic like he was an excited child coming to a busy shopping district for the first time.

Zhang Xiao Yun began to walk forward as he muttered: "What a great place this is, I'll be going inside soon. Ah, boss Zhang, uncle Lu, why are you still here?"

"..." old man Zhang.

"..." uncle Lu.

"Don't worry, just leave everything to me and pick me up five days later" Zhang Xiao Yun smiled brightly at them.

Uncle Lu couldn't help but shrink back again, trying his best to keep his voice natural: "Then we don't have anything else to worry about, see you in five days"

"Hm, see you"

Gu Qing Shan waved goodbye and quickly walked up to the entrance of the slaughterhouse, showed the guard his badge, and entered.

Old man Zhang and uncle Lu observed him all the way without blinking and remained silent even after he could no longer be seen.

Old man Zhang suddenly spoke: "Old Lu, I'll give you some advice, that youngster isn't someone you can mess with. Put away whatever schemes you have, otherwise, I won't be able to save you if anything happens"

Uncle Lu couldn't say anything and just nodded again and again.

...

When Gu Qing Shan entered the slaughterhouse, he was led to see the cultivator in charge of this place.

That cultivator's surname was Li, he carried an eternally icy expression on his face and an equally icy tone of voice, the others call him director Li.

Seeing how young Gu Qing Shan was, director Li was surprised, so he asked him a few more things.

While they were talking, Gu Qing Shan noticed that director Li was the one who called for the corpse to be carried away earlier.

It seems he represented absolute authority within this slaughterhouse.

“You said you were Zhang Xiao Yun? I want to make something very clear”

“Please teach me, sir director”

“Even though this place is called a slaughterhouse, you can’t be careless at all during your work. The abilities of these monsters have already been crippled, but their bodies alone are still very dangerous”

“Thank you for your teaching, sir”

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“Hm, but most importantly, if you can give up a few things, I’ll make sure your life is easier for the next five days”

Gu Qing Shan was a bit confused: “Sir, what do you mean by easier?”

Director Li was a bit impatient.

*This brat looks so bright, but why is he so hard to talk to?*

He patiently explained: “For example, you get to kill fewer monsters and rest a bit longer, if you give me enough spirit stones, I’ll even prepare a place here for you to cultivation in seclusion for the next five days without touching a single Desolate monster”

Gu Qing Shan went silently briefly before smiling: “Sir, if that’s how it is, then I won’t give you even a speck of dust”

The room fell silent.

Director Li scowled, then smiled and sighed: “Ah, you youngsters with your fantasies, you’re dismissed. Wait outside until your shift is decided”

“Yes”

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist and left.

Without waiting for long, two muscular cultivators came out in front of him.

They looked at Gu Qing Shan with cold and emotionless expressions.

“Zhang Xiao Yun”

“I’m here”

“Come with us”

“Yes”

The two of them led Gu Qing Shan through the blood-stained motley stockades and execution grounds, then a bit further until they reached an underground prison.

The two cultivators pulled open the heavy metal door, pressed a badge onto the side of the prison gate for a long while before undoing the defensive formation.

An eerie red-colored light came out from the ground below.

This light was actually coming from the blood essence in the air being so thick that it couldn't dissipate, the blood itself also contained a sort of strange power that allowed it to linger for so long without disappearing.

The two cultivators both had very somber expressions on their faces.

"Go, Zhang Xiao Yun, go down" one of them told him.

"Your working grounds will be down there, come back up after five days" the other cultivator said.

"Understood"

Gu Qing Shan followed the stairs downward.

*Clang clang.*

The metal door was closed behind him.

The various layers of defensive formations were activated once again.

The underground prison once again became closed off.

The two cultivators stood in front of the closed gates and both sighed.

"Another one bites the dust" one of them commented.

"It's fine, the superiors all know how dangerous butchering could be, one or two of them dying won't cause any attention" the other cultivator replied.

"This brat was also stupid. Couldn't he have given up just a little bit for the director? Why care about that little bit of spirit stones. Now he angered the director and was sent to this dangerous underground prison"

"That's true, even if he didn't have anything to give up, he could've not offended the director, that way at least he can rest after butchering ten monsters every day"

"Forget it, no point talking about this any further. That brat was sent into the prison with all the monsters at once, including ones that even we can't kill, his outcome is already set in stone"

They both sighed, shook their heads, and left.

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan stood in the darkness, silently sensing his surroundings.

The fact that this underground prison didn't forbid the use of inner sight was the best protection it could provide.

From Gu Qing Shan's inner sight, he saw that the underground prison consisted of a total of 18 floors. The lower he went the fewer monsters there were, but their strength also grew exponentially.

Shannu appeared from the void of space behind him and landed in front.

"Gongzi, that person was purposefully acting against you" she said irritated.

"Don't worry about it, we actually have to thank him for acting without morals like that" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Are we really just going to kill monsters now?" Shannu asked.

"Yes, that was my goal from the start"

Gu Qing Shan grinned as he walked forward.

The hallway was narrow and dim, besides the prison cells on either side, there was almost nothing else here.

Gu Qing Shan walked in front of the first cell and looked inside.

This was the first time he saw a Desolate monster

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Inside the cell, bright-red blood was dripping down the long Demon Restraining Chains.

Each of the Demon Restraining Chains was about as thick as an arm and full of engraved restraining runes.

The monster occasionally howled and struggled, pulling the Demon Restraining Chains with the heavy sound of rattling metal.

But one end of these Demon Restraining Chains had pierced through the monster's body, tightly pinning it close to the wall without letting go, the other end was connected deep underground through the floor below.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the monster.

*A human?*

That was the first thought he had.

But as he looked at it closer, he found that wasn't the case.

Compared to normal people, this monster didn't have any skin.

Its red muscles and meat were completely exposed, even its pale-white bones could be seen in some places.

Its mouth was full of long, sharp fangs that protruded upward as far as its ears.

No eyes.

Looking at this monster, Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

This monster was obviously different from the Desolate Demon Eyes, it was a lot more humanoid.

“Roar——”

The monster roared in a frenzy towards Gu Qing Shan.

The Chao Yin sword flashed.

The monster’s head was chopped off.

The noise stopped.

Noticing that the monster was already killed, the Demon Restraining Chains automatically came off its body.

Gu Qing Shan entered the cell and began to dissect the monster.

Apparently this monster’s blood contained some sort of corrosive liquid, as Chao Yin sword was letting out a faint ‘wu wu’ to express discomfort.

Gu Qing Shan understood right away.

So he decided not to use his swords and directly triggered the sword qi inside his eyes, turning them into razor-sharp sword qi in the air and dismantled the monster’s body bit by bit.

One of the sword qi sliced open its stomach and cut upwards in a straight line, opening its chest cavity up.

——the monster’s chest cavity was completely smooth and empty, only occasionally moving to move creases that quickly flatten themselves out.

*No innards?*

Gu Qing Shan was a bit confused.

He looked at the top of his finger.

A small cut appeared.

Gu Qing Shan took a single drop of his own blood and dropped it into the monster’s chest cavity.

Instantly, the inside of the monster’s chest began to convulse uncontrollably!

If the monster’s head hadn’t already been cut off, Gu Qing Shan would’ve thought that it was still alive.

“Seems like the entire chest area was connected to its stomach, acting as a digestive organ, completely different from humans” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Subconsciously, Gu Qing Shan sighed.

What followed next was quite uneventful, as Gu Qing Shan easily butchered and lined the monster’s meat up in one corner.

When he walked back out of the cell, he activated the formation prepared here.

The monster's corpse was quickly warped outside.

He finished butchering the first monster.

Gu Qing Shan continued towards the next cell.

There was still only a single monster being held here, but it wasn't humanoid, but a total of 16 interconnected heads that formed a body.

*Hm...*

*It might be a bit tough for cultivators to eat this thing.*

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan looked at the monster.

Crescent-shaped sword images flew out from his eyes, killed the monster and sliced its body into tiny pieces.

And he activated the warp formation in the cell.

The monster's corpse disappeared without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the War God UI.

His Soul Points increased quite a bit.

Apparently, according to the War God System's judgement, the monsters on this 1st floor were at least as strong as Gu Qing Shan.

And this underground prison had a total of 18 floors.

*...what kind of monsters are being held below?*

Gu Qing Shan then looked at the Thaumaturgy Quest.

Under the Quest notification, a number was shown: [2/100].

This meant that he had indeed killed 2 monsters.

98 monsters were left until he could evolve his Lightning Thaumaturgy.

Gu Qing Shan headed towards the third cell.

...

About half an incense's worth of time later.

All 35 monsters on the 1st floor had been cleanly and easily butchered by Gu Qing Shan.

He was standing at the entrance to the next floor.

A powerful and miraculous formation was arranged here that allowed no lifeforms beside humans to pass through.

He still had five days' worth of time, but the only Soul Points he could trust were those he already obtained, and only a completed Quest was a good Quest, so Gu Qing Shan didn't want to waste any time and continued downwards.

The same few kinds of monsters were being held on the second floor, perhaps they used to be very powerful when they were at their peak, but the only thing waiting for them now was to be killed and butchered.

A total of 21 monsters, Gu Qing Shan carefully and meticulously slaughtered them all.

The 3rd floor...

It wasn't until the 9th floor that Gu Qing Shan had to stop.

There were only 9 monsters on this floor, but they were clearly a lot more powerful than the rest.

When Gu Qing Shan used his eye sword, the sword qi could only leave thin white marks on their bodies, and even that quickly disappeared.

If these monsters were still at the peak of their strength, any of them could chase Gu Qing Shan to the end of the earth without him being able to retaliate.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the imprisoned monster and fully triggered his [Soul Sword].

The monster's body trembled slightly before falling limp.

[Soul Sword] had completely destroyed the monster's consciousness.

The Chao Yin sword lightly swung.

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The monster's head was chopped off.

The butchering continued.

His Soul Points continued to increase.

The Quest was being completed bit by bit.

The 10th floor.

The 11th floor.

The 12th floor.

The more he headed down, the more silent it got.

These monsters no longer howled and screamed full of desires as soon as they saw him.

When he reached the 13th floor, the three Desolate monsters here only silently stared at Gu Qing Shan like they were judging him.

This place was completely different from the previous floors of the underground prison.



Blood from somewhere was constantly flowing along the floor, reaching up to his knee.

This place wasn't particularly spacious either, as the floor, walls, and ceiling were all full of engraved runes.

Each of the three monsters were pierced through by at least 7 Demon Restraining Chains, tightly pinning them to the wall.

——the entire 13th floor was a giant restraining formation.

These three monsters also appeared to be humanoid, but they each had a sharp, pointed horn, their faces were completely bare without any meat or muscles, only terrifying, exposed white bones.

Gu Qing Shan hovered in mid-air.

He swung the Chao Yin sword at full power.

7-8 sword phantoms flashed all at once and attacked the neck of the first monster.

The sword phantom disappeared.

Not even a single white mark was left on its neck.

Not giving up, Gu Qing Shan consecutively performed [Water Flow Severance], [Crescent Slash], [Seven Stars Flowing Dragon], [Drawn Shadow], [Swallow Returns], [Torrent], [Silver Stars], and [Life Seeker], attacking the monster at the same time.

8 powerful Secret Arts squarely struck the monster's body, stirring it to let out a deep and low sound.

"Ugh..."

The monster's body trembled slightly.

A tiny, almost unnoticeable white mark finally appeared on its body.

This white mark only showed up for a brief moment before it completely vanished.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and put his sword away.

*At my current Cryptic realm cultivation, the most I could reach was the 13th floor.*

*If these three monsters were at their peaks, each of them must be unrivalled Combatants in their own rights.*

*I can't imagine how powerful a cultivator must be in order to capture them like this.*

*Xie Gu Hong might be able to.*

Gu Qing Shan silently thought that before crossing his legs and entered a meditative state.

He had just obtained a ridiculous amount of Soul Points, about 1 million points in total.

Using a tiny fraction of that, Gu Qing Shan comprehended the entire Cryptic realm scripture.

And began to breakthrough.

Right in the middle of the underground prison's 13th floor, hovering above the river of blood, in front of three terrifying Desolate monsters, he began to break through to the next stage of this realm.

Time passes.

One incense's worth of time later, he opened his eyes.

He had reached Cryptic realm middle state.

Due to killing over 100 Desolate monsters, he had also already completed his Thaumaturgy Quest.

Lines of glowing notification hovered over the War God UI.

[You've completed the Thaumaturgy Quest: Lightning of Life]

[You may now awaken the 4th tier of your Lightning Thaumaturgy: Dreamjolt]

[Dreamjolt: When hit by your Elemental Lightning spirit energy, the target's consciousness will connect with the Lightning and be forced to enter a brief dreamscape, during which they lose control of their body. Duration: 5 seconds]

[Note: This is the evolved Thaumaturgy from Stunned, Rigid and Severance, no living being is immune to it]

Reading the glowing text in front of his eyes, Gu Qing Shan deeply sighed.

He was feeling a sense of satisfaction.

Under normal circumstances, if he wanted to complete this Quest, he would have had to slowly accumulate it through fighting on the battlefield.

It would have taken a very long time, possibly too long.

*I'm lucky that this slaughterhouse exists, it really helped me obtain such a powerful Thaumaturgy in such a short period of time.*

However, now that he mentioned the slaughterhouse, Gu Qing Shan was full of questions.

After going through every floor from the first one, Gu Qing Shan felt that this place was being used as a sealing ground more than anything else.

These monsters were sealed because they couldn't be killed.

In fact, Gu Qing Shan started to notice this when he reached the 12th floor.

When the 5 monsters on the 12th floor were attacked, a layer of twisting runes would automatically manifest outside their bodies.

The Chao Yin sword couldn't pierce through those runes at all.

Gu Qing Shan had to rely on the Six Paths Great Mountain sword's [Law Breaker] ability to kill those five monsters.

When they were killed, they all had an expression of disbelief.

— they couldn't believe that they were really killed.

And now, on the 13th floor, even the Six Paths Great Mountain sword couldn't pierce through the overwhelming defenses of the monster's skin.

This was pure power suppression— representing power that surpasses Gu Qing Shan's own countless times.

It was because Gu Qing Shan noticed this that he gave up on trying to kill it.

He then quickly realized something else.

This was only the 13th floor, while this place had a total of 18 floors.

— *what kind of unimaginable monster is being sealed on the 18th floor?*

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and sighed, then suddenly heard a voice.

「 How interesting, this little brat killed his way down here 」

Gu Qing Shan froze.

He was focused completely on maintaining an unchanged expression on his face with drooping eyes, acting like he wasn't able to hear this voice at all.

Another voice spoke: 「 We eat them, and they eat us, that's only fair 」

Another voice came: 「 It's because you can't be eaten that you think that's fair 」

The three monsters on the wall were talking to each other in a low voice.

They were speaking in Desolate Tongue.

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The monsters were speaking to each other.

Hearing their conversation, Gu Qing Shan realized something.

The monsters didn't think that he could understand what they were saying.

After all, for the entire Age of Old, no cultivator had been able to converse with the monsters, and no one had been able to understand their language.

Gu Qing Shan, on the other hand, received a lapis card from Little Dusk during the struggle for the 3 Divine Armaments that allowed him to understand Desolate Tongue.

According to Little Dusk, this was the common language for both the Divinities and the monsters during the Age of Desolation. The language was made to fall out of use by the Divinities, but because Little Dusk was a powerful weapon that was part of the main battle force against the Desolate monsters, the Divinities made her study this language.

Even now, not a single human understood this language besides himself.

Gu Qing Shan's mind quickly moved.

He decided to maintain his meditative pose and hovered in the sky.

Unfortunately, the monsters only spoke a few words before going silent again.

The 13th floor of the underground prison quickly regained its silence.

Only the river of blood on the floor that reached up to one's knee continued to flow.

*Sha.*

*Sha.*

*Sha.*

Like tidal waves, the fresh blood was moving periodically.

Gu Qing Shan continued to wait.

The three powerful Desolate monsters don't seem to want to open their mouths.

Gu Qing Shan was feeling impatient.

*Why aren't these three monsters talking?*

*It would be ok even if they only make small talk.*

Even the most mundane conversation between them would allow Gu Qing Shan to understand them a bit better.

Time continued to pass.

The monsters still haven't said a single word.

Gu Qing Shan was about to give up.

He suddenly opened his eyes and curiously looked at the floor.

"Strange, where is this blood coming from? Even the formation leading to the next floor is being obscured, how annoying"

While he said that, Gu Qing Shan formed a hand seal to manipulate items from afar and gathered the blood on the ground to form a large sphere of blood in the air.

When all the blood was gathered, the formation that led to the next floor was revealed.

Innumerable runes filled the formation like they were supposed to, even the spirit stones were perfectly engraved where they were supposed to be.

All Gu Qing Shan needed to do now was land and activate the formation to move to the next floor.

He looked at the formation, then again at the huge sphere of blood in the air, apparently thinking about whether or not to continue downwards.

All of a sudden, a short screech came from the ground below.

This sound was clearly coming from deep underground.

Almost immediately, new liquid blood slowly leaked out from the floor.

The blood silently filled the ground and rose up until it once again reached knee-height.

Gu Qing Shan told himself: "How strange, should I gather them up again?"

It was now that the three monsters on the walls showed some movement.

They were moving in an uneasy manner.

And began to speak again:

「 This moron, we can't let him continue to anger the existence below 」 one of the monsters said.

Its tone was filled with urgency and fear.

Another monster quickly suggested: 「 Should we tell him that the existence below absolutely cannot be offended? 」

The third monster seemed to be the leader of them as it angrily roared: 「 Fools! No matter how simple their language is, we can't converse with him, this is part of the treaty! 」

The first monster suggested: 「 If we can't go against the treaty, maybe we should roar loudly to distract him 」

「 Good 」 the third monster immediately replied.

Right away, they angrily roared and struggled, rattling the chains on the wall like they wanted to take Gu Qing Shan's life.

Gu Qing Shan was clearly caught off guard and lost control of his spell in the confusion.

His hand tilted and caused the sphere of blood to wiggle, then flew away.

Very coincidentally, the huge sphere of blood directly splashed on one of the three Desolate monsters when it lost control.

That Desolate monster trembled, froze, then began to roar even louder.

This time, its roar caused the entire area to rumble, carrying a sense of unprecedented desperation.

It was doing everything it could to struggle free.

The walls of the prison were shaking from its struggle.

All the defensive runes on the 13th floor were activated at once, giving off intense light.

The monster was pinned against the wall by a vast and invisible force.

It suddenly spoke in Desolate Tongue: 「 No, great one! You can't eat me, I am your loyal servant! 」

Another hoarse voice came from the ground below: 「 Your flesh and soul will serve to kill me some time 」

Almost immediately, the blood splattered on the monster's body was completely absorbed inside.

The monster stopped struggling.

It was dead.

The 7-8 Demon Restraining Chains on its body loosened.

The monster's body fell into the blood, quickly turned into a thick black blob of blood and slowly disappeared.

A faint whirlpool slowly manifested on the surface of the blood, apparently something was being transported deeper underground through it.

An unintelligible muttering came from underground, carrying a hint of satisfaction.

Then everything returned to silence.

The other two monsters on the wall no longer struggled.

They were only trying to do everything they could to move a bit higher and get away from the blood, then became as still as statues, no longer letting out any sound.

Glancing at the blood below, Gu Qing Shan had a concerned look in his eyes.

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*When I got to this floor, out of consideration for safety, I instinctively avoided the flowing blood.*

*From the looks of it, once this blood touches you, the only outcome is death.*

*Even the monster on the 13th floor that I couldn't even scratch with my full power was the same.*

Gu Qing Shan silently floated in the air, apparently scared stiff by what he just saw.

But in fact, he was thinking rapidly.

*They felt humanity's language to be very simple.*

*They didn't talk to me because they were afraid of breaking some sort of treaty.*

*An easy conclusion could be drawn from this: the Desolate monsters can understand human language, but they pretend that they don't.*

*Then.*

*What is the treaty about?*

*And who was the treaty made with?*

As Gu Qing Shan followed this vein of thought, he was subconsciously feeling an unprecedented shiver.

...

On another side.

After the two enforcer cultivators led Gu Qing Shan into the underground prison, they closed the gates and followed director Li's orders to arrange the other personnel as well.

Half an hour later, they returned to director Li to report their work.

"Sir, all personnel who came in today have been arranged appropriately according to your instructions" one enforcer cultivator reported.

"Give me a detailed report" director Li said.

The other cultivator took out a jade tag and reported the arrangements one by one.

Director Li only nodded as he listened.

At a certain point, he suddenly cut the other person off: "The 9th reserve corps' cook didn't contribute enough spirit stones, give him a few more monsters to butcher"

"Understood, I'll see to it immediately" the enforcer cultivator replied.

And the reports continued.

After a while more.

The report was finally done.

When director Li was about to dismiss everyone, he suddenly recalled something.

"Right, what about the brat from the 23rd reserve corps?"

"We've done as you instructed and threw that brat into the underground prison" one enforcer cultivator replied.

Sitting behind a tall stack of documents, director Li lightly patted the head of a decorative item made from spirit jade and lazily asked: "Did he seem regretful?"

"He didn't sir, that brat was a real naive one. He just did as we ordered and entered the underground prison without saying a single word on the way" the enforcer cultivator reported.

Director Li thought for few moments before asking another cultivator standing next to him: "Get me that brat's background profile"

The cultivator reported: "Yes sir, Zhang Xiao Yun was a loose cultivator with a long family career of making spirit cooking to live. During the last invasion, his family was all killed, he was the only one alive, that's why he joined the army"

Director Li's eyebrows loosened a bit and commented: "Hm, if that's the case, I just sent him to meet his family, reuniting them all together"

“Hahaha, wonderfully said, sir”

“Of course”

While they were talking, the door to the camp automatically opened as a fully-armored cultivator flew in.

Director Li immediately stood up with a panicked expression: “General Wang, why did you come here yourself?”

*Boom.*

The ground suddenly trembled.

Immediately after that, a fearful scream came from deep underground.

Everyone’s expressions changed.

That scream came from the direction of the underground prison.

This prison was created because some monsters were too powerful to be killed, only captured.

Ever since the slaughterhouse was formed, it had periodically received a few terrifying monsters to be sent inside and imprisoned by their superiors.

And no trouble had ever come from it before.

General glanced at everyone here with a cold expression and asked: “Who is currently inside the sealed underground prison?”

Director Li stuttered: “A— a cook, that just came today”

“Name, cultivation, origin?” General Wang continued.

“Zhang Xiao Yun, Golden Core realm, the 23rd reserve corps”

“Someone that just reached Golden Core realm was able to enter a place that was ordered to forbid all entry without permission from above? What exactly did you tell him to do in there?” General Wang’s tone became sharp.

Director Li began to sweat bullets, unable to say a single word.

“Sir...”

He held an Inventory Bag in his hand and smiled, wanting to push it into General Wang’s hands.

*Poof poof poof poof poof.*

Divine light suddenly erupted from the bodies of cultivators here one after the other.

In mere seconds, everyone was turned to ash.

“This is!?” director Li was shocked.



Regardless of how terrible his morals were, he had to have the most basic discerning eyes to be placed in charge of such a place.

Director Li shouted in terror: "General Wang, no a Divinity..."

*Poof.*

Divine light erupted from his body and burned him to ash in mere seconds.

Every cultivator inside the room was burnt to ash.

Not a single person was left alive.

General Wang stood still.

A grey flame was constantly burning in between his eyebrows.

"Hmph, full of greed. No wonder he sent someone inside that place"

General Wang turned around and looked in a certain direction outside the door.

"Quite a few died in the underground prison... seems like I'll have to take a look myself"

In the blink of an eye, he vanished.

## **Chapter 754**

Drawing Back The Fog

The entrance to the underground prison.

General Wang had already concealed the flames of light on his forehead.

The metal gates of the underground prison were easily pushed open.

The overlapping layers of formations were dispelled with a formation plate he carried.

General Wang walked into the darkness and headed deep underground.

The 1st floor of the underground prison.

All the monsters here were already butchered.

Their bodies were warped away somewhere by the prepared formations.

General Wang observed the empty state of the 1st floor and scowled.

Just who came in here? And which floor did he get to?

Regardless, let's hope he didn't anger 'that one', otherwise the consequences would be unimaginable.

General Wang took a deep breath and entered the formation that led to the 2nd floor.

Because of how secure this place was made in order to seal the Desolate monsters inside, even he had no choice but to go down floor by floor.

2nd floor.

3rd floor.

All the way until the 13th floor.

General Wang glanced at the flowing blood on the floor with a look of fear in his eyes.

Since the blood was still flowing slowly, this meant that everything from this floor onwards still hadn't been ruined.

Which was good news.

General Wang lightly sighed in relief.

"Holder of the fragment of the Gate of Desolation, descendant of the Desolate Guardians, ruling lord of the Southern Ancient lands..."

General Wang suddenly stopped. He slowly turned around and looked at the wall.

He found that the two Desolate monsters who were lucky enough to still be alive were remaining absolutely still on the wall.

But across from them, inside a small hole in the wall, there was a grey, slimy, soft-bodied creature.

This insignificant little creature was only about the size of a nail, but how did it survive in this place, and how did it escape from being noticed before?

Silently, General Wang lightly released his inner sight. Pop! As soon as General Wang's inner sight touched the slimy creature, it immediately died.

General Wang appeared a bit shocked.

Regardless of whether this creature originally lived here or it was purposefully placed there, it was now dead.

Disregarding that little detail, General Wang continued his words.

"...Did what happen here disturbed your rest?" he asked.

A while later.

A hoarse voice came from deep inside the blood: [I feel very fine staying here, if you stinking insects don't come to disturb this king's rest, then I would feel even better ]

General Wang was a bit stunned.

"Stinking insects..." he muttered.

[ Indeed, the hoarse voice spoke sarcastically, pitiful stinking insects that dare to call themselves Gods ]

General Wang's expression turned grim.

He slowly spoke: "There exists a strange kind of creature in this world. Their masters ordered them to protect and watch over their home, yet they went against the will of their masters and instead began to eat their master's descendants. Tell me, if this evil act of theirs were to be found out by their masters, what kind of outcome would befall these creatures?"

T WE DO NOT HAVE ANY MASTERS! , the voice angrily roared: [The human race hadn't returned from the Gate of the World for over a hundred million years! On the other hand, do you also want to become my food? ]

Seeing that he successfully angered the other party, General Wang smirked triumphantly.

He casually answered: "No, of course not, I will only continue to help you devour your master's descendants, as long as you don't forget about our treaty"

The hoarse voice went silent briefly before asking doubtfully: [ I really don't understand, the bunch of you that claim yourselves to be Gods, why do you imitate the human form, and why are you so obsessed with that Gate? ]

Its voice then shifted to a mocking tone: I Could it be to escape from us? ]

General Wang's gaze became extremely grim: "We have traveled to all of the worlds and even reached the end of every world, but we still have yet to find the means to reach the new frontier. That is why we need you to do as our treaty stated and once again open the Gate of Desolation to allow us to go inside and see what exactly is in there"

The other voice mocked: [Fools. Even those that we once called masters have gone missing inside that Gate for over a hundred million years, and you stinking insects dare to peek inside?

General Wang persisted: "We have our treaty! If you go against the treaty, not even your King will get off easily"

Tsk, as soon as you accomplish your end of the bargain, we will naturally let you in ]

The hoarse voice scoffed.

General Wang raised his voice: "We have already done that, you are wantonly gobbling up humanity!"

The other voice refuted: [No, there are still the (Orders). The most terrifying thing isn't the pitiful descendants of the human race, but rather the [Orders] that they pass on. Once the human race gets ahold of the [Orders], they will become unbelievably powerful, you still haven't resolved his most crucial matter]

"That is no longer a problem, Southern Lord, we have found a way to deal with the [Orders]"

What way is that? ]

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"We have accurately assessed the powers that each (Order] require, and the solution is to first release the [Demon King Order]"

[ The (Demon King Order)? ] “Correct, this is a most terrifying (Order), it would enslave all living beings and consume countless humans in order to give birth to a single True Demon King at the end”

[ That Demon King definitely cannot be born!

“Of course it wouldn’t. We are humanity’s Gods, while the (Demon King Order]’s evil and terrifying, it will prove itself to humanity that the (Orders) are something they should indeed discard”

General Wang continued in an excited tone: “As long as you can give us a hand and ensure that the first (Order] to awaken is the (Demon King Order), there will no longer be any problems. Even if we don’t do anything at all, humanity will naturally come to fear this extreme (Order). And we as their Gods will surely lead humanity in the fight against the (Demon King Order]”

The hoarse voice fell silent.

After a while, it replied tiredly: T Let’s hope that is the case. Go back, I will report to my father and discuss with him on how to make sure the (Demon King Order) is the first to appear]

General Wang muttered: “Once that is achieved, you must reform that Gate to let us go inside and take a look”

[ Naturally, as long as you can stop the human race and the (Orders] from unifying ] the hoarse voice said.

Hearing that, General Wang slowly smiled. “Very good, then if there is nothing else, I will leave now” he said.

[ Go, and don’t come again unless there is something important ] the hoarse voice replied.

General Wang turned around, about to fly up.

He suddenly stopped and asked one more thing: “Did you eat that one?”

[ What? ] the hoarse voice replied in annoyance.

Without waiting for General Wang to continued, it answered him: [ That’s right, I ate one of my subordinates, you don’t need to care about such a minor things

General Wang hesitated briefly, but insisted on asking: “I’m not talking about your subordinate, I’m asking about the human who came down here before”

The hoarse voice replied: [He already went back up, did you not kill him? ]

General Wang’s expression warped. He disappeared.

But very quickly, he reappeared and picked the slimy creature in the wall up.

This creature had already died, when he picked it up, it suddenly turned into a mass of nauseating goop in his hand.

General Wang was a bit surprised.

“It wasn’t this thing”

He muses: "I was in a hurry just now so I didn't seriously look over every floor, but there was no way I would miss a human" While muttering, a gloomy, vast light glowed around his body.

"To be able to deceive me like that, how interesting"

He once again disappeared from this floor.

Outside the slaughterhouse.

Among a thick bush of trees.

Gu Qing Shan was hiding here. Indeed, at the time that the Divinity was going down the underground prison floor by floor, he had already turned into an ant and hid among the gap between one of the many cell doors on the 5th floor.

As soon as the Divinity went down through the 5th floor's warp formation, Gu Qing Shan had already left this place.

As soon as he came out of the underground prison, he found the entire slaughterhouse to be in chaos.

Director Li as well as most of his closest subordinates were all dead.

The enforcer cultivators were quickly gathering at the director's room from all over the slaughterhouse.

Gu Qing Shan weaved his way through the rushing mobs, chose a gate with few people and silently went out.

He didn't go too far away.

If he went too far, that snail would be hardly usable.

He was recalling the explanation that the old man from the Spire Keeper Association gave.

"This is a great item you know, much better than normal Spy Bugs"

"Normal Spy Bugs are easily discovered, and those who found that they've been tapped would normally kill the bug from anger without much thought"

"But this snail, even if it looks alive, it's only a small device emulating a living creature" "Only when it's crushed to death will its snooping capabilities be activated"

This snail was something the old man from the Spire Keeper Association gifted him on his way to Aboul.

And it could finally be used.

He silently listened to their conversation through the snail.

Only after the two ridiculously powerful existences began to talk about whether or not he was alive did he take out a formation plate.

The formation plate was immediately activated.

Gu Qing Shan disappeared.

Several thousand miles away, a barren mountain within a huge mountain range.

Gu Qing Shan appeared on top of an empty hill.

This was where he had faced his Tribulation.

Ever since the Drifting Sand world, he had begun to make a habit of arranging warp formations for the sake of escaping.

And now, the formation once again brought him far away from the danger of death.

Gu Qing Shan stood still and deeply sighed. To investigate information on Divinities and the Desolate monsters had always been an exceedingly dangerous matter.

Fortunately, he managed to brave the danger and drew back the fog that obscured humanity's fate, successfully learning the truth of the Age of old.

## **Chapter 755**

Secret of The Heaven Sword

A communication talisman appeared in Gu Qing Shan's hand.

He reported the entire situation in detail, infused the talisman with his spirit energy, and sent it out.

This is urgent, I must let Master know immediately! The communication talisman turned into a flame and flew away.

Not too long later.

A black dot appeared on the faraway sky.

In the blink of an eye, the black dot disappeared and Xie Gu Hong appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Seven swords hovered behind his back and he was wearing a full-body armor covered in blood.

From the look of it, he seemed to have come here directly from the battlefield.

Xie Gu Hong looked at Gu Qing Shan with an emotional look in his eyes.

"Master, what I told you in the communication talisman was all true" Gu Qing Shan said.

"I know" Xie Gu Hong replied.

Seeing his calm demeanor, Gu Qing Shan suddenly asked: "So you already knew?" Xie Gu Hong nodded, turned around, and walked to the edge of the hill where it started to slant downwards.

Looking at the vast mountain range in front of himself, he sighed: "For the sake of our own survival, humanity worships Divinities and fights the invasion of the Desolate world at the frontlines. But despite going on for so long, the war still hasn't ended or stopped even once, so we felt suspicious"

"Who would've thought, the intel that we paid such a great price to get was obtained so easily by you. Furthermore, you even found it out in greater details than we did"

Xie Gu Hong turned around, the look he had when looking at Gu Qing Shan was full of emotions and praise.

“Qing Shan, this place can’t exist any longer. You must listen carefully to what I’m about to tell you”

“Master?” Gu Qing Shan was a bit puzzled. Xie Gu Hong muttered: “We were able to notice part of the truth but we weren’t able to confirm whether or not it was the whole truth, so before the Age of old was completely destroyed, we made preparations for both situations”

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan raised his eyebrows.

——Xie Gu Hong said ‘before the Age of Old was destroyed’.

Does that mean he had already escaped from this era’s phantom image and saw the true ending of history?

When Gu Qing Shan wanted to ask, Xie Gu Hong raised one hand to stop him.

“There isn’t much time, we need to talk quickly”

At this point, far above this mountain, the sky itself split open as a voice echoed across the entire world.

Human cultivator Zhang Xiao Yun had betrayed the Gods and became a spy for the Desolate world, an irredeemable crime, all great cultivators are to find and eliminate this person, those who hear this must report immediately! ,

[This God will oversee this himself! ]

Hearing that, Xie Gu Hong pulled his gaze back and shook his head.

He continued: “Listen, Qing Shan, the situation has become very urgent, not only are the Divinities starting to look for you, even the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace had been infiltrated by an unknown ‘something’ that wants to capture you, so you no longer have anywhere to go” .

When Gu Qing Shan wanted to say something, Xie Gu Hong once again stopped him.

The voice of Divinity in the sky once again echoed: T All high-ranking cultivators are to report immediately!

Numerous streaks of light could be seen flying towards the Divinity.

Xie Gu Hong ignored the Divinity’s summon and waved his hand to arrange a sound-proofing formation.

His tone was becoming more and more hurried: “In the final years of the Age of old, the only Immortal King of humanity had arranged a certain measure, through the combined efforts of we cultivators, we successfully managed to activate the space-time phantom image illusion right before the Primordial Heaven Realm was destroyed”

“As time passed, the phantom image illusion would split itself into countless versions to deceive both the Divinities and the Desolate monsters”

“While the Divinities and Desolate monsters might be able to notice their existence, these countless phantom images will make sure that they won’t know which is the real one, thus unable to find out what we actually did moments before our deaths”

“Qing Shan, you must travel through these countless phantom images through a certain secret order to arrive at the final destination”

Xie Gu Hong paused briefly as his expression turned absolutely serious.

“We concealed the final moments of the Age of Old inside the countless phantom images. That is where you must go”

“Once you reach that place, you will have travelled back in time to the actual missing time, the final moments before the destruction of humanity in the Age of old”

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help asking: “What am I going there for?”

Xie Gu Hong silently glanced at him before answering: “The Heaven sword. It was fully forged at the very last moment before humanity perished, you must come and take it”

“Master——”

“You have the true Earth sword on you, I can sense it”

Xie Gu Hong took out a jade disk from inside his chest and placed it in Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Gu Qing Shan looked down.

The jade disk felt warm to the touch, apparently carrying immeasurable power.

Two words were carved on the outside of the jade disk: (Qian Nine[1])

Xie Gu Hong continued: “Among the countless phantom images, only this jade disk can take you to the next unique phantom image, you must survive through that phantom image to receive the next jade tag, all the way until the final moment of the Age of Old and take the Heaven sword”

Holding the jade disk in hand, Gu Qing Shan didn't know what to say.

Being surrounded by both Divinities and Desolate monsters, at the final moment before their destruction, humanity was still able to come up with this method, all to pass the hope on to the next era.

He gritted his teeth and held the jade disk tightly.

“Master, in the end, are you a phantom image or——”

“I am a piece of remnant soul that was left behind before I died. Left to wait countless years for this very moment”

Xie Gu Hong's figure slowly turned transparent.

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“I will destroy this phantom image and erase all the traces of your existence to make sure that nothing notices you”

He finally smiled: “To be able to take in a disciple such as yourself truly does put my mind at ease. I hope that you will be able to accomplish what our generation couldn't”



Cra-rik——

Xie Gu Hong's figure shattered into countless pieces and turned into a cloud of fog.

The entire world turned into an obscure image before slowly fading away. The jade disk in Gu Qing Shan's hand suddenly began to glow.

It was constantly blinking as if calling out to something.

The disciple jade disk Gu Qing Shan received from the Spirit Tortoise inside his chest suddenly jumped out and overlapped itself with the one Xie Gu Hong gave him. As the two jade disks completely overlapped, a 7-colored light erupted from them and enveloped Gu Qing Shan. Choosing a direction, the jade disk quickly carried Gu Qing Shan through the fog and out of sight.

Let's rewind time a bit.

On another side.

The Barren Cloud master peak.

A cultivator silently appeared from the ground below.

He went through all the defensive formations without a sound and infiltrated the master peak. No one noticed this at all.

After looking around for a bit, he found the mountain valley.

[ According to what was known, Gu Qing Shan should be secluding himself inside the Sword Abyss right now, cultivating...] he muttered.

Apparently sensing something off, this cultivator closed his eyes and carefully sensed his surroundings.

Everything was normal.

While he was a bit puzzled, he quickly made up his mind and moved towards the valley while shifting his appearance.

As he reached the entrance to the valley, he had returned to his original appearance.

——a burning fire between his eyebrows and a body cloaked inside glorious light.

After a long journey he was finally here.

This Divinity reached his hand out and lightly tapped the void of space.

Bam!

The defensive formation surrounding the valley was instantly destroyed.

No one would be able to stop him from going down there and kill Gu Qing Shan now!

At this point, a figure flew up from the bottom of the valley, looking at him in surprise.

Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan had appeared.

“Who are you? How did you get in here?” Gu Qing Shan questioned.

The Divinity looked at him and subconsciously smirked.

[ Gu Qing Shan, your everything ends right here, the future will no longer change because of you!

The Divinity solemnly declared.

He raised his hand.

Just as he was about to act, the entire world was suddenly plunged into chaos.

Gu Qing Shan’s body turned into white mist.

Following him, the entire world also turned into dense white mist and disappeared from in front of the Divinity as well.

—this entire Age of old phantom image had vanished!

The Divinity wasn’t panicked, only standing at the edge of the void and silently fell into thought.

Why did the world vanish at this point in time? Where did Gu Qing Shan go...]

While thinking that, a figure of light manifested in the void of space.

[ Who are you? , the Divinity shouted.

Sense my aura, do you recognize who I am now?, the figure of light spoke.

You are... the collective consciousness of our race , the Divinity muttered.

[ Correct, I’ve waited for countless years in this place for this very moment, the figure of light said.

What are you waiting for? , the Divinity asked.

For someone of our race to come— during the very last moment of the Age of Old, humanity left behind countless era phantom images. We don’t know exactly what they did, but the omens they showed before their destruction have left us in a long period of unease]

After a brief moment of silence, the Divinity replied: T I know what they left behind ,

Then that is good j the figure of light tossed him a coin.

I Go, this Desolate coin is the real deal, it will help you sense where your target is. The only downside is that there is a certain deviation of position ]

The Divinity received the Desolate coin and carefully checked it.

Hm... this is indeed real, he muttered.

Putting the coin away, the Divinity once again smirked: [ Some deviation is fine, as long as I can reach him, he would not escape from death ]

Humanity's past and future will both be squashed by my own hands! ]

[1] Qian – “☰” is one of the 8 lines of the 8-trigrams. You can read more about the 8-trigrams on wikipedia.

## Chapter 756

Darkness.

Inside the silent darkness, Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

He saw someone crouching in front of him.

A greatly aged face.

The years left so many marks on his face that one couldn't help but wonder how many struggles the owner of this face had gone through.

The old man raised a finger in front of his mouth, signaling Gu Qing Shan to be silent.

Gu Qing Shan obediently remained silent and stayed still, not even saying a single word.

The Spirit Tortoise's jade disk and Xie Gu Hong's jade disk combined with one another to bring him here, so he felt that he could at least trust the current situation.

He looked at the old man and sent his voice through his inner sight: “Who are you sir?”

“Let's get out of here first before we talk” the old man sent his voice in reply.

Gu Qing Shan looked around and noticed that he was lying in the middle of a military camp.

The entire camp was asleep, only the old man in front of him was looking at him with bright, clear eyes.

Apparently this old man had been waiting for him to arrive for all this time.

Gu Qing Shan followed the old man out of the military camp.

Within the shroud of the night, the two of them quickly flew through thick forest.

“Where are we going?”

Gu Qing Shan asked through his inner sight.

“Away from this military camp, we need to speed up” the old man replied.

“Alright, you lead the way, I'll follow” Gu Qing Shan replied.

As soon as he said that, the old man flew ahead of him and began to lead the way.

Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows loosened a bit.

He could sense irresistible heavy spirit pressure coming from the old man.

About the same level as Xie Gu Hong.

Which meant he was also a great cultivator from the Age of Old.

The two of them continued to fly.

About half an incense's worth of time later.

The two of them finally went through the thick forest and arrived at a beach.

The ocean was overwhelmingly vast with huge waves crashing on top of one another.

The full moon was hanging above the ocean, its reflection glistening on the surface of the water, constantly being broken by the surging waves.

The old man tapped his Inventory Bag and took out an airship.

"Take this"

He finally spoke with his mouth.

"What are you—" Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

"This airship can fly in the sky, float on water, and even dive deep under the sea, equipped with 36 unique kinds of concealment formations. As long as the spirit stones powering it doesn't run out, it will help you conceal yourself for the foreseeable future" the old man explained.

"There are countless cultivation scriptures and comprehension of various great cultivators on the ship for you to study and follow"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "But why do I have to hide myself in the ocean?"

The old man replied: "Because this was a phantom image that we meticulously devised. It records the darkest period of time during humanity's war against the Desolate monsters"

"For the following few months, humanity will slowly fall to ruin and destruction"

"During this time, the Divinities are closely watching over humanity, so they will not go near the sea, because of that, you can face your Tribulation over the ocean. As long as you are careful, there should be no problems"

The old man took out another jade disk and gave it to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan received the jade disk and saw two characters engraved on it: [Kun Six<sup>1</sup>]

Apparently sensing something, the jade disk quickly jumped into Gu Qing Shan's chest.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly took it back out.

The jade disk had fused together with the other two jade disks he had, giving off a faint glow.

At this point, he had three jade disks: disciple, [Qian Nine], [Kun Six].

To be able to obtain a jade disk so easily caused Gu Qing Shan to feel a bit puzzled.

Seeing his expression, the old man quickly understood what he was thinking.

The old man explained: "In the Age of Old, we used the art of Divination to find out a certain thing, that is if someone managed to pass both the Spirit Tortoise and Xie Gu Hong's trials, they would surely be met with a deadly ambush"

"That is why we designed this Age of Old phantom image"

"During this period of time, humanity itself was falling to ruin, but since you are being hidden in the sea by us, no one would have any means to notice your existence"

"The only thing you can do is to focus completely on increasing your cultivation, only then will you be able to survive through the next phantom image"

"You must at least reach Radiant Soul realm for your jade disk to activate and lead you into the next phantom image"

"Cryptic, Chaotic Star, Origin Aspect, Radiant Soul..." Gu Qing Shan muttered and couldn't help himself asking: "What if I can't reach Radiant Soul realm?"

The old man shook his head: "If you can't reach Radiant Soul realm, you wouldn't be able to survive the next phantom image. At that point, you can only remain indefinitely in this phantom image. You will either breakthrough, or get found out by the Desolate monsters and Divinities, then get killed"

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "Then I will do my best to increase my cultivation"

The old man nodded and quickly formed a complicated set of hand seals.

"Fortunately, you haven't spoken to anyone, this way I can perfectly conceal the traces of your existence in this world" he commented.

"Is that really possible? You can conceal me from both the Divinities and Desolate monsters?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The old man continued to perform the technique while answering: "Indeed, this technique is called Soul Retreat. We have used various methods to test and confirm that it would perfectly conceal your tracks"

"Soul Retreat can only display its full power through a cultivator like myself who has the [Heaven-Earth Escape] Thaumaturgy burning my life and soul away to activate it"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "If you have such a Thaumaturgy, surely you can escape from the pursuit of all the Divinities and monsters, why do you have to do such a thing?"

The old man calmly answered: "My family members have all been devoured by the monsters, my sect, my close friends, everything I have were already destroyed, where else could I run to?"

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The old man's hand seals stopped.

He looked up at Gu Qing Shan and firmly told him: "The Heaven sword is the only hope"

"Youngster, you absolutely cannot fail, I leave the future to you"

All of his spirit energy was poured into his hand seal, completing it.

*Oom*—

The old man exploded into a mist of blood and was blown away by the howling wind.

After that, a cluster of light enveloped Gu Qing Shan, then turned around and left him behind, returning to the direction it came from.

Through his inner sight, Gu Qing Shan saw the cluster of light continuing backward from where they traveled, heading back to the military camp.

Legend has it that after a person dies, they would retrace all the steps they ever took, take their footprints away and leave nothing behind.

This was Soul Retreat.

The old man had waited inside this phantom image for several ten thousand years, just to help a person who made it there to conceal their steps.

He had literally been waiting for death.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a long time before clapping his fist to the void of space: "Don't worry senior, I definitely won't fail"

He boarded the ship and rode it out to the far ocean.

Time slowly passed.

20 breaths later.

Inside the military camp.

A figure suddenly appeared.

The Divinity with a bright golden flame between his eyebrows.

He opened his palm to look at the Desolate coin in his hand.

The Desolate coin didn't react at all.

The Divinity appeared surprised.

He thought briefly, flew into one of the barracks and lightly touched the forehead of a sleeping cultivator.

The cultivator died immediately.

Countless images flowed across the Divinity's eyes.

In just a few moments, the Divinity had finished seeing through this cultivator's memories.

「 Nothing? 」

He muttered.

He then flew into another barracks and touched the forehead of several other cultivators.

Memories flowed into his mind one after another.

「 Strange...」

The Divinity was a bit troubled.

He leapt into the sky and looked around.

Pitch black darkness surrounded him.

At the horizon extremely far away, several towering figures were slowly heading here.

The Divinity looked down.

The cultivators inside the camp remained asleep.

*Why aren't they reacting at all despite such a huge commotion?*

The Divinity suddenly realized.

*These people already have their souls taken away, turned into food on a platter.*

He looked again in another direction.

In the darkness of the night, he couldn't hear the voice of a single human.

*This seems to be around the end of the Age of Old, when the Primordial Heaven Realm's humanity had almost been wiped out.*

*—why did I suddenly jump ahead so much and arrived at this point in time?*

The Divinity looked at the coin in his hand again.

Still no reaction.

The Divinity suddenly recalled what the figure of light told him.

「 This Desolate coin is the real deal, it will help you sense where your target is. The only downside is that there is a certain deviation of position 」

*Deviation...*

*Could there have been some deviation?*

The Divinity silently waited for a while longer.

Glorious rays of light detached from his body and began to scatter around, searching for his target.

A few moments later.

The rays of light all returned to him.

There was no one left alive.

In other words, humanity really was almost wiped out at this point in time.

And Gu Qing Shan wasn't here.

After confirming this, the Divinity muttered: 「 Seems like there really were some errors, not good, I have to catch up with him quickly, otherwise, with the help of those humans from the Age of Old, he would only become more and more powerful. That would complicate things 」

He struck the void of space.

The void of space broke open as a jet-black hole manifested in front of him.

Taking one final look at this silent world, the Divinity entered the black hole and disappeared from this world.

## **Chapter 758**

*How many worlds existed in the Age of Old?*

Suddenly having such a question, Gu Qing Shan became somber.

“System, in this time period, beside the Primordial Heaven Realm, how many worlds were there?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The War God System replied: [This matter is irrelevant to the System, the System cannot answer you]

Gu Qing Shan insisted: “This is a very important question, I can pay you more Soul Points, just answer me”

The War God System replied: [You must seek out the answer to this question yourself, the System isn't clear about information unrelated to itself]

Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to give up.

He paced back and forth on the airship, thinking a way to check other worlds.

At this point in time, the Primordial Heaven Realm was in the process of slowly dying.

All living beings on land were dead.

There were also no living beings under the ocean.

Gu Qing Shan was now stuck by himself at sea, where would he find information about this matter?

He carefully thought for a while before crouching down and placed his hand on the deck of the ship.

Besides cultivation scriptures, the cultivators from the Age of Old must have left quite a bit of historical and civilization records as well.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight quickly scanned the inside of the ship and meticulously searched among the huge number of cultivation scriptures.

A few dozen seconds later.



His eyes suddenly lit up and muttered: "Found it"

According to humanity's records, only two worlds existed during this era.

The Primordial Heaven Realm.

The Primordial Wraith Realm.

According to legends, when the Divinities had just appeared, they used various methods to gain the trust of humans.

And the Divinities once entered the Primordial Wraith Realm as well to get in touch with devils and fiends as well.

But they failed.

Divinities then tried to experiment with devils and fiends but found that they were born from primal chaos and nature, sentient creatures that were basically manifestations of Laws. They had knowledge of the origin of the worlds and of all things, so they basically don't believe in the existence of 'Gods'.

This was all that was written about the existence of other worlds.

The Primordial Heaven Realm was held in the hands of the Divinities, so it was practically impossible for humanity to study the mystery of other worlds without the Divinities knowing.

Gu Qing Shan pulled his hand back and silently shook his head.

*It seems ...*

*There are things I have to find out myself.*

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and took out two pills.

He put both of them in his mouth and formed a hand seal with both of his hands.

At Cryptic realm late stage, he was now able to breakthrough to Chaotic Star realm!

Immense spirit energy rose from his body all the way to the sky, connecting and triggering the Laws of the world.

*Boom!*

Thunder rang out.

Black clouds gathered.

The Heaven's Tribulation was here.

...

Half an hour later.

The Heaven's Tribulation ended.

Screeches, roars, and cries came from the void of space.

Various terrifying faces silently showed themselves from the void of space.

The evil creatures were here.

Gu Qing Shan looked around and spread his arm: "It's been a long time since we last met, old friends, how have you been lately?"

No response.

None of the evil creatures responded.

The various fiends and devils surrounded the ship, coming out from the void of space one by one.

They were solemnly observing Gu Qing Shan like looking at prey.

『 How rare, new flesh to consume 』

A Fiend King licked his lips and commented.

「 That's right, humanity was already close to being destroyed, if we don't eat now, we won't get any more chances 」 a Devil King also commented.

「 Unfortunately, this one seems to be insane, we don't know him, what is he welcoming us for? 」 a female Devil King spoke up.

『 Don't you dare steal from me, I want to eat him 』 a Fiend King declared.

「 The limbs are mine 」

『 Leave me the head 』

『 I'll take the torso 』

The evil creatures were deciding how to split their food.

Gu Qing Shan froze.

Hearing the evil creature's conversations, he suddenly understood something.

He only got acquainted with the evil creatures in the previous era's phantom image.

At the time, he began cultivating again from the beginning so he had many chances to meet with these evil creatures, slowly getting to know them over time.

But during this phantom image, this was the first time these evil creatures had encountered him.

*This really is... awkward!*

Gu Qing Shan facepalmed himself for a while before putting his hand down.

Inside the shroud of darkness, the evil creatures were already leaping in to eat him.

This was the moment for them to enjoy a feast of human flesh!

Having no other choice, Gu Qing Shan could only take out two longswords from the void of space.

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“Fine, I’m not in a mood to slowly have a drink with you bunch anyways”

He sighed and muttered.

...

About 10 minutes later.

「 Damned brat, kill us if you dare, what kind of Tribulation are you facing like this! 」 a Devil King cried out in grief and indignation.

Gu Qing Shan came forward and began to pound the Devil King’s head with his bare fists.

He kept on punching, again and again, only after that Devil King had fainted that he stopped.

『 Brat, I suggest you let us go. You only managed to win against us thanks to the suppression of the Heaven’s Tribulation 』 a Fiend King coldly spoke.

Gu Qing Shan rubbed his knuckles, slowly walked over to the Fiend King, and began to stomp and kick the Fiend King’s weakest point.

One kick.

One kick.

One kick.

One kick.

One heavy kick!

The Fiend King was practically bleeding cold sweat, unable to say another word.

Gu Qing Shan finally stopped.

In front of him, all the Fiend and Devil Kings had their limbs chopped off and were neatly lined up on the floor of the airship.

After dealing with so many Fiend Kings and Devil Kings at once, Gu Qing Shan was feeling a bit tired as well.

He wiped his sweats and slowly sat down leaning on the airship.

The Lightning Tribulation above had already scattered, but the strong winds still hadn’t.

This meant that his Heaven’s Tribulation wasn’t over yet.

Because the evil creatures who were summoned by the Tribulation were still here on the airship, not a single one managed to leave yet.

Gu Qing Shan just sat there, spaced out.

He was constantly thinking about the matter of the Heaven realm and the Wraith realm.

A Devil King couldn't wait anymore and shouted: 「 Brat! What exactly are you trying to do? 」

Gu Qing Shan stood up again and walked in front of the Devil King.

Taking a deep breath, he swung his fists.

The spirit energy-infused fists greeted the Devil King's body again and again.

The Devil King was literally beaten speechless.

After giving him a beating, Gu Qing Shan returned to where he was before and sat down again.

He continued to sit still and space out.

The fiends and devils exchanged confused glances.

*Had the last survivor of humanity already gone insane?*

*What do we do now? We can't just keep staying here without knowing whether we'll live or die.*

*The ones who sneakily attempted to leave this world were all bisected by a flash of his sword and killed on the spot.*

*Now that our limbs are cut off, it would take a lot more effort to return, we wouldn't be able to do it instantly like before.*

*What should we do for him to let us go?*

A female Devil King made her voice softer before calling out to him: "Young man, is there anything you need this humble one to do?"

Gu Qing Shan stood up again and walked to where the female Devil King was.

The female Devil King stared at him nervously, but forced out a seductive smile: "Whatever you want, this humble one will comply"

Gu Qing Shan looked at her and chuckled.

He finally spoke: "You already don't have any arms or feet left, so I won't make it hard for you, just tell me where you want to go, tell the truth"

The female Devil King was surprised.

The other Fiend and Devil Kings also didn't know what to say.

*So this one really is insane.*

For evil creatures, a tempted human was the thing they feared the least.

Once you let an evil creature know that you want something, everything will become easy sailing for them.

No matter how righteous your goal is, they always have a way to lure you to the pit of corruption, slowly but patiently corrode everything about you until they finally take your soul away.

Only the most unique humans who can't be tempted at all by any form of lust, greed, or otherwise are troublesome, evil creatures are powerless against people like this because they can't tell what these people want at all.

「 I... am going back to Soundark Mountain Realm 」 the female Devil King dryly answered.

“Alright then” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 Can I go back now? 」 the female Devil King asked.

“You can. Just tell me the way to get to Soundark Mountain Realm and I'll let you go” Gu Qing Shan answered.

The female Devil King was surprised at first before smirking: 「 No problem, as long as you dare to actually go 」

The power of the Heaven's Tribulation was currently suppressing her power so that she was only a single step more powerful than the one facing the Tribulation.

*But if this mad man dares to come to Soundark Mountain Realm, I'll make sure he curses himself for ever being born.*

The female Devil King happily told him a long incantation and even advised him: 「 This incantation will require the use of Wind-infused blood to activate 」

「 Like this 」

The female Devil King paused briefly and spat out a small bit of blood.

Without limbs to use, she could only do that.

Gu Qing Shan silently memorized the incantation.

He then let her disappear without doing anything.

The other evil creatures look at him with expressions of disbelief.

*Does this brat want to go to the realms of evil creatures?*

*He'll definitely die if he dares set his foot there!*

Gu Qing Shan casually turned back to look at them and spoke without changing his expression: “No need to hurry, I'll have each and every one of you tell me how to get to your worlds in detail as well”

## **Chapter 759**

Gu Qing Shan walked up to the second Fiend King.

He crouched down, looked at him and said: “Tell me how you're going to return”

The Fiend King smirked: 『 I can bring you back with me 』

“No need” Gu Qing Shan looked at the rest of the evil creatures: “I still haven’t decided which one of you I’ll visit”

As the Fiend King saw him raising his sword, he hurriedly replied: 『 In total darkness, use your fingers as a source of light and your voice as a guide, you need to say a total of 39 incantation mantras 』

He then recited a long series of incantations.

Gu Qing Shan carefully listened and memorized it.

As the Fiend King finished reciting, he slowly disappeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

He had returned.

Gu Qing Shan came for the next Devil King.

That Devil King’s eyes turned a bit before speaking: 「 Recite the following incantation 」

Gu Qing Shan immediately drew his sword and heavily slashed the Devil King.

Blood was spilt.

The Devil King was cut in half.

He looked at Gu Qing Shan in disbelief and mustered the last of his strength to speak: 「 Why... did you...? 」

Gu Qing Shan casually answered: “Devil King of the Fallen Prison, whenever you turn your eyes, you must be thinking of a way to trick people, you think I don’t know that?”

The Devil King was speechless and slowly lost his life.

The other Fiend and Devil Kings stayed absolutely silent.

After a while, one of the Devil Kings muttered: 「 That’s not possible, how does he understand Fallen Devils so well? 」

Gu Qing Shan headed for the next Fiend King.

He looked at the Fiend King without saying a word.

The Fiend King hurriedly: 『 Gather Wind and Lightning at the center of your mouth and chant these 18 incantations 』

He recited a series of incantations and slowly disappeared from Gu Qing Shan’s eyes.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and headed for the next Devil King.

The Devil King looked at him and spoke in a low voice: 「 I have a secret tool that will take you to any world as long as you have it 」

Gu Qing Shan instantly sliced off his head.

『 Why!? 』

Another Fiend King couldn't help but shout.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "This bastard has always been lying. Everyone knows his secret tool will take you into the 1950th floor of the Permafrost Demonic Tomb. That place is filled with nothing but Deep Permafrost so tough that not even Divinities can easily escape"

The evil creatures looked at him again and fell silent.

The looks in their eyes have also changed.

*This isn't just an insane person.*

*What kind of monster is this, he's too terrifying.*

The rest of the evil creatures didn't try any other tricks.

Right now they just wanted to go home.

Time slowly passed.

Until finally, all the Fiend Kings and Devil Kings left, leaving the last Fiend King behind.

This was a jet-black Fiend King who had a decently handsome face.

He looked a lot like a human, except for the long, sharp tail at the end of his back.

He honestly and quickly told him the incantation and how to use it.

Gu Qing Shan silently memorized it and began to speak: "Xie Qi Fiend King, now that there aren't any other evil creatures here, you don't need to be afraid of them laughing at you for being cowardly anymore"

『 What do you mean? 』 the Xie Qi Fiend King forced out a smile.

Gu Qing Shan said: "I have a question that I want to ask you, you have to answer me honestly, or I will kill you"

The Xie Qi Fiend King was shocked and respectfully said: 『 Please go ahead 』

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and solemnly asked: "Have the Desolate monsters and Divinities ever tried to invade the Primordial Wraith Realm?"

The last one remaining was the weakest and the most cowardly Fiend King.

As well as the key to breaking the current situation.

This was the reason why Gu Qing Shan had purposefully beat up and suppressed all the evil creatures, leaving him until the very end.

Xie Qi Fiend King replied: 『 They have 』

Gu Qing Shan asked: "What's the result?"

The Fiend King answered: 『 Evil creatures can't be eaten. Eating us will only cause both the Desolate monsters and the Divinities to feel extremely uncomfortable without any visible benefits. And the Primordial Wraith Realm was filled with miasma that they can't get used to. In order to prevent the Wraith Realm from getting stronger, they simply broke the Primordial Wraith Realm into several thousand fragments before leaving 』

Gu Qing Shan went silently briefly.

*Who would've thought the Primordial Wraith Realm would end up like that.*

"Xie Qi Fiend King, as you've answered a very crucial question for me, I will grant you a certain secret" he said.

The Fiend King appeared to be listening

Gu Qing Shan began to speak: "Actually, your wife has been having an affair behind your back with the Cruel Bone Devil King. And since you live your life so cluelessly, not even managing your own Fiend realm or try to get any stronger, everyone now thinks of you as a useless vagabond"

"Furthermore, the reason why you're still alive is because the Cruel Bone Devil King thinks that this is interesting. He enjoys the feeling of cuckolding you, naturally, he also thinks that leaving your woman and your territory like it currently is to be best, so he doesn't kill you or take over your Fiend realm, even though it has, in fact, already belonged to the Cruel Bone Devil King"

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The Xie Qi Fiend King was stunned.

He shivered for a while.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "Truthfully, I didn't really want to care about the matter between you and them, because there's always going to be some discord wherever there are fiends and devils. I'm not that much of a busybody"

Gu Qing Shan lightly swung his sword.

"But I hope that you won't be completely clueless before you die"

He pulled his sword back.

Gu Qing Shan let go and let the sword hide itself within the void of space.

On the deck of the airship, the Xie Qi Fiend King had already been cut into tiny pieces.

There were now no longer any evil creatures on the airship.

Silence.

The ocean wind continued to blow.

Gu Qing Shan stood spaced out next to the Xie Qi Fiend King for a long while.



Finally, an autumn water blue steel sword appeared from the void of space and transformed into a girl with an aloof, cold expression.

Shannu.

She couldn't hold herself back anymore.

"Gongzi, are you ok?" Shannu asked out of concern.

"I'm fine" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Why do I get the feeling that you're a bit strange?"

"...Because I've been thinking about the same thing over and over. And because of how important it is, I absolutely cannot make any mistakes at all, so I couldn't help but feel a bit anxious"

"Is it related to the Heaven sword?"

"Yes"

Shannu thought for a bit and asked: "Did gongzi capture these evil creatures only to learn about the incantations to travel to their fiend and devil realms?"

"No"

Gu Qing Shan slowly replied: "I don't know if you notice or not, through their incantations and how they must be performed, I found out that the evil creatures know how to use the 5 mutated Elements of Wind, Lightning, Light, Dark, Sound"

"While the Age of Old cultivators and even the Desolate monsters didn't know how to fight against the 5 mutated Elements at all"

"Which means... there is a very good reason why the evil creatures managed to survive after all this time"

He picked up a piece of the Xie Qi Fiend King's flesh.

Shannu looked at what he was doing and seemed to understand.

"Gongzi, you want to..."

While she was talking, Gu Qing Shan had already turned into the Xie Qi Fiend King's appearance.

He threw the piece of flesh away, took out the jade disk that would lead him into the next phantom image and drew several hand seals on it, sealed it away, and put it inside a jade box.

Shannu now didn't understand.

Seeing the look on her face, Gu Qing Shan explained: "Before I killed the Fiend King, I didn't space out, I was actually studying the method to control the jade disk that was recorded on the airship"

"And part of that was how to seal it"

Shannu asked: "Why did gongzi want to seal the jade disk?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "From how the jade disk was made, there must be quite a few steps to go through, and after a long time of contemplation, I discovered that everything would fail if even one of these steps were to go awry"

"Gongzi doesn't trust the cultivators from the Age of Old?"

"This isn't a problem of trust. We have to discard all sentiments and emotions to judge the situation from the most subjective point of view"

"Then what was Gongzi's judgement?"

"During the countless years of the Age of Old, humanity was thoroughly suppressed, which meant that the Desolate monsters and Divinities actually held the absolute advantage. These circumstances themselves proved that the Desolate monsters and Divinities have always had a way to win against humanity"

Shannu nodded her head as she listened: "That's why Gongzi believes that they have the means to deal with the final preparations of the cultivators?"

"I can't disregard that possibility" Gu Qing Shan replied, "it's not that I don't trust Master and the others, but rather that if even one of them makes any mistakes, this entire thing will go tumbling down"

Shannu was flustered and wondered: "If even the final preparations couldn't win against them, wouldn't that mean this trip of ours is meaningless?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Of course not, in truth, besides the cultivators, there was someone else who could fight against the Divinities and Desolate monsters"

"Someone else? Who?" Shannu asked in surprise.

"That would naturally be me" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shannu was stunned.

Gu Qing Shan slowly explained: "I am a sword cultivator, as long as my hand holds a sword, I won't need my ancestors to sacrifice themselves to pave me a path"

He looked up at the dark sky and muttered: "I don't want to keep running and avoiding my enemies like a dog without a master, and I don't intend to run into some sort of inescapable trap that the Divinities set up years ago. So I need... power"

"I need more power to change everything!"

Gu Qing Shan clasped his hands together, infused his Lightning into the gentle breeze, and performed the incantation to travel to the chosen Fiend Realm.

"Xie Qi Realm, the lost abyssal sanctuary of all evil creatures, open your gates for me!"

He raised his voices and chanted.

*Oom.*

An invisible gate appeared from the void of space.

“We’re going”

“Yes, gongzi”

## Chapter 760

A heavy shroud of darkness.

Within this vast world, the Desolate monsters were rampaging without fear.

The Divinities have already turned into tiny sprites of light far in the sky, wandering back and forth.

It was the same phantom image of the era when humanity was falling to ruin.

After Gu Qing Shan had left.

A blurred figure suddenly appeared on the empty field of the military camp.

As the blurriness faded, the figure appeared clearly.

The figure had a burning golden flame between his eyebrows, glorious light radiating from his body and a strange coin in his hand.

——the Golden Flame Divinity.

He had once again arrived at this phantom image.

「 Strange, just where did he run to...」

The Divinity calmly walked around the military camp.

The military camp was now in shambles.

All the sleeping cultivators from before had already been devoured, only scraps of flesh and blood were left smeared all over the ground and walls.

The Divinity walked from one room to another, ignoring the bloody footprints he left behind.

Both his mind and body were completely focused on assessing the current situation.

——*I’ve already searched several hundred phantom images.*

Even someone as powerful as a Divinity was, having to travel constantly from one phantom image to another in search of what was essentially a needle in a haystack, he was feeling quite fatigued.

But he still couldn’t find any traces of Gu Qing Shan.

So he decided to return to this phantom image that the coin first pointed him to and once again reassess things.

Abruptly, the Golden Flame Divinity sensed something and turned around.

The figure of light was standing not too far behind him.

「 Why are you here? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity asked.

The figure of light replied: 「 The collective will of our ancient Divine race is connected to that coin. I noticed that you have ran into a problem, so I came to help 」

The Golden Flame Divinity told him: 「 There was an error with the coin, I couldn't find him in this world 」

The figure of light gestured with his hand: 「 Give me the coin, we have already prepared the appropriate technique in order to fix such an error 」

The Golden Flame Divinity paused for a bit and asked: 「 You've even prepared for this level of error? 」

「 Naturally 」 the figure of light replied, 「 Both the Desolate race and our Divine race would not simply stand and watch as humanity made their preparations 」

The figure of light emphasized: 「 We are the controllers of humanity's fate, their everything is within the palms of our hands, every last bit of their hope WILL be destroyed by our own hands 」

「 The Desolate race have countermeasures prepared as well? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity questioned.

「 Indeed, the humans of the Primordial Heaven Realm must be killed to extinction, their everything must be ground to dust, we absolutely shall not allow them to do anything to threaten us 」 the figure of light replied.

「 A wise choice 」 the Golden Flame Divinity praised.

「 Give me the coin, I will use a Divine Craft to fix its error, that way you will be able to directly warp to the phantom image where that human from the future currently is 」 the figure of light said.

Without saying anything else, the Golden Flame Divinity tossed him the coin.

The figure of light opened his palm and let the coin silently float on top of it.

He then chanted a long incantation in Divine Language, all the way until the coin began to give off periodic light.

「 Take it, it has been activated once again. You should now be able to find that human's trace 」 the figure of light told him.

The coin hovered in front of the Golden Flame Divinity again.

Receiving the coin, the Golden Flame Divinity infused it with his divine power.

*Oong---*

The coin let out a loud ring and brought the Golden Flame Divinity into the void of space, heading into the fog of time and space.

One breath later.

The void of space once again opened up.

The Golden Flame Divinity returned to this world once again.

He landed inside the military camp, right in front of the figure of light.

「...」 the figure of light.

「...」 the Golden Flame Divinity.

The Golden Flame Divinity suddenly spoke: 「 This can't be right, the Desolate coin shouldn't fail two times in a row like this 」

The figure of light commented: 「 In other words, that human from the future must be hiding within this phantom image 」

「 It does 」

The Golden Flame Divinity scoffed: 「 Seems like he found some unique method to conceal himself somewhere within this phantom image—— I'm guessing it must be something the humans from the Age of Old did to erase his tracks and allowed him to deceive us like this 」

The figure of light spoke: 「 Go find him, then kill him immediately! 」

The Golden Flame Divinity spoke: 「 Of course, I will kill him, but the coin can only bring me into the phantom image that he's in, not where he is. There are no longer any humans in this era, the Heaven realm is too vast, and I already lost track of him! 」

The figure of light replied: 「 Do not worry, we have made another preparation. Seems like it will prove useful ahead of time 」

「 What kind of preparation? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity asked.

「 I will inform all the Divinities within this phantom image that a single human has slipped through. They will join you on your search, once any information about him shows up, the combined might of the Divinities will target him with extreme prejudice 」 the figure of light replied.

The Golden Flame Divinity paused briefly before laughing out loud.

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They were essentially conscripting every and all of the Divinities within the Primordial Heaven Realm to search for a single human.

How terrifying of a force was that?

Under such circumstances, the Golden Flame Divinity felt that even he wouldn't be able to hide for too long.

「 If you've prepared so thoroughly, it seems I won't need to spend too much effort on this 」

The Golden Flame Divinity sighed.

「 Naturally 」 the figure of light said without any emotions, 「 Humanity has and will always be under our absolute control. Even at the final moments of their destruction, there will be no chance for them to even attempt to rebel 」

The Golden Flame Divinity looked up.

Several shining sprites flying in the sky have already begun to descend.

The search had begun.

The Golden Flame Divinity thought briefly: 「 Then I will leave the land area to you, I'll be responsible for searching the ocean 」

「 Go ahead 」

「 Hm 」

——at the same time.

At sea.

Within an area of the ocean that was far away from the mainland.

Gu Qing Shan had turned into the Xie Qi Fiend King, stowed the airship away, and entered the gate that leads into the Xie Qi Fiend Realm.

After he left, the gate in the void of space slowly closed and faded away.

This part of the ocean returned to its original silence.

...

Gu Qing Shan was traveling through the space vortex.

He was quickly thinking about various things.

The Xie Qi Fiend King was the easiest to bully and most cowardly Fiend King.

He was also the weakest among the known Fiend Kings, with Gu Qing Shan's Chaotic Star realm cultivation, as long as he had a sword, it was more than enough to kill him at his strongest.

The Xie Qi Fiend Realm was known as a place to play and rest for the other evil realms.

But there was one good thing about this world.

Information travelled fast here.

Because the evil creatures of various realms frequently visited this place, this place was perfect as a place to gather intel, including the most recent intel of ongoing events.

That's why Gu Qing Shan chose this world.

Within the chaotic space vortex, bright purple light began to slowly envelop Gu Qing Shan.

——*I'm about to arrive at the Xie Qi Realm.*

Gu Qing Shan glanced at Shannu.

Shannu nodded and silently disappeared into the void of space.

A few moments later, the space vortex faded around him.

Gu Qing Shan landed on a red carpet.

He found that he was standing at the gate of a beautiful palace.

Two burly and huge black fiends blocked his way.

『 Fiend King, you can't go in yet, the Fiendess said she doesn't want to see you right now 』 one of the black Fiends said.

Gu Qing Shan looked around briefly because he muses: "If I remember correctly, this place is my palace"

『 Yes 』 the other black fiend smiled sarcastically, 『 But haven't you always listened to what the Fiendess tell you? 』

『 You should go and find somewhere to entertain yourself, since you still have money— as for this place, you will need to wait for the Fiendess' permission before you can go in and flatter her 』 the first black fiend looked down at him and said.

Gu Qing Shan thought to himself.

*The Xie Qi Fiend King— seems to have accepted his own circumstances a long time ago.*

*Even the guards of the Fiend palace refused to let their own Fiend King in, what a huge joke this was.*

*I didn't think the Xie Qi Fiend King's life would be this pitiful.*

*Seems like that Fiendess or whatever is quite impressive.*

*Tch...*

Gu Qing Shan muttered: "Is this how a Fiend King is supposed to live?"

One of the fiends didn't hear it clearly and sarcastically told him: 『 Sir Fiend King, what did you mutter just now? Mind telling me what interesting thing you have in mind as well? Please don't worry, we won't tell master 』

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

He answered: "I said— compared to me, a lot of Fiend Kings and Devil Kings don't live up to their names at all"

A cold gleam.

Two heads were lopped off and flung all the way into the palace.

Inside the palace, various panicked voices and noises began to rang out.

Gu Qing Shan didn't seem to notice any of them.

He shook the blood off his sword and thought about the Xie Qi Fiend king's situation, then he couldn't help but sigh once again.

“Oh well... it’s now my turn to be their Fiend King”

## Chapter 761

The Xie Qi Fiend Realm used to be a barren wasteland in the Primordial Wraith Realm.

No valuable resources or natural-born treasures of the Wraith realm were ever found in this place, and it did not have any sort of natural environment suitable for any type of evil creatures to grow and prosper in.

Because of this, no evil creature was ever interested in this place.

Thanks to this, after the Primordial Wraith Realm was broken into pieces, the Xie Qi Fiend King was able to take over this piece of land without a single other Fiend King trying to compete with him over it.

After killing the two fiend guards, Gu Qing Shan continued heading deeper into the palace.

A few steps later, a group of armed Xie Qi fiends responsible for the security of the palace came up to stop him.

They were completely black from top to bottom with a similar appearance to that of a human, the only difference was a long, horned tail that dragged behind their backs.

The head guard called out: 『 Fiend King, you can’t enter the palace, otherwise, we’ll have to be disrespectful 』

Gu Qing Shan ignored him.

He kept walking past these guards and continued to walk forward.

But strangely, all the guards were standing absolutely still, not a single person tried to stop him.

Only after his figure could no longer be seen did an intense storm of sword-infused wind howl and turned the guards into scattered pieces of flesh and blood before blowing them away.

As Gu Qing Shan continued, another group of Fiends appeared to block him.

These Fiends were clearly a lot more powerful than the previous group.

Their leader tried persuading him: 『 Sir Fiend King, you can’t keep going forward. If our master knows about this, your allowance for next month is as good as gone 』

Gu Qing Shan actually stopped when he heard that.

“Allowance...”

He put his hand to his forehead, feeling completely speechless with the Xie Qi Fiend King.

He called himself a Fiend King, but his everything was held in the hands of his wife, he couldn’t even return home and all the money he earned was confiscated by his wife— although, the second part wasn’t unique to him.



But this Fiendess was obviously having the Fiend King dancing in the palms of her hands. Not only did she hold absolute authority over this Fiend Realm, she was even cheating on him without him knowing.

*Of course, that has nothing to do with me.*

Gu Qing Shan didn't bother with the small talk, his sword simply appeared in the void of space as he slashed from afar.

A boundless light-blue sword phantom lightly manifested and circled around Gu Qing Shan's body once.

*Rumble—*

Blood and flesh splattered everywhere, the entire palace was also cleaved in half.

As a Chaotic Star realm cultivator, Gu Qing Shan's spirit energy reserve had already far surpassed what it used to be.

With a single slash of his sword, he could infuse an immense amount of spirit energy to perform a powerful attack equivalent to any Secret Arts.

The few Fiends who were lucky enough to survive were stunned by this power and couldn't help themselves backing off.

An angry female voice shouted.

『 Which damn bastard dared to touch my palace!?’ 』

From deep inside the palace, a feminine figure leapt to the air and flew directly to this place.

It was the Fiendess.

Such a huge commotion finally got her attention.

The Fiendess landed in front of Gu Qing Shan and furiously shouted: 『 So it was you, garbage. You dared to destroy the palace, do you want to die!?’ 』

Gu Qing Shan calmly replied: “I am this world's Fiend King”

The Fiendess scoffed: 『 Do you really think that anyone else but yourself still thinks of you as a Fiend King? 』

Gu Qing Shan glanced at her.

How fast was a glance?

A lot of the Fiendess' protective treasures were triggered all at once, but none of them were fast enough, or strong enough to do anything.

The Fiendess' look of contempt and scorn froze on her face as her head fell to the ground.

The headless body collapsed.

Gu Qing Shan just stared at the Fiendess' corpse and waited for a while.

Grey fog began to rise from the corpse and formed a short series of runes.

The runes suddenly disappeared, as if something had caught it from the void of space.

Several dozen clusters of fog fell from the sky and landed around the Fiendess' dead body.

A withered hand reached out and picked up the Fiendess' head by her hair.

It was the Cruel Bone Devil King.

He had a pair of grey wings, a lanky body, and a haggard face.

「 How regretful, killed so suddenly that I couldn't even make it in time to save you 」

The Cruel Bone Devil King looked at the Fiendess' alluring face of beauty and sighed regretfully.

Gu Qing Shan looked at him, then at his powerful subordinates and cleared his throat: "Thank you for coming straight here, you really saved me a lot of trouble. Now, if you're done mourning, turn this way, I have a deal for you"

The Cruel Bone Devil King didn't care to look at him at all and just stared blankly at the Fiendess' head.

A long while later, he slowly spoke: 「 Your entire Fiend Realm is already mine, what else do you even have to make a deal with me? 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Give me the 5 Elemental Roots of the Cruel Bone Devil Realm, I have a use for them"

The Cruel Bone Fiend King finally turned to look straight at him and tried to probe: 「 Are you speaking on behalf of a Great One? Or are you saying someone wants to take over my Devil Realm? 」

"No" Gu Qing Shan answered: "I'm speaking on my behalf. Like I said, I have a deal for you"

「 You? 」

As if this was the first time he had seen him, the Cruel Bone Devil King observed him for a long while before asking the subordinate standing next to him: 「 Am I dreaming? Or has our poor Xie Qi Fiend King gone mad? 」

His subordinates all laughed.

A weak, cowardly, useless fiend actually requested the Cruel Bone Devil King to give him his evil world's Elemental Roots, what else could he be but insane?

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Gu Qing Shan sincerely replied: "I'm very serious. Because only right now can you use the Cruel Bone Devil Realm's 5 Elemental Roots to exchange for your own life"

While he spoke, a gentle breeze blew past the ruins of the palace.

The breeze quickly circled around all the devils and formed an inescapable trap.

Invisible wind without form that disallowed both entry and escape.

Innumerable numbers of minute sword phantoms made up this breeze. It swiftly encircled one of the devils, slashing and cutting him numerous times in a single split second.

All the other devils could see was that the devil was hit by a light breeze before scattering away like grains of sand.

The only thing left behind in the air was a faint smell of blood.

The wind began to pick up.

It swept over the bodies of each devil here, howling by their ears. It swept across this entire area, not leaving even a single empty spot.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: "Just look, I could've killed all of your subordinates, but I only killed one of them. This should be enough to show my sincerity, so I suggest you go ahead and seriously consider my offer"

The Cruel Bone Devil King stood there, feeling his heart sank as the cold wind swept by his body.

「 This is a sword technique, are you a cultivator? 」 he lightly grumbled.

Gu Qing Shan raised one finger.

An intense blinding arc of lightning was dancing around the tip.

The Cruel Bone Devil King was surprised.

「 Elemental Lightning, you are not a human...」 he muses.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I'm sorry, but I don't have a lot of time to let you think this over. I'll give you 10 more breaths"

The Cruel Bone Devil King observed him carefully and grunted: 「 I need more time to think 」

"Fine then" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

As soon as he did...

[Soul Sword] was activated.

The Cruel Bone Devil King's soul was shocked by the sword qi in Gu Qing Shan's eyes and became stunned for the blink of an eye.

The flying sword flew.

A split second later, the Six Paths Great Mountain sword had already pierced through the Cruel Bone Devil King's chest with a shimmering cold aura around it.

Gu Qing Shan's Elemental Lightning was infused——

[Dreamjolt]!

The Cruel Bone Devil King's body froze, falling into a dreamscape that lasted 5 seconds.

*Boom!*

Intense sword-infused wind descended from above and completely enveloped the Cruel Bone Devil King.

「AAAAarggggh!!」

The Cruel Bone Devil King let out a sharp scream.

Right at this moment, the Cruel Bone Devil King had just only taken out a staff that exuded dark lingering light.

He seemed to be preparing for some terrifying spell.

But the sword-infused wind wouldn't let that happen!

The howling wind quickly drowned out the Devil King's screams, enveloping both him and his subordinates at once.

Just a few seconds later.

Everything disappeared.

The Cruel Bone Devil King's limbs were gone.

Covered in blood and sprawling on the ground, he had nothing but fear in his eyes.

Gu Qing Shan stood still and muttered: "4 breaths have passed, you have 6 breaths left to buy back your life"

...

The Cruel Bone Devil King returned to the Cruel Bone Devil Realm as soon as his life was pardoned.

Gu Qing Shan was now holding 5 clusters of different-colored lights in his hands.

Blue was Lightning, white was Light, black was Dark, invisible but constantly noisy was Sound, and Purple was Wind.

Unlike the 5 Elemental Roots of the human realm, the 5 Elemental Roots of an evil realm wasn't Metal-Wood-Water-Fire-Earth, but rather Wind-Lightning-Light-Dark-Sound.

Very quickly, Gu Qing Shan engraved his will onto these Elemental Roots through his inner sight.

Using the same technique as before, he skillfully stretched and weaved the Elemental Roots into a thin string and combined all of them.

After doing that a few times, a 5-colored string of light was created.

A few lines of glowing text scrolled past the War God UI.

[You've obtained a String of Law]

[This String of Law belongs to a tiny fragment of the broken Primordial Wraith Realm]

[If you bring it to another world, this small fragmented world will be pulled with it and combined with the second world into a new world]

Gu Qing Shan exhaled satisfyingly.

“Gongzi, so you want to fuse two fragments of the Wraith Realm?” Shannu asked.

“Yeah, but I’m not sure if this is going to be useful to me or not” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shannu thought briefly: “When two worlds fuse, the living beings of the main world will become stronger. Is Gongzi worried that the Law of world fusion wouldn’t affect you as an outsider?”

“Exactly, but there’s only one way to find out if it works or not. If this doesn’t work, I’ll have to quickly find another way” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shannu commented: “It should work because after you transform into the Xie Qi Fiend King, your body became the body of a Fiend of this world, so the world Origin should give you feedback—— it isn’t sentient, nor does it have the intelligence to tell your true identity”

“Let’s just give it a try” Gu Qing Shan said.

He threw the String of Law out.

## **Chapter 762**

After Gu Qing Shan threw the String of Law out, it quickly dissolved into the void of space.

The 5 Elemental Laws of the Cruel Bone Devil realm were melding into the Xie Qi Fiend Realm from the outside deep into its core Laws, moving the two worlds closer.

In the beginning, nothing happened.

But soon enough, more and more fiends and devils noticed the battle from earlier.

Around the ruins of the palace, various fiends and devils had already gathered to see what was going on.

The fiends and devils who came there early were telling the others of how the Xie Qi Fiend King tortured the Cruel Bone Devil King.

No one ever expected for the Xie Qi Fiend King to win against the Cruel Bone Devil King.

Furthermore, the Xie Qi Fiend Realm was the preferred entertainment venue for many evil creatures, a place where news was said to travel faster than light.

Not too long later, all the other evil realms would be informed of what transpired here.

But right now, a magnificent sight was appearing.

The evil creatures were screeching from shock and fear.

Gu Qing Shan and Shannu both looked up to the sky.

A huge stretch of land that blocked out the sky had appeared.

It silently but quickly flew towards the border of the Xie Qi Fiend Realm.

*Ooom—*

Under the watchful stares of the evil creature, the stretch of land fused and combined with the Xie Qi Fiend Land into one.

The miraculous change continued.

Below Gu Qing Shan's feet, a glittering shiny gem sprouted from the ground.

『 Demonic Originite Gem! 』

A fiend shouted.

This was a powerful resource within the evil realms, it can be used to conduct their miasma and help perform powerful spells and techniques.

The World Origin of the barren Xie Qi Fiend Realm, after fusing with the Cruel Bone Devil Realm, became more powerful and prosperous.

Numerous strange and rare items sprouted in various places in this world, both from the ground and the air.

The evil creatures began to scatter and snatch whatever treasures they could.

Right away, the entire Xie Qi Fiend Realm became chaotic.

"Gongzi, they're taking the treasures of this world" Shannu reminded him.

"Hm" Gu Qing Shan replied but was still silently sensing the changes of the world.

Shannu sounded a bit annoyed: "Gongzi, you're now the Fiend King of this world, those treasures should all belong to you"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "It's ok, more and more evil realms will soon be fused into this one, and these evil creatures will also belong to——"

He suddenly stopped and showed a joyful expression.

"I can feel... my power quickly increasing!" he muttered.

The feedback of the World Origin had arrived.

This meant that this world recognized his status as a Fiend King.

Just as Shannu said, he was the one responsible for the fusion of the two worlds, and since he was currently the Xie Qi Fiend King, a bit of the world's Origin was granted to him in response.

Gu Qing Shan quickly gave Shannu a formation plate.

"Shannu, guard me"

"Yes, gongzi"

Shannu then began to arrange layers upon layers of defensive formations.

She prepared the strongest formations that Gu Qing Shan knew, then stood by Gu Qing Shan with both the Chao Yin sword and the Six Paths Great Mountain sword in her hands.

Gu Qing Shan had already closed his eyes and manipulated the Origin he received to help him increase his cultivation.

His spirit energy wasn't turbulent at all, it was in a calm and settled state, it was stable, silently increasing like a lake after a long night of rain.

Gu Qing Shan put his hand on his Inventory Bag, chose a Chaotic Star realm cultivation scripture from the mega-sized jade tag that Xie Gu Hong gave him, and used Soul Points to completely comprehend it.

In just a few moments, the method to break through all the stages of Chaotic Star realm was engraved in his mind.

Gu Qing Shan did as the scripture taught and guided the increased spirit energy inside his Dantian to quickly circulate around his body.

He reached Chaotic Star middle stage.

And Chaotic Star late stage immediately after.

...Just a bit more and he would breakthrough Chaotic Star realm and reach Origin Aspect realm.

His spirit energy was still as stable as ever.

The increase in power from the World Origin made it so that Gu Qing Shan's body and soul vessel were both in peak conditions.

— which meant that he would be able to continue breaking through!

When Gu Qing Shan tried releasing his inner sight, he found that the range of his perception had increased, and his sense of perception itself had become a lot more vivid and clear.

This was good news.

Because the two movement techniques he knew both relied on the range of his inner sight to perform better.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but sighed emotionally.

The fact that Bai Hua Fairy was able to rapidly advance through the realm was partly due to her overwhelming talents that can even cause the Divinities to feel envy, but the other part must be due to the overwhelming benefits of fusing worlds.

Various cheers could be heard coming all around the Xie Qi Fiend Realm.

The fiends that had originally inhabited this world will also have obtained the feedback of the world and grew stronger.

The entire Xie Qi Fiend Realm was becoming more powerful.

Standing there, Gu Qing Shan slowly grinned.

His grin was becoming wider and wider until he couldn't help himself laughing out loud.

"Gongzi, what's going on? Is there something funny?" Shannu couldn't help but ask.

"Shannu, you should know this. When a Heaven's Tribulation is triggered, the strength of many of the Fiend Kings and Devil Kings who comes at its summon will be restricted so that they are only one step stronger than I am—-- and they will come to take my life during the Heaven's Tribulation"

"Yes, gongzi"

"But this way, none of them will be able to win against me, and I won't need to be so careful and choose the weaker evil realms to declare war on"

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Gu Qing Shan was still grinning as he spoke: "This way, I won't even need to go anywhere, I'll just trigger the Heaven's Tribulation and summon them here. Wouldn't I be able to harvest the mutated Elemental Roots of many evil realms quickly and efficiently?"

Shannu froze.

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fist tight and praised: "The name [Heaven's Tribulation] truly is accurate, in the name of Heaven, I shall take the World Origins from the Fiend Kings and Devil Kings as Tribulation!"

Shannu was shocked looking at Gu Qing Shan, then hesitantly spoke: "Gongzi... that's not what Heaven's Tribulation is supposed to mean..."

"Don't worry about it, for us right now, that is what it means"

Saying that, Gu Qing Shan circulated his spirit energy to try and connect to the Laws of heaven and earth.

But since this world was still undergoing world fusion, the Laws of heaven and earth weren't able to manifest a Heaven's Tribulation yet.

In other words—--

The world couldn't react in time.

If he took this chance, Gu Qing Shan would be able to ignore facing the Chaotic Star realm's Heaven's Tribulation entirely and move onto the next realm.

This was quite a rare situation to be in.

After thinking briefly, Gu Qing Shan realized what was happening.

And he pulled his spirit energy back, postponing his breakthrough.

*—--without a Heaven's Tribulation, the Fiend Kings and Devil Kings would not come here, and I wouldn't be able to quickly collect the Elemental Roots of various evil realms.*

*What? You want me to go to their worlds and beat them one by one?*

*That's way too slow.*



*Using Heaven's Tribulation is a lot more efficient.*

Gu Qing Shan silently waited for the world fusion to end.

Right now, he needed a Heaven's Tribulation.

While waiting, he suddenly recalled something.

*The Heaven sword's location is now clear.*

*I've already found out what the Desolate monsters and Divinities are planning as well.*

*The fusion of the two evil realms has proven that I can use it to increase my cultivation.*

*A lot of things are now crystal clear.*

*Then---*

Gu Qing Shan looked at the War God UI and glanced at one of its icons.

This icon was unique as it depicted the figure of him fighting with swords in hand.

[War God Quest]

In Triste's collection world, Gu Qing Shan managed to trigger the change of a [Destiny Quest] and turned it into [War God Quest]

The help that [War God Quest] provides wasn't simply a better Quest reward.

During the process of the Quest, [War God Quest] will temporarily provide him a method to use his Soul Points that was available only during the Quest.

Last time, Gu Qing Shan received [Iaido], giving him the ability to increase the power of his Skills.

Although this ability was lost after the Quest was finished, during several crucial points before that, [Iaido] became extremely useful more than once.

*And now, the conditions should already be met...*

*It's time to activate this unique power again!*

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and spoke: "System, we're going to issue a Quest"

The War God UI lit up.

The icon for [War God Quest] appeared at the center of the UI.

Three lines of glowing text appeared under the [War God Quest] icon.

[Where your sword points is also the objective of the System's Quest]

[War God Quest is about to be activated, please state the ultimate objective of your Quest]

[Note: The more difficult the Quest objective, the more complicated the process of finishing the Quest is, the more powerful the Soul Points usage method provided will be]

Gu Qing Shan said without hesitation: “Our Quest objective is to obtain the Heaven sword”

The War God UI paused briefly.

The icon for [War God Quest] begins to give off a bright circle of light.

After that, various lines of text appeared to state the details of the Quest.

[According to known intel, the War God Quest has been issued]

[Quest description: This is the requiem of humanity from the Age of Old. Desolate monsters and Divinities have formed a treaty to hunt down humanity to extinction, and they were close to achieving this. But during the last few moments of the era, humanity managed to forge the twin swords Heaven and Earth. It is said those he who wields the twin swords will eliminate all the Divinities who once oppressed the human race]

[Quest details: During the moments of humanity’s extinction, you traveled through countless years with a powerful enemy behind you, as well as various methods of suppression and elimination prepared by the Desolate monsters and Divinities ahead of you. You must defeat all your enemies and win against all odds in order to obtain the Heaven sword]

[Quest objective: Obtain the Heaven sword]

[Quest reward: The difficulty of this Quest far surpasses everything that you’ve ever gone through before, deeply influencing the fate of humanity, or perhaps the fate of all living beings as a whole. In consideration of this, the War God Quest will perform linkage with War God Title and arrange an appropriate Quest reward according to your performance]

Below the War God UI, the icon for [War God Title] slowly floated to the center of the UI and combined itself with the Quest.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

*Linkage?*

*Both [War God Quest] and [War God Title] would participate in the same Quest, this was the first time I’ve seen such a thing.*

A few moments later.

New lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Note: You hold the duo identity of being both human and Devil King. You created an unprecedented technique that is the Iris Sword and began to study sword techniques above the realm of Sword Saint ahead of time. The strength and mercilessness of your name have become widely known to all evil creatures, because of this, War God Titles have made the appropriate preparations]

[Note: The linkage of War God Title and War God Quest have created this unique method of Soul Points usage]

[During this War God Quest, you will gain a temporary War God Title]

[Temporary War God Title: Sword Demon]

[Once you complete this War God Quest, the title Sword Demon will be turned into your exclusive War God Title]

[Equipping this title grants you the Title Skill: True Soul Cleaving Eyes]

### **Chapter 763**

The sun, the moon, and the stars were all gone.

The Golden Flame Divinity emerged from underneath the ocean, standing on top of the water surface and looked up at the sky.

「 Purple Fog...」

He muttered with an unprecedented unease in his voice.

The Purple Fog would soon infiltrate every corner of the Primordial Heaven Realm and change it into an environment suitable for Desolate monsters to thrive.

Indeed, once the Purple Fog fully enveloped the Primordial Heaven Realm, the entire Desolate monsters population would descend.

The Desolate world wasn't actually a real world, it was only a cage for the Desolate monsters, a place they were given to make it convenient for them to watch over that broken gate.

The Golden Flame Divinity sighed.

It had been a few days since he returned to this world and continued to search for Gu Qing Shan.

During these few days, no matter what the Divinities from the past tried, they couldn't find where Gu Qing Shan was at all.

Even the Golden Flame Divinity was doing everything he could.

But just like the rest, he couldn't find where Gu Qing Shan was.

The Golden Flame Divinity suspected that Gu Qing Shan had already been devoured.

When he told the figure of light his suspicion, the figure of light immediately went to find the Desolate race of this phantom image.

That was yesterday, and the figure of light still hasn't returned even though it was already the evening of today.

The Golden Flame Divinity once again dived into the ocean and continued his search.

He still hasn't given up and was still doing everything he could to search for Gu Qing Shan's whereabouts.

A long while later.

The Golden Flame Divinity resurfaced.

There weren't any special places that could be used to conceal oneself under the ocean.

At this point, the figure of light appeared.

「 How is it? What did the Desolate race say? 」

The Golden Flame Divinity immediately asked.

「 They only care about eating humans, they just chased me out without answering anything 」 the figure of light curtly replied.

「 That bunch of conceited fools... 」 the Golden Flame Divinity gritted his teeth.

「 It does not matter, their own Apocalypse is coming soon, there is no need to be angry 」 the figure of light replied.

「 I'm not angry, I'm annoyed because we don't know if Gu Qing Shan was eaten by them or if he is still alive 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

「 That is indeed true, quite troublesome 」 the figure of light said.

The Golden Flame Divinity thought briefly and asked: 「 In the end, since this is nothing but a phantom image, how about we capture a Desolate General and find out about Gu Qing Shan from it? 」

「 What do you want to do? 」 the figure of light asked.

The Golden Flame Divinity replied: 「 The Desolate race's fate is already sealed, we'll just capture one of them before they all die and search its memories to see if we can find Gu Qing Shan 」

The figure of light went silent briefly before answering: 「 That is indeed possible, but we must be discreet. Otherwise, even if Gu Qing Shan remains inside this phantom image, both you and I will face the unrelenting pursuit of the Desolate race, unable to do anything about him 」

「 I know, we need to discuss this in detail to make sure that there are no loose ends 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

...

Two days later.

A huge humanoid monster was floating in the water, slowly sinking up and down.

This was the corpse of a Desolate General.

On the surface of the water, several figures shrouded in light were silently hovering.

Their plan was very successful.

9 Divinities acted at the same time, suddenly ambushing and capturing this stray Desolate General.

As their interrogation was over, the answer the Divinities obtained caused them to feel even more depressed.

The Desolate race has never seen Gu Qing Shan.

The Divinities all fell into thought.

The figure of light spoke: 「 Humans cannot possibly achieve this, they couldn't escape from both us and the Desolate race. So if Gu Qing Shan is still within this phantom image, he would definitely not be able to escape our search 」

The Golden Flame Divinity suddenly said: 「 What if he isn't in the Heaven Realm? 」

「 Impossible. The worlds we created are under our absolute control, we have not allowed any living being to enter them 」 the figure of light refuted.

The Golden Flame Divinity replied: 「 That's not what I'm talking about. What I mean is, besides the Primordial Heaven Realm, didn't the Primordial Wraith Realm still exist? 」

The Primordial Wraith Realm!

The other Divinities were shocked.

Indeed, it was very possible that the human cultivator came to the Primordial Wraith Realm.

This was the most plausible explanation for the current situation.

The figure of light went silent briefly and spoke: 「 The Primordial Wraith Realm was broken into several thousand fragments by the combined power of the Desolate race and us. It would take quite a bit of time to search for him 」

「 As long as we can find him, spending a little bit of time is nothing 」 the Golden Flame Divinity said: 「 First we should find out if anything worthy of noticing had happened in the Wraith Realm recently ... 」

「 That is simple, it is quite easy to buy off those evil creatures 」

The figure of light took out a rose-colored gem and held it in his hand.

He chanted a long incantation.

A few moments later.

A canine fiend about the size of a fist appeared from the void of space.

The canine fiend landed on top of the rose-colored gem and carefully observed it.

「 This Originite Gem is quite decent, I will accept it, ask me anything you want to know 」 the canine fiend told them.

「 Has anything worthy of note happened recently? 」 the figure of light asked.

「 Worthy of note? There are new realm-scale wars erupting and news of secret and hidden treasures appearing every day, you need to be more specific 」 the canine fiend replied.

「 During the last few days, has anything strange happened in the Wraith realm? Something unheard of before, something that shocks all the fiends and devils? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity asked.

The canine fiend answered without thinking: 『 Ah, something like that actually did happen 』

「 Tell us 」

The canine fiend cleared its throat and spoke: 『 A certain Fiend King fused 11 evil realms together in the span of a few days. Very strangely, that Fiend King never declared war or anything like that, but he still managed to obtain those worlds' Origin 』

『 Even stranger than that, none of the Fiend Kings or Devil Kings tried to take revenge on him at all, they just silently accepted this 』

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『 Also, I heard about 3 Heaven's Tribulations happening consecutively in a place called the Xie Qi Fiend Realm 』

『 Do you know what Heaven's Tribulation is? It was supposed to be something that only human cultivators would have to face, and no one besides the Fiend Kings and Devil Kings knows why Heaven's Tribulation descended on an evil realm, let alone 3 of them 』

『 I tried to find out more information by staying close to a Fiend King while he was drunk 』

『 But that Fiend King only muttered over and over that 'he isn't human, he isn't human', so I didn't find out anything else 』

The Divinities patiently listened.

「 That's him 」 the Golden Flame Divinity spoke in a low voice.

The figure of light immediately demanded: 「 We want the incantation to travel to the Xie Qi Fiend Realm 」

The canine fiend trembled slightly but still told them.

The figure of light, the Golden Flame Divinity as well as all of the other Divinities there all chanted the incantation.

A few moments later, they disappeared from the Primordial Heaven Realm.

The only one left there was the canine fiend. When it saw the floating Desolate monster corpse in the ocean, it gradually realized something.

It clicked its tongue: 『 Damn it, I just came here to sell some information, but seems like this is a lot more trouble than it seems 』

『 No, I have to get away from here right now 』

It hugged the Originite Gem and disappeared into the void of space.

...

The Xie Qi Fiend Realm.

A luxurious, newly-built palace.

This was where the Xie Qi Fiend King lived.

But Gu Qing Shan currently wasn't in the palace.

Several hundred miles away from the palace, in a certain open market, there was a famous bar for both fiends and devils.

Gu Qing Shan was sitting by the window, enjoying some good liquor of the evil realms.

Suddenly, he sensed something.

Putting the bottle back down, Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag without hesitation and took out a jade box.

He opened the jade box, took out the jade disks inside and kept it in his hand.

As soon as he was done, Gu Qing Shan came out of the bar and looked up at the sky.

9 glorious and solemn clusters of light were gradually descending from high above.

*Divinities!*

*The Divinities have arrived at this fiend realm!*

Sensing the Divinities' unique aura, the entire Fiend Realm was immediately plunged into rage and chaos.

A furious roar came from inside the Fiend King's palace.

『 Damned Divinities, why have you come to my Fiend realm! 』

A Fiend King wearing full-body armor brought several dozen powerful fiends and devils and flew to the sky.

If there were no Desolate monsters that came, this Fiend King wasn't at all afraid of a few Divinities!

In the sky, the solemn voice of Divinity came in reply.

「 Fiend King, do not try to offend a Divinity, or you will pay for your insolence 」

While he was talking, that Divinity had already attacked first.

He's quite the cheating fellow.

Gu Qing Shan was hiding among the group of evil creatures, silently observing the battle in the sky.

The Heaven's Tribulation has revealed what he really was.

After breaking through three realms in a row and fusing almost a dozen worlds, his identity was crystal clear.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't choose to wage war against the Fiend Kings and Devil Kings of the other worlds.

He casually offered the world after its fusion to a, particularly powerful Fiend King.

Currently, that Fiend King was the ruler of this realm.

With the great merits he earned from offering the Fiend Realm, he continued to stay here.

He transformed into an unassuming evil creature and easily slipped away from the watchful gazes of the other fiends and devils.

And now, Gu Qing Shan was glancing at the Divinities in the sky with a somber expression.

The figure of light was leading the other 8 Divinities to attack the Fiend King.

The only one who didn't participate in the battle was a Divinity with a golden flame burning between his eyebrows.

He released a ray of light towards the ground, apparently searching for something.

Gu Qing Shan focused on him and carefully sensed his power.

*...too strong.*

*Even when I've reached Void Beholder realm, I'm still quite a bit weaker than him.*

Gu Qing Shan regretfully shook his head.

*I need to become stronger, enough to surpass even Xie Gu Hong before I can hope to defeat him.*

*...I need... more time.*

Gu Qing Shan pulled his gaze back.

Taking the chance when the other fiends and devils came out of the bar to watch, Gu Qing Shan returned inside the bar and casually grabbed a bottle of liquor.

He sat down in a secluded corner and casually arranged a temporary concealment formation with a wave of his hand.

Taking a sip of liquor, Gu Qing Shan waved his hand over the jade disks.

The seal he placed on them was immediately dispelled.

Right away, the jade disk detected the spirit energy waves that have far surpassed the necessary requirements coming from Gu Qing Shan's body.

An invisible shockwave came from the jade disk, silently enveloped Gu Qing Shan, and took him away from this Fiend Realm.

No, not just from this Fiend Realm.



Under the jade disk's guidance, he left this phantom image completely and headed for the next secret phantom image of humanity.

All of this happened inside a bar several hundred miles away from the fiend palace.

Not a single Divinity noticed this.

#### **Chapter 764**

When Gu Qing Shan left.

The Xie Qi Fiend Realm.

The battle in the sky continued.

But the Golden Flame Divinity had already scanned the entire Xie Qi Fiend Realm once.

There were no humans here.

If this was humanity's age of prosperity and they were in the Primordial Heaven Realm, he would've had a lot of trouble finding Gu Qing Shan.

But now that Gu Qing Shan was the only human cultivator left in the thousands of fragments of the Primordial Wraith Realm, he was basically a diamond in a pile of coal, both eye-catching and easily identifiable.

The Golden Flame Divinity could easily find Gu Qing Shan through sensing even the tiniest bit of spirit energy waves unique to cultivators.

But he didn't sense any of that.

The Golden Flame Divinity fell into thought and gestured to the figure of light.

The Divinities backed off.

And then, they gradually retreated from the Xie Qi Fiend Realm while pushing the Fiend King back.

The name of the Xie Qi Fiend King who forced Divinities out of his world became widely known across the Primordial Wraith Realm from this day onwards.

...

After he returned to the Primordial Heaven Realm, the Golden Flame Divinity took out the Desolate coin again.

Seeing that, the figure of light told him: 「 The coin has brought you through two consecutive phantom image warps, it'll be unusable for a while 」

The Golden Flame Divinity grunted in frustration.

*Just where did Gu Qing Shan go?*

*Did he leave the Xie Qi Fiend Realm and traveled to another fragment of the Primordial Wraith Realm?*

*Or did he leave this phantom image?*

*There are countless phantom images, and thousands of Wraith Realms.*

*Neither of these situations makes it easy to find him.*

At this point, the figure of light spoke up: 「 You can go back now, there is no need to stay here 」

「 But why? I still haven't killed him yet 」 the Golden Flame Divinity asked.

「 You do not need to kill him, leave the rest to me 」

「 Do you have any good ideas? 」

The figure of light replied: 「 In the Age of Old, we are not sure what humanity did during its last few moments, but we know that these phantom images were created in order to hide something 」

「 Because of this, even if we do not know where humanity left the final step, we have been able to locate a few unique phantom images that contain crucial steps necessary for the completion of their plan 」

「 And so, we have arranged the preparation to completely destroy all of those unique phantom images 」

「 At this point, if we have no way to detect where that human went, or pry the secret of the final struggle of humanity from him, then we will simply activate what we prepared and destroy those phantom images right now 」

「 Even though we wouldn't be able to find out what that secret is, that cultivator you are pursuing will similarly be unable to arrive at the final secret 」

「 This matter will be stopped right here 」

Hearing that, the Golden Flame Divinity nodded.

*If I can't locate Gu Qing Shan, this truly is the best choice.*

*As long as Gu Qing Shan doesn't arrive at the final step, everything that follows will also not happen.*

After a few moments of silence, the Golden Flame Divinity said: 「 If that's the case, I'm relieved. Then I will wait here for a while longer until the coin can be used again 」

The figure of light asked: 「 Do you still intend to kill him? 」

「 Hm, that is my mission. The only difference now is that I no longer have to be in so much of a hurry anymore 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

「 Very well, I will leave first. I need to trigger the destruction of those unique phantom images 」 the figure of light said.

「 That would be best, the future of our Divine race will also be assured this way 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

The figure of light nodded and disappeared without a trace.

...

On another side.

Gu Qing Shan was traveling through the void.

This was an area of chaotic time and space with countless phantom images from the Age of Old occasionally showing up within the endless void.

Gu Qing Shan got close to touching some of them a few times.

If he did, he would arrive at the era within that phantom image.

Fortunately, the jade disk always managed to control his flight in time and lead him along a complicated path towards a determined destination.

Finally, he arrived at the next phantom image.

Gu Qing Shan appeared within a library full of jade tags.

As soon as he appeared, someone pulled him quickly out of the room.

Gu Qing Shan said nothing and just looked at the other party.

This was a disciple of the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace, he was wearing the most common type of disciple garment and shouting while running: "Hurry! The disciple competition is about to begin, you've already signed up so why were you standing blankly in the library?"

Gu Qing Shan smiled: "I suddenly recalled a spell that might have been useful, so I went to the library to check it out"

The other disciple sighed: "I really have nothing to say to you. Hurry up, your turn is coming up soon"

"Alright" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The two of them continued to fly until they reached a large plaza.

Not too far away, a raised platform could be seen in the middle of the plaza.

There were cultivators standing on the plaza, currently fighting with various spells.

Several great cultivators hovered in the sky, observing the disciples' competition below.

All the peak masters were here.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze passed through every peak master.

Then his eyes met the eyes of the Fine Sound peak master, Luo Bing Li.

Luo Bing Li nodded.

And her sent voice followed.

“Well done, you were able to breakthrough Radiant Soul and reach Void Beholder in the previous phantom image. Your chances of surviving through this phantom image will be greatly improved”

“What’s going to happen here?” Gu Qing Shan asked through his inner sight.

Luo Bing Li replied: “During this era, the Desolate monsters will attempt their very first large-scale invasion. The damage and destruction they caused to humanity was immeasurable, countless cultivators would be eaten, countless sects would be destroyed”

“What is my goal for coming here?” Gu Qing Shan continued to ask.

“A certain Desolate Lord appeared in this invasion, carrying with it a unique Desolate coin. And it will be slain during this war”

“That unique Desolate coin it carries contained some sort of power that could suppress the powers of Divinities”

“In history, not too long after this coin appeared, it was taken away by the Divinities”

“You must show extreme excellence during this war, that way, at the moment that the Desolate Lord is slain, you will be able to take the coin without any interruptions or objections. I will also help you stop the interference of others”

Gu Qing Shan summarized: “Which means I will need to leave immediately after I obtain the coin?”

Luo Bing Li replied: “Correct, that coin is too important, once you obtain it, you have to leave immediately!”

“How will I leave this phantom image?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Take this jade disk, when you want to leave, use spirit energy to activate it”

Gu Qing Shan felt something appear in his hand.

As he looked down, he found it that it was a jade disk.

The jade disk wasn’t at all different from the others he had obtained, the only difference was the engraving at the center: [Zhen Sui]

As he put it away, the jade disk immediately attached itself to the other jade disks.

At the same time, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[You’ve obtained a central unit of the jade disk, the System can now display its information]

[Item name: Heaven Realm Rotation Jade Disk (incomplete)]

[Grade: Unique item]

[Doomsday Chronicles: This item is a secret among secrets, the fruits of human cultivators’ greatest intelligence, it has never been seen by the public]

[War God Skills: From this point onwards, you will be able to learn how to create a Heaven Realm Rotation Jade Disk]

Gu Qing Shan didn't pay much attention after he finished reading the text.

He put everything away and asked: "When will the Desolate monsters invade?"

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Luo Bing Li replied: "It should be right about now"

*Boom!*

The sound of huge explosions broke out from every direction.

The ground and mountains trembled.

Countless fearful and desperate screams rang out.

The sun in the sky disappeared.

The world was plunged into darkness.

"What happened?" the Perching Cloud peak master solemnly asked.

"The sect master isn't here, let us go check it together" Luo Bing Li suggested.

The other peak masters nodded.

"The competition will not stop! The Elders will oversee the rest. Make sure to do your best, disciples!" the Ancient Dawn peak master declared.

""Yes!"" the disciples replied.

The peak masters jumped up and disappeared into the void of space, leaving the Barren Cloud Heaven's Grotto.

Gu Qing Shan was warming himself up.

Seems like the war was about to begin.

*After this, I will only need to participate in the war as normal.*

*With the Elemental Lightning [Dreamjolt], my own swordsmanship, as well as my current Void Beholder realm cultivation, it shouldn't be too hard to display the excellence of a Heavenly Palace disciple.*

While he was thinking, the ground trembled intensely again.

*Looks like the Desolate monsters' invasion was quite violent and cruel.*

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

A few moments later.

*Boom!!!*

An overwhelming strike broke through the Barren Cloud Heaven's Grotto and struck the Ancient Dawn peak directly.

Under everyone's shocked gaze, the entire Ancient Dawn peak was blasted to dust.

Gu Qing Shan scowled.

*Something isn't right.*

*I can remember clearly that the Ancient Dawn peak was still perfectly intact several years later, at the time when I joined the sect and met Xie Gu Hong.*

Gu Qing Shan instinctively formed a Presence Concealment seal with his hands and retreated to the most secluded spot within the crowd.

Immediately after he did so, two corpses crashed into the ground.

*Thud! Thud!*

Two dull sounds of impact came as the corpses hit the ground.

Many female disciples screamed from fright.

The crowd became chaotic.

Because what just crashed into the ground were the corpses of the Perching Cloud peak and Clear Water peak masters.

Gu Qing Shan's pupils dilated.

*What's going on?*

*These two peak masters were clearly still living just fine in the eras following this, how could they die now?*

Sensing something, he suddenly looked up.

The void of space around the Heaven's Grotto was ripped open.

Numerous divine figures cloaked in brilliant shrouds of lights appeared in the sky together with countless terrifying monsters!

Someone shouted in desperation: "NO! DIVINITIES, WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED US AND SIDED WITH THE DESOLATE MONSTER!?"

*Divinities!*

*Desolate monsters!*

*They're attacking humanity together!*

*This never happened in known history.*

Gu Qing Shan slowly retreated step by step.

He has already noticed that the situation was very unusual.

*Should I leave right now?*

*But I still haven't obtained the Desolate coin that contains the method to suppress the power of Divinities.*

Gu Qing Shan put his hand on the Heaven Realm Rotation Jade Disk, a bit hesitant.

Luo Bing Li suddenly appeared.

Her body was covered in blood as she put her hand on Gu Qing Shan's shoulder.

Gu Qing Shan immediately noticed that time was flowing slower around them.

Everyone, including the Divinities and the Desolate monster in the sky, was moving at a sluggish pace.

Luo Bing Li had just activated some sort of Thaumaturgy.

"I can only stall for a little bit of time, listen to me closely"

She spoke with a rapid tone: "This phantom image has been discovered by the Divinities, they're currently working to destroy it"

"You won't be able to obtain that Desolate coin anymore, the only thing you have to do now is to leave and travel to the next phantom image right this moment!"

"Hurry!"

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan immediately infused spirit energy into the jade disk.

Invisible ripples of power surged from the jade disk and enveloped him.

Just as he was about to leave, Gu Qing Shan noticed the time flow around them was gradually returning to normal.

Luo Bing Li was forming a hand seal with her hands to activate a spell.

Invisible ripples also appeared around her body.

From the looks of it, she also intended to escape from this phantom image.

"Go first, I will find you later" she sent her voice.

"Got it!" Gu Qing Shan replied.

A Divinity suddenly noticed the spatial dilations here.

He rushed downwards, aiming the sharp lance in his hand at Luo Bing Li.

*He is aiming to take her life!*

At this point, Luo Bing Li's spell still hasn't fully been completed, while Gu Qing Shan was already going to leave!

Luo Bing Li had a slight hint of despair in her eyes.

While performing a space-time transfer technique, she couldn't perform any other techniques or even interrupt the hand seals, otherwise, everything she did would be useless.

If she gave up on performing the transfer, she would easily be able to block this attack, but she would also be locked in battle with the Divinity and be unable to escape.

If she continued to perform the transfer, she would be killed right now.

No matter what she chose to do, she would end up dead.

In that split second, Gu Qing Shan shouted: "Continue!"

Luo Bing Li quickly made her decision, gritted her teeth, and continued to form more series of hand seals.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze went past Luo Bing Li and calmly glanced at the Divinity.

Within his pupils, countless sword images seemed to be frantically surging.

[True Soul Cleaving Eyes]!

For a split second.

The Divinity disappeared from this world, then immediately reappeared.

He couldn't understand what had just happened at all, so he stopped cautiously in the air, glaring coldly at Gu Qing Shan.

But this was exactly what Gu Qing Shan had hoped would happen.

The jade disk inside Gu Qing Shan's chest had already fully activated!

With a small noise, the jade disk whizzed him away from this phantom image.

Immediately after him, Luo Bing Li's hand seal produced an invisible slash that cut open the void of space.

She immediately jumped inside and disappeared.

## **Chapter 765**

Within the dark, cold and frigid mist, Gu Qing Shan was quickly moving forward.

The Heaven Realm Rotation Jade Disk was giving off an invisible power that carried him along as it headed towards the next unique phantom image.

Behind Gu Qing Shan, a phantom image was glowing slowly brighter as if it was burning up.

At a certain point, the phantom image became blindingly bright before shattering within that light.

It scattered and disappeared within the boundless mist of space-time.

Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth and tried his best to conceal his presence while arranging layers upon layers of concealment formations without caring about expenditures.

Everything happened too suddenly.

The Divinities and Desolate monsters had joined forces to completely destroy that fragment of time.



Fortunately, Luo Bing Li managed to get to him in the nick of time, otherwise both her and Gu Qing Shan would've been in danger.

Gu Qing Shan recalled everything that happened up to that point.

Luo Bing Li was unfathomably strong.

It wasn't very hard to slow down time around an ant, or even perform [Time Stop] to it.

But if the target was a Divinity, any temporal technique would be greatly resisted by the Divinity's own power, making it fail most of the time.

However, just now, while being surrounded by countless powerful Desolate monsters and Divinities, Luo Bing Li still managed to slow down time.

She slowed time down for every enemy.

That was completely unimaginable.

And even then, the two of them nearly got caught by the Divinity.

Gu Qing Shan quickly thought about what happened and struggled to arrive at a conclusive answer.

A Desolate coin that could suppress the power of Divinities was hidden inside that phantom image.

But the preparations of the Age of Old human cultivators have been ruined, and Gu Qing Shan lost his chance to obtain that coin.

*How would the next steps of the plan be affected without that coin?*

Gu Qing Shan didn't know and had no way to find that out.

Around him, there was nothing but a frigid fog of mist.

The Heaven Realm Rotation Jade Disk continued to release its guiding power to bring him through the thick fog.

Gu Qing Shan avoided phantom image after phantom image, heading in a determined course towards the next prepared phantom image.

This was a moment where he was truly alone without anyone to rely on.

No one would be able to help him here.

After staying silent for a while, Gu Qing Shan suddenly gritted his teeth and drew his sword.

A sword phantom flashed.

*Cra-rik!*

A soft shattering sound echoed.

The Heaven Realm Rotation Jade Disk was broken into countless pieces by his attack.

The power that came from the jade disk disappeared.

Without the power of the jade disk, Gu Qing Shan began to descend towards the deeper end of the space-time mist.

As he descended, he went past countless phantom images.

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent and did nothing.

He was letting himself fall without a destination.

At some point, he suddenly entered an unassuming phantom image.

This was a completely random entry, not even Gu Qing Shan knew which point in time of the Age of Old did he actually enter.

...

Barren land.

Thick clouds of smoke rose to the sky, dying the sunlight from afar a deep shade of red.

The deep red setting sun slowly sank into the horizon.

Gu Qing Shan had arrived in the middle of a ruin.

He found himself standing in a puddle of blood.

He glanced around.

Countless severed and tattered limbs laid were scattered all over where he stood, together with various mangled corpses and skeletons.

This place looked like some sort of human slaughterhouse.

No, from the bite marks on those skeletons, this place had clearly been ravaged once by the Desolate monsters.

The monsters had already eaten their fill and left.

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Gu Qing Shan stood still, releasing his inner sight to check his surroundings.

He didn't even know which point in time he arrived at, so he needed to immediately collect intel and make a proper assessment of his current situation.

Shannu appeared from the void of space.

She glanced at the thick red shade of blood on the ground, shocked by the ruined and desolate scenery around them.

Even in hell, sceneries like this weren't common.

"Gongzi, why did you destroy the jade disk? You should know that if we lost that jade disk's guidance, we wouldn't be able to find the Heaven sword" Shannu doubtfully asked.

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly before answering: "I know that arbitrarily destroying the jade disk wasn't a good idea either"

"Gongzi, then why..."

"I was asking myself a certain question"

"What question is that?"

Gu Qing Shan slowly explained: "If I were one of the Age of Old Divinities who devised that plan, what would I do after I've just destroyed one of many phantom images that humanity arranged?"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Obviously, I would destroy every known phantom image that humanity prepared, that way, no one will be able to make it through this special process and arrive at that true final moment of the Age of Old"

"This way, all of humanity's hope will be reduced to nothing"

"So Gongzi decided to destroy the jade disk and decided not to head towards the final destination anymore?" Shannu asked.

Very unusual of him, Gu Qing Shan appeared to be indecisive.

"I... don't know if what I did was correct. But if we try another hypothesis, what if I'm the existence that traveled back from the future attempting to capture Gu Qing Shan, what would I do in this situation?"

Shannu froze and answered right away: "I don't know"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "If I were him, I will discuss with the Divinities from the Age of Old, have them temporarily not destroy the next unique phantom image and instead hide inside it, silently waiting for Gu Qing Shan to arrive"

"Simply hiding is the dumbest solution, but also the safest solution. The Divinities will be in their peak condition against an exhausted enemy, as soon as 'Gu Qing Shan' appears, they will ambush and capture him without much trouble"

Shannu couldn't help but shiver at that thought and couldn't help asking: "Would the Divinities from the Age of Old be willing to listen to that existence's words?"

Gu Qing Shan muses: "They should be... Earlier, in the Xie Qi Fiend Realm, the Divinities from the Age of Old were also trying to search for me, this meant that they were very interested in the final secret of humanity"

He concluded: "That's right, Gu Qing Shan wasn't strong, so the Divinities would be more than willing to leave at least one phantom image and wait for Gu Qing Shan to take the bait. After all, capturing him is easy, as long as he appears at all"

Shannu sighed: "Gongzi, I really can't see anything but danger everywhere. How about you and I return to Huang Quan, the Grand Tie Wei Mountain can resist even the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation, as long as we hide inside hell, even Divinities wouldn't be able to catch you as the Devil King"

Gu Qing Shan looked at her and spoke in a heavy voice: "Shannu, you're afraid"

Shannu shook her head: "I'm not afraid of the Divinities, I'm afraid of them taking your soul captive. If they did that, gongzi wouldn't even have the chance to reincarnate"

Gu Qing Shan's gaze slowly turned gentle and warm.

"Don't worry, it's only the beginning, your gongzi has never been scared of these garbage" he softly declared.

While saying so, he walked forward on the bloody ground.

With each step, he changed his appearance.

"All I need to do is hide, and I'm quite the expert at that"

First he turned into a burly man, then a white-haired old man, then a long-bearded Daoist, then a young boy around 7-8 years old, and finally a young teenager.

The teenager stopped, his gaze followed the trail of blood on the ground to look at a tattered corpse.

"I'll borrow your appearance, if fate allows it, I will avenge you, thank you"

Saying so, he and Shannu disappeared from this ruined scenery.

...

On another side.

The space-time fog.

A certain phantom image.

Around this phantom image, countless figures were hiding within the void of space.

With their strength, no human cultivator would be able to sense them here without being a great cultivator of Xie Gu Hong's level.

They silently hid themselves there, patiently waiting.

Even if hiding took a very long time, they had the patience.

But this wait seems to be without end, as the human that they were waiting for never appeared.

Finally, a voice rang out from the void of space.

「 I think... he might not be coming 」

The Golden Flame Divinity appeared from the void of space and said regretfully.

He looked at the Desolate coin in his hand.

*Soon.*

*I'll be able to use it soon.*

**Chapter 766**

The midnight wind was intense.

The lonely moon hung high above the sky; illuminating the ground below in a boundless cold light.

A young man was moving along a series of ruins all by himself.

——these ruins weren't part of a destroyed city, but rather was a floating island that had crashed and broken apart.

Besides Gu Qing Shan who had transformed into a young man, there wasn't any living person left on this floating island.

He has been moving around the ruins for over half an hour already, but still hasn't found the intel he wanted.

He needed to know which time period he was in.

Time was the most important factor in traveling through history, as knowing the time period also meant knowing the crucial events that happened around that period.

Gu Qing Shan had already gone through the escape of the Heavenly Palace, the years of cultivating under Xie Gu Hong, and the destruction of the Heaven realm. During his travels among the phantom images, he had already taken note of various points in history.

——all of which were crucial turning points.

But despite looking for so long, he still couldn't find anything that would tell him what this period of time in the Age of Old was.

At some point, Gu Qing Shan stopped.

He stood still and didn't even dare to breathe.

His spirit sense was constantly telling him that the omens of death were already over him without any warning.

Gu Qing Shan still didn't move.

He didn't know where the attack would come from.

But that didn't stop him from preparing.

——his inner sight was already released and covered the area several hundred feet around himself, so he concentrated it on around a collapsed wall.

The collapsed wall replaced him where he previously stood.

[Shadow Shift]!

Almost at the very same time, a dull screech came out.

The wall was instantly struck by a blurred figure and crumbled into fine dust.

When Gu Qing Shan reappeared several hundred feet away, he observed the giant figure that tried to attack him with his inner sight.

A pair of faint, transparent wings, six legs attached to its long snake-like body.

Looking at its head alone, one would find that it had a pair of vertical irises and an appearance similar to that of a dragon—— but when one saw its six feet and its wings, one would realize that it was only similar.

One of these creature's wings was already stuck on its back, unable to move anymore.

Something had already cut open a huge wound on the back of its head and almost severed it, its head was only barely clinging on to its neck.

Two cold flashes of light appeared.

The two swords struck directly into the monster's deep wound at the back of its neck at the same time.

The monster's head was still attached by a thin layer of skin that refused to be cut off.

But its life had reached the end.

The monster tried to crawl forward to escape, but after a few times, it went limp completely.

The two swords continued to slash the monster's body, all the way until its head was completely severed from its body.

A few hundred feet away, Gu Qing Shan was holding his breath.

He was kneeling on one knee, unable to move for a while.

Red blood was flowing from the top of his head, soaking through his clothes.

Even as his swords returned, he remained unmoving.

It had been a very long time since Gu Qing Shan was met with such a situation.

No warning, no preparations, not even time to react.

This was a sudden battle of life and death that only lasted for a single split second.

Fortunately, the monster was already heavily wounded.

——this was natural, even Desolate monsters wouldn't be completely unharmed if they tried to completely destroy one of the bigger cultivation sects in the Primordial Heaven Realm.

That monster probably got wounded very badly and was afraid of being eaten by its fellow monsters that it silently hid itself all this time, until Gu Qing Shan got close enough.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

He took out a formation plate and quickly arranged a defensive formation around himself while carefully observing his wounds with his inner sight.

His spirit energy had gathered at the wound and closed it up.

*—I've clearly avoided its attack, why did I still get wounded?*

*The blood seems to be flowing from the pores on my head.*

*Which means that wasn't a physical attack.*

*Could it be that screech before it attacked?*

*When that monster screeched, I was briefly stunned for a short moment, unable to even trigger my Iris Sword.*

*If I remember correctly, the void of space above my head was also disturbed ever so slightly...*

Gu Qing Shan felt cold sweat on his back.

He had just fully analyzed the monster's attack.

In that split second, the monster used three types of attacks.

Firstly, it used a soul vessel attack to cause the target's consciousness to briefly dull.

Secondly, an invisible spatial rending attack. Gu Qing Shan didn't know what it used to trigger this attack, but it almost took his life.

Thirdly, a full-power physical attack. The wall was completely destroyed by the monster's leap and was turned completely into fine dust.

In a single moment, three types of different attacks were unleashed at once.

*—fortunately, I managed to activate [Shadow Shift] to avoid its attacks.*

*With my swords, in its wounded state, the monster wasn't able to win in a head-on battle.*

Gu Qing Shan slowly stood up.

Following his thoughts, his flying swords attacked the entire area of 10 miles around the monster's corpse with powerful sword phantoms.

No reaction.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan approached the monster's corpse to carefully observe it.

This monster's heavy wounds were shocking.

It was already dead, but various Elemental wounds still lingered on its body, as well as all sorts of bludgeoning, slashing, and piercing marks by various weapons.

It had obviously suffered countless attacks.

Gu Qing Shan put the monster's corpse away, feeling a bit emotional.

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As a cultivator, one needed to go through Qi Training, Foundation, Golden Core, Rejuvenation, Ascended, Sainted, Projection, Tribulation, Virtualized, Cryptic, Chaotic Star, Origin Aspect, Radiant Soul, and Void Beholder, a total of 17 realms.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan had reached the final step of what he knew and achieved Void Beholder realm.

A Void Beholder realm cultivator had the ability to break through the void of space to gaze upon the infinite worlds with a wave of their hand.

He had already reached where Xie Dao Ling stood before he left for the Strife Zones, only missing one final step to break out of the birdcage and becoming a true powerhouse of the 900 million World Layers.

But even so, when faced with a heavily wounded Desolate monster, he was just a split second away from being killed.

Anyone else at the same cultivation realm as he was would definitely die under the same circumstances.

*—-if all the monsters that humanity had to face were like this, that is...*

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

Even the notification on the War God UI that said [Soul Points +300,000] didn't make him feel any better.

*—-I need to keep breaking through!*

*Xie Gu Hong was able to infiltrate the Desolate world to kill a Desolate army leader, I have to also be able to do the same!*

Gu Qing Shan silently swore to himself.

Half an hour later.

Another side of the ruins.

Gu Qing Shan still hasn't been able to obtain any more clues.

He found a secluded spot, took out a pill, and slowly chewed it.

This wasn't a pill with some sort of unique ability, it was just a Fasting Pill that Gu Qing Shan made himself.

This pill contained various nutrients necessary for a cultivator's body to function, at the same time slightly stimulate clarity of the mind and spirit.

He was feeling a bit tired, and since he had no time or mood to cook, he could only use these pills for sustenance.

After he swallowed the Fasting Pill and rested for a bit, Gu Qing Shan had regained his strength.

He began to organize the intel he had obtained.



According to the tattered clothes of these corpses as well as the way the destroyed treasure tools were made, Gu Qing Shan had managed to determine which sect this floating island belonged to.

In the Age of Old, only the most powerful sects owned large-scaled floating islands like these.

These included the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace, the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect, and the Brilliant Jade Steeple.

The Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace's sect garment was completely black, Drifting Moon Immortal Sect only allowed Daoist garbs, while Brilliant Jade Steeple's disciples liked to wear colorful clothing because the disciples of this sect were mostly female.

The only clothing that Gu Qing Shan managed to find within the bloody ruins were Daoist garbs.

This meant that this was clearly the floating island of the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect.

But the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect was destroyed twice in history.

The first time this happened was quite early on when the Divinities had only just made contact with humanity and helped them rebuild this sect destroyed by the Desolate monsters.

The second time was a few years after he joined the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace.

At the time, the war situation was very intense, many great cultivators lost their lives during this period of time.

Because of how close the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect was to the frontlines, during one crucial campaign, their entire sect was destroyed by the Desolate monsters.

"Which time... is this exactly?"

Gu Qing Shan muttered to himself.

He only fell into thought briefly before taking out a formation plate and arranged consecutive concealment formations around himself.

He patiently waited.

*If this was the first time, quite a few humans and Divinities would soon arrive at this place.*

*If this was the second time...*

Gu Qing Shan sat cross-legged inside the formation with his eyes closed, cultivating while he waited.

As time slowly passed, one day went by.

He dispelled the formations, stood up, and sighed.

No one came to check the situation here, and no Divinities came with cultivators to help rebuild this sect.

*This meant that the war was still ongoing, and at a very tense pace as well.*

*This can't be the first destruction.*

*This must be the second time.*

During the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect's second destruction, no Divinity came to save this sect.

At the time, the entire frontlines had collapsed.

The most powerful cultivators had to gather, even Divinities were forced to act.

The Barren Cloud Palace Master, Xie Gu Hong had to halt all of his duties in the sect, even ignoring the two newly-inducted disciples and brought many of the sect's forces to the frontlines.

At the time, Xie Gu Hong entrusted his two disciples to Gu Qing Shan and had Gu Qing Shan teach them for him.

*Wait a minute... if it was this point in time...*

*At the time, Huang Zhang and Shen Yang had just returned with me to the Barren Cloud master peak, and I asked them if they knew what was happening in the frontlines.*

*What did Huang Zhan say at the time?*

Gu Qing Shan recalled what happened.

...

*Huang Zhan spoke in a low voice: "I heard that the war situation is getting desperate. A Divinity went missing, most people assume that he was surrounded and slain by Desolate monsters"*

*Shen Yang also chimed in with a heavy voice: "This was the first time that a Divinity had died in battle, so the great sects are currently in shock and panic"*

...

Gu Qing Shan slowly nodded.

*The Drifting Moon Immortal Sect was destroyed, one day later, the frontlines collapsed, and half a day later, a Divinity was killed.*

*Following that, the Divinities brought all the great cultivators of humanity to the frontlines to battle against the Desolate monsters.*

*This point in time should be around when the frontlines collapsed.*

*There should be about half a day's worth of time left until the Divinity was killed.*

*—how strange, didn't the Divinities have a treaty with the Desolate monsters?*

*Why did the Desolate monsters kill a Divinity?*

*...and this was the first time that a Divinity had been killed.*

*How were they killed?*

*This should be an extremely crucial piece of intel.*

Gu Qing Shan went silent briefly, slowly stood up, and looked towards the direction of the frontlines.

## **Chapter 767**

Half a day left until the Divinity was killed.

Night retreated as dawn came.

A crimson sun slowly rose as its million rays of light illuminated the world.

Flocks of birds flew in the sky, cawing sorrowfully as they did.

They seemed to have noticed the start of the war so they were hurriedly running away.

A heavy and deep sound of a war horn resounded across the air.

*Oooo—oooooooo—*

The rumble of the warhorn proliferated thousands of miles, calling the remaining human cultivators to gather and once again regroup at the frontlines.

Gu Qing Shan silently stood among the ruins of the floating island, listening to the sound of the horn.

He already read through the war reports of this campaign and committed every last detail to heart.

At dawn, the Divinities left their respective Divine Palaces and headed to the frontlines to participate in the war.

The sound of the war horn signified the Divinities trying to reorganize the scattered troops of humanity in preparation for a decisive battle.

About half an hour later, the Desolate monsters would ambush and attack the rendezvous points of humanity's troops.

The decisive battle would then begin.

This was the only time in history that all of the Divinities participated in a campaign all at once.

Through this decisive campaign, the Desolate monsters were temporarily forced to retreat, leaving the Divinities and humanity some breathing space.

This was supposedly a war where both humans and Divinities went all-out without holding anything back, so it was perfectly recorded in history.

Gu Qing Shan silently thought on how he should go about this.

All of a sudden, a flock of birds descended from above.

They landed inside a large open area of the ruins and began to rest.

Apparently having been through both; a long fright and a long flight, the birds approached a pond of water and began to drink water.

Even after they had their drink, the birds remained here, apparently satisfied with this new environment.

There was no huge rumbling, no stray spells, and no sharp sword-infused or intense blade-infused wind, so the birds thought that this place would be safe.

They could be assured safety while resting here.

Gu Qing Shan briefly observed these birds.

They were a species of birds called the Wind Feather.

They were named this way because they were the fastest flyer in the sky, far surpassing any other types of birds.

It was very easy to see these birds within the Primordial Heaven Realm. But because they have extremely thin bodies that have basically no meat to be eaten, as well as how they release a foul stench after death, no one really hunted them for food.

The reason why there weren't as many of them around despite being born so 'blessed' was due to their own lackluster ability to breed.

When Gu Qing Shan was thinking about these birds, a streak of blinding light could be seen rising from the horizon all the way towards the sky.

*The Divinities have begun to act!*

*This meant that the Desolate monsters have ambushed the various rendezvous points and have engaged in battle with the forces of Divinity and humans.*

*The decisive battle has begun!*

Gu Qing Shan clenched his teeth, prepared everything he needed to do mentally before moving out.

He suddenly appeared behind a Wind Feather and pulled one feather from it.

The bird was surprised.

Fortunately, losing one feather doesn't stop it from flying, so it cawed and immediately took to the sky.

Frightened by their friend's cry, the other birds also took flight.

In that moment, one Wind Feather more than earlier also took flight.

But it didn't chase after the other Wind Feathers, rather it was heading towards the direction of the frontlines.

...

Transformed into a bird, Gu Qing Shan was quickly flying across the sky.

Although the battle had only just begun, he had to make it to the fiercest point of the frontlines in order to find the appropriate place to observe how the Divinity was killed.

A few dozen seconds after he took flight, Gu Qing Shan suddenly heard desperate screams coming from the ground.

He released his inner sight to look down.

A giant skinless monster whose body consisted purely of red muscle fibers was charging straight into the ranks of the cultivators.

The light of the 5 Elemental powers erupted all over.

Metal-Wood-Water-Fire-Earth!

The cultivators were using Elemental spells to the best of their abilities.

But even when their spells hit the monster straight on, none of them managed to even make it flinch, let alone do anything else.

Elemental spells of this level weren't enough to hurt it.

The monster grabbed an Elemental spell cultivator and tossed him straight into its mouth full of sharp teeth.

At that moment.

A cultivator stepped forward and started banging a gong in his hand.

While hitting the gong, he was chanting a Buddhist mantra at the same time.

The monster had to let go, unable to hold on to the cultivator anymore.

It was trembling and moaning from pain.

The cultivator with the gong was sweating bullets as he continued to chant the Buddhist mantra.

While the monster continued to take step after step towards the gong cultivator.

“Now!”

Another cultivator shouted.

All the cultivators stood up and attacked the monster with all of their strength.

The monster opened its mouth wide and let out an earth-shattering roar towards the cultivators.

This roar seemed to contain some sort of unimaginable power, as it killed the nearest cultivators right away.

The gong cultivator was also affected by its roar and coughed up some blood.

He collapsed on his knees, both hands trembling, unable to lift them up again.

The sound of the gong stopped.

Without being restrained by the sound technique, the monster once again regained its fierceness.

It lightly leapt forward and pounced on to the gong cultivator.

The monster had already opened its huge palms to grab the despairing cultivator.

It was then that Gu Qing Shan arrived.

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He originally wanted to go pass this area and headed towards the battle zones with more intense battles.

But at that split second between life and death, he suddenly vanished from the air.

At the next second, he had turned back into a young man and silently landed not too far away from the monster.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the monster.

The monster vanished for a split second before appearing again.

*Thud!*

One of the monster's arms fell to the ground.

The monster looked up and roared in pain.

Thanks to its battle instincts, the monster was able to sense everything that happened around it, but even if it had been wounded before, it had never been wounded by such a strange attack.

One split second before, a man suddenly appeared.

The man simply stood behind it a bit further away without doing anything.

But it found itself in a world of darkness.

Before it could even react, a cold, sharp gleam sliced off one of its arms.

And it immediately returned to reality.

*Damn it!*

*What exactly happened?*

The furious monster turned to look at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan's sword art had already been triggered!

The Chao Yin sword and Six Paths Great Mountain sword both let out a slight 'wu wu' sound.

Both swords glowed sharply with blinding sword phantoms and slashed towards Gu Qing Shan's neck.

Just as the swords were about to connect, Gu Qing Shan disappeared.

The monster appeared where he stood, facing the combined attack of two swords.

One of the swords used [Dreamjolt], while the other used [Swallow Returns]

The monster stood absolutely still, completely unable to resist for five seconds.

Two intense sword phantoms overlapped from different directions at its neck and swiftly severed it.

The battle was over.

“A Void Beholder realm Sword Saint!” someone called out.

Void Beholder realm meant that he was already close to being a great cultivator of humanity, and being a Sword Saint, it wasn’t a surprise for him to be able to eliminate a Desolate monster by himself.

Everyone appeared glad.

Gu Qing Shan turned back at the cultivators, seeing that they were either wounded or close to death.

Another furious roar came from afar.

The ground trembled again.

Some sort of giant monster was quickly approaching this area.

Gu Qing Shan immediately ordered everyone: “Leave this place to me, the rest of you are in no shape to fight again, leave the frontlines, find somewhere to rest and wait for further orders!”

“Understood!”

The cultivators responded.

They hurriedly carried their wounded comrades away, running for humanity’s camps.

The gong cultivator staggered over and clasped his fist: “Thank you for saving”

“Don’t worry about it. Leave now, otherwise, you won’t get a chance to”

Gu Qing Shan urged him.

He could already smell a foul stench in the air.

That was the smell of rotten corpses in the Desolate monsters’ mouths.

The gong cultivator put a talisman into Gu Qing Shan’s hand and said: “Take this, I was about to use it earlier, but even if I did, I would’ve only been able to stall for a few moments before I die. It’s good that you came when you did”

As Gu Qing Shan took the talisman, lines of glowing text scrolled across the War God UI.

[Item: Perishing Sound Talisman]

[Single-use unique item]

[Using this item will immediately create a thunderous sound wave that destroys an enemy’s soul vessel]

Gu Qing Shan put the talisman away and replied: “This is very useful, I will graciously keep it. Thank you”

The cultivator lightly nodded to greet Gu Qing Shan and turned to leave.

Once all the cultivators have retreated.

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

“Shannu, I really messed up huh? I was supposed to not care about this place, I was supposed to go straight towards the most crucial point of the frontlines, but I couldn’t help myself stopping here and wasted so much time” he said.

He originally wanted to go straight to the most crucial point of the frontlines, transform into an unassuming creature and hide, then silently wait for the moment that a Divinity loses their life.

But he couldn’t help himself stopping on the way and saved a group of cultivators.

Shannu’s soft voice came from the Six Paths Great Mountain sword: “Gongzi, you didn’t mess up at all. It was because gongzi did it that you are gongzi”

Gu Qing Shan chuckled: “That’s quite a mouthful that you just said”

While talking, his hands didn’t stop.

He quickly put the monster’s body away.

From what he saw, this type of Desolate monster was only a soldier-class monster at most.

It was decently strong, but still far weaker than the 6-legged, winged snake Gu Qing Shan saw before.

In front of Gu Qing Shan, soldier-class monsters like these only need to show the slightest opening for the battle to be decided.

His [True Soul Cleaving Eye] was still at its primary level, but it was already able to forcefully pull an enemy into a temporarily-created world and attack them with a [Soul Sword] that temporarily physically manifested from his soul vessel.

For now, this temporarily-created world could only last in a blink of an eye, and the [Soul Sword] could only attack once.

But by ambushing them, combined with the powerful [Dreamjolt] Thaumaturgy, Gu Qing Shan could easily find many weaknesses of any enemy.

As a sword cultivator, the battle styles Gu Qing Shan could employ were becoming more and more numerous.

— the sound of monster roars could be heard coming from all over.

They were quickly approaching him.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t waste any more time here, activating [Ground Shrink] and left this area of the battlefield, appearing somewhere else several dozen miles away.

He turned into a Wind Feather bird again and took flight.

The frontline is close!

## **Chapter 768**

The drums of war rumbled.

The horns of war echoed.



Streak after streak of glorious light erupted from the horizon one after another.

After turning into a bird, Gu Qing Shan flew forward at full speed.

Whenever he came across a battle zone that seemed desperate, flying swords would appear from the void of space.

——[Dreamjolt]!

This was a Lightning Thaumaturgy, one that could counter the Desolate monster the most.

With five seconds of them being restrained, regardless of how clumsy the cultivators were, they would have a way to turn the table.

In reality, Elemental Sound techniques could also counter Desolate monsters, but as they were hard to grasp and required deep understanding to use, cultivators who were already used to Elemental spells normally weren't able to adapt.

Wind-Lightning-Light-Dark-Sound—— among the mutated Elements, Sound was the only one that existed in the Age of Old cultivation world.

Gu Qing Shan's Elemental Lightning was a unique exception.

He flew across the sky, headed straight deep into the frontlines before transforming back into a human, and landing in the middle of the battlefield.

This was already the frontline.

Besides the Divinities and great cultivators who were holding back the most powerful Desolate monsters elsewhere, this should already be the frontlines against the Desolate monsters.

The war had reached its most desperate point.

The entire army of Desolate monsters had already reached them.

Humanity was being pushed back.

This wasn't the same as the army of Desolate Demon Eyes from before.

This was a total invasion on all fronts!

Gu Qing Shan stopped hesitating and joined the fray.

Shannu's voice came out.

"Gongzi, aren't we going to wait for the right moment to kill that Divinity?"

"No" Gu Qing Shan replied, "that Divinity's fate had already been decided, we can't steal the kill, otherwise, if we were followed into this phantom image, they would immediately notice us for changing history"

"Then what are we doing here?" Shannu asked.

“We’re going to see how that Divinity died— I’ve already killed a lot of things, but I’ve never killed a Divinity before, so I need to watch how the Desolate monsters did it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Chao Yin sword returned.

A Desolate monster was eliminated by a group of cultivators.

Gu Qing Shan managed to take the last hit.

Seeing a notification pop up on the War God UI saying [Soul Points +100,000], Gu Qing Shan continued: “We’re going to keep fighting while we wait”

“Yes, gongzi” Shannu replied.

His two swords both took flight.

Gu Qing Shan manipulated both swords and entered the fray.

Powerful monsters like the 6-legged winged snake have already joined the battle against the Divinities and the great cultivators of humanity.

The majority of the Desolate monsters here were around the level of the soldier-class monster he killed earlier, specifically used to fight large numbers of cultivators at once.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t have to spend much effort to kill each of them.

With his current strength, he was capable of defending an area of just over ten miles by himself, ensuring that the battle situation would turn to the side of humanity.

But the frontlines itself was several hundred miles long, so his contribution alone was like a drop of water in the ocean, it didn’t affect the big picture of the war too much.

*Boom!*

Far at the horizon, a streak of light suddenly came and exploded right in the middle of the battlefield, killing numerous cultivators and Desolate monsters at the same time.

Gu Qing Shan was originally there, but he managed to react in time and used [Shadow Shift] to switch places with a Desolate monster.

He managed to escape with his life, but the number of human casualties kept on increasing in this war.

Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth, put a few pills in his mouth, and performed his sword arts to their absolute limits.

His swords left two long tails of blue lightning behind them, whizzing through the battlefield nonstop.

“Who are you!?”

A cultivator suddenly jumped out in front of Gu Qing Shan and shouted.

“I’m a disciple of the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect” Gu Qing Shan loudly replied.

“Ah, no wonder you look so familiar— but why aren’t you wearing armor?”

“My armor was broken” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Come, take mine. This is my family heirloom armor, never have I been wounded while wearing it”

The cultivator said nothing else and tapped his chest piece. His armor quickly came off his body piece by piece before automatically reassembling itself into a full suit of intricate armor that hovered between the two of them.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit shocked.

He looked at the other cultivator: “If I wear that, what about you?”

The cultivator stroked the armor with his hand and replied: “I’ll be fine. I’m a Fire Elemental cultivator so I can just stay behind you and attack”

Seeing how Gu Qing Shan was still hesitant, the cultivator added: “But you’re different. If you have armor, you can go deeper into enemy lines, gaining a lot of breathing room for everyone—— are you willing to don my armor and kill your way into enemy lines?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Nothing to fear!”

The cultivator then grinned at him and pulled his hand away from the armor.

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out, touched the surface of the cold, heavy suit of armor and infused it with his spirit energy.

Countless spirit energy runes lit up on the outside of the armor.

*Oom!!*

The entire armor split apart and reassembled on his body to form a full suit of armor.

Shannu sent her voice to remind him: “Gongzi, why are you going deeper now? Did you already forget that we’re supposed to remain here to wait and see how a Divinity is killed?”

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“I know, I forgot” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He pulled his visor down, wielded both of his swords in hand and shouted: “I am a sword cultivator, everyone, follow my lead!”

He flew straight towards the army of Desolate monsters——

——on the way, blinding sword phantoms of lightning manifested as an unstoppable torrent and charged forward without fear!

Seeing this Lightning-based attack, the Desolate monster recognized that something wasn’t quite right and cautiously retreated.

The morale of the human cultivators were quickly raised as they shouted in response.

“Charge!”

“Charge!”

“Kill them!”

The human army began to break into the Desolate monster’s side of the war.

This was a counter-attack!

Gu Qing Shan slashed again and again with his swords, each strike faster than the last.

With this sturdy armor, all he had to worry about was to kill! Kill! Kill!

Like a tsunami, humanity’s troops charged in with frenzy into the ranks of the monsters.

The monster’s casualties began to increase.

They fell at the cultivators’ march.

At some point, Gu Qing Shan sensed something and suddenly roared like mad.

The Elemental cultivator who lent him the armor had died.

Among the Desolate monsters, there was one that liked to ambush by throwing razor-sharp spears that grew from its own body.

Without armor to protect himself, the Elemental cultivator was screwed and killed instantly.

This was a battlefield, the frontlines of a war, a place where countless people are killed every moment.

But even so——

“DIEEE!!!” Gu Qing Shan shouted furiously.

*Boom!*

The storm of lightning bloomed like a storm, ripping the bodies of several Desolate monsters apart.

Gu Qing Shan also didn’t have much time to vent his emotions, he needed to be on constant guard to prevent himself from dying in the same manner.

He had to force himself to regain his calm.

But the words of that cultivator were still lingering in his ears.

*“But you’re different. If you have armor, you can go deeper into enemy lines, gaining a lot of breathing room for everyone—— are you willing to don my armor and kill your way into enemy lines?” he asked*

*“Nothing to fear!”*

*Damn it!*

*Damn it!*

*Why——*

*I’ve already done everything I could, I’ve tried everything to become stronger——*

*Why am I still unable to save a living, breathing life right in front of me!?*

Gu Qing Shan's eyes were bloodshot.

He went silent for 1 breath.

The cultivators around thought that he was exhausted, so they hurriedly gathered around to protect and block attacks for him.

A sword cultivator wouldn't easily go into enemy lines, but once they do, they are the one target that everyone follows and supports to the best of their abilities.

Because sword cultivators have never abandoned their own comrades, not even in death.

"Aaaa——"

Gu Qing Shan's sorrowful cry echoed across the battlefield.

His spirit energy erupted from his body, sweeping towards the back of the battlefield.

Fallen next to monster bodies, fallen by pools of blood, lost in various places on the battlefield, stuck on the monster's bodies...

All the swords.

*Oong——*

They vibrated at the same time.

A sword flew out of a dead cultivator's hand, silently circled around its owner briefly before leaping to the air, going against the wind, and arrived behind Gu Qing Shan's back.

A second sword flew out of a pool of blood, cried sorrowfully, and also flew towards Gu Qing Shan's back.

A third sword dislodged itself from the body of a monster and arrived behind Gu Qing Shan.

A fourth sword...

All the swords of dead sword cultivators gathered behind Gu Qing Shan's back, turning into a pair of constantly growing wings of swords.

They lightly touched one another, vibrating, waiting.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and sent his voice: "Shannu... I'm sorry, I have many ways of looking into how the Divinity died, but I can't leave right now"

Shannu replied: "It's ok, gongzi, regardless of what you do, I will always stand by your side as I am your sword"

Gu Qing Shan abruptly looked up and glared at the sea of monsters ahead of him.

"Come, have a taste of my Elemental Lightning Taiyi Sword Array" he muttered.

Intense powerful wind.

Roaring furious lightning.

The sword array was slowly manifesting.

## **Chapter 769**

Several hundred swords lightly hovered behind him.

Gu Qing Shan could feel the state of each of them, their trembling, their position.

With a single thought, these swords would immediately follow his order and eliminate any enemy.

These swords were like a part of his body, or perhaps more accurate, the manifestation of his mind.

Through his two lives, Gu Qing Shan had never experienced this before.

He suddenly realized.

*I've broken through.*

Indeed, within this phantom image of the Age of Old, he had surpassed the realm of Sword Saint as it was normally understood.

Glowing lines of text quickly scrolled past the War God UI.

[At Void Beholder realm, you can manipulate 700 flying swords at once]

[After the next breakthrough, you will be able to manipulate 1200 flying swords]

[This was a leap, a true breakthrough in the truest sense of the word. You have broken through the shackles of traditional swordsmanship and achieved the realm of unifying the mind and swords]

[From now on, you will be able to use hundreds and thousands of flying swords as you wish, manipulating them with your mind, performing Secret Arts with them or forming powerful swords arrays]

[This is the Great Attainment stage of a Sword Saint!]

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit emotional.

This place was a phantom image fragment of the Age of Old— because it was only a fragment, it couldn't affect the final results of what happened in the Age of Old.

But these moments truly did happen.

Gu Qing Shan could even cultivate, obtain Soul Points here, and become even stronger.

*This was only a fragment because even when humanity had done everything they could, they were unable to create a complete parallel world, only infinite amounts of fragmented phantom images.*

*But even so, to be able to do this at all was already far beyond what a normal person can imagine, possibly even beyond what a Divinity can imagine. That's why even when they were waiting for someone from thousands of years later to return and unlock this secret.*

*—where did this ability that was essentially creating an entirely different time and space come from?*

Gu Qing Shan didn't have time to think about it too much.

The huge commotion created by the flying swords was immediately noticed by the Desolate monsters.

Dozens of monsters that had razor-sharp spikes all over their bodies each pulled out a single spike and threw it at Gu Qing Shan with all their power.

The sharp spikes howled as they charged forward at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan put one hand forward.

One of the huge wings of swords behind him scattered into numerous sword images and appeared in front of him.

The flying swords gathered in one place to form a giant hand that gave off a cold gleam.

Gu Qing Shan casually waved his hand.

The giant hand made of swords also moved as he did.

*Clang clang clang clang clang!*

The spikes were all lightly slapped away by the giant hand.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze swept through the sky.

All the spikes stopped in the air.

Arcs of blue lightning flowed across the spikes.

Gu Qing Shan had taken control of these spikes by treating them as flying swords!

*Shill—*

*Shill—*

*Shill—*

Cold flashes of light streaked across the sky.

The spikes returned to the monsters even faster than before, piercing through their bodies and anchoring them in place.

Gu Qing Shan didn't wait any longer.

The sword array was now ready.

He triggered the Taiyi Sword Array, manipulated all the flying swords to scatter, disappear into the void of space, and quickly weaved through the air against the wind.

The sword array descended from above.

A storm of swords had arrived!

Nonstop popping sounds came from the wind.

———this was the sound created by the countless swords being infused with Elemental Lightning as they flew through the air with supersonic speed.

Truthfully, if it was only this much, the Desolate monsters weren't at all wary.

But the situation was a lot different from what they had anticipated.

Any monsters that were touched by the wind immediately froze in place, unable to move a muscle.

Right after that, countless flying swords would come out from the void of space and circle around the monster, finely dicing their bodies at an unimaginable speed.

With the sound of the vibrating wind storm, the army of monsters was being swallowed up bit by bit.

The sword-infused wind was dyed red.

The wind continued to blow.

The storm howled and roared as it continued deeper into the horde of monsters.

Five breaths later.

Everyone stopped their hands, unable to believe the scene that had just unfolded in front of their eyes.

A huge empty area was opened up on the battlefield.

The Desolate monsters that once occupied that area were completely eliminated by the sword array.

Gu Qing Shan stopped his sword art.

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The sword array ended.

Notifications were popping up nonstop on the War God UI.

[You've killed a Desolate Lizardman, Soul Points +50,000]

[You've killed a Desolate Spike Beast, Soul Points +90,000]

[You've killed a Desolate Guard, Soul Points +180,000]

...

Although they were just soldier-class monsters, the sheer amount of monsters killed gave Gu Qing Shan an astronomical amount of Soul Points.

The human cultivators cheered and continued their counter-attack.

"Gongzi, congratulations for breaking through, but you openly used Elemental Lightning that doesn't exist in this world to kill so many Desolate soldiers, I think you might be in a very dangerous situation soon" Shannu reminded him.

"Hm, I know" Gu Qing Shan replied.



*—-if any Divinities followed me to this world, even without doing anything else, as long as they found out about this battle, they would very quickly recognize who I was.*

*At that time, the problem of my survival will be called into question.*

Even if no one came, after this war was over, Gu Qing Shan would still have to go through the trouble of explaining his identity in general.

Since this was a tense battle situation, as long as he was human, no one would question his identity and his Elemental spirit energy, but as soon as this was ended, the humans and Divinities of this world would definitely take notice of him.

What was that power that would be so destructive and counter Desolate monsters so well?

For Gu Qing Shan, this would be the price he had to pay for being emotional.

—-but on the other hand, if he didn't insist on staying true to his belief even at the risk of death, Gu Qing Shan wouldn't have been able to break through from his sorrow.

He stopped briefly and coldly analyzed the situation of the battlefield.

At this point, humanity's side had the advantage, his flying swords would fly to every area of the battlefield that was stuck in a stalemate, unleashed the power of Elemental Lightning, and forced the Desolate monsters to endure attacks while being unable to resist.

Gu Qing Shan leapt up high, concealed his figure among the several hundred flying swords, circulated his Lightning spirit energy, and flew across the battlefield with all of his swords.

Every monster that was attacked by him would be stunned in place, then killed by a flying sword that came from above.

The scales of victory had tilted towards the side of humanity.

"Let's go"

Gu Qing Shan told Shannu.

He brought the hundreds of flying swords across the battlefield, headed for a faraway location.

—-that was his original destination.

The strongest cultivators of humanity and the Divinities were gathered there at the border of two worlds to stall the rulers of the Desolate world.

To avoid letting overwhelmingly powerful Desolate monsters into the battlefield and massacre humanity's cultivators, the Divinities have concisely ordered all normal cultivators to not go past the frontlines.

Because each Desolate leader was an existence that no normal cultivator could ever go against, even with vastly superior numbers.

The border of the two worlds could only be guarded by Divinities and the strongest cultivators of humanity.

While flying, Gu Qing Shan recalled the war reports he memorized before.

According to the records, the border of the two worlds this time was the Desolate world's Barren Western Plains, and the Heaven realm's Cold Jade Forest.

The battle of Divinities would erupt within this vast area.

*As for where that Divinity died...*

Gu Qing Shan quickly determined the direction by comparing the map and terrain.

He headed towards a large forest full of lush green trees.

*—indeed, this should be where that Divinity would fight against a Desolate monster and breathe his last, the Heaven realm's Cold Jade Forest!*

Looking over this forest, Gu Qing Shan noticed something.

*This isn't right.*

*Birds are still flying freely over the air.*

*Many animals are also wandering the forest grounds.*

*Even if the animals and other living beings of this world had already seen and experienced the intense battles of cultivators with their spirit energy, they wouldn't be able to survive through such battles.*

Pulling all his flying swords back, Gu Qing Shan transformed into a bird and took flight.

He integrated himself with the other flying birds, acting like he was flying in circles aimlessly.

Even after a full circle of flight, he still saw no battle in the forest, and no Divinities or monsters.

*Did I remember it wrong?*

*No, I wouldn't.*

*The Divinity fell during the second half of the war, around noon.*

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the sky and suddenly understood.

*It wasn't time yet!*

*That's great.*

*—but how should I remain in this forest without being discovered by both the Divinity and monsters?*

While flying, Gu Qing Shan was falling into thought.

*Roar!!!*

Abruptly, an earth-shattering roar came out of nowhere.

*The Desolate monsters are coming!*

With this roar, countless animals in the forest fell unconscious.

The birds in the sky also cried out and dropped out of the sky.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan was silently glad: "Perfect!"

He also let out a cry and dropped down into the forest following the other birds.

### **Chapter 770**

Cold Jade Forest.

On top of a really high branch.

Two unconscious birds fell down from the sky and got caught by the thick layer of leaves.

Gu Qing Shan was one of them.

He was lying below the wing of the other bird, being pushed down really hard.

Gu Qing Shan slightly turned to throw its wing off his body.

The other bird opened its eyes in confusion and turned to look at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan glared at it.

The bird fell unconscious even deeper.

Solving that little trouble, Gu Qing Shan also closed his bird eyes, laid still on the tree branch, and pretended to faint.

Time slowly passed without a sound.

It was slowly getting closer to noon.

Intense trembling that shook the entire forest came not too far away.

That was the other side of the border, the Desolate world's Barren Western Plains.

Due to the intense shockwaves literally coming from another world, its effects have already been greatly diminished.

But for this forest, they were still shockwaves powerful enough to destroy many things.

A few moments later.

An angry roar came from the sky: 『 Despicable low lives who can't even keep a promise! 』

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

*This is Desolate Tongue.*

He stopped breathing, closed both eyes tightly, and only used his inner sight to check the situation outside.

Without any warnings, a glorious streak of light followed by a long tail of flames crashed into the border of the forest.

*Boom—*

A huge crater was formed.

The invisible shockwaves broke hundreds of thousands of trees, immediately throwing the forest into chaos.

Gu Qing Shan let the shockwaves act on his body and sweep him away without resisting even a little bit, tossing him through the air before landing on the ground.

He understood very well that it was currently a moment of war, if any of those strongest monsters were here, they would immediately notice if something was off.

Gu Qing Shan continued to keep his eyes shut and only released his inner sight to silently observe the situation.

A dimly glowing light came out from the crater, followed by a voice that only barely managed to keep a dignified tone: 「 Great Lord of Desolation, you've misunderstood 」

From the void of space, another voice replied: 『 Misunderstood? 』

「 Indeed, as the Divine King, I can guarantee you that we've always kept to and acted in accordance of our treaty 」

*The Divine King!*

*The one that was beaten to the ground was the Divine King!*

Gu Qing Shan was completely shocked but didn't dare to let out even a tiny bit of his aura.

*Could it be, the one who died was the Divine King?*

*That would explain a lot of things.*

*No wonder the Divinities kept their mouths shut about the identity of the Divinity that died and forbid humanity to look into it.*

The voice from the void of space spoke up again, this time carrying a hint of anger: 『 I came all the way from the other side of the Desolate world, avoided the human and Divinity allied army to personally hear your explanations, and all I get is that I've 'misunderstood'!? 』

「 Yes, it's a misunderstanding, I assure you I can explain 」 the Divine King replied.

『 Then talk, I'm listening 』

「 The reason we created so many worlds was to attempt to recreate the past. To see what kind of things the Bygone Era humanity was thinking that they gave up on everything and entered that gate 」

The voice from the void of space scoffed.

『 You— mere insects would be so full of yourself to try and look into the ultimate secret of the Bygone Era? 』 the Lord of Desolation mocked.

The Divine King raised his voice: 「 At least we are attempting to look into it instead of sitting around doing nothing. We're just trying to find out the secret! 」

The Lord of Desolation went silent briefly before continuing: 『 You mean to tell me that you haven't done anything to go against our treaty, is that right? 』

「 That is indeed the case 」 the Divine King replied.

At this point, a streak of flaming light descended from above and stood guard by the Divine King.

「 Sire, I've come to guard you 」 the other light spoke.

「 There is no need 」 the Divine King replied, 「 I know that as long as the Lord of Desolation understands everything clearly, he would not make things difficult 」

『 Indeed 』 the Lord of Desolation continued, 『 As long as the bunch of you do not try to betray me and plan some despicable things behind my back, I would not make things difficult 』

The Divine King raised his voice again: 「 Then let this invasion end here, Lord of Desolation, you've already frightened my subjects 」

「 As long as you return to the Desolate world, I can promise you that I'll provide as much human flesh as you wish 」

The Lord of Desolation's voice slackened a bit: 『 That is fine, as long as you answer my one question 』

「 Please go ahead 」 the Divine King said.

『 You stole that thing from the Desolate Abyss—— according to what you said, it was because you wanted to create new worlds and search for the secret of the Bygone Era 』

『 Because of how you've meticulously raised high-quality human cattle and provided meat for my people so far, I will forgive you for that 』

The Lord of Desolation paused briefly, then continued: 『 But how dare you try and hide it from me that you've created a Samsara!? 』

*Shu!*

A dull sound.

A 7-colored spear suddenly appeared from the void of space and pierced through the Divine King's body.

「 Aaaaa——! 」

The Divine King screamed in pain, clutching the 7-colored spear with both hands and begged: 「 No, forgive me! 」

From the void of space, the Lord of Desolation's voice continued: 『 The Samsara cannot be controlled. You dared to imitate the power of the human race and created it means that you're challenging my authority 』

The Divine King was forced to his knees, the brilliance around his body went completely dark.

With a single strike, the 7-colored spear had broken the Divine King's Divine Armor, reducing it to fragments on the ground.

The Divine King's figure was revealed to be exactly the same as a human, the only difference was a burning flame in between his eyebrows.

He endured the pain and breathed heavily: 「 Lord of Desolation... the Samsara had only just been created, it doesn't have any power... I... offer it to you...」

『 Divine King, you moron, you had the gall to go against me without declaring it, you actually tried to harvest the power of the Samsara. You don't understand, even though that thing is still incredibly weak right now, it will surely grow on its own, finally becoming a powerful tool of the human race, becoming so great that neither you nor I will be able to control 』

The Lord of Desolation's voice was full of mockery: 『 Pitiful and pitiable fellow. If you had resisted me, or perhaps a bit better, if you had tried to issue a direct challenge towards me and lived for at least 10 exchanges, I would have appreciated your character 』

『 But instead, you foolishly chose to covet the power that could never be controlled 』

『 That is the true reason why I kill you 』

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The 7-colored spear began to give off intense light that erupted from the Divine King's body.

「 No! Stop! 」

The other light that was guarding the Divine King shouted.

It tried to charge towards the void of space.

The spear was pulled out and lightly swung.

The light was immediately swatted away, crashed, and slid across the ground to form a huge dirt valley of several hundred meters.

The light disappeared and turned into fragments of broken armor.

A Divine race soldier appeared.

He also looked human but had a burning Blue Flame in between his eyebrows.

「 Damn it—— 」

He spat up blood, but was too heavily wounded and couldn't do anything but watch as the spear pierced into the Divine King's body again.

The Divine King reached his hand out, apparently wanting to catch the spear again.

But it was useless.

He slowly went limp while on his knees, the flames extinguished little by little.

He then hung his head.

The spear was pulled out.

The Divine King was dead.

From the void of space, the Lord of Desolation's voice came again: 『 Seeing how you so loyally protected your King, I will spare your life. Send this message to the rest your race 』

『 I will break the Samsara, and you are forbidden from ever touching it again, otherwise you will end as the Divine King did 』

『 Continue to raise more human cattle for me—— right, you may choose another Divine King 』

『 Now, I will personally descend upon the battlefield between the two worlds 』

『 After I devour a few high-ranking cultivators, our army will retreat 』

『 Hopefully, you will have learned your lesson and be a bit more honest from now on 』

The overwhelming presence in the void of space gradually went away.

The Lord of Desolation had left.

The Blue Flame Divinity waited for a while more.

Only after desperate screams started to echo from the faraway battlefield did he try to stand up.

But the power of the 7-colored spear was truly too great, the Blue Flame Divinity staggered forward a few steps before collapsing again.

The Blue Flame Divinity glanced unwillingly at the Divine King's corpse.

He then began to crawl towards the Divine King's corpse.

This forceful action reopened his wounds, causing him to spit out some more blood.

But the Blue Flame Divinity didn't pay attention to that.

He carefully and meticulously checked the Divine King's corpse.

Suddenly, he raised his head and laughed like mad: 「 Ahahaha, so you're finally dead. From now on, no one will be a match for me anymore! 」

「 I am the next Divine King! 」

He was so focused on checking the corpse, then found himself in extreme joy so he didn't pay much attention to the minor details in his surroundings.

When the Blue Flame Divinity first checked the Divine King's corpse.

On a fallen tree several dozen miles away from where he was.

A Wind Feather bird opened its eyes.

At the next split second.

The Wind Feather bird vanished.

A 6-legged winged snake appeared right behind the Blue Flame Divinity.

This wasn't the same monster that Gu Qing Shan faced before, but a fully intact, unwounded 6-legged winged snake.

It was one of the higher-tiered Desolate monsters.

Even after the entire Drifting Moon Immortal Sect was destroyed, it still managed to leave on one last breath after the desperate battle.

At that moment, the Blue Flame Divinity had just raised his head and laughed like mad: 「 Ahahaha, so you're finally dead. From now on, no one will be a match for me anymore! 」

「 I am the next Divine King! 」

His laugh stopped.

——when a 6-legged winged snake attacked with all its power, it utilized a total of three attacks all at once.

Firstly, a Sound-based soul vessel attack that caused the target's mind to become blurred.

Secondly, an invisible spatial rend attack.

Thirdly, a full-power attack with its body.

In that split second.

A dull crunching sound resounded.

The Blue Flame Divinity's head was bitten off, crunched, chewed a few times before being spat back out.

The Blue Flame Divinity was dead!

The 6-legged winged snake rolled once on the ground and turned back into Gu Qing Shan.

He immediately tapped his Inventory Bag, took out a gourd of liquor, and cleansed his mouth.

Shannu didn't care much about his ferocity during that kill and hurriedly asked: "Gongzi, didn't you say we can't change major events that happened in the past, why did you kill another Divinity? Or were you unable to control your emotions again?"

"That's not it"

Gu Qing Shan looked at the ridiculous amount of Soul Points he just obtained on the War God UI, then checked the amount of Soul Points that the System said he needed and calmed down.



He slowly explained: “Both you and I know very clearly that as soon as I used the Lightning Thaumaturgy in the frontlines to kill enemies, I was already exposed”

“People aren’t afraid of rain while in a pool, and being in too much debt makes you numb with money. Since I’m already exposed, I might as well cause a huge scene, then change my identity and hide so that my enemies can’t find me”

Shannu asked doubtfully: “Gongzi, do you mean—”

She stopped.

A Blue Flame slowly manifested between Gu Qing Shan’s eyebrows while he was standing in front of her.

He was gradually transforming into the Blue Flame Divinity.

“The only other person here is the dead Divine King, and I was the first Divinity to make it here, then got heavily wounded by the Lord of Desolation”

“Following this, I will convey the will of the Lord of Desolation to my fellow Divine race people”

“This should be exactly the same as what happened in history, so even if someone infiltrated this phantom image, they would find that history was never changed at all”

The Blue Flame Divinity closed his eyes and slowly explained while sensing the changes to his body.

## **Chapter 771**

The intense sounds of battle resounded from afar, together with constant screams and cries of desperation.

That was the Lord of Desolation showing off his might at the border of two worlds.

Taking the little time that he still had, Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and carefully sensed the miraculous changes in his body.

He found that after he transformed into the Blue Flame Divinity, the 5-Elements became exceedingly closer to him.

The world he saw had also changed, the Elemental spirit energy that usually lingered in the air now became almost clear enough to be seen with the naked eyes.

Red was Fire, Yellow was Metal, Brown was Earth, Green was Wood and Blue was Water.

Among them, Elemental Water was constantly maintaining a connection with him as if it was an extended part of his body.

*—this feeling is similar to how I formed a connection with hundreds of flying swords after I achieved Great Attainment as a Sword Saint.*

“Blue flame...”

Gu Qing Shan muttered and reached his hand out.

A drop of water in his palm crystallized into ice and began to give off a deep blue color.

Starting from where Gu Qing Shan was standing, white frost began to crawl along the ground and quickly spread in every direction.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

*So having a blue flame represents control over Elemental Water.*

*But, was it really just control over Elemental Water?*

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and tried something.

His entire body vanished, turning into a freezing cold mist of frost that lingered in the air.

It was as if his body was completely made up of ice and frost.

Gu Qing Shan once again gathered his body.

He raised one hand.

His hand casually scattered into tiny white mist, then quickly reformed as his hand.

*...not water.*

*This seems to be a different form of water, Frost.*

*So what kind of existence are Divinities actually?*

At this point, notifications were blinking on the War God UI.

Gu Qing Shan stopped thinking and glanced at the War God UI.

[You've used 1 million Soul Points to transform into a 6-legged winged snake]

[You killed the God of Frost and Chill, Soul Points +800,000]

[You've used 900,000 Soul Points to transform into the God of Frost and Chill]

Seeing the notification, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help asking: "System, I remember that I only obtained 300,000 Soul Points from killing the 6-legged winged snake, why did it cost me more to turn into it than to turn into a Divinity?"

[Ting]!

The system replied: [Thank you for 10 Soul Points, the answer is as such:]

[Because the 6-legged winged snake is a unique Desolate life form. It is a beast-shaped weapon created by the Bygone Era humanity, using its body as the medium to perform the few abilities it inherited from humanity's heritage]

[Whenever you transform into the snake, you would automatically grasp these abilities]

[The abilities were the three abilities that you used when killing the Divinity]

Gu Qing Shan understood and asked: “In other words, the Soul Points that I paid for transforming into the snake was mostly to pay for inheriting these human abilities?”

[Indeed, Soul Points are the most basic form of power, without it, your ‘all being’ transformation ability would not be able to accomplish the ability inheritance] the System replied.

“What if I had turned into a Desolate guard? Would I need to pay extra Soul Points for their abilities as well?”

[No, a Desolate guard is an intelligent, humanoid life form, you will need to upgrade War God Skills two more times in order to comprehend its Desolate abilities, as well as being able to use those abilities again after you transform back into a human]

“In other words, the 6-legged winged snake was a very unique creature that allowed me to directly inherit those abilities?”

[Correct]

“Then why can’t I use those abilities now?”

[It had already been answered. The snake was unique, it performed those meager inherited abilities through its unique body structure— when you use the Mystery to recreate its body, you also recreate those abilities. When you are no longer a snake, you would naturally be unable to perform those abilities]

Gu Qing Shan helplessly shrug: “I’ve already turned into a Divinity, but I haven’t been able to comprehend any Divine Crafts”

[That is easily explained. Aside from the beasts that pass on their abilities through their bodies, you must learn the skills of other races through War God Skills, only then can those abilities truly become yours]

The System continued: [Overall, that is the reason why you only need 900,000 Soul Points to transform into a Divinity, but 1 million Soul Points to turn into the 6-legged winged snake]

Gu Qing Shan regretfully sighed.

*1 million Soul Points, used up just like that, and I didn’t even learn a single Skill.*

*—furthermore, transforming into the snake and then into a Divinity cost me a total of 1.9 million Soul Points.*

*While killing that Divinity only gave me back 800,000 Soul Points.*

*If I knew this beforehand, I wouldn’t have killed this Divinity, maintained my form as a 6-legged winged snake, and hid among the Desolate monsters.*

*6-legged winged snakes are already considerably powerful Desolate lifeforms. Since I know Desolate Tongue, have a way with words and do things flexibly, I could’ve survived quite well in the Desolate world.*

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*This was a huge loss.*

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but glance at a certain point on the War God UI.

[Remaining Soul Points: 1,702,736/600]

*There are still over 1.7 million left.*

Gu Qing Shan slowly sighed in relief.

*Fortunately, I managed to earn a lot in the slaughterhouse and on the battlefield just now that I still have a bit of Soul Points saved up.*

*—otherwise I don't even know how I'm going to live after this.*

Looking at the amount of Soul Points he had, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit more confident.

*With this much Soul Points, what am I afraid of?*

He quickly walked up to the corpse of the ice Divinity, crouched down and put his hand on a circular long staff.

Earlier when the ice Divinity charged forward, he pulled his weapon out to attack but was heavily wounded by a single swing of the 7-colored spear.

*Seems like this was the ice Divinity's weapon.*

Gu Qing Shan had already transformed into the ice Divinity, so he had to learn his skills, otherwise, it would be easy for him to be exposed.

On the War God UI, the icon representing [War God Skills] lit up.

[Discovered item: Frostlie Long Staff]

[You are unable to comprehend the Skills of the Divine race from this item]

Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise: "Why not?"

[Thank you for 10 Soul Points. Because you War God Skills hasn't been upgraded, you still cannot comprehend the Divine Crafts that mimics humanity's original skills]

"..."

The sound of battle slowly died down at the frontlines, the voice of the Lord of Desolation echoed across the world:

『 Foolish beings, you will do well to remember today's lesson! 』

*Rumble rumble— — —*

Another earthquake.

*The two worlds are beginning to separate.*

*There isn't much time left!*

Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth and couldn't help but spoke: "I'll pay 1 million Soul Points, upgrade [War God Skills]"

[1 million Soul Points received, War God Skills have been upgraded] the System replied.

"That quickly?"

[Naturally, the System has already made the preparations beforehand]

"But why didn't I sense any changes in the System?" Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

The System paused briefly.

The [War God Skills] icon on the War God UI suddenly jumped.

[See that? The icon can now jump] the System curtly replied.

"...Fine, I want to comprehend those Divine Crafts now!" Gu Qing Shan declared.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

Every ability that the God of Frost and Chill had ever performed were listed there.

Unfortunately, there weren't too many Skills here, and since they were all very useful, Gu Qing Shan couldn't bear to skip out on any of them.

He stared at the UI and carefully asked: "I want to confirm something. After I comprehend these skills, I'll keep being able to use them, right?"

[Naturally, you will permanently be able to perform these skills. However, when you are in human form, due to the lack of control compared to Divinities, these Divine Crafts would become significantly weaker]

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

*As long as I'm able to keep them, I don't want to have to go through the situation with the snake again.*

"Spend the Soul Points, I want to comprehend everything" he declared.

[Are you sure?] the System asked.

"I'm sure"

...

A few moments later.

The comprehension was complete.

From now on, Gu Qing Shan had truly become the God of Frost and Chill.

However, he didn't seem to be very happy about it, in fact, he seemed sorrowful instead.

Because on the War God UI, a certain number had been reduced to almost nothing.

## Chapter 772

A coin was constantly spinning in the air.

When it fell back down, a hand caught it.

The figure of light.

He held the coin, carefully sensing the power changing in it.

「 How is it? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity asked.

「 The coin has regained its power, it can now be used 」 the figure of light nodded.

「 Then what are we waiting for, let's go! 」

The Golden Flame Divinity urged.

The figure of light held the Desolate coin in hand and spoke seriously: 「 No need to care about anything inside those phantom images, our only goal is to find that human—— to capture him, or kill him 」

「 Naturally 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

Hearing that, the figure of light nodded and activated the coin.

Power flowed from the coin, covering both it and the Golden Flame Divinity.

*Hoh——*

Under the coin's guidance, the Golden Flame Divinity and the figure of light traveled through the thick fog of space-time, crossing over countless phantom images of the Age of Old and finally arrived at a certain phantom image.

The Primordial Heaven Realm.

Two clusters of light appeared out of nowhere on the ground.

The Golden Flame Divinity.

The figure of light.

The two of them landed inside a ruin.

「 Which era is this? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity looked around and asked.

「 Let's find a Divine Palace and ask 」 the figure of light replied.

The two of them took flight, going past the clouds above and entered the deepest place in the invisible void of space.

Their bodies slowly faded as if they had entered another dimension.

A few moments later.

The figure of light and Golden Flame Divinity both reappeared.

「 There was no one in the Divine Palace, that didn't happen too many times during history 」 the Golden Flame Divinity commented.

「 Indeed, let us find a nearby human cultivator sect and ask 」 the figure of light suggested.

The two of them stood still in the sky, sensing something.

「 Southeast, there are waves of formulaic spirit energy, must be a formation arranged by some human cultivators 」

「 Let's go 」

...

The Golden Flame Divinity glanced at the human cultivator below and spoke: 「 That is to say, the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect had already been destroyed? 」

“That is indeed what happened, great God” a human cultivator respectfully reported.

The figure of light asked: 「 Are there any news from the frontlines? 」

The human cultivator replied: 「 Today is the day of the decisive battle, all the Gods have descended on the frontlines, and so have the strongest cultivators of humanity 」

The Golden Flame Divinity exchanged glances.

They now knew which point in history this was.

「 Well done, you may leave 」 the figure of light dismissed him.

The human cultivator respectfully bowed and was about to leave.

「 Wait! 」 the Golden Flame Divinity called him back.

「 I ask you, have there been any strange occurrences lately? 」 he asked.

“Strange occurrences? What do you mean, God...?” the cultivator was clueless.

The Golden Flame Divinity realized that he was a bit too impatient.

「 It's nothing, you can leave 」 he waved his hand dismissively.

The human cultivator once again bowed and took flight towards the horizon.

The figure of light shook his head: 「 If you want to know about strange occurrences within this era, there is no need to ask these people. Both you and I know very well what happened in the past, if anything happened differently from what we know, that would naturally be that human's fault 」

「 Right, I'm just a bit impatient. I could have found that out myself without asking 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

「 What do you think we should do now? Go to the frontlines? 」 the figure of light asked.

「 Indeed, but we must be careful 」

「 Why? 」

「 Even if this is only a phantom image, this era was very dangerous 」 the Golden Flame Divinity's voice was a bit unnatural.

The figure of light questioned: 「 You are talking about... the Lord of Desolation? 」

The Golden Flame Divinity added: 「 And that spear as well 」

「 During this period of time, I am a Divinity who hasn't appeared before, while you are the collective consciousness of the Divinities in the past. What do you think the Lord of Desolation is going to do to us if he discovered us? 」

The figure of light froze.

He muttered: 「 Indeed, the Lord of Desolation once found out about our plan by himself, but we still don't know how he discovered the Samsara 」

The Golden Flame Divinity continued: 「 That's why it would be very dangerous for us to go to the frontlines right now 」

At this point, silence filled the air.

This was a part of history recorded by both the Divine race and the Desolate race.

On this day, the Lord of Desolation wielded a 7-colored spear and easily eliminated the Divine King with it.

For Divinities as a whole, this was a deep-rooted fear that didn't go away.

Even after several ten thousand years, the Golden Flame Divinity still didn't think for a second that he could face the Lord of Desolation.

A few moments later.

The Golden Flame Divinity spoke up: 「 But since we're here to capture someone, we have to go even if we don't want to 」

The figure of light agreed: 「 If that human runs off to the Primordial Wraith Realm again, it will take a lot of manpower to attack the Wraith realm 」

The Golden Flame Divinity suggested: 「 Let's go and conceal ourselves somewhere near the frontlines. After we confirmed that the Desolate world and Heaven realm have separated, we can meet up with the other Divinities 」

「 Why in so much of a hurry? 」 the figure of light asked.



「 That human is very slippery, I can faintly sense that something isn't right 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied: 「 As you said, we don't need to care about what happened in this phantom image of the past. We need to obtain the total cooperation of all Divinities and smoke that human out as soon as possible 」

The figure of light muses: 「 You mean—— 」

「 Indeed, I will tell all the Divinities of this time about the future. I want them to help me capture that human right away! 」 the Golden Flame Divinity declared.

「 Then let us go now 」 the figure of light replied.

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The two of them lightly leapt to the air and headed for the frontlines.

A few moments later.

The war between the two worlds gradually reached an end.

The Lord of Desolation's declaration echoed across two worlds: 『 Foolish beings, you will do well to remember today's lesson! 』

*Rumble!*

The earth shook.

The two worlds began to drift apart.

At this point, in a concealed place on the frontlines.

The Golden Flame Divinity and the figure of light were patiently waiting.

After they sensed that the Desolation world had indeed left, they both sighed in relief.

It was now time for them to act.

「 What do you intend to do now? 」 the figure of light asked.

「 Go straight to where the Divine King fell. At this point, all the members of our race should have gathered there by now 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

「 That is true, at this point, the Divine King's death had only just been found out, so everyone should be heading for that place 」

「 I think it was the Cold Jade Forest? 」

「 Indeed 」

They both disappeared from their hiding places.

A few dozen seconds later.

Cold Jade Forest.

All of the Divinities were gathered there.

The God of Frost and Chill was lying in a pool of blood, being treated by two Divinities.

Not too far away from where he was, the Divine King was still stiffly kneeling on the ground, hanging his head.

The God of Frost and Chill had just finished narrating the story of how the Divine King died.

「The Lord of Desolation was angry that we created a Samsara」

「As you can see, the Lord of Desolation used his spear to kill our king」

A Divinity couldn't help asking: 「Was the battle intense? Why didn't we sense anything?」

The God of Frost and Chill scowled and opened his mouth.

When he was about to answer this, a voice came from above.

「No, the battle was not intense. The Lord of Desolation only used his spear to stab the Divine King twice——once would have been enough, but because the Lord of Frost and Chill's interference, the Lord of Desolation sent him flying before stabbing the Divine King again」

The Golden Flame Divinity and the figure of light both descended.

No Divinity had ever seen them before.

They were two unknown existences, but the Divinities could sense the aura of their own race from them.

This aura could not be faked.

So the Divinities didn't attack right away.

「Who are you?」 a Divinity shouted.

The Golden Flame Divinity replied: 「This one next to me came from your future a few years from now, while I came from the future a few ten thousand years later」

The Divinities fell silent.

「I seem to recall that we never managed to solve the secret of time travel」 a Divinity asked doubtfully.

The figure of light tossed a coin into the air.

——the Desolate coin!

Every Divinity looked at the coin in the air.

For a few seconds, everyone went quiet.

The residue power of space-time lingered around the coin, clear enough for anyone to see.

「 This coin should be more than enough to prove our identities, and you all should know quite well how a collective consciousness like myself was created 」 the figure of light told them.

The Divinities exchanged looks.

A few Divinities already began to nod in agreement.

At this point, the God of Frost and Chill ignored his wounds and suddenly shouted: 「 This can't be right, why did the two of you appear right after the Divine King died? 」

The figure of light and Golden Flame Divinity both froze.

This was an awkward question for them.

Brethren from the future.

What a grand title indeed, but this question perfectly hit where it hurts the most.

—*—if you came from the future, why didn't you prevent the Divine King's death?*

The Golden Flame Divinity took a deep breath and answered: 「 Listen, even I don't have any way to go against the Lord of Desolation, so I could only choose to appear at this point in time 」

He continued to explain: 「 Look, I've already explained the Divine King's death before you manage to do so, that should be enough to prove my identity 」

「 No, that is far from enough 」 the God of Frost and Chill insisted: 「 Aside from myself, the Lord of Desolation also knows about the Divine King's death, what if you're his people? 」

「 I still have a way— -- 」

While the Golden Flame Divinity tried to explain, the God of Frost and Chill had already cut him off: 「 Only after you tell us everything about what happened after today and we confirmed it to be true can you be trusted 」

The Golden Flame Divinity chuckled: 「 Only something that simple? 」

He pointed at a Divinity clad in divine light and spoke: 「 Strength God, after the God of Frost and Chill fully recovered from his wounds, you attempted to compete against him for the position of Divine King, but you lost 」

「 The reason you lost was that you didn't know he had a Divine Craft that specifically counters your power 」

「 The God of Frost and Chill's Divine Craft was something he came up with through imitating the Ice techniques of a certain powerful human from the Bygone Era 」

The Golden Flame Divinity turned to the other side and looked at the God of Frost and Chill: 「 I'm not wrong, am I? That technique of yours should be called the [Silent Seal], the most mysterious technique among Ice-type Divine Crafts 」

The God of Frost and Chill appeared surprised and exclaimed: 「How did you know that!?!」

The Golden Flame Divinity stared at the God of Frost and Chill with a bit of disdain in his eyes.

*These old fogeys from the Age of Old are certainly strong, but they were too stubborn, their heads weren't really the best either.*

「What? Do you need me to say the characteristics and weaknesses of the [Silent Seal] as well?」

The Golden Flame Divinity slightly raised his voice.

The God of Frost and Chill quickly shook his head.

The Golden Flame Divinity silently felt a bit more disdain.

*—-but this old fogey is still the next Divine king, and to find that human, I need the help of the God of Frost and Chill.*

With that in mind, the Golden Flame Divinity's tone mellowed out a bit: 「I've already told you, I came from the future」

### **Chapter 773**

「You're saying that I will die in an invasion 5 years from now?」

The new king asked with a sense of urgency in his voice.

「Indeed, just like the previous Divine King, you will be pierced by that spear and die right away」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

The new Divine King sat still silently.

「That is a very unfortunate outcome」 the God of Frost and Chill muttered in a low voice.

Even when the coronation ceremony wasn't formally conducted, this Divinity was definitely going to become the next Divine King, so he was able to represent the Divine race as a whole to discuss matters with the envoy from the future.

The Golden Flame Divinity and figure of light stood at the bottom of the stairs below the throne, looking up at this new Divine King.

The other Divinities were standing on either side of the path leading outside the Grand Divine Palace, silently listening to their conversation.

The Golden Flame Divinity and figure of light had proven themselves to be people from the future.

The information they brought could be trusted.

Because of that, the other powerful Divinities that were hoping to take the Divine King position all gave up on that idea.

*Don't even joke about it!*

*5 years later, the Divine King would have to face the wrath of the Lord of Desolation. No matter who it was, this was something everyone needed to consider if they wanted to take the seat of Divine King.*

*Otherwise, that's just suicide!*

Sitting on the throne of the Divine King, the God of Frost and Chill leaned forward with both hands on his throne, asking with a sense of urgency: 「 You came from the future, was it for the sake of changing everything that happened? 」

The new King's eyes showed clear expectations and desires.

The Golden Flame Divinity paused for a brief second before deciding to continue as he had planned earlier.

*The God of Frost and Chill wasn't just powerful, he was also the current King of Divinities.*

*I will have to be straight forward.*

「 Divine King, I will tell you everything that happened in the next few years. That way, as long as you manage to avoid those events and escape before it all repeats, you won't have to die and history will change 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

Hearing that, the God of Frost and Chill calmed down.

「 Indeed... to avoid those events, I will certainly need time to prepare 」 he muttered.

「 Divine King, I will help you overcome this hardship, but I also have a small request to make. This request will affect the fate of our entire Divine race 」 the Golden Flame Divinity continued.

「 Speak 」 the God of Frost and Chill told him.

「 In the far future, we will run into new trouble. A human cultivator called Gu Qing Shan, he would obtain something from the Age of Old specifically made to oppose us. From that point onwards, many of our race's plans were ruined by him, many of us died by his hands 」 the Golden Flame Divinity furiously spoke.

The God of Frost and Chill scowled: 「 That is not possible. Humanity was under our complete control, how could they have created anything specifically in order to oppose us? 」

The Golden Flame Divinity said nothing and glanced at the other Divinities.

The God of Frost and Chill understood.

「 Back down, all of you 」 he ordered.

Even though the other Divinities wanted to listen about the events of the future, with the Divine King's orders, they could only leave the Grand Divine Palace.

Soon enough, the only ones left inside the Grand Divine Palace were the God of Frost and Chill, the Golden Flame Divinity, and the figure of light.

The Golden Flame Divinity slowly walked up the stairs and arrived before the throne.

He lowered his voice: 「 Gu Qing Shan will obtain two swords from the Age of Old, one of them called Heaven, the other called Earth. These two swords are twins of the same set, containing boundless power 」

The God of Frost and Chill shook his head: 「 I still can't believe that humanity would be able to create weapons powerful enough to hurt our Divine race 」

At this point in the conversation, the Golden Flame Divinity also appeared a bit lost.

He couldn't help sighing: 「 Truthfully, in the future, we have also tried to think back retrospectively many times. But humanity has indeed always been under our control and monitoring, not even once did they manage to evade it, so we also don't understand when they could've begun to construct those two weapons 」

The God of Frost and Chill followed that thought: 「 Indeed, every high-ranking member of humanity's sects——— even their sect masters were our loyal servants...」

The Golden Flame Divinity continued: 「 That is why I returned from the future. To find Gu Qing Shan, kill him, and investigate the final secret of humanity 」

The God of Frost and Chill questioned: 「 Those two swords, can we steal and use them for ourselves? 」

「 Not sure, everything about those two swords is a complete mystery 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

The two of them went silent briefly.

「 Wait a minute, you are currently here right now, does that mean Gu Qing Shan is currently hiding in my era? 」 the God of Frost and Chill asked.

「 That is indeed so 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

「 Do you know where he's hiding? 」

「 I do not, perhaps in one of humanity's sects, or perhaps within one of the Wraith realms 」

「 That is troublesome. How about this, tell me everything that will happen in the next few years, I will then send my men out and fully support you in searching for that human 」 the God of Frost and Chill said.

The Golden Flame Divinity looked at him and slowly spoke: 「 That is fine, very fair 」

He then recounted everything that would happen in the next few years to the Divine King.

For the crucial, pivotal events, he even made sure to clearly explain and told the Divine King about the points that he needed to pay attention to.

And then finally, their discussion was over.

「 Thank you 」 the God of Frost and Chill said, 「 I will have to carefully think about what you told me and change the future 」

「 Most of them were minor things, the most important issue you need to look out for is the Lord of Desolation, no one could go against him 」 the Golden Flame Divinity reminded him again.

「 Don't worry, I will 」 the new Divine King replied.

At this point, a Divinity appeared inside the audience hall.

「 What is it? 」 the God of Frost and Chill asked.

「 It's the matter regarding the earlier battle—— humanity's command had just given me the reports regarding two suspicious situations 」 the Divinity replied.

He looked at the Golden Flame Divinity and figure of light, then kept quiet.

The Golden Flame Divinity looked at the God of Frost and Chill.

「 It is fine, tell me 」 the God of Frost and Chill rubbed his chin and spoke.

The other Divinity began to report: 「 Firstly, a cultivator who could utilize the power of Elemental Lightning eliminated a large horde of Desolate monster that appeared at the frontlines, many people witnessed this 」

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「 Secondly, the large sects of humanity reported that many high-ranking great cultivators went missing at the battlefield on the border between two worlds 」

The audience hall fell silent.

The Golden Flame Divinity spoke without reserve: 「 We all know what the second issue is about. Most of them were devoured by the Lord of Desolation, only a few managed to escape and return 」

「 You can directly tell them that those people were killed in action in the Desolate world 」 the God of Frost and Chill replied.

「 Understood 」 the other Divinity took his order and left.

The God of Frost and Chill continued: 「 In other words, the only real issue is the first one—— the human cultivator who could utilize Elemental Lightning! 」

「 Indeed, this must be looked into, Divine King, please give me a few men 」 the Golden Flame Divinity said.

The God of Frost and Chill then shouted towards the outside of the Grand Divine Palace: 「 Relay my orders, the 12 Divine Guards outside the Palace shall follow the Golden Flame Divinity and investigate! 」

「 Thank you, sire 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied, satisfied.

「 No need to be so formal, I still need to thank you for your information 」 the God of Frost and Chill replied.

The Golden Flame Divinity and figure of light both bowed before turning to leave the Grand Divine Palace.

They were leaving in order to search for the human cultivator who could use Elemental Lightning.

Inside the Grand Divine Palace.

The only one left here was the new Divine King—— the God of Frost and Chill, currently sitting on the throne.

He fell into thought.

*According to the Golden Flame Divinity, I will be caught in internal strife and meet with a coup 5 months from now.*

*From a timeline perspective, this should be the most recent threat I will run into.*

*However, things have changed.*

*All the Divinities have been told that the Divine King will once again be killed by the Lord of Desolation 5 years later.*

*In that case, the coup would probably not happen.*

*So I can have peace of mind to do a certain thing.*

*——just like the Golden Flame Divinity, I will have to investigate how humanity managed to obtain the forging method for the Heaven sword and Earth sword.*

*——just how exactly was a powerful weapon like the Earth sword forged?*

*And the Heaven sword as well.*

*If I can obtain the forging method for the Heaven sword, I can forge a Heaven sword myself!*

*In addition, the origin and background of the Divinities were also a mystery.*

*I need to find out everything I can about the Divinities!*

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan stood up and headed for the back of the palace.

In front of a huge metal gate, 6 Divine Guards stepped out to block his way.

「 Sire, you can't enter this place yet 」

A total of 12 Divine Guards were there, respectfully telling him as they knelt down.

Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes as his tone became cold and dangerous: “Ah? You dare try to stop me?”

「 That is not so, sire. Please be patient, only after you are officially coronated and obtain the Divine King scepter can you enter 」 one Divine Guard hurriedly explained



This gate had always been guarded by only the most loyal Divine Guards and allowed entry to only the Divine Kings of each era.

The history of the Divine race's existence lied beyond this gate, many secrets, many Divine Crafts created by Divinities through imitating humanity from the Bygone Era were also stored inside.

Gu Qing Shan went silent briefly.

His killing intent slowly increased, all the way until the Divine Guards couldn't help but feel anxious that he suddenly laughed: "Don't worry, I can at least have that much patience"

He turned around and left.

The 12 Divine Guards were stunned, feeling like they couldn't predict the new Divine King's thoughts and emotions, they became anxious again.

Gu Qing Shan returned to the audience hall and sat down on the throne of the Divine King.

A sudden thought crossed his mind, one that wouldn't go away no matter how much he tried to shake it off.

According to the Golden Flame Divinity, humanity has indeed always been loyal and was under constant monitoring by the Divine race.

That's why there shouldn't be any way for humanity to obtain those two swords.

*Under constant monitoring...*

Gu Qing Shan suddenly stood up.

He recalled the reports from earlier.

*There were great cultivators who went missing at the border between two worlds.*

*The Barren Cloud Palace Master, Xie Gu Hong!*

*Xie Gu Hong went missing during this period of time.*

*It was because the peak masters of the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace thought that Xie Gu Hong was killed in action that they dared to scheme against the three disciples of the master peak!*

*And behind those peak masters were the Divinities.*

*—-with that, I can conclude that during this period of time, even the Divinities didn't know whether or not Xie Gu Hong was dead.*

*During this time, Xie Gu Hong was completely gone, no one was able to find or contact him.*

*According to the reports in the future, he infiltrated the Desolate world, killed a Desolate leader, and highly raised humanity's morale.*

*Yes, this must be it.*

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

*It was during this period that humanity slipped away from the Divinities' monitoring for a very brief moment.*

*Xie Gu Hong went to the Desolate world!*

*And something must've happened to him...*

## **Chapter 774**

The Divine King's Grand Divine Palace was situated on the Sky Beyond Heaven of the Primordial Heaven Realm, which was also where all of the Divinities resided.

Each Divinity had their own Divine Palace, using the height of their palace on the Sky Beyond Heaven to display their status.

And the Grand Divine Palace was situated on the highest point of the Sky Beyond Heaven.

Humans didn't know about this.

Only the Divinities had this silent understanding and knew about this differentiation in status.

Before the time of the coronation.

The God of Frost and Chill wasn't sitting on the divine throne.

He was currently standing on top of the Grand Divine Palace, silently observing the entire Sky Beyond Heaven, or perhaps the entire Primordial Heaven Realm itself.

This was the absolute highest place in the Primordial Heaven Realm.

Two Divinities flew up and hovered just enough so that the Divine King looked down on them.

They reported: 「 Sire, humanity have sent an envoy asking for the post-war arrangements 」

The Divine King went silent briefly before ordering: "The sects of humanity are to select the most excellent seeds to be sent to cultivate in each Divine Palace and become stronger"

"The Divine Palaces must delegate specialists to teach the humans to the best of their abilities, the masters of each Divine Palace do not have to personally do that, they must instead focus their attention to studying the abilities from the Bygone Era humans to become stronger as well"

"We got ourselves a breather on the frontlines, but we cannot let our guards down. The Divine Palace that is on duty this year must reinforce our position on the frontlines. Urge the production and construction of large-scale war equipment. Choose out skilled craftsmen, improve their treatment and status, if necessary, commend them in front of humanity as a whole"

"Furthermore, have the humans pick out a group of excellent scouts who are ready to give up their lives to infiltrate the Desolate world and gather intel"

"Understood?"

「 Yes, as you will, sire! 」

The two Divinities respectfully went back down.

The Divine King returned to silence and continued to stand on top of the Grand Divine Palace, observing the entire world.

A few moments later.

The Golden Flame Divinity came up from below.

He observed the Divine King: 「 King of Divinities, master of Frost and Chill, my perception of you has really changed 」

“Was I a blind and useless Divine King in your history?” the Divine King questioned.

「 If I can be frank, you were not, but you were nowhere as impressive as your current self 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

The Divine King emotionlessly answered: “If you were in my shoes, knowing for sure that you would be killed by an enemy you cannot possibly defeat, then you will probably do even better than I am”

The Golden Flame Divinity fell into thought for a bit before nodding.

He was feeling a bit emotional.

Indeed, death was always the most efficient motivation.

Even for a Divinity, that remained true.

At this point, a few more Divinities flew up and asked the Divine King for his orders on a few more things.

The Divine King only thought briefly before answering them, quickly and efficiently arranging everything.

As the Divinities listened, their expressions became a bit more respectful.

After receiving their orders, they bowed to the Divine King and left.

At this point, the Divine King asked: “How did matters go on your side?”

The Golden Flame Divinity shook his head: 「 The mysterious human killed many Desolate soldiers and completely changed the flow of the battle, but then suddenly disappeared? 」

“What do you think happened?” the Divine King asked again.

The Golden Flame Divinity’s expression turned serious: 「 With humanity’s scale, this human’s cultivation was only at Void Beholder realm at most, but his swordsmanship had already reached Great Attainment stage of Sword Saint realm 」

He continued: 「 I feel that he is indeed Gu Qing Shan 」

The Divine King paused briefly, then continued: “Then what do you intend to do now?”

The Golden Flame Divinity replied: 「 I suspect that he might have escaped to a Wraith realm, or is currently hiding inside one of the sects. I need more manpower to investigate this 」

The Divine King generously accepted: “No problem, I will provide you a few more people”

“On the other hand, I believe you might have paid attention to the wrong thing. You should probably look into the fact that he can use Elemental Lightning. During this era of ours, humanity has never been able to wield Elemental Lightning”

The Golden Flame Divinity nodded in thought.

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At this point, the Divine King summoned five Divinities and ordered them to follow the Golden Flame Divinity’s command.

“Go, you are dismissed. You must capture that human at all cost”

After giving his orders, the Divine King shook his head and sighed emotionally: “Not only was our race under constant threat by the Desolate race, but we would also face the threat of slaughter at a human’s hand in the future. Was our fate really to suffer so?”

His expression was calm, his tone was stable, but his words caused the Divinities to feel inadvertently sorrowful.

The Golden Flame Divinity fell silent.

Having recalled the history of several ten thousand years, he couldn’t help but sigh: 「 It can’t be helped, even now, we still have no way to win against the Desolate race 」

The Divine King abruptly shouted in anger: “NO! If we already know the future, we have to change it! I must find the way to change our situation!”

“I swear, I will change everything that was already decided by fate. This world should be ruled by us of the Divine race!”

His voice echoed across the entire Sky Beyond Heaven.

For a brief moment, all the Divinities stopped what they were doing and silently listened to the Divine King’s shout.

“Strength God, get out here!” the Divine King called out.

Following the Divine King’s orders, a Divinity clad in intensely bright light flew up from a palace not too far below the Grand Divine Palace.

In front of every Divinity’s gaze, the Strength God looked up: 「 God of Frost and Chill, what do you want? 」

According to the Golden Flame Divinity’s words, he was supposed to compete with the God of Frost and Chill for the divine throne.

The Divine King stared straight at him and spoke with a solemn expression: “We have been suppressed for too long, Strength God, are you not dissatisfied with our Divine race’s current situation?”

“If you were a king, yet you still have to beg and flatter your enemy, what kind of king do you think that would be?”

The Strength God just looked at the Divine King and said nothing.

The Divine King spoke: “Strength God, listen closely. Very soon, I might anger the Lord of Desolation and I might not live for the next 5 years, but I will surely think of some way to change the fate of our race”

“If I die, you shall be the next Divine King”

The Strength God was shocked and questioned: 「 Is that really true? 」

“A Divine King does not lie. But you must promise me, you mustn’t continue to be timid and evasive like the previous Kings, you have to follow my path, until one day when you achieve victory!” the Divine King declared.

The Strength God’s expression slowly shifted.

He sighed: 「 A path of no return 」

As he said so, he had already knelt down.

「 Your Majesty the Divine King, I am willing to follow your path, leading our race down the road of victory. Even if what awaits me is death 」

The Strength God made a solemn and somber vow.

The Divine King nodded: “Very well, from today onwards, you and I no longer need to compete for anything, because we have the same goal. That is to fight for a better future of our race, or die trying!”

「 Indeed! I have been itching to kill those damned Desolate creatures since long ago! 」 the Strength God furiously roared.

At this point, the Divinities slowly left their Divine palaces and stood in the air below the Divine King, silently bowing to him.

All the Divinities were here.

After bowing to the Divine King, they bowed to the Strength God.

This meant that the Divine race had agreed and supported the Divine King’s will and arrangements.

They would fight following the Divine King’s orders.

Once the Divine King dies, they would follow the Strength God’s footsteps and continue their struggle.

Watching this from one side, the Golden Flame Divinity’s expression was complicated.

He muttered to himself: 「 Knowing fate, he immediately became reborn anew... this is truly how a Divine King should be 」

The figure of light appeared next to him.

The figure of light shook his head and sent his voice to the Golden Flame Divinity: 「 But unfortunately... 」

The Golden Flame Divinity followed up his words, full of emotions in his voice: 「 Indeed, he only exists within a fragment of that era, a phantom image. He cannot affect the true history 」

「 For the last few ten thousand years, our Divine race had done nothing but evade and attempt a few small schemes, constantly questioning ourselves on how to survive. But never once did we think to go against this fate 」

「 If he could return to the actual past and lead our Divine race forward, perhaps our race would've been able to change the path of fate and create a completely different future 」

「 What a pity 」

## **Chapter 775**

The Primordial Heaven Realm.

The Sky Beyond Heaven.

Top of the Grand Divine Palace.

The God of Frost and Chill stood there, overseeing the entire world.

He fell into thought and stood without moving.

Even as time passed, he stood like a statue without muttering even a single word.

The Divinities knew that their new Divine King was contemplating the fate of their entire race.

———the new Divine King had already declared his intentions to everyone.

To prevent his will from not being passed on after his death, he had even appointed the next Divine King.

In front of every Divinity, the Strength God had vowed that he would follow the path of the God of Frost and Chill, to continue their fight against fate.

And just earlier, something else happened.

The God of Frost and Chill requested the Golden Flame Divinity who came from the future to place the crown on his head during the coronation.

This signified that the Divine King would remember everything that happened in the future and remember all the struggles that the Divine race would go through.

He vowed to change the fated future of the Divine race.

The Golden Flame Divinity very sincerely accepted.

Even if this was only a phantom image of history, the Golden Flame Divinity was being completely serious.

At this point, the Divine race as a whole was unified, the vague thoughts of rejection and personal schemes were all completely gone.

In the minds of all of the Divinities, the Divine King had the absolute support of them all.

Somewhere within the void of space.

「 Why? You know that this was only a phantom image of history, so why did you actually do all of that? 」 the figure of light asked.

「 Because I saw a different future for the Divine race, I have witnessed and inherited the Divine King's spirit, which I shall bring back to the future 」 the Golden Flame Divinity replied.

「 That alone makes everything worth it 」 he added.

The figure of light went silent.

「 I will need to leave for a short time 」 he said.

「 Where? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity asked.

「 During the Age of Old, we have made many preparations, not just against the final arrangements of humanity, but also against a certain secret of the Desolate race 」 the figure of light explained.

「 What kind of secret was it? 」

「 It is probably a hidden trump card. Before it is triggered, even I am not sure what it is 」

「 And so? 」

「 And so I will go search for that secret before I return here 」

The Golden Flame Divinity's expression changed slightly.

During this period of time, the fate of the Divine race had changed, a change that never occurred in history.

「 Why did you decide to do that? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity solemnly asked: 「 You are the collective consciousness of the ancient Divinities, why would you give up on searching for the final secret of humanity with me and go somewhere else? 」

The figure of light replied: 「 Once the Divine race obtains a new hope, I will have to seek out that secret, that was the final agreement among the Divinities from the Age of Old 」

「 But how come I've never heard anything about that? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity couldn't understand.

「 Because the Divine race has never obtained any hope, so a few things were never triggered in the first place 」 the figure of light replied.

「 And you think we do now? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity asked.

「 The King of Divinities has never stood at the top of the Grand Divine Palace for several days on end, contemplating the future of our race; the King of Divinities has never wanted to fight against the threat

of the Desolate; the King of Divinities has never, even before he was coronated, appointed the next Divine King, in fear that he could die in battle at any moment ]

The figure of light continued: 「 These things have never once occurred in our history, and so I believe that the time has come, I will need to seek out that secret 」

His tone became solemn and dutiful, his figure slowly faded out of sight.

The Golden Flame Divinity stood silently for a long time.

He sighed: 「 Who would've thought my arrival here would trigger such a mysterious change in history. Fortunately, this was only a phantom image 」

After a few moments of silence, he couldn't help but mutter again.

「 Unfortunately, this was only a phantom image 」

...

Gu Qing Shan naturally didn't know the Divinities' discussions or perspectives.

He was standing at the top of the palace, staring without blinking at the sky in front of himself like he was contemplating, but he was actually staring at the War God UI.

He silently wondered about the notifications that popped up on the UI.

[Your personal strength had increased, the level of your card had also increased]

[Grey card: Sword Cultivator Gu Qing Shan]

[Grade: Grey MAX level]

[Partner: Angel of Condemnation – Dusk]

[Card deck: Fugitive Deck]

All the notifications suddenly faded.

A line of glowing text appeared below the card.

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[You have become a MAX level Grey card]

[Your card: 'The Injury Deepens' has obtained the chance to evolve]

A card with a 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% damage]



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

[As a Grey card, it constantly craves to become stronger, now that the chance has come, would you like to upgrade it to Lapis grade?]

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Upgrade”

The grey card began to spin around itself faster and faster, slowly giving off a lapis-colored light.

When the card stopped spinning, it had completely turned into a Lapis card.

[Ability card: Bleed]

[When using this card, whenever you lacerate your enemy’s body with a sharp weapon, their internal matter and energy— like blood, metal, mental power, spirit power and anything similar, will slowly drain from their body for a duration of 10 seconds]

[Note: This is a Lapis-level passive ability. As long as you put it on the War God UI, its effect will persist]

A transparent card slot appeared on top of the War God UI.

When Gu Qing Shan silently put this card into the slot, a lapis glow began to give off ripples continuously on the War God UI without stopping for a long time.

At this point, new lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Your first card has become a lapis card. You may now obtain a chance to draw another lapis card through certain shortcuts]

[After finishing your second drawing, your personal card grade will also be increased to Lapis]

Reading that, Gu Qing Shan immediately asked: “System, what are these ‘certain shortcuts’?”

Silence.

The System said nothing.

Gu Qing Shan realized what was going on and spoke with discontent: “Oi, when I had a lot of Soul Points, you answered everything I asked, but now that I don’t have any Soul Points, you don’t even want to respond to me?”

The System continued to remain silent.

Gu Qing Shan helplessly sighed and spoke: “How about this, both you and I will compromise. Put the Soul Points on my tab, when I obtain more Soul Points, I’ll pay you back, I just need you to answer my questions now”

[Considering your recent actions, the System noticed that you are a very good con artist, the System will not be swindled] the System replied.

“...” Gu Qing Shan.

*This damn War God System!*

Gu Qing Shan scowled and gritted his teeth, annoyed and irritated at the same time.

*Without knowing the way, how am I going to upgrade my card grade?*

*When Little Dusk escaped from her seal, not only did her card grade decrease, her deck was also changed into the Fugitive deck.*

*The Lapis-grade cards that she used, like the [True Crimson Demon Spear], the battle puppets, [Weapon Prohibition], Scorpion Empress summon—— even at my current level, they are still exceptionally useful cards.*

The only card Gu Qing Shan currently had, the passive ability [Bleed], was also quite useful, exceptionally suitable for a sword cultivator.

*And these were still only Lapis-grade cards.*

*The Fugitive deck still has a lot of higher-grade cards.*

*Which means, after my card grade increased, I will naturally be able to use the other cards of the Fugitive deck!*

As he thought of that, Gu Qing Shan was feeling a burning feeling in his chest.

A look of desire was also displayed on his face.

When the Divinities silently observed the Divine King's expression, all they could say was that his facial expression changes too rapidly.

*——the Divine King must be full of discontent and grief about our race's current situation.*

*Yes, that must be it.*

*Otherwise, why else would the Divine King make such an expression?*

*——that is indeed our great Divine King!*

The Divinities silently praised him in their minds.

Gu Qing Shan was still completely unaware of the changes of the outside world.

He decided to not ask the War God UI anymore and instead carefully recalled what Little Dusk told him from before.

He remembered Little Dusk's explanation.

*"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"*

Gu Qing Shan slowly nodded.

*The first method is plausible, as soon as I break through once again, I will be able to draw a new Lapis card.*

*But now I have a faster method.*

*Since I'm now the Divine King, it should be quite simple to obtain any heritage left from the Age of Old, considering I'm now in that era.*

*...Precious things like those should be hidden behind the treasure vault of the Grand Divine Palace that can only be opened with the Divine King Scepter.*

*Three days later, the coronation ceremony will be officially conducted, I will be able to obtain the Divine King Scepter at that time.*