

## Apocalypse 826

### Chapter 826

The Asura Palace.

“You don’t seem like you want to stop me from facing my Tribulation” Gu Qing Shan’s voice could be heard.

Followed by the voice of a female.

“Of course I don’t, I’m here to help you”

The female Asura poured a cup of tea she made herself for Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan received it, took a sip, and commented:

“I thought a person would ever only shed a tear when they’re sad, I’ve never even considered that it could be an ability”

The female Asura giggled: “The Tear of Asura allowed me to see that you would surely face a trial of life and death, so I came here early to make some preparations”

“A trial of life and death? I’ve been through a lot of trials of life and death”

“Indeed, I felt dizzy just looking at them. But I noticed that the Mahesvara realm was the most suitable place for me, so I came here”

Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked: “But I’m currently inside a phantom image from the Age of Old, how did I travel through several ten thousands of years to meet you here inside the Fire Tribulation?”

“What is a phantom image?” the female Asura asked.

“A... particularly unique and powerful technique” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The female Asura answered: “The Lightning Tribulation only needs the natural power of a world to trigger, the Wind Tribulation requires the power of the Wraith realm to trigger, and the Fire Tribulation has already broken through the restraints of Space-time to forcefully pull your soul vessel back into the present, then brought you into this heavenly realm among many to face your Tribulation”

Gu Qing Shan thought about what she just said.

*Indeed.*

*The phantom images were only a technique.*

*And this technique only retains only a single actual moment of the Age of Old.*

*But I still haven’t arrived at that moment.*

*So when the Fire Tribulation was triggered, my soul vessel escaped the influence of that technique to return to the real timeline.*

*My soul vessel returned to the present to face the Fire Tribulation, but my body is still stuck within a phantom image of several ten thousand years ago!*

*This really is——*

The female Asura noticed his gaze and nodded: “You need to return quickly, your time flow is so chaotic that there’s a chance of the Tribulation Fire triggering ahead of time and burning you to death”

“Fortunately, since I came here before you did, I’ve already made the preparations for you”

She brought Gu Qing Shan through the maze-like palace, went past countless mechanisms and gates before entering a secret path at the end of the maze. Where they reached the deepest part inside the heart of the mountain.

There wasn’t anything here but a single stream of frigid, silent cold water.

The two of them stopped by the stream.

“This is an Ice Serenity Sentiment Extinguishing Divine Spring that I spent a lot of effort to obtain. It can only be used once, but everything inside your Fire Tribulation will be extinguished by this spring water, allowing you to immediately pass this Tribulation” the female Asura explained.

Gu Qing Shan silently sensed the uniqueness of the spring water and spoke emotionally: “You didn’t have to do so much for me”

The female Asura lowered her head: “In truth, I spent a lot of time thinking before I entered reincarnation and finally decided to use the Tear of Asura”

“But why?”

“Forgetting everything to begin anew sounds like a really dumb thing to do for me. I would rather remember you and wait for an eternity, for this moment when we would meet again”

Her voice was graceful and calm, but it contained an indomitable will that wouldn’t be changed.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “I remember telling you that I already have a girlfriend”

The female Asura glanced at him and asked in surprise: “Was that the truth? I can tell that you’re still a virgin”

Gu Qing Shan’s voice became a lot weaker: “Is that... really important?”

The female Asura didn’t let him feel awkward for long and followed up: “The King of Mahesvara has 48 Dependents, while the Lord of Sumeru has 120 Followers. I’m not greedy so I will simply ask to be one of them”

“I’m not the King of Mahesvara, nor am I the Lord of Sumeru” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The female Asura laughed.

“You are already at Void Wanderer realm, above that are the realms of Void Revolution, Three Thousand Worlds, and Paragon. Even further than that are the {Yama King} realm, the {Mahesvara King} realm and

the {Sumeru Lord} realm<sup>1</sup>—— you are a man that I recognize, you will surely continue to become stronger and reach the same ranks as the Kings and Lords from the legends”

“Once you’ve achieved the {Yama King} realm, under the effect of Prayers, your 48 Dependents will be no one but those closest to you. What I’m doing is simply taking up one of those spaces early”

Gu Qing Shan smiled bitterly: “How are you so sure that I would become such a powerful existence?”

“Of course you will, because you are the man I chose”

The female Asura smirked.

Gu Qing Shan had nothing to say to that, but then he thought of something and asked: “How did you reach the Mahesvara realm in the first place? Surely the Tear of Asura alone wouldn’t be enough to achieve this”

“Of course it wouldn’t. During the battle in Huang Quan, I was the one who discovered the scheme of the Heavenly God, I brought the Devil King Warden Rod to you in the human realm and help you control the quadrillions of dead people; when the circumstances changed, it was I who encouraged the dead people with the sentiments of the human mother and son, keeping them in the human realm—— among the countless dead people, I earned the most Merit out of them all. So I was able to pour all my Merit into the Tear of Asura and gave it unprecedented amounts of good power, which brought me here to the Mahesvara realm, waiting for you”

“Waiting for me...” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

*When the other party was still only a dead person, she helped me without hesitation many times, after the battle of Huang Quan, she further gave up all of her Merit just to wait here to help me face a Tribulation.*

Gu Qing Shan was truly speechless.

The female Asura looked at him longingly and said: “There’s already not enough time, you should return quickly”

“Your name” Gu Qing Shan abruptly said, “I still don’t know your name”

The female Asura was a bit surprised as she silently shed a single tear.

She wiped the tear away, smiled softly at Gu Qing Shan and gently told him: “My name is Zhi Luo, I will wait for you right here until one day when you achieve the realm of King Mahesvara”

Saying so, she shoved Gu Qing Shan into the stream.

*Hoh——*

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Almost immediately, the boundless karmic fire<sup>1</sup> appeared around Gu Qing Shan’s body.

The true Fire Tribulation had begun!

The fire manifested as faint images that constantly roused Gu Qing Shan’s soul vessel and body.

— — —these were the sins he had committed ever since he was born, chaotic emotions and feelings erupted almost all at once.

But as Gu Qing Shan was already thoroughly doused with the icy cold water, no matter how brightly the karmic fire burnt, it couldn't quite reach his body.

All of a sudden, Gu Qing Shan felt like he returned to a familiar place.

Shen Wu world.

Everyone had died in battle.

Xie Dao Ling's body laid dead on the ground, Qin Xiao Lou was crying as he hugged Xiu Xiu.

— — Xiu Xiu was also dead.

In the far distant, countless terrifying and gigantic Soul Shriekers were heading towards them.

*No!*

Gu Qing Shan's eyes became bloodshot.

All of a sudden, a frigid essence struck his mind and caused his faintly wavering mind to become clear again.

He immediately understood.

*This wasn't real.*

*Shifu and the rest are still far away from the 900 million World Layers, they should still be alive and well at the moment.*

While he was thinking that, the image suddenly faded.

Another image appeared.

Gu Qing Shan's body and mind were immersed within it again.

Without him knowing, he was now inside a grand banquet.

He was holding Anna's hand as he invited the guests to drink.

Su Xue Er suddenly jumped out.

Right in front of Gu Qing Shan, she committed suicide.

Gu Qing Shan's mind wavered, but before he could react, another wave of coldness struck him.

*This was fake as well!*

As he realized the truth, the entire image immediately vanished.

While he was feeling fortunate and fearful of what was being shown, another image had unfolded in front of Gu Qing Shan.

His homeworld.

All humans were dead.

Ye Fei Li was being put into a monster's mouth...

Illusions appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan one after another.

But thanks to the reinforcement of the Ice Serenity Sentiment Extinguishing Divine Spring, he didn't even need to face these illusions of despair.

Like water flowing down a cliff, he quickly went past countless illusory images.

At this point, heavy sounds of impact could be heard from outside the mountain.

Countless angry voices could be heard.

"Zhi Luo, you dared to help someone face their Tribulation!"

"No one is allowed to face their Tribulation here!"

"Stop right now!"

"Surrender that man!"

The sound of impact resounded across the entire mountain.

Obviously, the people outside have already noticed the fluctuations from the Fire Tribulation and began to attack.

The soul vessels of all cultivators who remained inside the Mahesvara realm would never allow any other cultivator to pass their Fire Tribulation!

Zhi Luo glanced at Gu Qing Shan one last time.

She turned around, shielded Gu Qing Shan, and formed a hand seal with both hands.

*Rumble—*

Every gate, every wall, every trap, and even the maze itself was all triggered at once.

This was the result of her hard work from several years of preparations.

A mountain of the Mahesvara realm would not be destroyed so easily.

And no one could go through all of these obstacles quickly!

Behind her, the fire on Gu Qing Shan's body was slowly dwindling.

The stream of Ice Serenity Sentiment Extinguishing Divine Spring also evaporated into white mist and slowly faded with the wind.

His Fire Tribulation was over.

Gu Qing Shan disappeared from the Mahesvara realm among the mist.

## Chapter 827

At the bottom of the ocean.

The Chao Yin sword silently hung behind Gu Qing Shan's head and maintained the dry and waterless barrier around him.

Gu Qing Shan's body was gradually burning brighter and brighter.

At one point, the fire was hot enough to bend and warp the air around him.

At the border between water and fire, some faint white mist could be seen emerging.

Gu Qing Shan's hair was also turning a bit curly.

The Chao Yin sword worriedly vibrated.

It could infer that this terrifying fire was slowly but surely eating through Gu Qing Shan's body.

Under its control, a few small streams of water entered into this dry area from the sea around them directly towards Gu Qing Shan.

But before the stream of water could even reach him, they were evaporated by the intense heat.

The Chao Yin sword let out a loud howl, so worried that it spun around itself.

At this time, Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

*Hoh*

Almost right away, the fire that engulfed him was completely doused.

"I'm sorry for worrying you"

Gu Qing Shan said apologetically.

When his soul vessel returned, he was able to hear the Chao Yin sword's howl.

The Chao Yin sword was glad and circled around him.

"Don't worry, I've successfully passed my Tribulation" Gu Qing Shan said.

He looked at the [Kindling] UI.

Several lines of blood-red text quickly appeared:

[The Wind and Fire Double Tribulation has ended]

[You have become a Void Wanderer realm cultivator]

[Level up Quest completed]

[Soul Points required for next level up: 700,000]

[Current Soul Points: 310,000]

[The Order will enter a short adjustment period, all functions will temporarily be unavailable while preparing for evolution]

The blood-red lines of text disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly called out: "Wait a minute!"

A large '?' appeared on the [Kindling] UI.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Why aren't there any Thaumaturgy Quests after I broke through?"

Lines of blood-red text appeared on the [Kindling] UI:

[The Order does not have a function specifically made for human cultivators' Thaumaturgies]

[Entering the adjustment period. If there are any problems, please wait until the Order completes its adjustments before resuming communication]

The entire [Kindling] UI vanished from in front of Gu Qing Shan's vision.

It had already begun to prepare for its evolution.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought as he compared the War God UI and the [Kindling Order].

*From this lack of a Thaumaturgy function after breaking through, the War God UI's functions were clearly a lot more powerful.*

*In addition, [War God Title], [War God Quest], and [War God Skills] were all excellent functions that could help a cultivator in battle a lot more.*

*Meanwhile, even if [Kindling] evolves into [Origin], the only use for Soul Points would be to exchange for powerful Demon Lords that helped in battle.*

*Frankly speaking, they're nothing but tools.*

*But [Kindling]'s desires towards Soul Points are a lot more severe than the War God UI.*

*As long as there are Soul Points to be obtained, it would resort to everything it has to obtain it.*

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and was about to take off when he saw a Card jump out in front of him.

The Lapis Card, [Sword cultivator Gu Qing Shan]

This was the Card that represented himself.

And then three more cards appeared in front of him.

[Bleed], [True Crimson Demon Spear] and [Black Smog Armor].

He had a sudden realization.

*After I broke through, regardless of whether or not the [Order] exists, I can draw a new Card.*

*This draw would be completely random, no one could tell which Card I would obtain among the Lapis-grade Cards of the Condemnation deck.*

Gu Qing Shan didn't think too much about it and randomly tugged at the void of space.

A Card manifested in his hand.

The face of the card depicted a set of forging tools with a blank space below it that described the Card's name and ability.

[Consumable: Armor smith's set of tools]

[When using this card, you will be able to immediately reinforce any ability of a defensive item]

Gu Qing Shan didn't hesitate and placed this card on top of the [Black Smog Armor] card as Little Dusk once explained to him.

"Consume!" Gu Qing Shan declared.

The card [Armor smith's set of tools] instantly glowed brightly.

It was slowly absorbed into the [Black Smog Armor] card and vanished.

Very quickly, the description of an ability written below the [Black Smog Armor] card changed.

[Black Smog Boots: When you stand absolutely still, the black smog will conceal you, only enemies 3 realms higher will be able to perceive you]

Gu Qing Shan was glad.

Before, it could only conceal him from enemies 2 realms higher, but now it was 3 realms.

*I'm currently a Void Wanderer realm cultivator, after Void Wanderer there were the three realms of Void Revolution, Three Thousand Worlds, and Paragon. In other words, when I want to conceal myself, only enemies who are at Paragon realm and above will be able to discover me.*

*That's already quite impressive.*

*After I reach Void Revolution realm, I'll use the Realm Breaker Pill to advance straight to Three Thousand Worlds realm. At the time, only a Combatant of at least {King of Mahesvara} realm or above will be able to perceive me.*

*As expected of the Demon King's armor!*

He pulled the [Black Smog Armor] card out and lightly waved it.

Almost immediately, he finished donning the jet-black armor covered in black mist.

Everything had been dealt with.

I need to quickly return to the ship now.

"Chao Yin, let's go"

*Oong*

...



The place where he chose to face his Tribulation was incredibly far away from the ship, and it was several hundred thousand meters under the ocean.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly flew at full speed.

On his way, he randomly slashed the void of space.

The void of space itself was easily cut apart, revealing the chaotic space vortex inside.

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

*As I've reached Void Wanderer realm, without needing any outside assistance, I can cut open 90 World Layers and see through all of them.*

*Unfortunately, I'm still inside the Age of Old phantom images right now.*

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When the Divine race imitated the Bygone Era humans and created the worlds, to avoid being noticed by the Desolate race, they purposefully placed those worlds exceedingly far away from the Primordial Heaven Realm and Primordial Wraith Realm.

That was why even though Gu Qing Shan had cut open the void of space, all that he saw was a chaotic space vortex without anything inside.

Time quickly passed.

Gu Qing Shan finally returned to the nautical area around the giant ship.

He first caught a bit of seafood inside the ocean before he slowly moved back towards the ship and leapt back onto the deck.

The evil creatures standing guard already realized who he was so they didn't stop him.

The guard who sent him away the first time even greeted him.

It hasn't been even an hour since Gu Qing Shan left.

There are other evil creatures who had a much larger appetite that still haven't returned even though they left before he did.

Gu Qing Shan also silently felt fortunate.

Fortunate that Zhi Luo had already prepared the necessary things to aid his Tribulation in the Mahesvara realm.

*Zhi Luo...*

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

All of a sudden, a voice resounded in his mind.

『 What happened? You seem to be quite down 』

Gu Qing Shan instantly recognized that this was the Silent Ruler's telepathy.

Ever since the previous battle, their relationship turned from strangers to acquaintances, occasionally they would even say a few words to each other.

As he was about to look up to search for her, the Silent Ruler's voice arrived again: 『 Don't try and search for me, the others might noticed 』

"What's the matter?" Gu Qing Shan noticed the urgency in her voice and couldn't help asking.

『 The Lord of Total Distortion had let a small ship down and brought some of his close aides, preparing to leave 』

"What!? Where?"

『 The head of the ship 』

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight forward.

Only to see that the head of the ship was currently being guarded, two evil creatures were keeping up various layers of spells that completely obscured this place.

The Lord of Total Distortion's guard troops were also stationed around there so that no one could approach or peer into this area.

Obviously, something was happening.

However, for the last few days, the ship had been in a constant state of alarm where large operations were being conducted quite frequently. Since the Lord of Total Distortion took direct command of these operations, none of the evil creatures knew anything unless they participated in it.

Because of that, the evil creatures were already used to this kind of strict defensive measures, and there weren't any evil creatures willing to offend the Lord of Total Distortion and try to find out the truth of what was happening at the head of the ship.

The Silent Ruler probably used her own special means to find this out.

"What did you see? And what do you have in mind?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Silent Ruler didn't answer.

A while later, she sent her telepathic message again: 『 The Lord of Total Distortion had boarded the ship, it seems they're really about to leave 』

"Can you pursue them to have a closer look?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Impossible 』 the Silent Ruler gave a bitter chuckle: 『 It's taking all my strength to see this far if I try to pursue any further, the Lord of Total Distortion would surely notice 』

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

*Indeed, the Lord of Total Distortion was the strongest Evil King, so once he decided to act, he would definitely be nothing but cautious and wary.*

*If he's leaving the entire city of evil creatures behind, what is he trying to do?*

*Would he return?*

*No one knows, and no one dares to try and find out.*

*The Lord of Total Distortion had definitely already made ample preparations so that if any evil creatures try to get close, they would be noticed.*

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit more.

*With Lord of Total Distortion's strength, if he needed to do something, he doesn't need to take another ship.*

*Unless he's going to be on the sea for a long time, or has already made the decision to leave this ship behind.*

"Did you see his daughters?" Gu Qing Shan asked again.

『 I did, they were the first to board the ship, that's why I noticed this wasn't normal and wanted to discuss this with you a bit 』 the Silent Ruler replied.

Gu Qing Shan felt heavy.

*If both of his daughters also left with him, the Lord of Total Distortion would most likely not return to this giant ship.*

*Then, why?*

Gu Qing Shan contemplated a bit and suddenly tapped his Inventory Bag.

The jade gourd pendant jumped out from the bag.

*Xiu*

It appeared sluggish, its voice was also considerably tired.

"Don't sleep, I have some Soul Points for you" Gu Qing Shan told it.

The jade gourd pendant instantly became spirited again.

*Wu wu?*

"It's true, but I need you to do something for me"

*Xiu, xiu xiu xiu!*

"Go to the head of the ship, follow the small ship for a bit to see what happens, then report back to me"

*Xiu!*

The jade gourd pendant replied.

A flash of white light came and the jade pendant disappeared from Gu Qing Shan's sight.

It was flying towards the head of the ship, but none of the evil creatures on the way noticed it.

Only Gu Qing Shan was able to see it.

Since the Adorable jade pendant had the Thaumaturgy [Spotless Jade], he didn't need to worry about the Lord of Total Distortion discovering it, and he could find out what happened.

"Silent Ruler, thank you for telling me"

Gu Qing Shan said.

He left the ship just now to face his Tribulation so he didn't know what happened on the ship at all.

*It's lucky for me that the Silent Ruler informed me about this, otherwise, I would've coincidentally missed his crucial detail.*

『 No need to thank me. I just felt a chilling ominous feeling from this 』 the Silent Ruler replied.

"Then why haven't you left and returned to your realm?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 I made a covenant with the Lord of Total Distortion, so I must complete this expedition before I can return 』 the Silent Ruler answered.

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

He had always been someone who abided by the rule of fair transaction.

*The Lord of Total Distortion gave up a life on his side to save the Earth sword.*

*As payment for this, I would join him on this sea expedition.*

*This was fair, and I am more than happy to do this to the best of my abilities to repay him.*

*But it was only to that extent.*

At this point, Gu Qing Shan was sensing an indescribable sense of ill-will.

Just like the omens of death, he felt before they began this voyage, this entire thing was incredibly eerie.

If the Lord of Total Distortion had other plans, then this was no longer part of what he promised at the beginning.

And Gu Qing Shan would no longer abide by the rules of their transaction.

## **Chapter 828**

The giant ship.

The jade pendant Adorable was quickly flying forward and soon reached the head of the ship.

This place was indeed being guarded very closely, not only were there quite a few powerful evil creatures going back and forth, there were even some who unleashed and kept up their magic barriers that obscured the space inside to make sure that no one could peek.

Adorable went through all the checks and headed forward.

But none of the evil creatures on the way managed to discover what this jade gourd pendant was doing.

It flew until it reached the smaller ship right before it could leave.

There weren't too many evil creatures on this smaller ship, only the Lord of Total Distortion and some of the evil creatures closest to him.

Adorable went in circles around the ship and finally hovered right above the Lord of Total Distortion's head.

It remembered what Gu Qing Shan told it about not landing on other people's heads.

So it only floated there.

The Lord of Total Distortion didn't notice this at all.

『 Set out 』 he ordered.

Like an arrow that was shot, the ship dashed through the waves as it headed for the Wood Bristles.

A few moments later.

On top of a fog-filled area of the sea.

The small ship stopped as it bobbed up and down together with the ocean waves.

『 Is it time yet? 』 the Lord of Total Distortion questioned.

『 It is 』 his subordinate answered.

『 They would not be late. Ah, they are already here 』

Saying so, the Lord of Total Distortion stood up.

He walked up to the deck of the ship and looked far into the ocean.

A figure could be seen a bit further away.

The figure was standing on top of the ocean, slowly heading towards their ship.

『 We're going there 』

The Lord of Total Distortion ordered.

The small ship quickly approached that figure.

As the two sides got closer, more and more mist began to fill the ocean.

The mist seemed to contain some sort of mystical power that made it so no one could see the figure clearly until only after the two sides faced each other.

It could clearly be seen that countless fleshy tentacles were attached to the figure's body that came from deep under the ocean.

As if something was hiding right below the surface of the ocean.

The figure only began to speak with a strange intonation as they stood a certain distance from the Lord of Total Distortion.

『 Little fiend, have you prepared what we want? 』

The Lord of Total Distortion replied: 『 This will be the last shipment. After I give them to you, that will have been every species of evil creatures that were offered 』

『 You had better not try to deceive us 』 the flesh tentacles figure said.

The Lord of Total Distortion asked: 『 We've already done this transaction so many times, why do you still suspect me? 』

The flesh tentacle figure answered: 『 I simply don't understand. If we grasp the Mystery of all the evil creatures' birth, the land would become our farmland and the evil creatures would be our crop, and you are the one facilitating all of this 』

『 I don't care about that. As long as you give me that key and act as our contract dictated to no longer bother me, then our transaction is done 』 the Lord of Total Distortion replied.

The flesh tentacle figure asked: 『 Even if this means the extinction of all evil creatures? 』

『 Why should I care if they live or die? Now give me the key 』 the Lord of Total Distortion demanded.

The flesh tentacle figure went silent briefly and answered: 『 Be patient for a little bit. We first have to check if there is enough inventory on that big ship. Some time will also be necessary to check the different species 』

『 Spare me the excuses. With your powers, you wouldn't even need one breath's worth of time to check the inventory. Just be blunt and say that you don't trust me 』 the Lord of Total Distortion scoffed.

The flesh tentacle figure remained silent.

But apparently the Lord of Total Distortion was wary of something as he didn't try to urge the other party.

A few moments later.

Having confirmed something, the flesh tentacle spoke emotionally: 『 You really did sell out all the evil creatures. From you, I finally understand a certain truth: the nature of all evil creatures is self-destruction 』

They then threw out a glimmering piece of metal.

The piece of metal flew through the air, headed for the Lord of Total Distortion.

The Lord of Total Distortion stared closely at the piece of metal with a look of madness and desire.

『 The Key of the Seal! I've finally obtained it! 』

He said dryly and reached his hand out to catch the piece of metal.

At this very split second, something unimaginable to everyone here happened.

A faint 'sha' was heard.

The piece of metal suddenly vanished without a trace.

Both the flesh tentacle figure and the Lord of Total Distortion were shocked.

At the same time, the jade gourd pendant took off from on top of the Lord of Total Distortion's head and quickly flew back to Gu Qing Shan.

At the same time, in the giant ship extremely far from where the transaction took place.

Gu Qing Shan was sitting in his room, silently watching as the [Kindling] UI once again turned back on.

This time, the [Kindling] UI was preparing to evolve.

"[Kindling], what should we do?"

As Gu Qing Shan asked that, a piece of shiny metal suddenly dropped into his hand.

"What is this? Wait, what's going on?"

He was stunned, threw the piece of metal to the ground, and grabbed the Chao Yin sword.

He had prepared numerous alarm and defensive formations around his room, yet this piece of metal was still able to appear out of nowhere, and it appeared straight in his hand as well!

This was completely out of Gu Qing Shan's range of knowledge.

He cautiously kept an eye out quite releasing his inner sight to scan every nook and cranny of this ship.

*Strange...*

*Everything is normal.*

*Then what was this about?*

Gu Qing Shan once again glanced at the piece of metal.

He noticed something new.

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There was some spirit energy gathered next to the piece of metal and manifested in the shape of a gourd.

This gourd-shaped spirit energy signature seemed to have a concealment function.

That piece of metal was right there on the ground, but Gu Qing Shan couldn't sense its existence at all.

Gu Qing Shan finally understood.

This was one of the jade gourd pendant Adorable's tricks!

...

On the other side.

The Lord of Total Distortion shouted: 『 What exactly are you trying to pull!? 』

The flesh tentacle figure replied in a low voice: 『 Little fiend, we already followed the contract, but something else took the key away just now 』

A contract appeared in the Lord of Total Distortion's hand as he checked it.

The black flame on the contract was still there.

Everything was still as they agreed on.

Which meant the other side did not try to go back on their words.

*Damn it!*

*Someone actually dared to steal from me at such a crucial moment!*

The flesh tentacle figure spoke up again: 『 Little fiend, the existence that took away that fragment of the key far surpasses both yours and my understanding 』

『 I already had all of my underwater comrades to search for you, but still couldn't find the one that took your key 』

They walked forward step by step on the water until they stood right in front of the Lord of Total Distortion.

『 Here, this was a replacement that we created, it can be used the same as the real thing 』

The hand made up of fleshy tentacles held a piece of metal out.

The second piece of metal.

At the same time, the ocean below practically boiled.

Countless vast and dangerous auras rose all the way to the sky.

Right below the surface of the ocean, right at this moment, numerous ancient demonic sea creatures that were over 100 million years old had arrived!

They silently but not subtly waited. They were waiting for existence that stole the first key to show up again.

The Lord of Total Distortion reached his hand out and held the piece of metal.

The flesh tentacle figure waited for a long while.

Nothing happened.

They slowly released their 'hand'.

All the way until the piece of metal was completely grasped by the Lord of Total Distortion.

Still, nothing happened.



The flesh tentacle figure stood silent for a few moments and spoke: 『 Fine, it seems that existence has already left. Now that you've obtained the Key, our transaction is considered complete 』

The Lord of Total Distortion looked down at the contract in his hand.

The majority of written clauses disappeared.

Only the clause 'can not harm one another' was left.

He finally sighed in relief and quickly placed the metal piece into his personal storage space.

『 Good, although I don't know what took the key, since it was able to escape our perception, it's most likely not something we can deal with 』

『 Since I've already obtained the key, that ship of mine is now yours 』

『 Deal 』

...

On the other side.

The jade gourd pendant Adorable flew through Gu Qing Shan's formations without trouble.

*Xiu~ Wu wu~ Xiu xiu xiu*

It was breathing heavily while boasting at the same time.

Gu Qing Shan told it: "There's no hurry, you can speak slowly"

But for some reason, the jade pendant seemed to have noticed something and began speaking even faster.

*Xiu xiu xiu....*

It squeaked nonstop for a long while.

After hearing what it said, Gu Qing Shan finally understood what happened.

"So we were all the Lord of Total Distortion's traded goods..."

"You did well, I didn't know [Borrowing Wonder] could be used this way"

"Regardless, 100-million-year-old demonic sea creatures aren't enemies we can face right now, we have to get off this ship before anything else"

Gu Qing Shan put the piece of metal into his Inventory Bag, tied the jade pendant on his hip, and prepared to leave.

At this time, lines of blood-red text appeared on the [Kindling] UI:

[Jade pendant: Adorable has informed you one of its functions on its own accord]

[You now know all of this jade pendant's abilities]

[This jade pendant's detailed description is as follows:]

[Bygone Era artifact, jade pendant: Adorable]

[This jade pendant was naturally formed, a manifestation of the Bygone Era Heaven and Earth Bell. It usually hides in plain sight, only showing up when it's happy]

[This jade pendant has the Thaumaturgy: Borrowing Wonder]

[Borrowing Wonder: When an item isn't being held by anyone, the jade pendant can borrow that item]

[Description: The world is full of wonders, and I am awesome at borrowing them]

[This jade pendant has the Thaumaturgy: Hundred Lanterns]

[Hundred Lanterns: Temporarily take away an ability from a target. After you use this ability once, to conceal this fact, the ability will be removed from you]

[Description: One lantern passes its shine to a hundred lanterns]

[Special note: Thou art is marvellous, I shall carry it forward for thou]

[This jade pendant has the Thaumaturgy: Spotless Jade]

[Spotless Jade: All of this jade's action are known to you alone]

[Description: Spotless Jade hides in plain sight, only appears in front of its owner, unseen by all other living creatures and things]

## **Chapter 829**

Gu Qing Shan quickly left the room.

A voice was sent telepathically into his mind:

『 Xie Qi Ruler, I noticed something isn't right in the waters surrounding us 』

This was from the Silent Ruler.

Gu Qing Shan didn't stop and replied: "Can you revoke your covenant with the Lord of Total Distortion?"

『 I can, but I will have to pay a very heavy price 』

"Any price will be worth it, the Lord of Total Distortion has made a deal with the 100-million-year-old ancient sea creatures and sold all of us out, if you can run away, do it now"

『 WHAT!?! 』 the Silent Ruler screamed in surprise.

Gu Qing Shan didn't say anything else.

As he was about to leave, he stopped.

Because at this crucial moment, lines of blood-red text appeared on the [Kindling] UI:

[Kindling has changed to evolution mode]

[Attention please. The Kindling evolution Quest has officially been issued]

[Quest description: Ancient demonic sea creatures are currently collecting the Mysteries of all evil creatures' birth to study how to thoroughly counter these life forms, and they are already close to succeeding]

[Quest objective: All evil creatures on this ship will be killed and turned into experimental specimens. Please do not leave and remain hidden in the vicinity during the entire specimen creation process. Survive during this period so that Kindling can absorb the knowledge of the Mysteries of the evil creatures' birth and Soul Points to complete this time's evolution]

[Quest reward: Your Excellency will be reinforced with Worlds Apocalypse Online: Origin]

Gu Qing Shan read through everything.

At the same time, the ocean around them was being filled with fog and mist.

The cold mist quickly spread and engulfed the entire giant ship inside.

The mist was stagnant and thick, even if some evil creatures tried controlling the wind to blow it away, it would quickly gather again and become even thicker.

The evil creatures' range of visibility became worse and worse until they couldn't see anything outside of the ship anymore.

Abruptly, a desperate scream could be heard from the mist outside.

That was only the beginning as more scattered screams and cries rang out all over the ocean around the giant ship.

There were still quite a few evil creatures who were out to hunt for seafood and patrol in the ocean.

The sound of battle slowly resounded.

But they didn't last for long, as everything went back to silence quite quickly.

The mist was getting thicker and thicker.

A loud 'bang' came from inside the giant ship that was more like a city on water.

Followed by screams, shouts, echoes of battle, of things banging against one another, overall, a huge commotion.

Apparently realizing something, Gu Qing Shan used [Ground Shrink] and disappeared on the spot.

Where he stood before, a fleshy tentacle broke through the floor and began to spread all around.

Gu Qing Shan reappeared somewhere else on the ship, hovering in mid-air as he used his inner sight to sense what was unfolding right now.

Countless black fleshy tentacles were slowly taking over this ship.

The tentacles moved about wildly, snatching and coiling around the bodies of any evil creature they caught, making them unable to break free.

The evil creatures tried to retaliate with everything they had, but it was all useless against the fleshy tentacles.

Very quickly, the evil creatures that were caught screamed in horror as their bodies slowly dried up.

While keeping them alive, all the flesh and bones inside their bodies were sucked away by the fleshy tentacles, leaving nothing but a bag of skin.

The intense pain that came from this was enough to cause even the hardest evil creature to lose their composure and scream.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but scowl.

He has seen a lot of cruel punishments in the past, but this scene unfolding in front of him could no longer be thought of as a 'punishment'.

All of a sudden, he saw an evil creature desperately running away while swinging his chef's knife.

"Tch..."

Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes.

This was one of the chefs on this ship that he got acquainted with, the two of them exchanged a lot of their achievements in the art of cooking.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and sent out about a dozen flying swords to save that chef.

But with the quantity of fleshy tentacles on the ship, at this rate, Gu Qing Shan wouldn't be able to protect him too long.

"[Kindling], will all the evil creatures on this ship die?" he asked.

[Kindling] replied: [Yes. The demonic sea creatures only need a specimen of the evil creatures to begin their study, during their process of creating specimens, Kindling will automatically begin Soul Points collection, so you don't have to worry about Soul Points. Your Excellency can focus on surviving]

After answering him, [Kindling] fell silent.

It seemed to be hurriedly doing something.

On the [Kindling] UI, his Soul Points value was gradually increasing, at the same time, another notification popped up:

[Collecting and analyzing Life Origin Mysteries]

Gu Qing Shan looked around.

More and more evil creatures were being caught by the fleshy tentacles.

There were several million evil creatures currently riding on this giant ship, and huge numbers of them were quickly being captured and killed by the fleshy tentacles every second.

Meanwhile, the Soul Points value displayed on the [Kindling] had reached an all-time high of 900,000 and was still gradually climbing to the 1-million mark.

But Gu Qing Shan wasn't at all pleased to see this.

All of this Soul Points were going to be used for [Kindling]'s evolution, and this stealing method of Soul Points collection made him feel quite irritated.

The fleshy tentacles were absorbing the evil creatures' flesh and blood, while the [Demon King Order] was absorbing the power of their souls.

"I only need to stand here without doing anything..." Gu Qing Shan muttered.

As desperation and death spread all over, the ship had become essentially hell on the ocean.

But while Gu Qing Shan was standing still, his armor gave off a layer of black smog that completely engulfed him.

Soon enough, the black smog and Gu Qing Shan both vanished from the air.

[Black Smog Boots: When you stand absolutely still, the black smog will conceal you, only enemies 3 realms higher will be able to perceive you]

As Gu Qing Shan was now a Void Wanderer realm cultivator, only enemies at the Paragon realm or above could perceive him.

With that assumption, the master of these fleshy tentacles was at most Three Thousand Worlds realm.

It might be quite close to Paragon realm, but haven't quite reached the final step.

Within the confines of the Primordial Heaven Realm and Primordial Wraith Realm, it should already be among the strongest.

Gu Qing Shan silently mused.

At some point, he suddenly shivered briefly.

The black smog faded.

Gu Qing Shan could be seen again.

Noticing this, [Kindling] quickly alarmed him:

[Your Excellency, please continue to conceal yourself to avoid dying here]

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "It's ok"

A few fleshy tentacles already noticed Gu Qing Shan.

They came out of the deck and reached towards him.

With a single thought, Gu Qing Shan summoned countless flying swords from the void of space that gave off icy cold sword qi.

Like a swarm of locusts, the flying swords surrounded the fleshy tentacles.

All of them were slashed into tiny pieces.

“For my current self, these things aren’t quite as powerful as they seem” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Sword cultivators were originally an extremely offense-specialized Profession, and he had now reached Void Wanderer realm.

With the immense spirit energy reservoir of the Void Wanderer realm, any sword technique he performed carried unimaginable power.

Human or evil creature, Gu Qing Shan could now be considered among the strongest individuals in both worlds.

Even in the future— his present era, he could already be considered a Lord-class Combatant.

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In the air, as soon as the fleshy tentacles were slashed to pieces, the other flesh tentacles immediately realized.

The countless fleshy tentacles madly rained down attacks on Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan simply stood still.

As the fleshy tentacles were about to coil around him, he suddenly vanished.

A wooden table appeared where he previously stood in the air.

With a light touch of the fleshy tentacles, the table was smashed to tiny bits.

The fleshy tentacles instantly realized something was amiss and began to madly search the air.

But no matter how they tried, they couldn’t find the powerful fellow just now.

Gu Qing Shan had already moved towards another corner of the ship and hid in a secluded spot.

Black smog once again emerged from his armor and faded away together with him.

[Kindling]’s voice suddenly resounded:

[What are you doing, Your Excellency? It is very dangerous right now, if you were caught by those flesh tentacles, I would not be able to save you, Your Excellency. Please be more careful and not mess around with your own life]

Gu Qing Shan just chuckled and spoke: “Two people on the chef team have already died. These guys’ cooking were very well-honed, the seafood they cooked had their own charms”

[Kindling] spoke again: [Please be patient, a total of 2 million Soul Points is necessary for the Order to evolve. It will be done in about one minute]

“So all I have to do is stand still?”

[Indeed]

*Boom!*

A loud explosion came from mid-air.

Gu Qing Shan looked up.

The Silent Ruler was leading a few of the strongest evil creatures of the ship to fight against the innumerable fleshy tentacles.

But the Silent Ruler's strength wasn't even a match for Gu Qing Shan before he broke through, so she obviously couldn't hold up against the countless tentacles here.

Gu Qing Shan silently looked at the struggling evil creatures in the sky.

"[Kindling], I have a suggestion"

He finally said.

[You want to save these evil creatures?] [Kindling] sharply asked.

"No, the Lord of Total Distortion treated me as some sort of canned goods to be sold away to the demonic sea creatures, so I'm a bit irritated with that"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "As for saving these evil creatures, I've just been acquainted with these guys recently, so I'm annoyed that I have to watch people I know die in front of me"

[Kindling] spoke seriously: [Your Excellency, please do not attempt meaningless endeavours, that would not only cause Your Excellency to lose your life but also cause the Order to be heavily wounded]

"That's not it at all" Gu Qing Shan slowly spoke, "I mean, are you really satisfied with just 2 million Soul Points? If I can get even more Soul Points, are you going to say no?"

[With your current strength, that is impossible] [Kindling] answered him.

Gu Qing Shan followed up his words: "And also, you said you're collecting the Life Mysteries of the evil creatures, but what about the demonic sea creatures? They are monsters that can naturally live over a hundred million years, the Mysteries they carry should be worth collection a lot more"

[That is indeed true, but we have no way to win against the demonic sea creatures, thus unable to collect their Mysteries] [Kindling] replied.

"You're wrong"

[I am wrong?]

Gu Qing Shan commented: "Yeah, as the [Demon King Order], the steps you take are too small and too cautious"

[Kindling] didn't say anything in return.

After so many years, this was the first time someone had criticized it this way.

It began to seriously gather the corresponding information.

Gu Qing Shan's tone became gentle again as he kept speaking: "Trust me, just leave everything from this point onwards to me. I guarantee we will get a big harvest while also resolving my grudge"

[What will we obtain?]

“Soul Points, and the Mysteries of life regarding the demonic sea creatures above 100 million years old”

[Are you sure you can achieve that?] [Kindling] asked him again.

“Of course, I’m the man who’s going to become the Demon King of Order, if I can’t even do that much, I’d be better off dying right now”

Gu Qing Shan directly declared so.

[Kindling] went silent again, seemingly considering its choices.

What Gu Qing Shan said was truly quite tempting.

[Very well] [Kindling] answered him, [I shall support your choice to the best of my capabilities. I hope you will be able to bring me an ample amount of Soul Points as well as the Life Mysteries demonic sea creatures]

...

In the sky.

The struggling evil creatures were all cheering in joy.

The Xie Qi Ruler had finally joined the fray!

This was a powerful evil Ruler with immense fighting strength.

Sure enough, as soon as he entered the battle, countless flying swords appeared and sliced off a large number of flesh tentacles.

All the evil creatures who were still alive on the ship quickly gathered towards the Xie Qi Ruler.

The Silent Ruler flew over and told Gu Qing Shan: 『 This entire space has been sealed off, we have no way to leave the area within a radius of 30 miles from the ship 』

She then sent telepathy to Gu Qing Shan alone:

『 I’ve searched the ocean water below all around us, all of them are demonic sea creatures 100 million years old and above 』

Gu Qing Shan quickly asked: “Can we defeat demonic sea creatures that are 100 million years old?”

The Silent Ruler told him: 『 You must be joking. After a demonic sea creature lives for over 100 million years old, their power would at least rival that of an evil Ruler, but the majority of them are as least as powerful as the Lord of Total Distortion, some even stronger! 』

Gu Qing Shan nodded and said nothing.

After traveling with the Lord of Total Distortion for the last few days, he already had a general grasp of his strength.



The Lord of Total Distortion's power alone was equivalent to Three Thousand Worlds realm peak stage cultivators. Together with his Mystic-type abilities, he could probably gamble and win against some Paragon realm early stage enemies.

The Silent Ruler spoke full of despair: 『 It seems we won't be able to escape. We're going to die here 』

Gu Qing Shan nodded and coldly told her: "That's right, so I need your help"

『 My help? 』

While manipulating his flying swords, Gu Qing Shan loudly shouted: "Yes, bring out all the covenants you have and make all the evil creatures currently around us sign a guarantee that they won't take advantage of the situation to attack me"

The Silent Ruler was stunned briefly.

She then quickly understood.

*It seems the Xie Qi Ruler has an extremely powerful ability that he can unleash that could completely change the current situation.*

*But as common sense dictates, any ability that unleashes a power that far surpasses an evil creature's own strength would surely come with similarly severe side effects.*

*At that time, the Xie Qi Ruler will temporarily fall into a weakened state.*

*So the Xie Qi Ruler is wary that someone would ambush him!*

*After all, this was all too common for evil creatures.*

After the Xie Qi Ruler shouted his demand, the other evil creatures also quickly understood.

They hurriedly signed the covenant without hesitation.

If he really had an ability that could save their lives, they wished for nothing but the Xie Qi Ruler to unleash it right away.

『 It's done, all those still alive have signed. No one will be able to attack you, so please unleash your ability now 』

The Silent Ruler gave a scroll to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan took a glance at it and put the scroll away.

"I don't have any devastating ability that I can unleash, but since today I've felt suppressed for so long, I've decided to fight to my heart's content"

His answer was easily heard by all the remaining evil creatures.

The Silent Ruler froze as he stared at Gu Qing Shan.

Only to see a drop of blood that gave off an immense frigid aura silently hovering on top of Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Gu Qing Shan grabbed the drop of blood tightly.

And a blue burning flame suddenly manifested in between his eyebrows.

### **Chapter 830**

The blue flame danced on his forehead.

Sudden waves of chill flowed across the air from where he stood like tidal waves.

Transparent, glittering ice crystals began to manifest around the Xie Qi Ruler's body, refracting the light around him to form a 5-colored glow.

A divine sense of dignity and solemnity exuded from his body.

From the time he killed the God of Frost and Chill up to now, Gu Qing Shan had been hiding his body inside his Inventory Bag.

This couldn't be helped.

At the time, all the Divinities were gathered at the Cold Jade Forest to observe the situation of the Divine King's death so if he didn't conceal the God of Frost and Chill's body well and it was found, his plan would've failed right away.

But he didn't expect it to have other uses like this.

『 Ah... You are... what exactly...』

The Silent Ruler stared closely at him, completely frozen from the strange scene she was seeing.

Sensing the immense power made purely of Elemental Ice emerging from Gu Qing Shan's body, all the evil creatures were speechless.

Elemental Ice!

Metal-Wood-Water-Fire-Earth, among them, Elemental Ice was a special form of Elemental Water, but it was still a main Element.

And it was a power that didn't belong to this world!

Gu Qing Shan spoke up: "This is my unique ability, I can borrow and utilize the power of another world. I hope you don't panic from seeing this"

『 The Primordial Heaven Realm? 』 the Silent Ruler asked.

"Indeed"

The Silent Ruler wasn't completely convinced, but she had no other way to explain the current situation.

Not to mention the fact that she and every other evil creature here were currently under the effect of her covenant.

They cannot attack the Xie Qi Ruler.

After explaining himself, Gu Qing Shan's gaze fell back onto the [Kindling] UI.

Lines of blood-red text were already displayed here:

[You've used 900,000 Soul Points to use the Mystery of All Beings Equal and transform into the God of Frost and Chill]

[As you took a large number of Soul Points, the Order's evolution was forcefully stopped]

[...Your Excellency, Envoy of Condemnation, I hope you are correct]

After Gu Qing Shan read them, these lines of blood-red text vanished.

Gu Qing Shan smirked and silently said in his mind: "Don't worry, the rest of this is very simple"

His jet-black skin signature to the Xie Qi fiends faded away as his human appearance came out.

But unlike normal humans, he was exuding a thick air of dignity.

[Kindling] replied: [You will soon have to face the attacks of several dozen 100-million-year-old demonic sea creatures. If you say that is simple, I don't know what you consider difficult]

"You're still too green" Gu Qing Shan explained: "In truth, fighting is and has always been the simplest thing to do. As long as you're prepared and are willing to fight, the only two results that can come out is either victory or defeat"

[Then, what is more difficult?] [Kindling] asked.

It was preparing to memorize everything he said to ensure that it doesn't look dumb in the future.

Gu Qing Shan answered: "There are a lot of things that are vastly more difficult than fighting. Like making a good dish, like finding a job to live, or going after the girl you like, earning enough to support your family, returning to the good old days... all of them are a lot more difficult"

"That's why the one thing I'm never worried about is fighting"

He pulled the Divine King's staff from the void of space and pointed it downwards.

Divine King Craft, [Frost Century]!

This was a full-powered attack from a peak stage Paragon realm Divine King!

*Sha sha sha sha sha sha sha sha!*

The mist that surrounded the entire ship was instantly turned into fragments of ice and fell onto the deck.

The world became clear again.

Following that, the turbulent ocean water around the ship was quickly frozen over by a thick layer of ice.

While the sea beneath that couldn't be seen with naked eyes was also quickly being frozen at a pace that even the eye couldn't keep up, almost instantly turning the 1,000,000 meters radius of the ocean around them into an iceberg.

This freezing speed far surpassed the reaction time of most demonic sea creatures.

All the fleshy tentacles that stretched onto the deck of the ship were frozen stiff, unable to move.

Gu Qing Shan held the Chao Yin sword tightly and swung at full power.

“HAAAAAAHHHHH! BREAAAAAKKKKKK!!!”

He furiously roared.

The Chao Yin sword's Thaumaturgy, [All Crossing Sea of Bitterness]!

The progress bar representing the remaining Soul Points on the [Kindling] UI abruptly jumped and was reduced to nothing.

Under Chao Yin's will, the sea of ice began to crumble by itself.

The calamity produced a turbulent and deafening bang, worse than any earthquake that resounded all around.

The demonic sea creatures hiding under the ocean were first frozen, then ripped apart by the immense force of the ocean itself breaking apart.

*Pah!*

On the [Kindling] UI, the progress bar that had just reduced to nothing was instantly filled to the brim.

Because the Soul Points progress bar couldn't display the exact amount of Soul Points, a number appeared below the progress bar to display the number of Soul Points collected.

The number reads: [3.7 million].

*A whooping 3.7 million Soul Points!*

[Kindling] immediately spoke up: [So much Soul Points! And the Life Mysteries of lifeforms over 100 million years old! Quickly, take this chance and kill more of them!]

Its tone was full of desires.

The Chaos Demonic Sea itself was full of chaotic elements and energy, combined with the immense power produced by the shift of the 1,000,000 meters ocean just now, even the 100 million years old demonic sea creatures couldn't properly react to the sudden devastation.

The weaker ones were immediately killed.

Only the extremely powerful demonic sea creatures remained.

Taking advantage of when they still haven't regained their senses and killing a few more was indeed the best choice.

But as soon as the ocean iceberg erupted, Gu Qing Shan vanished.

No one knew where he was hiding.

No one knew if he had even left or not.

The turbulent ocean gradually became slow.

Gigantic creatures rose from underneath the frozen sea.

Their bodies blocked out the sky itself, taking up the evil creatures' visions.

They were chanting an incantation with a strange tone, then suddenly raised their voices.

The incantation was activated!

*Boom!*

The originally frozen water surface was instantly turned back into seawater.

This was the joint operation of all the 100-million-year-old demonic sea creatures.

They needed seawater.

And the ocean is both their home and preferred battlefield!

『 Where is that bastard!?! 』

A furious voice resounded across the air.

The remaining demonic sea creatures all frantically searched for the God of Frost and Chill.

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But they couldn't find anything.

After taking the Divine King form, Gu Qing Shan's power was equivalent to that of a Paragon realm peak stage cultivator.

Which meant that to surpass the [Black Smog Boots]'s concealment abilities, the enemy must surpass him by at least three realms, they needed to have at least reached {Mahesvara King} realm.

This was the power of the Demon King's armor!

The demonic sea creatures unleashed various spells and techniques to try and flush Gu Qing Shan out.

But even after trying everything, they failed.

『 I can't find him 』 a demonic sea creature said.

『 Me neither 』 another demonic sea creature followed up.

『 That despicable rat killed so many of our comrades 』

『 The surrounding space is still being sealed by us 』

『 Which means, he's still here? 』

After this question, all the demonic sea creatures became tense.

A heavy and dignified voice arrived from inside the group of demonic sea creatures:

『 Not necessarily. Since he was that strong, he might have already left through some unique means 』

All the demonic sea creatures looked back towards the sea creature that said that.

It was a demonic sea creature that wasn't particularly gigantic.

It was being guarded among all the other demonic sea creatures, calmly observing their surroundings.

Countless flesh tentacles sprouted from its body.

As it was thinking, the tentacles were also constantly moving about.

But quite a few tentacles were already broken or cut off.

It was this demonic sea creature that killed the evil creatures on the ship.

The jade gourd pendant Adorable said that the demonic sea creatures were collecting the Life Mysteries of evil creatures.

Apparently, it was mainly this demonic sea creature that was doing that.

『 What should we do now? 』

A demonic sea creature asked.

The demonic sea creature with writhing tentacles all over its body spoke: 『 Follow the plan and kill all the evil creatures. Let's accomplish our goal first before anything else 』

『 Protect me well, don't let anything else unexpected happen 』

The other demonic sea creatures all responded: 『 Understood 』

...

At the same time.

Inside a certain room of the giant ship.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

Regardless of [Kindling]'s urging, he stayed completely still.

He was silently waiting to see the demonic sea creatures' reactions.

And now, their leader had shown itself.

When two armies clash, if one side can kill the other side's commander first, they would naturally drive the other army into chaos and confusion in the middle of battle.

And this didn't just apply to wars, the same principle applied to many other occasions.

Which meant, it was time for him to truly act.

The Frostlie Staff silently appeared from the void of space and landed in his hand.

Faint killing intent lingered around Gu Qing Shan's body.

He vanished from the room.

A split second later.

Far above in the sky, a tiny sprite of icy light appeared.

It was the God of Frost and Chill.

As soon as he appeared, he unleashed an attack on the sea creatures below.

Ice Divine Craft, [Silent Seal]!

This was the ultimate ability that the Golden Flame Divinity once described, the strongest Ice-type technique that the God of Frost and Chill could perform!

A faint white ray of frost struck the flesh tentacle monster.

All the demonic sea creatures immediately realized what was going on.

They angrily roared and retaliated.

A group of demonic sea creatures shielded the flesh tentacle monster to prevent it from being attacked again.

The rest of them unleashed their strongest attack towards the Divine King in the sky.

Rays and jets of terrifying power soared through the sky.

Gu Qing Shan simply watched and laughed.

[Silent Seal] was the strongest Ice technique he knew, not only could it freeze the enemy's body, it would completely freeze their soul and thoughts as well.

At that time, an enemy struck by the technique will enter a 'brittle' state in which neither their body and soul could defend against any attacks.

Furthermore, thanks to the characteristics of Elemental Ice, the enemy can be easily broken to dust.

However, the demonic sea creatures reacted and instantly shielded the flesh tentacle monster while retaliating at the same time.

Gu Qing Shan didn't have the chance to unleash a second attack.

But this wasn't a tough situation for him at all.

Gu Qing Shan let go of the Frostlie Staff and drew the Chao Yin sword.

At this time, the first attack had already arrived right in front of him!

Gu Qing Shan vanished.

Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift]!

The flesh tentacle monster appeared where Gu Qing Shan originally stood.

Just in time for the countless powerful attacks to strike it head-on.

Even in its peak state, the monster wouldn't be able to endure this level of attack from so many demonic sea creatures, let alone in its current frozen state.

*Bang!*

A shattering sound came from the sky above.

The flesh tentacle monster was completely decimated into fine snow powder that fluttered and sprinkled down from above.

The demonic sea creatures were all stunned.

The evil creatures were also stunned.

*What kind of maneuver was that?*

*How did that happen? What else is going to happen?*

They didn't have time to contemplate these questions.

Because Gu Qing Shan was now standing in the very middle of the countless demonic sea creatures.

He raised the Chao Yin sword.

A pair of giant wings of swords manifested behind him.

The frigid Elemental Ice and razor-sharp sword qi mixed and fused together, cutting open black cracks all over the void of space around him.

In the blink of an eye, the Sword Array had been activated!

### **Chapter 831**

From the very beginning, this battle had already moved at a pace that no one could keep up with.

The entire ocean from the surface to a radius of 1,000,000 meters under the sea was frozen into solid ice.

And then that block of ice shattered and completely devastated the creatures below.

Having lived for over 100 million years in the ocean, never have these demonic sea creatures seen this cataclysmic appearance of the sea.

The weaker demonic sea creatures were directly ripped to shreds from the ice eruption and killed on the spot .

The more powerful demonic sea creatures were also heavily wounded.



But that was still fine.

Until the one responsible for commanding the sea creatures and creating evil creature specimens was abruptly murdered.

—by the creatures on its own side.

Despite how long it seemed to be, everything that happened all came about in mere seconds, there wasn't even a chance for the tables to be turned before it was over .

The demonic sea creatures only managed to reactively respond to each happening.

Although to be exact, they didn't even know what exactly happened.

—they weren't to be blamed for this, they were only supposed to come here to enjoy collecting the lives of evil creatures.

Who could've known a Divinity was hiding among the evil creatures!

Gu Qing Shan didn't intend to stop.

He switched places with the flesh tentacle sea creature and appeared in the very middle of all the gigantic demonic sea creatures.

Compared to them, his body was like a tiny speck of dust.

But this speck of dust would be taking their lives.

The sword-infused wind picked up!

When the [Tai Yi] Sword Array was fueled by a Paragon realm peak stage level of power, further infused with the power of Elemental Ice, its destructiveness was increased exponentially compared to any other times he had used it.

A 200-million-year-old demonic sea creature was erased from this world almost instantly as the sword-infused wind swept through its body and turned it into a rain of flesh and blood.

The other demonic sea creatures finally realized what was happening.

Regardless of what happened, they were still powerful sea creatures that had survived for over 100 million years. Even if they were swept into the enemy's pace and couldn't quite respond in time earlier, when faced with the threat of death, their immense power was exerted all at once.

Five demonic sea creatures unleashed their attacks at Gu Qing Shan.

The spells they used weren't particularly special and the skill level involved with them wasn't anything to write home about, but they did have overwhelming destructiveness!

Jets of water glowed and turned into dark-blue rays of light as they shot towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan switched places with one of the demonic sea creatures.

But there were too many demonic sea creatures here.

After a short time, these ancient creatures already understood the essence of this little trick of his.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan appeared, several other demonic sea creatures who had prepared beforehand immediately unleashed their attacks.

*Boom!*

The blinding spells struck and sent Gu Qing Shan flying backward.

“Peh!”

Gu Qing Shan spat out some blood and muttered: “They sure reacted quickly”

The armor he was wearing took the brunt of the attacks and was broken into small pieces.

But a single second later, the entire [Black Smog Armor] was repaired by an invisible force that made it brand new again.

This was the Demon King’s primary armor, as long as you could provide it Soul Points, it could completely repair itself.

— and right now Gu Qing Shan had nothing but Soul Points!

The demonic sea creatures wanted to pursue further with their attacks, but the sword-infused wind inside the Sword Array had already gathered and stopped the first wave of follow-up attacks.

Gu Qing Shan only managed to regain his balance when the second wave of attacks arrived.

Countless spells struck his body directly.

There were still too many demonic sea creatures, and the ones that could survive to this point had strength at least equivalent to Three Thousand Worlds realm peak stage, some of them might have even reached Paragon realm early stage.

As he was facing the full-power attacks of over a dozen enemies like this, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t completely stop them even after turning into the Divine King.

He dodged and weaved as he looked for a chance to retaliate, occasionally taking an attack on purpose to take an enemy’s life.

The [Black Smog Armor] constantly kept him safe by taking the majority of the attacks for him.

At some point, Gu Qing Shan realized something was wrong.

Compared to the beginning, the demonic sea creatures were attacking a lot less frequently.

This gave Gu Qing Shan a lot more breathing space, but he was feeling a bit suspicious.

During a struggle for life and death like this, the attacks on both sides would only become stronger as time passed unless the other party was doing something else.

*So what are the demonic sea creatures doing?*

Gu Qing Shan glanced around.

There were still several dozen demonic sea creatures chasing closely after him without relenting.

But——

They seem to only be stalling Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan expanded his inner sight and saw something happening at a faraway area of the ocean .

Eight demonic sea creatures were gathered there, chanting the same incantation.

A dark arc of lightning occasionally flashed within their'hands'.

Two particularly large demonic sea creatures were enduring the attacks of the sword-infused wind for them.

The chanting of the demonic sea creatures was clearly quickening, they would soon finish their spell!

Gu Qing Shan had a very bad feeling.

——*so that's what happened.*

*Eight demonic sea creatures over 100 million years old were gathered at once to perform a technique that needed quite a bit of time to prepare.*

*So it must be an incredibly devastating combined attack!*

Despite noticing this, Gu Qing Shan already had no time to stop them.

Numerous demonic sea creatures had already surrounded Gu Qing Shan, stopping him from moving away.

On the other side of the ocean, more and more demonic sea creatures were gathering to defend their eight chanting comrades.

They were wary of Gu Qing Shan's [ Shadow Shift]

And there wasn't time for him to use it now!

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"Adorable!"

Gu Qing Shan shouted.

*Wu wu!*

(Got it!)

The jade gourd pendant appeared from the void of space and pointed its head towards the hands of the demonic sea creatures.

*Xiu xiu xiu xiu~ Xiu xiu xiu wu wu!*

(your technique is really awesome, let me just borrow it for a sec~ )

As the demonic sea creatures finished preparing their technique, the jade gourd pendant declared as such.

Gu Qing Shan could immediately sense that he now carried the power of a certain spell.

And that he could unleash it any time he liked.

Without hesitation, he unleashed this spell back at the demonic sea creatures.

A gray arc of lightning flashed from the void of space.

Both the demonic sea creatures and Gu Qing Shan were no match for the speed of this attack.

The demonic sea creatures were squarely hit by the grey arc of lightning.

A net of glittering electricity appeared out of nowhere and completely trapped these demonic sea creatures inside.

They were shocked.

*What?*

*Wasn't this the summoning spell we were about to perform ?*

*How did---*

Recalling what this technique did, the demonic sea creatures desperately struggled in a frenzy.

But it was useless, the gigantic net made up of grey lightning quickly shrank around them.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze was focused .

He could clearly see 7-8 sharp spikes manifesting out of nowhere around each demonic sea creature and pierced their bodies.

It only took a slight prick---

And these demonic sea creatures immediately went limp.

A cave made of nothing but grey lightning manifested from the void of space.

A frightening aura could be felt from inside the cave of lightning.

The evil creatures on the ship, the demonic sea creatures, even Gu Qing Shan who had taken the God of Frost and Chill's form was stunned from this terrifying presence alone.

Gu Qing Shan bit down on the tip of his tongue.

The sensation of pain slowly allowed him to regain his senses.

Gu Qing Shan stared intently at the cave of black lightning and felt his heartbeat becoming faster and faster, his sense of danger was urging him to run away.

This was an instinctive reaction of the body and mind for every living being when faced with a superior hunter. You could only try to suppress this instinct but never truly eliminate it.

*The Eternal True God, Soul Shrieker?*

Gu Qing Shan silently thought

*No.*

*This wasn't it.*

But this cave made of grey lightning summoned by the net of grey lightning was giving off an aura that wasn't any weaker than the Soul Shrieker.

Under everyone's gaze, the unconscious demonic sea creatures inside the net were pulled into the cave of grey lightning.

Their bodies were too large and too heavy, so a pair of brightly-colored mandibles covered in burr appeared to pull the net inside.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the pair of mandibles

*This wasn't the Soul Shrieker.*

*Or the legendary sleeping Demon Dragon.*

*But the power this creature gave off is extreme enough to make anyone dread.*

*It was comparable to the Soul Shrieker!*

*I can't believe the demonic sea creatures were able to summon such a powerful entity.*

*But what kind of monster is this?*

Almost immediately, the unconscious, but living demonic sea creatures were pulled directly to the opening of the cave.

Abruptly, a jet-black hand reached out from the cave of grey lightning and caught the net.

The hand was missing a finger, but that didn't hinder its actions.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes wide.

*This hand!*

Gu Qing Shan instantly recalled the finger that he saw at the bottom floor of the lava cathedral.

The finger that could still struggle while being restrained by hundreds of chains.

That finger was exactly the same as the other fingers on this jet-black hand.

It was unimaginable, but the finger that the cathedral suppressed actually came from this unknown monster!

The net and the prey inside it were all pulled into the grey cave without much trouble.

The cave of grey lightning vanished from mid-air.

The residue arcs of lightning gradually became dim, flashed a few more times in the void of space before it faded completely.

The ocean returned to silence.

All of a sudden, the remaining demonic sea creatures howled and cried out in fear, all scrambling to flee.

*We're not fighting anymore!*

*Don't be ridiculous, even our ultimate summoning technique was reflected back on us, there's no way to beat him.*

Gu Qing Shan didn't try to pursue them.

That scene just now was too shocking.

If he didn't notice something wasn't right with his instincts.

If he didn't discover what those demonic sea creatures were trying to do in time.

If the jade gourd pendant wasn't as crazily impressive as it was.

*I'm not even sure I could've survived being attacked by that monster*

## **Chapter 832**

The demonic sea creatures quickly scattered.

If it was just fighting against a single Divinity, they still had plenty of fight to give, but after that cave of grey lightning was turned against them, they lost all of their fighting spirits.

Such a grand battle ended in such a ridiculous way.

Gu Qing Shan also calmed down.

"I'm glad you're here"

Gu Qing Shan smiled at the jade gourd pendant Adorable.

The gourd Adorable spoke weakly

*Xiu... wu wu...*

(I... I feel weak)

"What? How are you feeling right now?" Gu Qing Shan immediately asked.

*Xiu xiu xiu xiu xiu wu wu*

(That summoning spell just now was too powerful, and I used my powers too many times before that, so I'll have to die soon)

*Die?*

Gu Qing Shan's heart skipped a beat and loudly asked: "What happened? Why do you have to die? How do I save you?"

*Xiu... wu wu...*

(After using my abilities three times, I will die)

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

*Adorable first stole the piece of metal, then immediately returned and fought together with me, it used its abilities several times during the battle with the demonic sea creatures.*

*It has indeed used its abilities too many times to count at this point.*

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly shouted: "Why didn't you tell me, if I knew about that, I wouldn't have let you joined the battle"

*Xiu... Xiu xiu xiu... Wu wu!*

(It's fine... I was glad I could fight alongside you... even if I have to die!)

Gu Qing Shan was completely clueless on what to do.

*First the Earth sword, now the gourd, can't I save anything at all?*

He spoke in a low voice: "Adorable, there must be a way to save you, tell me"

*Xiu xiu xiu, wu wu, xiu xiu xiu xiu, xiu xiu xiu... Xiu... xiu xiu xiu*

(Death is a path that must be tread, after I die, take my gourd seed, infuse it with Soul Points... may be...)

(Farewell, and goodbye, Gu Qing Shan)

After telling him that, the jade gourd pendant lost all signs of its life.

The glow around its body was also completely gone.

With a 'bang', the jade pendant shattered and crumbled into dust in the wind.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

*After waiting for so long, we only just got to know each other and it already shattered?*

*I had thought it was a very powerful treasure.*

*But just like the Earth sword, it was already at the end of its rope, barely hanging on to life but didn't tell me and used the last of its life to right.*

Gu Qing Shan's heart slowly sank, unable to say a thing.

All of a sudden!

Gu Qing Shan noticed that he was holding a gourd seed in his hand!

*(take my gourd seed, infuse it with Soul Points... may be...)*

Recalling the jade pendant Adorable's words, Gu Qing Shan felt a glimmer of hope in his heart.

He carefully clutched the gourd seed and glanced at the [Kindling] UI.

—-seeing his Soul Points having now reached over 7 million, Gu Qing Shan infused Soul Points into the gourd seed without hesitation.

One breath's worth of time later.

He poured in a whopping 100,000 Soul Points!

Another crisp 'bang' sound of something shattering was heard.

The gourd seed was no more.

It was now a jade gourd pendant.

This jade gourd pendant looked exactly the same as the jade pendant Adorable, it was trembling constantly as if trying to suppress some sort of emotions.

And finally, it couldn't suppress it anymore.

*Xiu~ xiu~ Xiu xiu xiu xiu~*

(Hahaha~ You should've seen your face just now, that was really quite something!)

The jade gourd pendant squeaked happily

Gu Qing Shan: "..."

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"You— aren't dead?"

Gu Qing Shan glared at it and asked.

The jade gourd pendant explained: (Whenever I use my abilities three times in a row, I'll be captured by all the Origin Laws of the current world and killed once)

"Why does it work like that?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

(Several hundred million years ago, someone people had discussed this, but after they changed their perspectives and thought about it again, they felt that the Origin Laws were doing the right thing) the jade gourd pendant answered him.

"So then why are you still alive now?" Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

(I have to use this method to fool the Laws in order to continue living— or did you actually get fooled by that as well?)

The jade gourd pendant floated in mid-air, shaking its body.

Gu Qing Shan sighed deeply and felt a bit ashamed.

*Yes, I do occasionally fool and deceive a few people, I won't deny that.*



*But just take a look, my treasure tool was already deceiving the Laws of the world.*

*Compared to that, what I did isn't even considered an achievement.*

*I still have a lot more to learn.*

Since the gourd was in no danger, Gu Qing Shan didn't want to chat with it anymore.

He flew back onto the ship, entered the lava cathedral, and headed straight for the deepest part of the cathedral.

Several hundred thin chains laid scattered on the ground.

The giant finger that was originally restrained here was nowhere to be seen.

*As expected, the Lord of Total Distortion brought the mysterious finger with him.*

*What exactly is he trying to do?*

With a lot of questions in mind, Gu Qing Shan left the giant ship.

He wielded the Frostlie staff towards the ship.

The entire giant ship was frozen and turned into an ice mountain that floated on top of the ocean.

All the evil creatures were sealed inside, unable to move.

The Chao Yin sword vibrated a bit.

A tidal wave came up from underneath the sea.

The wave raised the ice mountain and slowly carried it back where they arrived.

The Demon Dragon nail was still being hung at the top of the ship's sails, and there aren't any other 100-million-year-old demonic sea creatures on the way back, so this slow trip should be quite safe for them.

Even if they happen to run into a sea creature that wasn't afraid to become a Demon Dragon bloodkin, it would have to first break the ice that's protecting the ship.

As soon as the ice was broken, the evil creatures would awaken.

At that time, whether they live or die will have to depend on their own strength.

After doing that, Gu Qing Shan took out a piece of metal.

Because of how sudden it appeared last time, he hurriedly threw it away as soon as possible.

But now, Gu Qing Shan intended to take a closer look at it.

———this was something the jade gourd pendant Adorable stole from the transaction between the Lord of Total Distortion and the demonic sea creatures.

Thinking of the finger that the Lord of Total Distortion obtained as well as the deal he made with the demonic sea creatures, Gu Qing Shan could faintly guess what he was planning.

This deal of theirs was probably related to that monster.

Gu Qing Shan held the piece of metal between his fingers and carefully observed it.

This was an incredibly ancient piece of metal with various marks showing its age on the outside.

The piece of metal was basically a thin and small triangle, whatever patterns and letters that were on it were now faded, leaving only the holes and deeper carvings intact.

As Gu Qing Shan took the piece of metal into this hand, lines of blood-red text appeared on the [Kindling] UI.

[Key of the Seal]

[Description: This key can open a secret path]

[Note: All secret paths leading into the Eternal Abyss have been sealed, but only the key of one of them was passed on]

After Gu Qing Shan read through all of this, the blood-red text on the UI disappeared.

[Kindling]'s voice came: [Your Excellency, I suggest that you don't try and go to that place]

"Why not?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Kindling] replied: [The Eternal Abyss is endless and bottomless, even the Soul Shrieker was nothing but a single monster within the Abyss, once you step inside, there's no telling what could happen]

"Are you worried that I would be eaten by the monsters?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[No, I'm not worried about that at all. After all, you are still too weak, the energy it takes any monsters from the Eternal Abyss to open their mouths would far exceed what they could obtain from eating you. It's a huge loss so they wouldn't bother to do such a thing] [Kindling] answered him.

Gu Qing Shan silently listened to the end before he understood what it meant.

*Yeah, that's a bit annoying to hear.*

Gu Qing Shan sternly asked: "Then why are you suggesting that I don't go?"

[Kindling] answered him: [As your sword said before, he who wrestles against an evil dragon would ultimately become an evil dragon himself, and he who associates with the Abyss would one day become a part of the Abyss. You are an excellent seed to become the Demon King, the Order hopes that you will become the Demon King of Condemnation, and not some unknown, inexplicable entity]

## **Chapter 833**

Several ten thousand years ago.

Within the phantom images of the parallel worlds.

Gu Qing Shan was standing above the Primordial Wraith Realm's Chaos Demonic Sea, holding a Key of the Seal in his hand, discussing with [Kindling] whether or not he should go to the Eternal Abyss.

While he was doing that.

Several ten thousand years later.

The Strife Zones.

Within a certain world of crime.

A young man wearing sunglasses and a nice-looking black suit stepped into a bar.

He seemed incredibly tired with several wounds that still haven't closed on his body, his steps occasionally staggered, as if he would collapse at any time.

But no one in the bar tried to cause any trouble with him.

"Decent killing intent"

"An expert"

"Hm..."

"Nothing but trouble, don't mess with him"

Everyone took a short glance at him before whispering among themselves.

The young man walked straight up to the bar and greeted the barkeep.

"Give me a bottle of the best liquor you have, and call your boss out here"

He spoke with a calm tone while twirling a coin among his fingers.

As the barkeep saw the coin in his hand, he quickly poured him a glass of liquor and respectfully told him: "Please wait a moment"

The barkeep then placed a coin on the table.

The coin disappeared and turned into a pair of black curtains that completely obscured the area where the young man sat.

Seeing this, the others acted like they saw nothing and instinctively took distance.

The young man also ignored the black curtains around him and simply enjoyed his liquor.

The barkeep quickly left.

A few moments later, a drunk fat man followed the barkeep behind the counter of the bar.

He glanced at the young man's face, showed a bright smile, and also went inside the black curtains.

No one on the outside would be able to sense anything in here.

"Esteemed guest, your presence here is an honor to his humble one"

"Esteemed guest?" the young man put the glass of liquor down and squinted his eyes: "This liquor right here is 70% water, that's a bit much isn't it?"

The fat bar owner slowly explained: "Normally we serve nothing but poison, because you're a colleague, we would have to serve adulterated alcohol, and because of that coin, we served you genuine liquor"

"Then how should I get a glass of actual, non-diluted liquor here?"

"My apologies, that would ruin the evil reputation of his far, so we insist on never doing such a thing"

"Reasonable"

The young man drank the entire glass of diluted liquor in his hand and slammed the coin onto the table.

"This is the #791 coin, a rare article, you can check its authenticity first" he said.

The fat bar owner smiled.

Without him doing anything, the coin was already in his hands.

He squinted his eyes and carefully observed the coin.

All of a sudden, he squeezed the coin tightly.

The sound of numerous moving mechanical parts could be heard.

The coin directly turned into a pistol that gave off bright silver rays of light.

The fat bar owner observed the silver pistol and confirmed it: "The #791 coin, Gun of the Hitman, a genuine article indeed"

He unwillingly put the silver gun back onto the table.

As soon as it left his hand, the gun turned back into a coin.

Indeed, this was a #791 coin among the 1001 numbered coins forged by the Divinities.

It had the ability to turn into a pistol with unique capabilities.

The fat bar owner spoke in a satisfied manner: "Your offer was quite decent, coins with this number are quite rare so they're worth quite a bit, you may issue your job here"

"No hurry" the young man calmly replied: "I heard that in this world, all the high-leveled assassination jobs are issued by your place here?"

The fat bar owner nodded: "Our services have always been the most professional, so our reputation goes far"

"That's great then" the young man lightly sighed and continued: "I want to put a bounty on a certain person in this Crime World, as long as a hitman can kill him, the reward for them is this coin"

The fat bar owner carefully asked: "Then what's the pay for our bar?"

"As your rules stated, take it from this coin" the young man replied.

The fat bar owner clapped his hand and smiled: "No problem, who do you want to be killed?"

The young man answered: "I want to kill a hitman"

The fat bar owner praised: "Hm, this job is certainly worth your coin, then please continue"

"That hitman is called Zhang Ying Hao, a human. His weight, height, and appearance are exactly the same as mine"

The fat bar owner memorized the young man's appearance and replied: "Yes, I've memorized it"

"Very good, then the job will start, erm, let's say tomorrow morning" the young man said.

"We can issue the job for you right now. That Zhang Ying Hao fellow won't even live to see the sunrise tomorrow" the fat bar owner smiled and told him.

"No, no, no, that's not going to work. I still have to drink some proper liquor and get a good night's sleep first. That way I can deal with the pursuers starting tomorrow"

Saying that, the young man picked the bottle of liquor up, poured himself a glass, and downed it in one breath.

The fat bar owner's smile froze on his face.

A certain unbelievable thought cross his mind and lingered there until he couldn't help but ask:

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"Esteemed guest, do you mean, you are issuing a job for every hitman in this world to go after your head?"

Zhang Ying Hao replied: "You didn't understand it wrongly"

"I've been hungry for 5 days already" he told the barkeep: "Get me a portion of fried rice from that shop right in front of your bar, 5 extra eggs. After I'm done, I want 2 more of this same liquor, I'll be sleeping here tonight"

The barkeep glanced at the far bar owner.

The fat bar owner nodded.

The barkeep quickly left.

The fat bar owner was looking at Zhang Ying Hao like he looked at some strange creature.

He pointed at his own head and asked: "Are you ok up here sir?"

Zhang Ying Hao shrugged: "After being a creditable hitman for over 10 years, my head is more or less not normal, but I can assure you I'm not as you think"

The fat bar owner's expression became even more curious: "Then why do you have to issue a job to go after your own life? You should know that every hitman in this world will be trying to kill you and use your head to exchange for that coin"

Zhang Ying Hao lit a cigarette, took a deep drag from it, and replied: "Because there are too many hitmen in this world, it's too troublesome to go to each of them. You should know, people in this

business can't give up on a job after they took it, so I'm issuing a job for them to come and kill me, that's much more convenient"

"Convenient?" the fat bar owner asked doubtfully.

"Convenient for me to kill them, or be killed by them" Zhang Ying Hao laughed.

The fat bar owner was stunned.

He was an old fox who had been in this business for countless years and experienced all sorts of thick and thin, but right now, he felt that his head was completely rusty.

"Esteemed guest, I know I shouldn't ask too much, but if you answer me, I shall provide the best room this place has to offer for you tonight, free of charge" the fat bar owner said.

"A free room? Then I won't refuse, you can ask"

"Why do you want to bring all the hitmen in the world to kill you?"

"I've gone through 37 worlds, constantly comparing notes with my peers and raising my level through sparring with them"

Zhang Ying Hao took a sip of liquor and continued: "This is no exception"

The fat bar owner froze.

...

Let's rewind time.

Back to a few ten thousand years ago.

Among the Age of Old phantom images.

Gu Qing Shan stood in midair with a hesitant expression on his face.

[Kindling] continued to try and convince him: [Your sword wasn't wrong. Furthermore, as you reach a higher level, you will have countless demons and slaves to serve under you, there is no need for you to personally go through such danger]

"When will that be?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[After I reach the Revolution stage]

"You're currently [Kindling] and will soon evolve to become [Origin], then after that is [Revolution]?"

[Indeed]

"Alright, then I won't enter the Eternal Abyss" Gu Qing Shan sighed and said.

[A wise choice] [Kindling] praised him.

"Now, I believe you should have gathered enough Soul Points and Life Mysteries, evolve already, I need you to become stronger" Gu Qing Shan said.

[Kindling] didn't reply.

On the UI, lines of blood-red text appeared:

[All conditions have been met]

[Evolution will officially begin]

[Kindling will enter a dormant state until this evolution is over]

All the blood-red text disappeared.

The [Kindling] UI has completely vanished from Gu Qing Shan's sight.

The [Demon King Order] had fallen dormant.

This was the same as what happened back in Triste's collection world after the [Order] began its evolution, it would temporarily disappear from the demonized people.

It was also then that Gu Qing Shan took the chance to turn the tables.

Gu Qing Shan stood still for a while.

The [Order] still didn't show any movement.

*Seems like it's actually evolving right now...*

"Good, finally no one to babble constantly in my ears" Gu Qing Shan mumbled.

He looked towards the faraway sea.

*According to what the jade gourd pendant said, Lord of Total Distortion's ship was heading in that direction.*

Gu Qing Shan contemplated briefly, then tapped his Inventory Bag and released the jade gourd pendant Adorable.

*Wu wu?*

(What is it?)

The gourd asked.

"Bring me to where they did the transaction" Gu Qing Shan said.

*Wu wu~ Xiu xiu xiu wu wu?*

(Wait, didn't you just say that you won't enter the Eternal Abyss?)

The gourd curiously asked.

Gu Qing Shan expressed his agreement: "I'm not going to enter, I'll just be strolling along the edge"

*Xiu xiu xiu?*

(Is there a difference?)

The gourd asked in confusion.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "I want to find out what the situation is. To search and to learn is an excellent way to change the future, so I have to make a trip there to see if there is any new intel"

"Furthermore, the Lord of Total Distortion is there. He treated me as a specimen to be sold to the demonic sea creatures, and this grudge isn't going to settle itself"

### **Chapter 834**

It was said that the Ocean Abyss was an area of the ocean that was simply bottomless.

All of the 100-million-year-old demonic sea creatures resided here; not only were they supremely powerful but thanks to their home-field advantage, they could simply run away if they can't beat someone in battle. They were, overall, extremely tough opponents to face.

Gu Qing Shan was holding a glowing triangular piece of metal in his hand as he slowly descended down below.

Ever since he entered the Ocean Abyss, this triangular piece of metal seemed to have formed a connection with an unknown place.

It was like a beacon and a sensor at the same time, capable of sending certain coordinates directly into Gu Qing Shan's inner sight.

Following the direction of the triangular piece of metal, Gu Qing Shan kept diving down towards a completely silent area deep under the ocean.

After Gu Qing Shan reached a certain point, the triangular piece of metal didn't react anymore.

Gu Qing Shan tried releasing his inner sight to check his surroundings, but found nothing.

However, his spirit sense recognized that something was amiss.

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out trying to grab something.

There was nothing but seawater in front of him, but he felt a clear sensation of touching something hard.

This was a piece of rock.

Gu Qing Shan held onto the rock and tried touching everywhere he could around him.

He soon found the shape of a door.

This was a closed stone door.

Gu Qing Shan tried pushing it.

It stood still without moving.

His swords couldn't leave any mark on the stone door.

And the ice didn't give him any better results either.



Having no other choice, Gu Qing Shan continued to search.

After a while more, he finally found a hole on the stone door.

—apparently a place to put a key inside.

Without hesitation, Gu Qing Shan pushed the triangular Key of the Seal inside.

A heavy sound of shifting stones resounded.

And the door finally opened.

The triangular key was spat back out by the door, which landed in Gu Qing Shan's hands.

Gu Qing Shan went inside.

*Bam!*

As soon as he entered the stone door slammed shut behind him.

Gu Qing Shan turned around for a brief moment, before putting the Key of the Seal away and continued to swim forward.

Several dozen seconds of swimming later, he saw a flight of stairs ahead.

These stairs began underwater and continued to head upward.

Gu Qing Shan swam along the stairs and finally emerged out of the water after a while.

Once he was there, he found that the stairs continued heading far upward without end.

There were ancient motley walls on both sides of the stairs, on which torches automatically lit up when Gu Qing Shan came out of the water.

Even though the path ahead was being illuminated, the area down below was still in total darkness.

Gu Qing Shan slowly headed up the stairs with the Frostlie Staff in his left hand and the Chao Yin sword in his right.

A few minutes later.

The path forward began to turn flat.

Gu Qing Shan noticed that he was walking down a long tunnel without an end.

While he was calling it a tunnel, it wasn't exactly a tunnel either.

Because there was a red carpet laid down right at his feet.

As Gu Qing Shan carefully observed it, he found this carpet to be a Magic-type relic that automatically cleansed any dirt or dust that fell onto it.

After so many years, the hallway had become incredibly worn and ancient, but the carpet was still completely neat and orderly.

This created a strange sense of dissonance that made him feel like time was blending into itself here.

As he reached this place, his inner sight became unusable.

Some sort of mysterious but powerful force was suppressing his inner sight so that its range only reached at most several meters around himself, unable to be extended any further.

Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to rely on his eyesight to observe his surroundings.

He quickly walked along, heading for the end of the hallway.

About five minutes later.

There was still no end to this hallway.

Fortunately, a few things appeared on both sides of the path to make Gu Qing Shan keep his guard up.

At first, it was a few strangely-shaped bones.

Followed by some damaged tables, broken pieces of metal, some broken boots.

All of them were unbelievably ancient.

But thanks to the sturdy materials that they were made up of, these items could still maintain their basic form after so many years.

Obviously, humans were active around this area at one point.

*—was this hallway created by humans?*

*To keep the monsters of the Eternal Abyss out, humanity created the Great Tie Wei fortress wall.*

*But why did they create a secret path that connects to the Eternal Abyss?*

Gu Qing Shan looked around a bit before continuing heading forward.

A long while later.

There was still no end to this hallway.

If Gu Qing Shan had rushed forward at full speed, he would've already been able to traverse a much longer distance.

But he was constantly reminding himself not to do it.

*—this is a path leading to the Eternal Abyss, and I can't even release my inner sight to scout forward right now.*

As soon as he had such a thought, Gu Qing Shan subconsciously slowed down.

He patiently walked forward, occasionally stopping on the way to see the items that were left behind from over 100 million years ago.

Everything was covered in a thick layer of dust, apparently, no one had tried to touch or study them up to this point.

This meant that the Lord of Total Distortion completely ignored these items.

He brought the black finger with him in order to look for that monster.

If the Lord of Total Distortion achieved his goal and returned to the Primordial Wraith Realm, he would have to travel along this secret path.

Which meant the two of them would surely face one another.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head, temporarily put his thoughts away, and continued to head forward.

There was nothing particularly special on this path, only relics, and items that suggested that people used to live or work here.

From a logical standpoint, it was still unknown what kind of entity or creature created this path.

If humanity created this hallway that connected to the Eternal Abyss, then the existence of the Grand Tie Wei fortress wall didn't make sense.

——you aren't going to put all your resources towards fighting against an enemy while secretly making a path for them to sneak in at the same time.

Unless there was some sort of indescribable hidden truth.

There was another possible situation: If this path wasn't created by humanity, then who was the one who made all of this?

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Gu Qing Shan couldn't help muttering to himself: "I really can't understand, why would someone make a hallway towards the entrance to the Eternal Abyss?"

He glanced down at the triangular key in his hand.

The key was still not giving off any reactions.

Without any clues, he could only continue to head forward.

Gu Qing Shan resumed his long trek towards the unknown.

For several hours, he did nothing but walk forward.

Occasionally, he would stop to check some of the left-over damaged items, attempting to look for any clues that might remain.

At a certain point.

Gu Qing Shan stopped.

The hallway in front of him was completely dark.

Before this point, the path still had torches lined on either sides, but here, not even a single torch could be seen.

Gu Qing Shan turned around and took off a torch from the wall, wanting to use it to light his way forward.

But as soon as he set foot into the dark part of the hallway, the torch went out.

Gu Qing Shan carefully observed the tip of the torch.

— — — he didn't see anything out of the ordinary.

Unconvinced, Gu Qing Shan returned and took another brightly burning torch to light his way into the dark hallway.

This time, he managed to walk for about one minute.

Then the torch went out again.

Gu Qing Shan stood still silently.

*This wasn't a coincidence.*

He crouched down, slowly put the torch on the ground, and stood back up without moving.

The Chao Yin sword appeared in his hand.

A short pause.

Nothing happened.

*How strange...*

While Gu Qing Shan was contemplating, he suddenly felt a gust of wind sweeping by his face.

The light gust of wind quickly turned into intense storm-level wind!

Gu Qing Shan stood still, then abruptly grabbed something that came with the wind.

As he checked what he caught, he saw that it was a bone.

"This bone isn't right..."

He muttered.

With his many years of experience and instincts as a cook, he could tell that this bone was still relatively new, it wasn't as old as the others.

*Why would a piece of bone fly out from the hallway?*

A few moments later.

The wind stopped and the dark hallway returned to silence.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a few moments, retreated, took another burning torch and re-entered the dark hallway.

He silently waited.

A few moments later.

A light gust of wind swept by---

And the torch went out instantly.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

*This wind seems to have some sort of ability that could cause the torch to immediately go out.*

While he was thinking, the wind became stronger and stronger, once again turning into a storm-level wind.

A few more pieces of bones came flying with it.

Gu Qing Shan randomly caught one of them.

---this was half a skull, it looked quite ferocious, most likely not human.

He suddenly realized something.

After the wind calmed down again, he quickly dashed forward.

Sure enough, a few thousand meters later, he found five skeletons lying on the ground.

The owners of these skeletons seemed to have experienced some sort of intense pain and torture while they were alive, as all of them were fixed in twisted, writhing poses with wide-opened jaws.

Gu Qing Shan walked around the skeletons a little bit and felt the malicious, sinister power that still hadn't faded from them.

He fully understood what happened.

---these were the skeletons of evil creatures.

Not too long ago, a sacrificial ritual was performed here.

Sacrificial rituals were a type of power unique to the realm of the Mystic, completely different in essence to summoning techniques.

During a summoning ritual, the summoner and the summoned form a deal with one another through a mutual contract.

But sacrificial rituals weren't the same.

They were essentially a kind of begging.

A lower life form pays a huge price to ask a higher life form from another dimension for their help.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit doubtful.

This was only a dark hallway, why would the Lord of Total Distortion have to sacrifice the life and soul of 5 evil creatures?

Another gust of wind came.

The wind was gradually becoming stronger.

The wind blowing here was considerably more violent and ferocious than the wind he felt a few thousand meters back.

Gu Qing Shan raised his eyebrows.

He was sensing a severe feeling of danger.

Instinctively, he tilted his face to one side.

At the very next second, he noticed that there was a wound on his face.

Blood began flowing from it.

*How is that possible!*

*I'm currently using the Divine King's body, I have power equivalent to a Paragon realm peak stage cultivator, and I'm still wearing the [Black Smog Armor] with the visor covering my face.*

*Yet the wind still managed to blow through and wounded my face!*

Gu Qing Shan immediately took action.

He turned around and moved back a considerable distance along the hallway until he was no longer close to the skeletons.

The wind was much weaker here.

But some bones could be seen flying past him again.

“So that’s why... even the Divine King couldn’t endure this power, let alone the Lord of Total Distortion”

“No wonder he had to sacrifice them”

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

### **Chapter 835**

Gu Qing Shan stood inside the dark hallway, contemplating.

The intense wind was sweeping against his body.

In truth, since the wind had traveled through such a far distance to reach here, it was already weakened greatly.

The further forward he went, the stronger the wind would become, even capable of bypassing the [Black Smog Armor] and damaging his Divine King-level body.

Gu Qing Shan knew that he couldn’t move forward any further.

—-*it would’ve been great if Shannu was here.*

He sighed.

*Shannu could've relied on the Six Paths Great Mountain sword's Thaumaturgy [Invincible] to simply move forward and scout what was ahead of this dark hallway instead of him.*

*As for the Lord of Total Distortion, he could sacrifice his subordinate's life and soul to temporarily obtain immense power enough to advance.*

*Shannu isn't here, and I don't have any subordinates or know how to do a sacrificial ritual, so I'm basically stuck here.*

A few moments later, the wind stopped.

Gu Qing Shan silently counted.

At 30 breaths, the wind began to blow again.

20 breaths later.

The wind stopped.

30 breaths again.

The wind resumed.

The entire process was repeating itself in a consistent manner.

*So consistent...*

*Could this be a fixed mechanism?*

*I have 30 breaths' worth of time to use, can I make it through this entire dark hallway within that time?*

*Unfortunately, my inner sight can't move too far away from my body so both [Ground Shrink] and [Shadow Shift] won't do much.*

*This wind could easily hurt the Divine King's body, so it's unimaginable how strong the wind would be at the source.*

*There might not even be a way to go through.*

...

*No, that can't be right.*

*There must be a way, otherwise, the Lord of Total Distortion wouldn't have made so many preparations just to enter this place.*

Gu Qing Shan carefully thought about it for a few moments.

When the wind began to blow again, he tapped his Inventory Bag and released the gourd Adorable.

"Can you steal this wind?"

Gu Qing Shan asked hopefully.

*Wuwu? Xiu xiu xiu!*

(What do you mean steal? I've never stolen anything in my entire life!)

The gourd angrily refuted him.

"Alright, I was wrong, can you borrow or learn this wind?" Gu Qing Shan corrected his words.

Hearing that, the gourd Adorable twisted its body and hovered in the air, silently sensing the wind sweeping through the hallway.

*Xiuxiu xiu, wu wu, xiu xiuxiu xiu*

(I actually can, strange, I shouldn't be able to borrow and use naturally created Elemental phenomenon)

The gourd Adorable answered doubtfully.

Gu Qing Shan felt heavy.

*The gourd can borrow the skills of others.*

*In other words, this wind actually has a source, it's not naturally created.*

*If this wind was a sort of magic or technique, then there must be someone at the end of the dark hallway constantly unleashing it.*

*This hallway has existed for countless years already, can someone have constantly stayed at the end of this path and used this spell periodically without stopping?*

*That doesn't make sense.*

Gu Qing Shan looked towards the darkness of the hallway and felt an intense sense of curiosity.

In the end, he decided to try and check it out.

"Adorable, you can use your Thaumaturgies three times consecutively, is that right?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The jade gourd pendant Adorable replied:

(If I use [Hundred Lanterns] or [Borrowing Wonder] thrice in a row in a short period of time, I'll have to turn back into a gourd seed. Even if I grow again, I can only use [Spotless Jade] for the next 1 hour)

At this point, the wind inside the hallway had just reached its strongest.

Gu Qing Shan was currently being surrounded by the intense wind current.

"Three times should be enough, hide behind me, we're going!" he immediately decided.

— — —the wind would rampage for a total of 20 breaths' worth of time, since it was currently at its peak, the wind would slowly weaken.

And then it will stop for 30 breaths.

*If I move right now, I'll get 40 breaths' worth of time to move!*



Gu Qing Shan's figure turned into a flash of light as he charged forward into the dark hallway at full speed.

The wind really was weakening to a stop.

10 breaths have almost passed!

Gu Qing Shan was rushing forward as fast as he could!

A black figure could only faintly be seen moving through the dark hallway and soon passed the sacrificial site from earlier.

30 breaths more!

Time slowly passed without a sound.

Gu Qing Shan maintained his silence and unleashed the full speed of a Paragon realm cultivator.

And then, time was finally up.

He still hadn't left this ridiculously long hallway of darkness!

The wind had already resumed.

An ever so gentle breeze of wind swept by his face, bringing with it a bit of warmth.

If someone felt this wind without knowing the truth behind it, they wouldn't be able to imagine how ferocious the wind would become in the next few breaths of time.

*Xiu xiu xiu?*

(Should I borrow the wind now?)

The gourd Adorable asked.

"No, the wind here still isn't that strong yet, I can deal with it" Gu Qing Shan replied.

His face was scratched earlier because he didn't know the exact situation.

But now that he knew how strong it was, Gu Qing Shan already had a plan prepared.

The limited use of the gourd's Thaumaturgies was extremely precious, so unless he really had to, he couldn't randomly unleash them.

Gu Qing Shan quickly crouched down and laid flat on the ground.

He purposefully laid as close to the wall of the hallway as possible, making sure that the contact surface of his body against the incoming wind became as thin as possible.

And then, he performed a spell.

Layers upon layers of thick ice appeared out of nowhere and covered Gu Qing Shan's body.

These layers of ice formed a tear-shaped outer shell that fused almost perfectly to the wall with Gu Qing Shan inside.

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Since Gu Qing Shan stuck close to the wall and he was lying flat on the ground, only a small portion of the wind coming from the end of the dark hallway actually made contact with this ice shell.

The wind also became stronger by the second, but its contact surface with the ice shell remained minimal thanks to its aerodynamic tear shape that diverted the wind around it.

Naturally, the wind was still incredibly terrifying, the ice shell was constantly being shaved away every second— no, it was being shaved away faster every second.

As the layer of ice was about to be completely shaved away, Gu Qing Shan took action.

He was currently the God of Frost and Chill, so an ice technique he desperately unleashed would naturally carry immense defensive power.

Very quickly, another ice shell was formed around his body.

Under the rampaging wind, the new shell was quickly shaved away, at which point Gu Qing Shan put more power in and remade it anew.

After several more times of this tug of war, the wind had finally passed its strongest stage and slowly died down.

Gu Qing Shan had succeeded!

When the wind began to die down, he abruptly jumped up, broke through the ice and continued dashing forward with everything he had.

“That was too close, I almost ran out of power just then. Adorable, I’ll probably have to rely on you when the wind comes up again” Gu Qing Shan sighed emotionally.

*Wu wu!*

The jade gourd pendant replied.

Gu Qing Shan once again had 30 breaths’ worth of time.

He sprung himself forward with all he said, desperately running forward.

At some point, he saw some bones flashing by the corner of his eyes.

Obviously, the Lord of Total Distortion couldn’t move forward any further when he reached that place.

He had to perform another sacrificial ritual.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t have the mind to pay attention to those bones.

Because after 10 breaths’ worth of time more, the terrifyingly ferocious storm winds would pick up again!

Sprinting at full speed.

Dashing with all his strength.

Even though he was already running as fast as he possibly could with everything he had.

Even though he had already traversed an incredibly long distance.

The end of this dark hallway was still nowhere to be seen in sight.

30 breaths were over.

The gentle breeze of wind began to pick up again inside this dark hallway.

*Wu wu?*

(Should I do it now?)

The jade gourd pendant asked.

Gu Qing Shan contemplated for the blink of an eye.

*—regardless of what thing or entity was unleashing this wind, it couldn't possibly be sentient or alive.*

*Because no one could ever persistently use this kind of periodic wind to block out this tunnel for so many years without stopping, no matter how strong they were.*

*...Unless that entity has already far surpassed my range of knowledge.*

*But the gourd Adorable's ability could borrow and use this against them.*

*This is the only counter I know to Mystic-type abilities, so if I really run into a powerful enemy at the end of this path, the only one I will be able to count on is the gourd Adorable.*

*I can't use it carelessly!*

Gu Qing Shan drew his sword and tried slashing the wall with all his strength.

*Kriiii—ieeeekkk—*

With an ear-piercing screech, the only thing that came from the wall was a few sparks.

*I can't, it's too hard!*

*Makes sense— if the wall wasn't this sturdy, how could it endure this kind of wind?*

Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth.

*Is there nothing else I can do?*

The wind was becoming stronger.

At this point, he could already sense an aura of death and destruction from the wind.

It wasn't quite at the level of the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation, but it was more than enough to instantly erase a Divine King!

Another wound appeared on Gu Qing Shan's body.

A fine slash mark could be seen on the [Black Smog Armor] as if it was no better than tofu against this wind.

Gu Qing Shan was still quickly thinking as if he didn't realize what happened.

———*I can't wait any longer.*

*Do I have no other solutions?*

*This wall is too sturdy, I couldn't even scratch it with my full strength...*

*Wait a minute!*

The lightbulb in Gu Qing Shan's mind suddenly lit up.

He pulled something from the void of space.

It was a card that depicted a blinding red light.

[Rare item: True Crimson Demon Spear]

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

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

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

[Unstoppable!]

Gu Qing Shan held the card tightly and waved it.

The very next second.

A spear that gave off blinding crimson light manifested in the void of space and fell into Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Gu Qing Shan's armor turned into a cloud of black mist and was blown away by the wind.

———as soon as he took the demon spear in hand, the [Black Smog Amor] broke and crumbled.

“YAAH!”

Gu Qing Shan didn't mind any of that and uttered a loud roar.

The crimson light flashed briefly several and easily sliced through the wall like a hot knife through butter.

A big hole was cut out from the wall of the hallway.

The wind had become ferociously intense again.

The side of Gu Qing Shan that faced the wind already had countless small cuts all over, causing him to bleed.

*I can't wait any longer!*

Gu Qing Shan jumped into the hole inside the wall together with the [True Crimson Demon Spear].

Just to be sure, he used a telekinesis hand seal to pick up all the pieces of the wall and shoved them back in; then used the strongest Elemental Ice he had to seal them from the inside, restoring the wall back to how it was.

The wind had just reached its strongest point.

*Hoh———*

The wind howled in a sorrowful and shrill manner, destroying everything that remained inside the hallway.

Gu Qing Shan finally managed to avoid it.

### **Chapter 836**

Inside the wall.

Gu Qing Shan waited for the wind to slow down a bit before using the [True Crimson Demon Spear] again to break open the wall.

He jumped out and continued to dash along the long and seemingly endless dark hallway.

Without any wind, the dark hallway was completely silent without any sound, time just silently passed.

One breath,

Two breaths,

Three breaths.

...

It was time for the wind to begin blowing again.

This place was already considerably far away from the entrance of the hallway, so the wind was ferocious from the start.

Gu Qing Shan had no other choice but to cut the wall open and jumped inside again.

The wind seemed to rampage without end.

The wind here had already surpassed anyone's imagination.

The wind gave off an impression of being similar to a tidal wave of fate, it was heavy, overwhelming, and unstoppable.

At some point, Gu Qing Shan even had the illusion that the wind was actually some sort of higher life form.

『 Father...』

『 No! 』

From the far end of the hallway, the sound of sobbing voices followed by desperate begging could be heard.

A voice suddenly roared in return: 『 Do not blame me, I also have no other way! 』

This was the Lord of Total Distortion's voice.

Before Gu Qing Shan could clearly hear what had happened, the rampaging wind already blocked out this voice, plunging the world around him into a sorrowful endless howl.

It almost felt like forever.

The wind had finally stopped.

Gu Qing Shan cut open the wall again and dashed forward.

About 7-8 breaths' worth of time later.

He saw two sets of petite skeletons.

The sinister and malicious will from an unknown space-time still hadn't dissipated, Gu Qing Shan could still sense the left-over signs of an unimaginably higher life form that descended during the sacrificial ritual.

The two sets of skeletons were in a crouched position with their heads to the ground, silently displaying their despair and sorrow.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but recall the two lively female fiends when they were still alive.

"Fine"

He sighed, stopped, and gave the two skeletons a simple burial.

After finishing this, he continued dashing forward.

Carefully counting the time, one second before the wind picked up again, Gu Qing Shan swung the [True Crimson Demon Spear] and cut open the wall.

He used the telekinesis hand seal to control the rubble and sealed it up with Elemental Ice just like the previous times.

The wind rampaged again!

Gu Qing Shan silently waited inside the wall for the wind to stop.

He will need to repeat this process over and over again until he reaches the end.

*Splish splash*

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

*Why is there the sound of water here?*

*—no, why do I hear it so clearly?*

*Unless the sound of the water was closer than the wind.*

Gu Qing Shan ignored the howling wind outside the wall for a brief moment and silently listened.

*Splish splash*

*Again.*

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes and tried knocking above his head.

— — —this is empty!

Gu Qing Shan swung the [True Crimson Demon Spear] without hesitation and cut upward.

Sure enough, he easily carved open a large hole.

Gu Qing Shan jumped up.

He found that he was standing in another hallway.

There was no wind here.

Gu Qing Shan didn't let his guard down at all, he stayed close to the hole where he came in from and waited for a while.

— — —*still no wind.*

*This place seems to be quite a bit safer.*

He silently sighed in relief and stepped forward.

*Tick... tick...*

As soon as he took one step, something seemed to have been activated as the sound of machinery rang out all over.

A cold and emotionless voice came from the darkness:

[Begin verification]

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[Through signature life signs, determined to be: human civilian, adolescence child]

[In accordance with wartime protective protocols, allow adolescence entry into the Abyss Jail for temporary refuge]

[Please do not move about, currently relocating you to a safe location]

The voice disappeared.

Hearing this voice, Gu Qing Shan obediently stood still without moving.

*This voice was the same as the one from outside the Tie Wei fortress wall, it was obviously some sort of authentication equipment.*

*The only difference was that it called me 'little boy' back then, and now it's 'adolescence child'.*

*Yup, I did grow up after all.*

A round disk appeared underneath Gu Qing Shan's feet, lifted him up, and carried him forward into the darkness.

It was a long flight.

Perhaps it was in consideration of my status as an 'adolescence child' and from how it was pitch black around here that the round disk was flying extremely stably.

After an unknown amount of time, the disk slowed down.

A voice came from the round disk:

[Considering this was your first time here, I suggest you pay attention below]

Gu Qing Shan looked down.

The darkness around him was slowly retreating.

A faintly opaque barrier could be seen coming from afar.

Through this barrier, he could see what was below.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked into holding his breath.

—how incredible.

All he could see was a single sharp black claw.

This black claw seemed to be the vast boundless ground that took up his entire vision, so he couldn't see what the owner of the claw looked like at all.

*How—*

*How could such a gigantic body exist!?*

The voice from the flying disk explained to him:

[As you can see, on the other side of the barrier is one of the bio-weapons of us humans. It was given the responsibility to manage the Wraith realm as well as being the watchman of the tunnel to the Eternal Abyss]

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but utter: "What is it exactly?"

[The sleeping Demon Dragon]

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

*So this was the Demon Dragon!*

*It had always stayed here, deep in its sleep.*



The barrier that separated the two sides started to tremble a little bit.

The wind began to blow———

Intense storm winds came off of the black claw to form visible black wind currents that drifted in all directions.

[Child, please pay close attention, the Demon Dragon's body carries too much power. When you are not being accompanied by an adult, you absolutely cannot get close. Otherwise, just the power waves it naturally gives off will be enough to form air currents that can extinguish your life]

Gu Qing Shan was stunned again.

*So that's what it was.*

*The wind that I struggled to avoid while being a Paragon realm Divine King, the wind that the Lord of Total Distortion had no choice but to sacrifice all of his subordinates and even his daughters to endure was nothing but air currents created by the powerful waves that naturally drifts from the Demon Dragon.*

*This is truly——- unbelievable and incomprehensible.*

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and took a deep breath, trying to calm himself down.

"Then—— I want to ask, what is the Demon Dragon doing here?" he asked.

The round disk replied: [It is here to watch over the Abyssal Fate Weaver]

"The Abyssal Fate Weaver?"

Gu Qing Shan instinctively parroted the name.

This was the second name of an Abyssal entity he heard aside from the Soul Shrieker.

[Indeed, the Abyssal Fate Weaver is an Abyssal monster that far surpassed our expectations. It was able to capture and devour a creature's soul, then put its own soul into the empty husk and infiltrate that creature's society as a one of their own, turning that entire civilization into its food]

"Has it ever fought against humanity?"

[Indeed, it took control over many human leaders with high positions, then secretly created several paths leading into the Eternal Abyss. Fortunately, we managed to discover that before it was too late]

[All the paths were sealed up once again]

[And the Abyssal Fate Weaver was killed by us inside this secret path]

Gu Qing Shan asked in confusion: "Then what is the Demon Dragon watching over in this place?"

[The Abyssal Fate Weaver's corpse—— as humans, we cannot revive after we are killed, but Abyssal monsters naturally have the Eternal characteristic that allows them to revive after a certain period of time]

Gu Qing Shan recalled the black finger.

*Perhaps...*

*Ever since the lava cathedral was salvaged from the Ocean Abyss, the Lord of Total Distortion's soul was already devoured by the Abyssal Fate Weaver.*

*And the current Lord of Total Distortion was actually the Abyssal Fate Weaver.*

*It sold out every evil creature races in order to obtain the key into this place.*

*It wanted to save itself!*

*Not good—*

Gu Qing Shan immediately took out the triangular key and loudly said: "Listen, I have something I have to tell you"

### **Chapter 837**

As Gu Qing Shan explained what he found out, something changed about the hallway he was standing in.

The cold mechanical voice resounded:

[Discovered key to the Abyssal path]

A flash of light struck at the triangular key directly from above.

The key began droning with a 'zi zi' sound.

[Confirmed key authenticity]

[Cross-referencing relevant information]

[Confirming event authenticity]

In front of Gu Qing Shan, a screen appeared.

It showed the Lord of Total Distortion standing in front of a large metal door and forcing it open with his strength.

The door was slowly being pushed apart.

The mechanical voice resounded again:

[Confirmed event]

[Through situational analysis, confirmed threat level of this event to be: Severe]

[Summoning The Demon Dragon's spirit to resolve the problem]

The mechanical voice then faded away.

On the screen, the Lord of Total Distortion had already managed to push the door open.

He then uttered a high-pitched laugh while dancing in apparent celebration.

The Lord of Total Distortion was currently a middle-aged man with an air of dignity, so seeing him perform these clearly seductive and feminine dances was eerie beyond description.

He walked into the darkness inside the door.

At the same time, the cold mechanical voice sounded again:

[The Demon Dragon's spirit has been notified and will arrive shortly]

[Event resolution initiating]

Following this declaration, the situation on the screen changed.

The howling wind abruptly appeared out of nowhere to stop the Lord of Total Distortion's path.

「 How unfortunately, there is actually still another gate after this, you won't be able to release yourself 」

The howling wind gradually formed the shape of a person.

『 Demon Dragon! 』

The Lord of Total Distortion screamed.

His voice had turned completely into that of a woman.

「 It is me, my apologies, I'm going to ruin your plan once again 」

The figure emerged from the darkness.

A man with a pair of black sharp horns growing on top of his head and two long dragon beards above his lips. He seemed quite aged, but his eyes still full of spirit, together with a well defined masculine body hidden under a long black coat.

This was The Demon Dragon's soul

Its body was still alive, but the soul had temporarily shown up standing in the way of Lord of Total Distortion.

「 How pitiful, having to use such a weak evil creature as your vessel, like this, even without waking up, I can erase you with just my soul 」

The Demon Dragon appeared to be truly apologetic as he lightly shook his head, the pair of sharp black horns on his head also shook with him.

The Lord of Total Distortion opened his mouth and spoke in an extremely sharp and high-pitched female voice that sounded like a sharp object scratching the air.

『 You despicable guard dog, if you didn't have this human prison, you couldn't have possibly trapped me! 』

「 That is true 」 The Demon Dragon easily admitted.

He was rubbing a ring on his finger with his hand, apparently, this was an instinctive action.

He was wearing one ring on every finger.

There was a ring with a faint yellow glow, one with a deep purple glow, as well as one with a particularly luxurious appearance that was carved with various gems of different colors.

You could infer at a glance that all of these rings were exceptionally precious equipment.

『 Release me, from now on, we'll have nothing to do with each other 』 the Lord of Total Distortion stared straight at The Demon Dragon.

The Demon Dragon stopped fiddling with his ring.

「 Do you think I'm going to believe you? It's quite rare for us to face each other like this, don't you have anything more important to say? 」 he couldn't help but speak up.

『 You've already watched over this place for over a 100 million years, I know that you also want to get out of this restrain and obtain freedom 』 the Lord of Total Distortion said.

「 Fate Weaver, you don't have anything that can convince me 」

『 You just have to release me, then you won't need to guard this place any longer 』

The Demon Dragon silently listened and suddenly laughed.

「 That's the only condition you can offer? How uninteresting. In this place, I can eat and I can sleep, every few hundred years, I can even absorb the power of my bloodkin to obtain a chance to evolve. My powers would soon surpass yours 」

『 Surpass me? 』

The Lord of Total Distortion showed a mocking expression: 『 Demon Dragon, the knowledge humanity gave you was too shallow. You are too blinded by your perceived knowledge that even now, you still don't understand a certain fact 』

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「 And that is? 」 the Demon Dragon asked.

『 The universe is endless, the things that humanity knew are nothing but tiny drops of water in an ocean. Regardless of how much they tried, they were never able to see the truth that reigned above all 』

「 And yet, they were able to kill you 」 the Demon Dragon calmly replied.

『 They simply happened to catch me at the single moment when I was at my weakest after going through 5 consecutive tough battles and destroyed my body 』

The Lord of Total Distortion showed a triumphant smirk: 『 The pitiful humans don't understand what is truly Eternal, and a mindless beast like you also has no idea how to truly get rid of me 』

「 I only need to trap you here 」

Saying so, the Demon Dragon lightly clapped his hand at the Lord of Total Distortion from afar.

*Bang!*

A loud clap.

The Lord of Total Distortion's body was instantly turned into a pile of blood and flesh.

The blood and flesh didn't scatter right away, they gathered in the air and swirled around one another, trying to reform as a female figure.

But the Demon Dragon didn't give his enemy that chance.

He opened his mouth and blew out a faint blue flame.

The flesh and blood quickly caught fire and burned intensely.

A soul-piercing female scream came from inside the flame:

『 Damned Demon Dragon, don't you dare fall into my hands, or I will cut you into countless pieces! 』

The flames burned everything to ash.

The female voice also disappeared.

Demon Dragon stopped caring about that and turned to look at the screen.

His gaze seemed to have gone through all the obstructions and reached Gu Qing Shan.

「 A human, how rare, thank you for informing me and resolving this threat 」

The Demon Dragon said.

“You're welcome, I only happened to find out about this 」 Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Demon Dragon spoke: 「 I must reward you for what you've done. Perhaps you don't know this yet, but the entire Wraith realm is under my management, so I can easily take any treasure of the Wraith realm as I wish to add to my collection 」

“That's really impressive” Gu Qing Shan praised.

The Demon Dragon thought for a few moments and continued: 「 How about this, according to the threat level this time as well as how much you've contributed, I have three supreme treasures of the Wraith realm that you can choose from, but you may only choose one of them as your reward this time 」

“This humble one couldn't possibly accept such a thing” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 Nonsense, this is what you've earned, come here and receive it 」 the Demon Dragon insisted.

“But I don't know how to get to where you are” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Demon Dragon chuckled: 「 That is simple. Just give the order to that disk you are riding on to take you here, that is enough 」

“That does sound very simple” Gu Qing Shan also smiled.

「 That is because it is 」 the Demon Dragon said again.

They both stared at each other with smiles on their faces.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't move at all.

The Demon Dragon curiously asked: 「 What is the matter? 」

While he asked, his hand was fiddling with a ring on his finger.

Gu Qing Shan stared closely at the Demon Dragon and answered: “There is another abnormal situation that I need to tell you about”

「 Abnormal situation? 」 the Demon Dragon was surprised.

“Yes, this situation is enough to threaten both the Primordial Heaven Realm and the Primordial Wraith Realm, if it is left to continue, both of these worlds would be destroyed” Gu Qing Shan said.

The Demon Dragon looked at Gu Qing Shan in wonder.

The Demon Dragon stopped touching the ring on his finger and casually answered: 「 Tell me 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: “The Soul Shrieker is currently stealing resources from the Primordial Heaven Realm, it is abusing the power of humanity to create a kind of weapon”

Gu Qing Shan directly told him of the truth from start to end.

The Demon Dragon silently listened with a wondering expression on his face.

「 So that's what happened, how unexpected, how should I deal with this now? 」

He muttered in a low voice.

After a few moments of silence.

「 Your information was indeed valuable. Come down and quickly choose your reward, after that I shall come with you to the Primordial Heaven Realm to check the situation myself 」 the Demon Dragon replied.

“Will you really come to the Primordial Heaven Realm?” Gu Qing Shan appeared glad and asked.

The Demon Dragon spoke with a serious expression: 「 Of course, this is a part of my duty, I wouldn't sit still while the Divine race and Desolate race destroy what remains of humanity under the control of an Abyssal monster 」

“That is great” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Despite saying that, he remained still without doing anything or giving any orders to the flying disk at his feet.

The Demon Dragon simply watched him without saying anything as well.

All of a sudden, from the endless darkness behind the Demon Dragon, a thin white thread silently coiled around his neck.

### **Chapter 838**

A white thread coiled around the Demon Dragon's neck.

The Demon Dragon showed a mocking expression and muttered: 「 You really think a single finger is enough to do anything to me? 」

He easily snapped the thread with his hand, briefly went into the darkness, and pulled a black finger out.

Gu Qing Shan looked carefully at it.

*Indeed, this was the same black finger that was being suppressed under the lava cathedral!*

“Why did it try to attack you?” Gu Qing Shan curiously asked.

The Demon Dragon explained: 「 It's trying to provoke me. The goal is to make me destroy this finger. If I really did that, the finger shall simply be regenerated on its main body, that would be no different from helping its main body regrow a finger 」

“So that was why, then how should this finger be dealt with?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 It can only be sealed for now 」 the Demon Dragon answered.

He pushed the black finger into the ground.

The large black finger slowly sank down and disappeared without a trace.

The Demon Dragon stood up back and asked: 「 Very well, child, now that everything is dealt with, why don't you come down here and choose your treasure? 」

*Child.*

*Seems like the Demon Dragon's judges a person's age the same way the Bygone Era system does.*

“It's ok, I don't want them” Gu Qing Shan waved his hand.

「 Why not? 」 the Demon Dragon curiously asked.

“I have a rule not to take candy from strangers” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 Child, that is different, this is completely free, I can swear on it 」 the Demon Dragon tried to make its voice sound as gentle as possible.

“I was advised just now that a child not accompanied by an adult can't get close to you” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Demon Dragon looked at Gu Qing Shan in a strange way and muttered: 「 You were able to get here alone, obtain that guy, and disguise yourself as one of those crappy Soul Artifacts that are vastly stronger than most powerful evil creatures. Because of all that, I thought you wouldn't be someone who would stick to the rules and listen to orders 」

“There’s no need to provoke me, I’m a child who still hasn’t reached puberty yet so I believe my life is more important than rebelling” Gu Qing Shan shrugged.

The Demon Dragon went silent briefly before continuing: 「 Then it’s unfortunate, you won’t be able to receive any treasures, only the simplest kind of gift 」

“I don’t need any gifts either, if possible, I want to leave right now” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He then asked the flying disk at his feet: “Can you bring me out of here?”

[Naturally, the Abyss Jail isn’t a safe location. In accordance with the children’s protective protocols I can take you directly back to the Primordial Heaven Realm, would you like to leave now?] the disk asked him.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the Demon Dragon.

The Demon Dragon stared at him and went silent.

*Hm.*

*The Demon Dragon isn’t saying anything or trying to convince me to take any gifts.*

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and replied: “Not yet, I want to stay here for now”

The Demon Dragon abruptly roared in anger, charged straight at the screen, and threw a punch at Gu Qing Shan.

The void of space became warped.

Countless ripples emerged out like rain falling onto the surface of the water and spread all around.

Gu Qing Shan was intact.

“Tch, and here I thought you’d be able to endure it longer” he spoke regretfully.

The Demon Dragon stared at him with a cruel expression and asked: 「 So you’ve already noticed? 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: “It was quite easy. One benefit of having strength is having no need to care about anyone’s opinions, I’m guessing that after the end of the Bygone Era, you became the strongest existence in the Wraith Realm, so you’ve already gotten used to not needing to conceal any thoughts”

「 Such as? 」 the Demon Dragon asked.

“Such as the fact that you hoped for a true and fair transaction. Unfortunately, the Abyssal Fate Weaver didn’t hold such a thought, it only believed that letting you go was already the greatest mercy it could grant you, even though such mercy might have also been a lie” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 I never thought you would actually be so much smarter than that monster, regretfully, a transaction with you holds no value 」 the Demon Dragon sighed.

Gu Qing Shan puffed out his chest: “I’m only an adolescent child, but I went through my share of society. When you were gauging the Abyssal Fate Weaver’s strength, I already noticed”



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Gu Qing Shan looked at the Demon Dragon with a complicated expression: “You were hoping that the Abyssal Fate Weaver could offer you enough benefits, in other words, you were hoping for the power of the Abyss”

The Demon Dragon stared closely at Gu Qing Shan for a long while before spitting out these words: 「 A prodigious child 」

“I’m quite curious though, as a weapon of humanity, why would you want to obtain the power from their enemy?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Demon Dragon answered with a mocking tone: 「 An ant also wants to hear the thunderclaps of heaven? 」

“An ant is no threat, it only knows to stare in awe at great power” Gu Qing Shan calmly replied.

The Demon Dragon sighed: 「 The times have changed, the current humanity can’t even win against me, and after the Abyssal Fate Weaver took control of the demonic sea creatures, it had already been studying the evil creatures, what else would you have me do? 」

“Evil creatures” Gu Qing Shan muses: “The evil creatures are the source of your power, and once the Life Mysteries of the evil creatures are grasped by the Abyssal Fate Weaver, your Demon Dragon bloodkin would no longer be able to activate, thus your power wouldn’t be able to grow, or perhaps you would not even be able to replenish your power, so you began to study the Abyss?”

「 Indeed, I also want to live 」 the Demon Dragon replied.

“Then why did you want to kill me?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Demon Dragon suddenly roared: 「 Because I despise you humans! 」

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “When I chose whether or not to leave, you were still able to contain your emotions, but when I decided to remain, you were extremely disappointed and even tried to attack me”

“I’m just an ant, why does it matter if I remain here or not?”

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly and continued: “Unless I can actually affect you”

“But my strength should be trivial”

“Which means my strength has nothing to do with it”

Gu Qing Shan suddenly asked: “Could it be, you are wary of my status or identity?”

The Demon Dragon simply silently listened, only at this point did his expression change.

「 If you try to do anything extraneous, I will immediately release the Abyssal Fate Weaver, everyone will die together 」

Gu Qing Shan smiled amiably and spoke: “Truthfully, we can form an alliance of mutual benefits, there is no need to threaten me with mutual destruction”

「 There is no benefit that you bastards can give me! 」 the Demon Dragon roared.

“Is that really so? Why not try and think about it a bit more” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Demon Dragon looked at his sincere expression and slightly calmed down the flames of anger in his heart.

*Benefits.*

*This is the Abyss Jail that humanity created, so the true highest authority would naturally lie in the hands of humans.*

*This human is pathetically small, but I definitely can't underestimate him.*

*There's no need to tell him too much, I just have to direct him to do 'that'.*

The Demon Dragon calmed down a bit: 「 Indeed, there is one thing you can do for me 」

“Please tell me, I will definitely do my best to accomplish it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 I need you to give me my next directive 」

Gu Qing Shan said doubtfully: “I'm just a normal child, I probably don't have the authority to do that”

「 No, after the Bygone Era was over, no human has ever come here until now, so the artificial intelligence's authority standard has dropped to its lowest point, you can do it as long as you are human 」

Gu Qing Shan nodded with a contemplating look.

The Demon Dragon warned him: 「 I suggest that you don't try tricks. I've already memorized you, as soon as you try anything out of the ordinary, I will use everything I have to destroy this place 」

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

“Indeed” he slowly replied, “Not only are you powerful, but you are also highly intelligent and exceedingly cautious. At the same time, you can threaten to release the Abyssal Fate Weaver at any moment. The 'you' of this world has already awoken and remembered who I am, so we both have trust issues with one another. This is a highly senseless relationship, might as well start over”

「 What do you mean? 」 the Demon Dragon didn't understand what he was saying at all.

“What I mean is that I intend to return here again when you don't know me yet”

The Demon Dragon stared closely at him like he was looking at a crazy person.

“Farewell, I'm going to meet a different 'you'”

Gu Qing Shan patted the flying disk.

“You can take me away now”

**Chapter 839**

The Primordial Heaven Realm.

A screen of light showed up.

Gu Qing Shan appeared.

He turned up on top of a mountain without any people.

Gu Qing Shan casually sent out a flame talisman to notify the others and began to think about everything that happened earlier.

*The Abyssal Fate Weaver is slowly devouring the Primordial Wraith Realm.*

*The Demon Dragon doesn't want to be bound by the orders of a human, and he didn't seem like he had any intention of saving the humans in the Primordial Heaven Realm.*

*From its conversation with the Abyssal Fate Weaver and how it kept that black finger, it is fully intent on obtaining the power of the Abyss from the Abyssal Fate Weaver.*

Gu Qing Shan suddenly recalled something he heard.

...

*"He who wrestles against the evil dragon would ultimately become the evil dragon himself, and he who associates himself with the abyss would one day become part of the Abyss"*

...

*This was something the Earth sword told me before, but I ignored it.*

*Then it was repeated by the [Demon King Order].*

*And from how the Demon Dragon is acting, I suspect it was only a matter of time before it becomes an Abyssal dragon.*

*Then what about me?*

Gu Qing Shan silently asked himself.

*If I don't do anything.*

*The Earth sword will die, and nothing will change.*

With that in mind, he was no longer hesitant.

*"I'm not even wrestling against the evil dragon, I'm just talking to it"*

Gu Qing Shan told himself.

A few streaks of light came from afar and quickly arrived in front of him.

The God of Frost and Chill.

The figure of light.

Luo Bing Li.

「 How is the progress? 」 the figure of light asked before anyone else.

“Quite decent, the [Order] is evolving” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The figure of light sensed him briefly before nodding in satisfaction: 「 It is true, this speed of evolution is certainly quite impressive. I’m a bit more convinced now 」

“What should we do now? I’ve already finished creating the jade disk” Luo Bing Li asked.

“We won’t go to humanity’s prepared route yet, we need to quickly leave this phantom image first. I’ll tell you the reason later” Gu Qing Shan answered.

The figure of light glanced at the God of Frost and Chill.

“There is surely a reason why he’s insisting on this, we should listen to him” the God of Frost and Chill answered.

“In the worst-case scenario, we can just return here later” Gu Qing Shan looked at the figure of light and told him.

「 Is any phantom image ok? 」 the figure of light asked.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at Luo Bing Li.

“You don’t have to worry about me, I have a secret technique that will make sure I won’t be replaced by another ‘me’” Luo Bing Li sent her voice to him.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit relieved.

So Luo Bing Li had a secret technique that allowed her to be unaffected by the Law of Time!

In truth, the thing Gu Qing Shan was most concerned with was the same two people showing up in the same timeline.

If that happened, the Law of Time might immediately erase one of them to make sure that the Space-time remained stable.

Since Luo Bing Li already had this ability, the only one he needed to be concerned about was the God of Frost and Chill.

“Can you teach it? I want to make it seem like the God of Frost and Chill can use it as well” Gu Qing Shan sent his voice.

Luo Bing Li spoke seriously: “I can’t. This technique can only be used by myself. A single timeline can only endure the existence of two duplicates of one person, a second person is impossible”

Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to give up.

*The God of Frost and Chill that Shannu and I impersonated as was fake. If we happened to run into the real God of Frost and Chill yet nothing happens to both of them, that would cause the figure of light to feel suspicious.*

*Then...*

“No, not just any phantom image” Gu Qing Shan answered the figure of light, “we need to travel to a phantom image after humanity’s second great war.

During the second great war, the God of Frost and Chill was dead and the Strength God had taken over.

This was the future that the ‘God of Frost and Chill’ heard from the Golden Flame Divinity and awoke to be his current self.

「 Why is that? 」 the figure of light asked.

“In that timeline, the God of Frost and Chill was already dead, so we won’t run into the situation where one of the two God of Frost and Chill run into each other and one of them get erased”

“Furthermore, if I remember correctly, the one who took over the position of Divine King next was the Strength God. He was a bit weaker than the God of Frost and Chill, so if we happened to be unable to convince him, we can directly use force”

“And finally, if the God of Frost and Chill were to be reborn and appear in front of the Divinities, that would be the most convincing clue of our identity”

The figure of light silently listened and turned to the Divine King: 「 Your Divine Majesty, what do you think? 」

Shannu appeared to be seriously contemplating his words, then sighed and spoke emotionally: “This King doesn’t have anything to add, this certainly is the best arrangement. Furthermore, I am truly regretful that Gu Qing Shan isn’t a member of our Divine race”

The figure of light nodded and expressed his agreement.

「 Then let us go 」

He took out a coin and tossed it up high.

The coin spun several times in the air before suddenly shattering and turning into tiny sparks of light that covered this entire area.

Gu Qing Shan, the God of Frost and Chill, Luo Bing Li, and the figure of light all vanished from this world.

Time slowly passed.

About half a day later.

The void of space opened.

A masculine man with a pair of sharp black horns on his head slowly walked out from the void of space.

「 How uneasy 」

He glanced around with an extremely somber expression.

「 There is no human defense system here to protect their adolescent children, I can catch that guy and question him as much as I wish 」

「 The only thing I need to worry about is that my body is still asleep, while the Soul Shrieker's abilities counters my soul form. I need to be careful not to attract its attention 」

The Demon Dragon's soul began to search the Primordial Heaven Realm.

...

The fog of space-time.

Countless phantom image fragments of parallel worlds silently floated.

Four figures directly fell into one of these phantom image fragments.

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The Primordial Heaven Realm.

A barren hill.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Which time period are we in exactly?"

The figure of light closed his eyes briefly to check and replied: 「 We are currently in the time period immediately after the second great war was over. The Strength God had just been coronated as the new Divine King 」

Shannu cleared her throat and spoke in a dignified manner: "Let us go and meet them, we will need the aid of the entire Divine race in this era"

「 Certainly, let's go 」 the figure of light replied.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly waved his hand and signaled everyone to stop for a moment.

"Wait a minute, the [Order] is attaching itself to me again"

Hearing that, everyone waited in place.

In front of Gu Qing Shan's vision, a blood-red UI slowly appeared.

Blood-red text began to scroll across the screen.

[Evolution complete]

[Worlds Apocalypse Online: Origin has been officially launched]

These blood-red texts stopped for a moment before they changed into a new text.

[I am glad to see that Your Excellency is ok. It seems Your Excellency had listened to my advice and didn't enter the place that led into the Abyss]

Gu Qing Shan replied without changing his expression: "If I said that I wouldn't go, I would naturally not go. But that might change in the future"

“Also, you’ve evolved to become [Origin], do you have any new functions?”

Lines of blood-red text quickly appeared on the UI to answer him.

[Displaying all post-evolution changes for Your Excellency:]

[In accordance to His Excellency the Envoy of Condemnation’s will, the Order will once again readjust Origin’s functions]

[Please select the appropriate mode]

[Choice 1: Normal mode, under this mode, the Order shall gradually unlock each function and integrate them into the Card center to finally form a simple Card function platform]

[Choice 2: Advancement mode, under this mode, the Order shall proceed with evolution as the main goal, only after evolving to Revolution will it unlock a crucial function for Your Excellency]

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Naturally I’ll choose the second choice, but what is the crucial function you mentioned?”

[Origin] answered him: [In its Revolution stage, the Order will search the Worlds Apocalypse Online general junkyard for various ancient corpses and stitch them together to form bio-weapons of war, the Demon Lords: Primary-level Summoned Weapon form]

[Your Excellency, I can turn the primary Demon Lords that can be exchanged into Cards to make it convenient for you to exchange for yourself]

Gu Qing Shan nodded and fell into thought.

*Primary-level summoned weapon.*

*So all of those Demon Lords were only the most basic summoned weapons.*

Gu Qing Shan’s gaze fell onto the [Origin] UI.

The progress bar that represented his Soul Points was still completely full with a number behind it:

[Soul Points value: 9.71 million]

*After killing so many powerful demonic sea creatures, my Soul Points value has finally reached a point where I can use them as I pleased.*

“[Origin], I still have so much Soul Points, can you evolve right away?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[By principle, a Quest must be completed before I can activate the corresponding evolution protocols]  
[Origin] answered him.

“Then what are you waiting for, issue the Quest”

[Preparing Quest]

Sha

A new Quest notification appeared on the blood-red UI.

[Quest name: Advance, young man!]

[Quest description: This is a period of insane advancement for the sake of becoming the Demon King, a carrier of the Order who is too weak would not be able to control the various bio-weapons. You must continue to improve yourself to prove your potential to become the Demon King]

[Quest objective: Become a Three Thousand Worlds realm cultivator]

[Quest reward: Immediate activation of the Order evolution protocols]

After reading through this Gu Qing Shan chuckled: “Here I am wishing that you can evolve as soon as possible, yet you also desire me to quickly become stronger”

[Naturally, Your Excellency, you must quickly become stronger, otherwise, there is a chance for those bio-weapons to betray you], [Origin] answered him.

“If I remember correctly, I can use Soul Points to advance now?”

[Indeed]

Gu Qing Shan glanced at his overflowing Soul Points bar.

He looked back at the God of Frost and Chill, the figure of light and Luo Bing Li: “I’m afraid everyone will have to wait a bit longer, the [Order] needs me to quickly breakthrough and use that to activate its evolution protocols”

“This is a serious matter, you may begin now, we will help protect you in the meantime” the God of Frost and Chill spoke up first.

The figure of light also agreed: 「 Indeed, the power of the [Demon King Order] is necessary for the three coins, you must make sure to do this well 」

“Then I’ll begin now” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Luo Bing Li glanced at him and slightly nodded.

The three of them scattered in different directions to give Gu Qing Shan some space.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to see that each of them had taken a position to secure his safety.

Without waiting for any longer, he told the [Origin] UI:

“Breakthrough”

A line of blood-red text appeared on the [Origin] UI.

[You have chosen to break through]

The long progress bar under the Lapis Card [Sword cultivator Gu Qing Shan] began to burn up.

Lines of blood-red text appear one after another.

[Consumed 700,000 Soul Points]



[You are about to break through]

[Attention please, as you are a cultivator, this time you will have to face the Water and Fire Double Tribulation]

[After the countdown, your Tribulation shall begin]

[5]

[4]

[3]

[2]

[1!]

All the text on the blood-red UI disappeared.

Strands of flame appeared from the void of space and caught onto Gu Qing Shan's body.

The Fire Tribulation has descended.

## **Chapter 840**

The Fire Tribulation leads a cultivator's soul vessel towards one of the many Heavenly realms.

The cultivator's soul vessel must then return to their body within a certain amount of time.

After that time had passed, if their soul vessel still remained within the Heavenly realm without returning, the cultivator's body would be burnt to a crisp by the Tribulation Fire.

Gu Qing Shan stood still waiting for a few moments.

The almost transparent flames appeared out of nowhere and completely engulfed him.

The endless fire spread in front of Gu Qing Shan to show the scene of another world.

"The Mahesvara realm" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

*Zhi Luo probably doesn't expect me to once again return to the Mahesvara realm so quickly after I just left.*

*When I broke through to Void Wanderer realm, I was forced to leave the Mahesvara realm immediately after I passed the Fire Tribulation, so I didn't have any time to consider Zhi Luo's safety.*

*But she had already arrived at the Mahesvara realm and made many preparations since long ago.*

*On top of Clear Bright Peak, Zhi Luo created an Asura Palace, the path behind the palace led into a series of mazes within the mountain that hid countless traps and barriers.*

*Furthermore, Zhi Luo was originally an Asura, a female she might be, she still possessed overwhelming battle instincts and skills.*

*She herself also said that the reason she was able to arrive at the Mahesvara realm, obtain an entire mountain for herself, find that spring water that allowed me to easily pass the Fire Tribulation, as well as arranging all of her defensive mechanisms and means were because of how vast her Merit was.*

*The only thing to worry about now is that her own power was still too weak.*

Gu Qing Shan took a step forward as he was thinking.

In an instant.

He entered the Mahesvara realm.

Voices came from all around.

The sound of people drinking, chatting voices, various noises within the plaza, exactly the same as how it was the last time Gu Qing Shan came here.

A voice came right next to Gu Qing Shan:

“Ahaha, today we have a new friend—”

The voice abruptly stopped.

Very quickly, all the voices and sound within the plaza gradually disappeared.

All the cultivators here were looking at Gu Qing Shan.

“It’s him...”

“It’s that man, he came again”

“Strange...”

“This can’t be right, when we couldn’t catch him before, he should have already reached Void Wanderer realm, what is...”

The cultivators whispered among one another.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t pay any attention to these people, recalled where Zhi Luo’s mountain was, and prepared to fly in that direction.

He leapt to the sky and was about to leave.

But the cultivators stopped their discussions.

“You think you can freely leave as you like!?”

Someone shouted.

That cultivator was quite fast, he almost reached where Gu Qing Shan was in the air after just a split second.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t turn around.

700 flying swords poured out from his Thought Sea and unleashed their sword phantoms towards that cultivator.

Secret Art, [Water Severance]

The 700 overlapped [Water Severance] surged forward like a rain of swords with absolute power, the other cultivator couldn't even react before he was erased from this world.

*Boom*

The explosion of sword phantoms continued across the sky, headed straight for the horizon.

The soul vessel was a cultivator who chose to stay within this Heavenly realm was eliminated, just like that.

"He killed our friend Wang!"

"Damn it, this bastard must die!"

"Let's go!!!"

Many cultivators shouted from the plaza.

But the majority of the cultivators here didn't dare to chase him.

These people stayed within this realm in order to escape from the hardship of cultivation and its impermanence, wanting to experience bliss for 10,000 years.

After one of their friends were killed so easily, everyone saw with their own eyes how terrifying this sword cultivator was.

*Who would be willing to be the first one to charge at him and die?*

About ten of the strongest cultivators gathered together.

"Seems like he really did break through to Void Wanderer realm"

"If that's the case, there's no need for the others to face him, numbers alone is meaningless"

"We'll handle it from here"

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"The rest of you should quickly inform the experts that haven't found out about this"

They took flight and surrounded Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan glanced around.

Originally, he intended for that attack to scare these and prevent them from bugging him further, so he didn't expect them to still want to stop him.

*But these cultivators are indeed stronger than the other cultivators.*

Gu Qing Shan carefully sensed the spirit energy waves these people gave off and slowly understood.

A cultivator had to face a total of three Fire Tribulations, in order they were, the Wind and Fire Double Tribulation of Void Beholder realm to Void Wanderer realm; the Water and Fire Double Tribulation of Void Wanderer realm to Void Revolution realm; and the Earth, Water, Fire, Wind Quad Tribulation of Void Revolution realm to Three Thousand Worlds realm.

In other words, those who stayed behind in the Mahesvara realm should include those at Void Beholder realm, Void Wanderer realm and Void Revolution realm.

As a sword cultivator, Gu Qing Shan's strength in battle far surpassed even those of the same realm, so not many people would arbitrarily offend him.

This meant that these people who came to stop him must be at least the same realm as he was.

They were cultivators of at least Void Wanderer or Void Revolution realm!

*If this is really true, the reason I managed to pass the Fire Tribulation so easily the last time was mostly because of Zhi Luo's early preparations.*

*When she brought me away, none of them tried to stop us.*

*This alone proved that she had already obtained their trust and made the appropriate preparations.*

*Otherwise, I would have had to face an exceedingly tough battle at that time.*

*That would have been a true life-and-death Tribulation.*

Gu Qing Shan sighed a bit emotionally.

*But why do they insist on keeping me here?*

All the cultivation scriptures he had mentioned the things one needed to prepare for during a Fire Tribulation, but there were simply too many Heavenly realms that a cultivator's soul vessel could be led to that it couldn't all be written down.

The Mahesvara realm was only one of countless Heavenly realms, not too many cultivators actually made it here, and even fewer successfully passed their Tribulation. Even if they did, very few actually had the time to study the secret of the Mahesvara realm before they were sent back.

It was already a great thing for them to return alive.

For this reason, there weren't too many records relating to the Mahesvara realm within the cultivation scriptures he held, and most of the records he found didn't sound particularly convincing.

Gu Qing Shan glanced around.

*These people were only at most a single realm higher than I am, yet they dared to try and stop me...*

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "I'm very curious. We don't know each other, and there shouldn't be any grudge between us, why do you have to stop me from facing my Tribulation? Are you really so intent on stopping others from walking their paths?"

The other cultivator exchanged glances.

One of them laughed: "I can't tell you that"

Another spoke: "Since you're already here, stay, don't force us to fight you"

"That's right, fighting would make it hard to face one another, we'll have at least another few thousand years to stay with each other here" a third person tried to convince him.

Gu Qing Shan just laughed.

"I think all of you haven't understood a certain thing" he said.

"And what is that?" someone asked.

"Don't block the path of a sword cultivator unless you're prepared to die"

He vanished and suddenly reappeared right in front of a cultivator, swinging his sword downwards.

The cultivator's expression twisted, but his hands weren't slow.

A small shield appeared out of thin air to stop Gu Qing Shan's sword.

*Kih!*

With a loud impact, the shield stopped his sword.

But right as the shield and sword clashed, a sword phantom abruptly manifested behind that cultivator and sliced him in half.

Secret Art, [Swallow Returns]

One strike, one dead.

Gu Qing Shan vanished again and reappeared in front of another cultivator.

But this cultivator reacted very quickly and immediately retreated several steps backward to leave the swords' range of attack.

The cultivator sighed in relief and loudly told everyone else:

"Be careful, he knows a spatial-type movement techni—!"

His voice was abruptly cut off.

Gu Qing Shan's strike was still able to connect and killed the other party from a considerable distance.

Secret Art, [Life Seeker]

[When you are within 10 feet of an opponent, your sword attacks can hit them from a distance]

Still a single strike, still one person dead.

The other cultivators felt a chill running through their bodies.

The first person was a Void Wanderer realm cultivator, killed because he couldn't react in time.

The second person was a Void Revolution realm cultivator, he managed to react, but was still killed.

None of their cultivations were any lower than this sword cultivator, but they couldn't even block one strike from him!

### **Chapter 841**

In just two exchanges, the obstructing cultivators lost two of their friends.

The other cultivators quickly gathered at once and carefully distanced themselves from Gu Qing Shan.

One of them called out: "His swordsmanship is too terrifying, we need Old Cheng to come personally to deal with him"

At this point, cheering noises could be heard from below.

The group looked down to see an old man arriving at the plaza.

"It's Old Cheng"

"That's great, Old Cheng has come!"

"It'll be ok now"

The cultivators all appeared glad.

Gu Qing Shan followed their gaze downward to see an old man with silver-white hair holding a long smoker's pipe in his hand.

*This is the strongest one among them?*

Gu Qing Shan stared at the old man.

The old man squinted his eyes and carefully glanced at Gu Qing Shan.

He started to speak: "Brat, you—"

His expression suddenly warped as he rapidly formed a hand seal with both hands.

At the very next second, Sword Will surged forward inside Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

[True Soul Cleaving Eyes]!

The old man suddenly vanished and was pulled by Gu Qing Shan's Eye Technique into a temporary world and attacked once.

Everything happened in the blink of an eye.

"Ah? He's not dead yet? That's quite impressive" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The old man reappeared where he stood before, still with a bewildered look on his face.

But he wasn't wounded.

To be completely intact when ambushed by Gu Qing Shan, this old man should be quite considerably strong.

“An Iris Sword? What a rare technique to see, even though you clearly haven’t quite reached ‘that’ stage, you’re already thinking of how to converge the power of flying swords.

The old man took flight and hovered in front of Gu Qing Shan.

When he saw Gu Qing Shan held a sword in hand, the old man smiled.

His tone changed a bit: “How regretful, your Thaumaturgy couldn’t hurt me, and now I can siphon the power of these five Void Revolution realm cultivators to temporarily increase my strength to attain Three Thousand Words realm”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “If you really have the power of a Three Thousand Worlds realm cultivator, why not come and kill me?”

Three Thousand Worlds realm was the realm of people around Xie Gu Hong’s level, at the moment, Gu Qing Shan was still only at the Void Wanderer realm, which was two realms below Three Thousand Worlds realm, if they really fought, he would be no match.

The old man easily answered: “There’s no harm in telling you, this is my defensive Thaumaturgy. There’s a strict condition for borrowing the power of 5 people: I can only defend, never attack”

“In other words, I can’t do anything to you, but you won’t be able to do anything to me either” Gu Qing Shan commented.

“Indeed, this will be when you have to make a choice” the old man declared.

“What choice?”

“Miss Zhi Luo’s life or death”

Gu Qing Shan became solemnly silent with intense killing intent drifting from his body.

700 flying swords appeared at the same time behind him, vibrating harmoniously.

“Are you threatening me?” Gu Qing Shan asked in a low voice.

“Not at all, I’m simply stating the truth”

The old man paused briefly and continued: “Although the Mahesvara realm’s mountains are sturdy and Zhi Luo has numerous defensive means, there would still be one day when we destroy her mountain and kill her”

*There would still be one day—*

*Which means Zhi Luo should be safe for now.*

Gu Qing Shan calmed down slightly.

“And here I thought you won’t kill those who remain here” he commented.

The old man replied: “She herself isn’t strong, yet she obtained a peak for herself in this realm, arranged for countless defensive means within that mountain, then further prepared the means for you to

successfully break through. With just a bit of calculation, I can tell that her Merits have already been used up quite thoroughly”

“And that’s why you can kill her without worry?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Indeed, that is one reason, but more importantly—— you are worried about her, if you won’t leave this place, then we can promise you not to kill her”

The old man squinted his eyes and smirked like a cruel and sly wild wolf.

“I want to kill you right now” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The old man shook his head and purposefully sighed: “You can’t kill me—— my Thaumaturgy can last for half an hour, during this time, you will either fail your Tribulation or would have already left this place, you wouldn’t be able to wait until the moment my Thaumaturgy ends”

“Young man, it’s now time for you to make your decision”

“As long as you are willing to stay and save her, I guarantee that from now on, you and her shall live a most heavenly life”

“But if you face your Tribulation and leave, then you’ll be waiting until she dies by our hands”

Gu Qing Shan seriously listened to him and said nothing.

The old man declared triumphantly: “She already aided you in your Fire Tribulation once, so I presume that your relationships must be quite decent—— so choose, do you want her to die, or her to live with you blissfully?”

Gu Qing Shan abruptly spoke: “When she doesn’t have any Merit, you people immediately decided to kill her; but on the other hand, while she still has Merit, you don’t want to kill her at all—— which means her Merit must be quite useful for you—— what you’re after is actually to obtain Merit, isn’t it?”

The old man just stared straight at him.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “Since you want Merit so much, that can only mean that Merit is actually a precious thing in this world”

“Similarly, only if I stay here would you obtain more Merit”

“So the reason you’re using such a dirty method just to make me remain here is that you’re after the Merit I have”

The old man just stayed silent.

Standing not too far behind him, the other cultivators all appeared shocked.

“This brat—— this brat must be a devil” one cultivator muttered.

The old man regained his calm and stared straight into Gu Qing Shan’s eyes: “Regardless of what status you have outside, in this place, you can only make your choice—— stay here and save her, or live on by yourself”



Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but sigh.

He already didn't have the intention to look for Zhi Luo anymore.

There wasn't much time, so not only did he have to deal with these cultivators, but he also needed time to face his Fire Tribulation.

"Sword Array!"

Gu Qing Shan uttered the words.

The 700 flying swords flew out from behind his back and formed a strict defensive Sword Array.

These flying swords were directly linked to his thought.

Gu Qing Shan held the Chao Yin sword in his hand and immersed himself into a blank state.

— he began to face his Tribulation right in front of everyone here!

The cultivators exchanged glances.

"So he was a heartless fellow, no wonder his advancement was so rapid" someone commented.

"Hmph, poor big sis Zhi Luo, doing so much for him, but he doesn't even love her" a female cultivator scoffed.

She couldn't endure her rage and sent a spell at Gu Qing Shan.

As soon as the spell entered the range of his Sword Array, a flying sword stopped it.

*Clang!*

A clear chime.

When the flying sword was hit, the spell was also neutralized.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly opened his eyes.

He felt a bit frightful and fortunate as he looked down at the female cultivator and said: "Thank you"

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Saying so, he closed his eyes again and resumed his Tribulation.

The female cultivator was surprised.

*He thanked me?*

*What for?*

The old man then told everyone: "Everyone, don't try and attack him now. Because his flying swords are linked to his thoughts, even touching them briefly would wake him up"

The cultivators all realized what was happening.

The essence of the Fire Tribulation was countless number of desperate delusions.

When a cultivator was deep inside the delusion and was woken up by the flying swords outside, they would realize that the delusion wasn't real.

This was them essentially helping him escape the delusions!

"This brat, even in a moment like this, he's still trying to use us to help dispel the Fire Tribulation!" someone called out in surprise.

"That's why I told everyone not to attack him, we can only hope that he'll die within his own delusions now!" the old man shouted again.

Everyone fell silent.

Even in a moment like this, he still thought of a way to use his enemies, a completely unimaginable action.

What a terrifying bastard.

Time slowly passed.

Gu Qing Shan's figure gradually vanished from this world.

He passed the Fire Tribulation just like that.

The cultivators all exchanged glances to see the intense look of grudge in each other's eyes.

"What a cold-blooded sword cultivator" someone sighed.

"Most likely, only such a heartless person would be able to break through the Fire Tribulation" someone angrily said.

The old man and the group of strongest cultivators all had grim looks on their faces, gathered and discussed what they should do next.

In the end, they made their decision.

The group all flew towards Zhi Luo's Clear Bright Peak.

...

Time passed.

Explosions rang out all over Clear Bright Peak.

The cultivators were attacking this mountain without end.

It would take them about several dozen days to thoroughly destroy this mountain, but these cultivators had no intention of doing that.

They had decided to take over this mountain right after they killed Zhi Luo.

Over half an hour later.

A strange sensation could be felt across the world.

The cultivators all stopped their hands.

Everyone appeared glad as they looked at the old man.

“I can feel the fluctuations in the world, after a while, another cultivator will come here to face their Fire Tribulation—— today is a good day” the old man smiled.

“Indeed, looks like we’re going to earn a bit of Merit today”

“How great”

“That bastard just now was a devil in human clothing, no need to mind him. As long as the one who arrived this time is a bit normal, we’ll be able to keep them here”

“Indeed”

All the cultivators smiled in agreement.

“Let’s go, we will return to take this mountain tonight” Old Cheng swung his hand and declared.

Under his guidance, all the cultivators quickly returned on the same path.

They all gathered at the plaza again, silently waiting for the newcomer.

One breath,

Two breaths,

Three breaths.

A screen of flames appeared.

A figure could be seen wrapped inside the flames

The old man made a gesture.

All the cultivators began to enjoy the banquet.

One cultivator walked in front of the screen of fire, waited until the figure had appeared a bit more clearly and spoke: “Ahahaha, we have a new friend joining us today, everyone! Let’s——”

His voice was stuck in his throat.

The figure fully appeared.

Gu Qing Shan.

It was Gu Qing Shan again.

“Why is it you again!?” the cultivator couldn’t help himself screaming.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “That’s right, it’s me again”

He stood still without moving, but his flying swords had already spread all over and surrounded the plaza.

All the partying cultivators froze.

They all knew a certain fact:

During a cultivator's life, they would have to face a total of three Fire Tribulations, at Void Beholder realm, Void Wanderer realm, and Void Revolution realm respectively.

After vanishing for half an hour, this guy was already giving off the aura of Void Revolution realm peak stage.

— in other words, he came here to advance to Three Thousand Words realm!

This was completely unbelievable.

"How?" the old man asked with a hoarse voice.

"Simply with medicine. I wonder if any of you have ever heard of a thing called Realm Breaker Pills?" Gu Qing Shan replied like they were just chatting.

Realm Breaker Pill!

A legendary treasure.

And he actually had such a thing.

The cultivators all turned completely speechless, unable to utter anything.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the old man and casually sensed his spirit energy waves.

*Hm.*

*The old man's Thaumaturgy already ended.*

*So this isn't going to be very difficult...*

He wielded the Chao Yin sword in hand.

The old man was also staring at Gu Qing Shan, a bit stunned.

*I only needed a bit more time to rest to activate my Thaumaturgy again.*

*But he's already standing right here in front of me, and he's no longer one realm lower than me like before.*

*With his swordsmanship and the immense spirit energy of Void Revolution realm, his strikes would be reinforced to a terrifying degree.*

*Even if I could use my Thaumaturgy right now to increase my strength to Three Thousand Worlds realm, he can most likely cut through my defenses and kill me!*

*Especially since my Thaumaturgy only allows me to defend and not attack.*

The old man quickly understood all of that and pulled the bloodthirsty look on his face back.

He smiled amiably, arched his back and bowed: "My friend, the Mahesvara realm is like your second home away from home, we gladly welcome you here again"

## **Chapter 842**

Let's rewind time a bit.

When the old man was urging Gu Qing Shan to choose between facing his Tribulation and Zhi Luo.

Gu Qing Shan chose to face his Tribulation without hesitation.

Under the protection of his sword array, he successfully passed the Fire Tribulation and left the Mahesvara realm.

While the old man led the other cultivators to destroy Zhi Luo's mountain.

Gu Qing Shan continued to enter his Water Tribulation.

Among the Four Pillar Elements of Earth, Water, Fire, and Wind, the latter two represented destruction and passing respectively, while the first two represented creation and growth.

That was why the Water Tribulation's main goal was not to take away a cultivator's life.

It represented change, an unknown Tribulation.

Gu Qing Shan passed through countless faintly dim lights.

At a certain point, these lights connected to one another to form a net that illuminated the entire world.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly found himself standing on the surface of an endless lake of water without any boundaries.

Not a single living being existed in this world.

The water surface was reflective like a mirror that displayed the silver sky above and Gu Qing Shan was the only existence within this world.

After a brief moment of anticipation, a stream of water rose from the surface, stretched and morphed to finally form another 'Gu Qing Shan'.

Two Gu Qing Shan stood facing one another without moving.

All of a sudden, one of the two Gu Qing Shan became lifelike.

He looked curiously at the other him and asked: [Are you me from a parallel world?]

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan replied: "It seems your soul has arrived, according to the Laws of the Water Tribulation, everything that happens today will not cause you any actual harm, so you can do as you like"

The other 'Gu Qing Shan' appeared a bit emotional: [So in a parallel world, my main Profession is sword cultivator]

Gu Qing Shan tried asking: “What about you? Since I can’t sense any killing intent from you, it must’ve been a while since you last fought?”

The other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ casually admitted: [Yup, I’m the number one spirit cook of the world. Of course, I’m also a sword cultivator, but I don’t possess the same cold sword qi that you do]

“Why is that?”

[The children like to eat my cooking]

As the other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ said, he showed a gentle expression.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

*What?*

*In a parallel world, I already have a child?*

“Who did you marry?” he couldn’t help but ask.

[Su Xue Er] the other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ answered.

“Where’s Anna then?”

[Anna? I don’t know any woman called Anna]

“Then how did you get together with Su Xue Er?”

[The Apocalypse came, heaven and earth broke apart, a strange virus spread to the entire world and killed over 3/5 of the world’s population, the remaining 2/5 obtained the chance to enter the cultivation world]

[Su Xue Er and I accompanied each other in the cultivation world through thick and thin, we then joined a sect, cultivated together and finally got married]

“Did her family not try to stop you?”

[Ah, unfortunately for them, the 9 Lords were among those that died] the other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ laughed.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised, then spoke hesitantly: “Didn’t you run into the demons?”

[What are demons?]

“The demons don’t exist!?! Do you have an [Order]?”

[Ah, that we do]

“Which [Order] is it?”

[[Worlds Apocalypse Online: Shelter]]

Gu Qing Shan really had nothing to say.

*It truly is a completely different world from mine, even the [Order] that appeared first was different.*

*Wait a minute.*

*Why did the first [Order] to awaken in this timeline was the [Demon King Order]?*

*Just look at the other side, the first thing that appeared was [Shelter]!*

Hearing that name and how relaxed his other self was, Gu Qing Shan didn't want to ask any further.

This was what they called 'the grass is always greener on the other side'.

He then said: "Alright, you're now the judge, how do you want to compete against me?"

[What do I want to compete against myself for?] the other 'Gu Qing Shan' smiled.

Gu Qing Shan also smiled and replied: "The deeper meaning of the Water Tribulation is to let cultivators experience the mysteries of the world, to find out that outside of the infinite space-time, there also exists infinite parallel worlds. Which is why you need to give me a test before you can return to your world from this place"

[Then I'll test you just a bit]

The other 'Gu Qing Shan' replied, took out a lot of spirit cooking tools, and began to braise a fish.

A few moments later, his braised fish dish was done.

[Come, have a taste] the other 'Gu Qing Shan' said.

Gu Qing Shan's fighting spirit dulled.

*A cooking contest?*

He let go of his sword, picked up a bowl and chopsticks, then tasted it.

"Hm, it tastes quite nice, your control over fire is great"

While eating, Gu Qing Shan praised him.

[This is my signature dish, if you can make it to at least 70% of my standard, you pass] the other 'Gu Qing Shan' told him.

He then put a fresh new fish onto the chopping board.

Gu Qing Shan put the bowl and chopstick down, rolled his sleeves up, and began to carefully prepare the fish.

In truth, after going through so many worlds and phantom images, he didn't just obtain the cultivation scriptures, but also their corresponding six arts, and he had spent a lot of time learning them all.

When he returned to the Shen Wu world, he even exchanged notes with Qin Xiao Lou and improved his own standard by one step.

The food he cooked at the time for everyone in Bai Hua Sect was highly praised.

And then he recently got to learn the seafood cooking recipes from the evil creatures.

So this test should be basically no problem.

A few moments later.

His fish was also done.

The other 'Gu Qing Shan' curiously took a piece of fish with his chopsticks and tried it.

[Very good, even better than what I made] he praised.

As soon as he said so, his figure slowly became blurred and vanished from this mirror-like water world.

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Gu Qing Shan continued to eat his fish.

He was waiting for the second guest from a parallel world.

A few moments later.

A stream of water turned into another 'Gu Qing Shan' in front of Gu Qing Shan.

[Testing myself? What a strange dream]

The new 'Gu Qing Shan' said this.

He appeared severely haggard, as if he had already been through many trials and hardships.

"You seem quite tired, did you run into any problems?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[I'm fine, but the sect acceptance test will be next month and I still haven't managed to obtain the qualifications] the other 'Gu Qing Shan' answered.

As Gu Qing Shan looked at him, he realized something.

This 'Gu Qing Shan' looked a lot younger than he currently was.

*From his voice and attitude, anyone can tell how inexperienced and naïve he is, and apparently, he hasn't regressed yet.*

*In other words, he should be my true self from when I was still young.*

Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise: "Swordsmanship? With our talents with the sword, this shouldn't trouble you too much"

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' replied: [I've always been alone without any backings, I had to earn all the necessary resources to cultivate by myself, so I've been lagging behind everyone else from the very start. Even now, I don't have a good sword scripture to study yet]

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

*Sure enough, he was exactly the same as myself from my past life.*

He took out a new Inventory Bag from his Thought Sea, then recorded all of his swordsmanship onto a giant piece of jade.



After doing all of that, he gave the Inventory Bag to the other 'Gu Qing Shan'.

[What is this? What!? Why are there so many sword techniques here!? And even a Sword Array!] the younger 'Gu Qing Shan' scanned the bag with his inner sight and uttered in shock.

"This is a large-sized jade tag. Before anything else, memorize everything in there" Gu Qing Shan told him.

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' didn't hesitate and quickly closed his eyes to memorize everything.

A long while later.

He opened his eyes.

"Have you remembered everything?"

[I have]

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand and took the Inventory Bag back.

"You can't take this with you, otherwise it'll be a disaster for you" he explained.

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' muttered in surprise: [I understand, from now on, I will make sure to conceal myself during cultivation as well]

His eyes displayed clear excitement and anticipation, apparently already thinking of his future prospects.

"That's right. Now, it's your turn to help me finish this test" Gu Qing Shan said.

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' finally remembered where they were.

He thought briefly and drew his sword: [Then, let us spar, as long as you don't lose, you will have passed my test]

"Very well" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He also drew his sword.

The two figures clashed.

A gleam of the sword appeared.

Gu Qing Shan pulled his sword and took a step backward.

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' stood still in place and spoke emotionally: [So I would one day be able to train my swordsmanship to this degree]

Several hundred slashes appeared on his chest.

But these slashes only cut open his clothes without harming his body at all.

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan's' figure began to turn transparent as well.

[It feels weird to thank you, because you are also me, and I am you, we are only in a different time and place] the younger 'Gu Qing Shan' said.

“Regardless, I’ve been through everything that you have, so I hope that you will live better than how I used to back then” Gu Qing Shan told him.

The younger ‘Gu Qing Shan’ looked and smiled at Gu Qing Shan: [I will become the strongest sword cultivator]

And then his figure disappeared completely.

Gu Qing Shan continued to wait.

At the Void Revolution realm, one needed to face three versions of themselves in parallel worlds.

He had faced two of them, so one remained.

A few moments later.

A stream of water turned into Gu Qing Shan’s figure, once again standing on top of the water.

[Tsk tsk, so there are Tribulations other than Lightning Tribulation, I’ve never heard of such a mystical thing. Right, to what level does one have to cultivate to face a Water Tribulation?] the other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ curiously asked.

“Advancing to the Void Revolution realm will require you to face a Water Tribulation” ‘Gu Qing Shan’ replied.

[What is Void Revolution realm?]

“Starting from Qi Training, Foundation, Golden Core, Rejuvenation, Ascended, Sainted then comes Projection, Tribulation, Virtualized, Cryptic. After that you would attain Chaotic Star, Origin Aspect, Radiant Soul, Void Beholder, Void Wanderer, Void Revolution, Three Thousand Worlds, and Paragon, above these are the heavenly cultivation realms known as the {Yama King}, {Mahesvara King}, and {Sumeru Lord}, these are the realms that I’m aware of for now”

Hearing Gu Qing Shan’s words, the other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ was stunned for quite a while.

Gu Qing Shan then asked: “From your spirit energy waves, you should currently be at Ascended realm, why haven’t you tried to break through further?”

The other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ replied: [After the spirit beasts’ betrayal, all the demons vanished without a trace, so we decided to seal the demon’s warp gate so that their world can no longer connect with ours]

This time, it was Gu Qing Shan’s turn to be stunned.

In another parallel world, humanity’s cultivators sealed the warp gate leading to Shen Wu world.

From then on, humanity obtained peace.

*Most of the events that happened later on happened within the central worlds of the 900 million World Layers, since the cultivation world and my homeworld are only Scattered Worlds, they instead enjoyed a period of peace.*

This was truly unbelievable.

“You mean that from that point onwards, no calamity has happened to both your world and the cultivation world?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[None at all] the other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ replied.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “You’ve been very fortunate”

“From your cultivation, I can tell you that”

The other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ trembled a bit, then continued: [That’s why, my request to you is to inform me the truth behind everything, that way, you will have passed my test]

“That is fine”

Gu Qing Shan told the other ‘him’ everything from the beginning to end.

The other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ fell into thought.

Gu Qing Shan then gave the Inventory Bag to the other ‘him’ again.

[This is?]

“A large-sized jade tag, you need to memorize everything inside and cultivate yourself”

[Got it]

### **Chapter 843**

The third ‘Gu Qing Shan’ turned transparent and slowly vanished from the surface of the water.

Everything returned to silence.

Gu Qing Shan stood alone on top of the water as lines of blood-red text on the screen.

[The Water Tribulation had ended]

[You are now a Void Revolution realm cultivator]

[You can make the following choices:]

[One, randomly draw a Card from the Condemnation (Fugitive) deck]

[Two, if you give up on this draw, during your next advancement, you will obtain the right to choose from one of five randomly drawn Lapis Cards]

Gu Qing Shan remembered something and doubtfully asked: “I know this Card deck should have quite a few unique Cards, so why haven’t I seen any of them?”

[Which Cards are you talking about?] [Origin] asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “For example, summoning puppets or weapon prohibition, both of these Cards are unique and powerful in their own ways”

Especially weapon prohibition, to be able to directly select and seal an opponent’s weapon, it truly was ridiculously powerful.

[Origin] answered him: [Venerable Envoy of Condemnation, you must first understand something, the Condemnation deck is an especially powerful weapon that can change itself depending on the user]

“In other words, I might never be able to draw those cards?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Indeed, due to their user’s varying characteristics and talents, even Cards of the same deck can change and transform into a completely different set of cards that is more suitable to the user] [Origin] explained.

“Then why was I able to obtain the [True Crimson Demon Spear]?”

[That simply means that the card was especially suitable for you]

“Alright then”

Gu Qing Shan didn’t hesitate for long before making his decision.

“I give up on drawing cards this time” he declared.

A line of text appeared on the [Origin] UI:

[As you have given up on drawing cards this time, when you reach Three Thousand Worlds realm, you will be able to perform a selective Card draw]

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded at this line of text.

The number of Cards he had didn’t matter, what mattered was that he could use them.

The world of water around him disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan found himself returning to where he was originally with the God of Frost and Chill, the figure of light, and Luo Bing Li standing guard for him.

“How is it?” Luo Bing Li asked from afar.

“It’s still only half-done, I need a bit more time” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He tapped his Inventory Bag and took out the Realm Breaker Pill.

This was one of the most precious treasures left by the Bygone Era humans, each person could only use a single one during their entire lives.

For Gu Qing Shan, in particular, this pill could help him go from Void Revolution realm straight to Three Thousand Worlds realm.

Gu Qing Shan put the Realm Breaker Pill into his mouth without hesitation and swallowed it!

*Wait!*

*It’s stuck!*

The pill was too large, he needed to chew it up a bit first.

Gu Qing Shan started to chew the pill while calming himself calm.

*Yes, I shouldn't be in too much of a hurry.*

*Nothing will happen to Zhi Luo just yet.*

*I barely spent any time passing the Water Tribulation.*

*The mountains of the Mahesvara realm are very sturdy, those people will need at least a few days to destroy the mountain and kill her.*

Gu Qing Shan finally finished consuming the Realm Breaker Pill.

To be frank, this Realm Breaker Pill was a bit too sweet.

It was almost like candy.

Gu Qing Shan silently sensed the spirit energy changing within his body.

After reaching Void Revolution realm, his spirit energy reservoir was increased by a massive leap, combined with the help of this Realm Breaker Pill, it soon reached the quantity standard for Three Thousand Worlds realm cultivators.

The corresponding changes were.

The power of his sword strikes increased more than two-fold.

Spirit energy was the fuel for unleashing his sword techniques, so as the amount of fuel increased, so did the output.

This principle was the same for any caster-type cultivators as well as any other kinds of cultivators.

Gu Qing Shan carefully sensed and observed his body to find that there were no visible problems and calmed down.

He then pondered about the Heaven's Tribulations he would soon face.

Wind, Fire, Water, Earth.

A cultivator attempting to reach Three Thousand Worlds realm must go through all four of these Tribulations in a row without fail.

This would be a tough and long process.

Without waiting for long, the wind had begun to howl around him.

Sand and dust were kicked up as the sky darkened.

And Gu Qing Shan was standing alone within the chaotic howling wind.

He was waiting.

At some point, the whispering of evil creatures began to appear in the wind.

The evil creatures showed up one by one, staring at Gu Qing Shan.

『 What powerful and energy-filled flesh, I already can't contain myself 』

「 Don't you dare try to steal it from me! 」

『 No, me! 』

They all charged towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts turned.

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Secret Art, [Thousand Skies Drawn Shadows]

His 700 flying swords scattered.

Under the reinforcement of seemingly endless spirit energy, each flying sword gave off hundreds and thousands of black sword shadows.

The countless black sword shadows filled the entire Tribulation area, turning into a black screen.

A black screen of sword shadows.

“Already using your full strength?” Luo Bing Li sent her voice to ask him.

“Don't have time to chit chat and joke around with these guys” Gu Qing Shan replied.

As the black sword shadows scattered into the air, all the evil creatures were completely decimated and blown away by the wind, not even leaving behind a single scrap.

During that short massacre, Gu Qing Shan had a sudden realization.

After going through so many battles, he found himself now able to control more flying swords at once.

“1200? Hm, should be around that much” he muttered.

The wind stopped blowing.

No evil creatures were left alive.

A transparent flame abruptly manifested and caught onto Gu Qing Shan's body.

After Wind came Fire!

The flame spread and engulfed his entire body.

The flame expanded in front of Gu Qing Shan to reveal the scene of another world.

It was the Mahesvara realm.

“Time to kill some people”

Gu Qing Shan lightly muttered.

His soul vessel stepped forward, reached his hand into the void of space to grab the Chao Yin sword, and walked into the fire.

...

The old man sensed the overwhelming spirit energy coming from Gu Qing Shan's body, arched his back and bowed: "My friend, the Mahesvara realm is like your second home away from home, we gladly welcome you here again"

Gu Qing Shan looked at him with a smile that didn't seem like a smile.

"Didn't you say that I had two choices, either to remain here or wait until you people killed Zhi Luo?"

The old man didn't even dare to wipe the cold sweat from his head and smiled flatteringly: "It was only a joke of the moment, there is no need to think of it as anything but that, my friend"

"Was it really a joke?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The old man slapped his chest and quickly replied: "It was definitely a joke, definitely do not believe otherwise, sir"

Gu Qing Shan also glanced at the others.

"We were also joking"

"Yes, yes, it was hard for us to meet a new friend, so we joked around a bit"

"Friend, Zhi Luo is a good lady who's closely related to you, why would we kill her?"

The cultivators all quickly followed up.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and asked: "Which means, all of you were only cracking jokes with me?"

""Indeed! indeed!""

The cultivators all hurriedly nodded.

"So it was only a joke, it seems I don't need to be mad after all"

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

"That's right!"

"Sir, there is no need to think too much about it, you are our esteemed guest, we wouldn't do anything reckless"

"Come, come, come, get our friend some fine liquor"

"Hurry, get our finest food quickly as well"

The cultivators all got busy.

Seeing how they reacted, Gu Qing Shan put the Chao Yin sword back into the void of space.

The Chao Yin sword just let out a single 'oong' and disappeared.

This made quite a few of them sighed in relief.

Gu Qing Shan received the cup of liquor, glanced around, and took a headcount.

“701 people, tch, one extra. Fortunately, if I also crack a joke, it should be just enough”

He raised the cup to all the cultivators here.

They hurriedly raised their cups as well.

Gu Qing Shan swiftly drank the entire cup in a single breath.

At the same time, 700 sword images flashed.

Secret Art, [Swallow Returns]!

This was an assassination sword technique, not only was it as fast as a flash of light, it attacked the target from both the front and back at once, making it almost impossible to defend against.

All the cultivators in the plaza were eliminated in an instant.

Only the old man was still alive.

Gu Qing Shan put the cup back down and looked at him.

This time, the old man didn't have another secret technique to protect himself, and because of Gu Qing Shan's greatly increased cultivation realm, the old man couldn't even resist the [True Soul Cleaving Eyes].

After vanishing for the blink of an eye, the old man appeared again.

His corpse landed directly on the ground.

Gu Qing Shan stood without moving.

The flying swords gathered behind him one after another until they formed two pairs of floating winds and faded back into the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan looked down at the corpses everywhere and muttered: “There, that's how you should crack a joke”

After saying so, he leapt upwards and flew towards Zhi Luo's location.

#### **Chapter 844**

A lush green mountain peak was floating in the sky.

From afar, a streak of light came flying and arrived alone outside the mountain.

Gu Qing Shan appeared.

He looked down at the mountain peak, and silently sensed the vast power emanating from it.

A flower among blades of grass, a leaf that landed by some stones.

It seems to currently be autumn for the Mahesvara realm.

The autumn atmosphere filled the entire mountain, the layers of leaves and trees fluttered along with the wind, making for a scenic view.



At the same time, an unknown great power could be felt coming from every corner of this mountain.

As a Void Revolution realm cultivator, Gu Qing Shan could clearly feel this power, but he was unable to comprehend what it exactly was.

He grabbed a falling leaf with his hand.

The withered leaf slowly scattered.

“This is a manifestation of Merit?” he doubtfully muttered to himself.

Zhi Luo’s voice sounded from inside the mountain: “Indeed, because I participated in the struggle to save the Samsara worlds and made significant contributions, I was able to use the Merit I gained to form this mountain peak”

Gu Qing Shan looked at the various uneven places on the mountain and quickly realized what they were.

These were the marks left behind by those cultivators’ attacks.

Her Merit nullified those attacks, manifesting the damage as withered leaves and trees.

“Zhi Luo, you can come out now, those people will not come to try and destroy this mountain any longer” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Where did they go?” Zhi Luo asked.

“They decided to crack jokes in another world, so they all left just now” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“You really are impressive, to be able to break through and return here in such a short period of time” Zhi Luo was clearly in awe.

“I’m actually not that impressive, most of this is thanks to a pill”

“That’s also due to your competence. Ah, I just remembered something important”

“That is?”

“I can’t leave”

Gu Qing Shan froze.

Zhi Luo spoke dejectedly: “At the time, I was afraid that they would interfere with you during your Tribulation, so I sealed the entire mountain off, and now I can’t leave at all”

“Then how do we break the seal?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“There’s no way that I know of unless you do what they did and attack the mountain for several dozen days” Zhi Luo answered

Gu Qing Shan froze again.

He realized that he wouldn’t be able to meet the other party this time around.

The Fire Tribulation made it so that he couldn’t stay here for too long.

He couldn't destroy this mountain in such a short time, even if he could, he can't just do that either.

Because this mountain was the manifestation of Zhi Luo's Merits.

So now, Gu Qing Shan had to face the Tribulation while he still had the time to quickly leave.

If he was too late, the Tribulation Fire would burn his body to ash.

Zhi Luo obviously understood this as well.

Right here and now, they could do nothing but say a few words to each other and bid farewell.

"You can go and face your Tribulation now, I'll stay here to cultivate and wait for you" she told him.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit hesitant, briefly reflected on it before asking: "Are there any other people who could threaten your safety?"

"How many cultivators did you kill?" Zhi Luo asked.

"701 people"

Zhi Luo said with joy: "That's perfect, then there is no one here in this world but myself"

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit doubtful and asked: "If this was the Mahesvara realm, why were there so few people? Does this realm not have a Mahesvara Heavenly King?"

Zhi Luo answered him: "The original Mahesvara Heavenly King was already long dead, this realm has basically been without an owner for a long time"

"What about those cultivators?"

"They are trapped here, only Merit could increase their lifespan, otherwise they would die right away"

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

*No wonder those cultivators insisted on keeping me here.*

*No wonder they even tried to use Zhi Luo's life to threaten me.*

He hurriedly asked: "What about you?"

"Before this mountain formed from my Merit is destroyed, I can live perfectly well"

"Have they never tried to steal your Merit before?"

"I would grant them a bit of Merit from time to time depending on my mood, so they can't really try anything against me. Furthermore, if I really don't want to stay here, they can't stop me, I can immediately reincarnate into any world I wish, but if I did that, I would forget you"

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "You've already done a lot for my sake. If you continue, you'll only go through more hardship without any benefits"

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Zhi Luo's giggle could be heard coming from the mountain: "Indeed, but you're already starting to think for my sake, confirming that I really didn't make the wrong judgement"

Her tone suddenly became stern and solemn: "Qing Shan, do you see the fluttering withered leaves in the wind? As an Asura woman, ever since long ago, I already knew that my life would be the same as these leaves, destined to be lost in the heat of battle, that is the shared fate of our race"

"But I already lost my life once and got to meet you in hell, that is my fortune that had nothing to do with battle"

"I've been through countless tough battles and lingered at the verge of life and death for too long to count, so to me, simply waiting is nothing but an insignificant price to pay"

"I will continue to wait until the day you come to take me away from here"

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

The women of the Asura race were bestowed with peerless beauty with a burning fiery personality, once they recognized someone, they would never change their mind in their entire lives, even if the two of them could no longer be with one another, they would never love a second man.

However, this was nothing but a rumor, a legend, so Gu Qing Shan had never paid close attention to it. Now that he was experiencing this himself, he naturally felt how heavy it really was.

He landed on top of the mountain and buried a jade tag beneath a piece of rock.

"These are all the battle techniques and skills of the Asura race that I've ever obtained, after you come out, make sure to cultivate them well" Gu Qing Shan told her.

"Ah? Why do I have to cultivate them well?" Zhi Luo's voice seemed a bit uncomfortable.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and told her: "Because if you want to fight by my side from now on, you can't be too weak"

Saying so, he closed his eyes.

He had spent too much time in this world already that there wasn't a lot of time left, Gu Qing Shan could already feel the approaching shadow of death.

He had to face his Tribulation now!

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts turned.

Immediately, endless flames engulfed him and pulled him into countless visions of despair, swearing to destroy his mind.

Gu Qing Shan carefully dealt with his delusions.

A few moments later.

The flames faded.

He also vanished from this world together with the fire.

“Take care”

Only those words lingered in the wind.

The entire Mahesvara realm returned to silence.

There weren't any people flying back and forth.

No more rowdy banquet and parties.

The world was silent.

Only a single graceful woman of unrivaled beauty was sitting in the heart of a certain mountain with a smile on her face.

Zhi Luo.

While not in battle, she appeared a lot more graceful and elegant than any other woman.

“Now that's a real problem, you're already so powerful, how would I be able to catch up to your steps now?”

She furrowed her eyebrows greatly for a long time before finally relaxing.

“It seems, I can only...”

She cut open a small wound on her finger and began to draw a type of mystical pattern on her face with the blood.

This was the Asura race's racial rune passed down for generations.

In the Age of Old, after the Samsara was broken apart, every realm was broken down to countless fragments that had no way to fuse together again.

Only the battle-driven Asura race managed to use a special method to create this rune.

Once they performed the ritual with the rune, an Asura must throw away their status, their tribe, their family members, authority, and everything else to head to the ruins of the Asura Samsara.

That place was called the ultimate Asura Eternal Battle Era Fortress.

In that place, all the Asura inheritances were complete.

Each Asura who headed there would undoubtedly become rapidly stronger.

Of course, that was also an exceedingly dangerous place where one could die with the most minimal mistake.

There was only a single rule there: To become stronger, or die!

As Zhi Luo completed her ritual, she slowly stood up with her daggers in hand.

After a few moments of waiting.

The void of space began to ripple like water.

The scene of a crimson sunset appeared in front of her eyes like a mirage that didn't seem to be real.

Zhi Luo stared closely at the mirage and took a deep breath.

"I must become stronger"

Zhi Luo muttered as if to encourage herself.

"Furthermore, when he really has as many dependents as he's supposed to in the future, if I am too weak, wouldn't I be the target of bullying?"

"This one can't possibly stand for that, and furthermore..."

She walked resolutely into the mirage and made a clear declaration:

"I want to fight for your sake, Qing Shan!"

### **Chapter 845**

Wind, Fire, Water, Earth.

Wind and Fire were already over, so two more Tribulations remained.

Gu Qing Shan once again arrived at the world made of water.

Unlike the previous time, during this Water Tribulation, Gu Qing Shan would have to face himself from six parallel worlds.

The first parallel world 'Gu Qing Shan' was already here waiting and gave Gu Qing Shan his test.

A few moments later.

The other 'Gu Qing Shan' was crouching on the ground, carefully studying the formation runes on the water surface in surprise: [ I can't believe formations could actually do such a thing, where did you learn this? ]

Gu Qing Shan replied: "From a cultivation civilization that can only live in the sky, forever unable to land on the ground"

[ Their civilization must have been very impressive ]

"Indeed, and they were also very selfish. Here, put your hand on this jade tag, memorize them all before you leave"

...

Another 'Gu Qing Shan' appeared.

[ You're the one facing the Tribulation right? So what is your [Order] called? ]he asked.

"The [Demon King Order]"

[ That sounds scary, my [Order] is called [Shelter] ]

"I know this [Order], you must live quite comfortably then"

[ I think it's normal, probably not as tough as you're living, but I feel kind of helpless sometimes ]

"No one can live swimmingly forever, have you gotten married yet?"

[ Not yet. I'm kind of scared to, there's definitely going to be trouble if I do ]

"What do you mean?"

[ Hah, someone would definitely come to steal the marriage, so I'm scared of getting married ]

"What!? I would never be that pathetic, why haven't you dealt with them yet? Can't you even protect your woman?"

[ Hah, I'm the one who can't protect myself, those girls are there to steal me away ]

"Ah, so that's why"

...

[ My test will be to create an elementary-level Mech ]

"I can do that, but I'm probably not as good as you"

[ That's fine, I'm not going to make you stay here, just do your best and I'll let you pass ]

"Thank you, I'm also curious, why is your world's technological level so impressive?"

[ Ah, that's because I activated the Impartial Goddess. We broke through the North Pole spaceship's firewall together and stole all the scientific research achievements ]

"Were you able to win against the Demon Lord?"

[ Demon Lord? What's that? ]

"I see, ignore that question"

...

"Ah, you're the strongest one among the versions of myself who came here to test me"

[ But still a bit lacking compared to you ]

"What is your [Order]?"

[ [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Single Player Mode] ]

"No wonder you're so strong, alright, I have something good for you"

[ What's this? ]

"A large-sized jade tag, all of my cultivation experience is recorded inside"

[ Thank you ]

...

While facing the Water Tribulation, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but sigh emotionally.

*Who could've thought, none of the 'Gu Qing Shan' from the parallel worlds was stronger than me.*

*As far as I've seen, I'm the strongest version of myself.*

*And the reason for all of this was the War God UI who had been with me from the beginning.*

Gu Qing Shan had already realized this.

*None of myself from any parallel worlds obtained the War God UI, they carry various other [Orders] instead.*

Finally, the sixth 'Gu Qing Shan' from a parallel world left.

The Water Tribulation was over.

Gu Qing Shan's figure moved and let himself be pushed away by an intense force out of this world.

The next Tribulation would be the final one.

The Earth Tribulation.

This was the last Tribulation one had to face to achieve Three Thousand Worlds realm and the most unique of the four Tribulations.

Even [Origin] had to display blood-red lines of text to remind Gu Qing Shan to face this Tribulation seriously:

[Your Excellency, you are about to enter the Earth Tribulation]

[Repeat, you are about to enter the most wondrous Earth World]

[This Tribulation is an exceptionally unique Tribulation, please do not let your guard down as the Order cannot offer Your Excellency any aid within this Tribulation]

Gu Qing Shan replied: "You said it as if you helped me out during any of the other Tribulations"

[Origin] paused briefly, then all the text on the UI disappeared.

It was reminding him through the voice function:

[Your Excellency, please be careful to pay close attention, within the Earth Tribulation, all of your abilities will be sealed away by the unique characteristics of the Earth World. You will not be able to use any abilities at all]

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Will my memories be sealed as well?"

[It will not, but as soon as you enter the Earth World, your cultivation will vanish without a trace, all of your supernatural items will also lose their effects, and your body will be reduced to that of a normal person] [Origin] explained.

"As long as I have my memories, my swordsmanship and battle experience would still remain, I know how to deal with such a situation" Gu Qing Shan replied.

[Origin] insisted: [Even so, please remain vigilant. If you die within the Earth Tribulation, all would be lost]

“I know”

Gu Qing Shan appeared calm, but in fact, he was also panicking a bit.

The Earth World.

No matter if you had immense spirit energy, knew countless intricate and powerful spells, or had a Thaumaturgy that allowed you to match ten thousand people, they would all be useless in the Earth World.

This was a legendary world within the cultivation world.

Because of the way it perfectly forbids all supernatural powers, cultivators must act like a normal person and struggle for their lives within the Earth World like the rest.

Gu Qing Shan held his breath and waited for a while.

The darkness around him slowly retreated to reveal countless lights ahead.

It was in the middle of the day.

Gu Qing Shan found himself standing on top of a field of fine grains of sand.

*I've arrived at the Earth World!*

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath.

There was nothing but the endless desert around him.

Although, at the far end of Gu Qing Shan's line of sight, a long and straight highway could be seen stretching into the horizon.

At the other end of the highway, there seemed to be a few buildings.

All other information in front of Gu Qing Shan's retina disappeared, leaving only a single line of text.

[Survive for 7 days]

After he read through it, this line of text vanished as well.

The intense sunlight shined from above, prickling his skin with the sensation of heat.

Gu Qing Shan tried releasing his inner sight, only to find that his inner sight was trapped within his own Thought Sea, unable to leak even a little bit outside.

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He scanned his Thought Sea.

Everything he had was currently sealed, making it so that he couldn't even touch them.

The good news was that the timeline around the Earth sword was fully frozen.



Perhaps to ensure that everything remained the same, the Earth World's Law directly sealed the Earth sword in its current state.

Confirming this, Gu Qing Shan felt a lot more assured.

The bad news was that when Gu Qing Shan leapt up like he always does, he didn't fly all the way to the sky like normal.

After jumping up about half a meter, he stumbled and fell back down.

Fortunately, the sand was soft enough that he didn't feel any pain.

Unfortunately, the grains of hot sand went through his shoes and seeped into his foot.

The [Black Smog Armor] couldn't even be taken out, let alone worn, and the clothes Gu Qing Shan was wearing was degraded from high-grade cultivator's clothing to normal clothing.

Gu Qing Shan muttered: "How miraculous, just what kind of power could turn everything mundane like this?"

But he quickly didn't care about that anymore.

Because it was too hot. Just by standing here for a few minutes, Gu Qing Shan was already sweating bullets.

For a non-powered living being, the desert was an exceedingly unfriendly natural environment.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the buildings at the end of the road.

*That's my only hope for survival.*

He didn't waste any more time and quickly walked along the road towards those buildings.

There wasn't a single cloud in the sky.

The heat was being reflected off the road, causing the air above it to warp.

The entire world felt like a braising pot.

Gu Qing Shan had already taken off his outermost shirt to use as a simple hat to cover his head.

This was the toughest and longest trek he had made ever since he began his cultivation.

Sweat flowed down along his back.

The exposed skin around his body was already burnt red.

After about half an hour, Gu Qing Shan noticed in surprise that he was breathing a bit heavily.

*This truly is an unimaginable world, not only did it turn me into a normal person, but my physique has also been normalized.*

But there was nothing he could do about it now.

He needed to maintain stable breathing, tried his best not to look up and continue walking forward.

Another hour passed.

When Gu Qing Shan felt that his body was close to collapsing, he finally reached his destination.

A smaller road branched off from the highway that led straight into the relatively small desert town.

There wasn't a single person to be seen in this town, but there was a faint sound of music resounding in the air.

This made sense since no one would bother going out under such intense heat.

Although he was close to fainting from a heatstroke, Gu Qing Shan still retained the most basic sense of caution.

He narrowed his eyes to observe the town.

There were quite a few buildings in this town that had marks suggesting there might have been a battle here.

Quite a few traps and some simple defensive fortifications were laid on the road.

Some of the buildings that were close to the highway were already completely destroyed, charred black with opened doors.

But as one looked further along the road, they would find that the majority of the buildings here were still intact.

*Seems like the danger would most likely come from the highway.*

Gu Qing Shan didn't have time to wait.

His stamina was already reaching its end, no matter how careful he was, he needed to find somewhere to stay out of this intense sunlight.

He walked towards the town and stood in front of the first destroyed building.

After a bit of observation, he entered the building without hesitation.

This was the building closest to the highway, all the windows were already broken while the inside seemed to be in chaos with a few empty shelves fallen on the ground and nothing else.

At a glance, this used to be a supermarket or something similar before whatever disaster occurred here.

Gu Qing Shan looked around and relaxed a bit more.

There wasn't a single useful thing left here.

But from a different perspective, this also meant that this supermarket had already been raided quite a few times.

So it should be quite safe overall.

As the sunlight couldn't reach too far into the building, Gu Qing Shan finally got spared from the heat.

While he still had some strength in his body, Gu Qing Shan walked deeper into the building, pushed open a wrecked door, and headed inside.

The back area was where the supermarket's warehouse and transport freights were stored.

Similar to the front, this place had also been raided by people, not leaving a scrap of food or drinks left.

There was an empty wine bottle covered in dust rolling on the ground, apparently having been left here for quite a few days.

Aside from that, there were only a few pieces of old newspaper used to wrap things.

Gu Qing Shan muttered with his dry lips, then came and picked the empty bottle up.

He carefully put it into his chest.

This was the first thing he found here that could be considered a weapon.

He picked up those pieces of newspaper and sat down in a relatively cool and dry place while leaning on the wall.

Although he was incredibly thirsty, Gu Qing Shan estimated that he could still endure it a bit longer.

The most important thing now for him was to regain his stamina.

*I almost dropped that bottle when I picked it up earlier.*

*My current state isn't suitable to deal with any situations.*

Time slowly passed.

The sun had gone down a bit so the temperature outside wasn't quite as high as it was before.

Gu Qing Shan also had about half an hour's worth of rest.

His stamina managed to recover a bit.

But he felt his mouth become a lot dryer, there wasn't even saliva in there right now.

This was a sign of extreme dehydration.

As a cultivator, when had he ever faced such a terrible struggle?

If any other cultivator had gone through this, they would most likely have begun to try and find a source of water.

But having lived through an Apocalypse, Gu Qing Shan knew better to retain his calm and caution.

He left the worn-out newspaper on the ground.

He couldn't understand the language.

But the war-related pictures on the newspaper were still enough for him to make a few assumptions about this world.

Without being able to use supernatural powers, this world became technologically advanced instead.

From the pictures, he saw a few primitive flying implements and ammunition, as well as the preliminary form of Mech suits.

As for their enemies, it seemed to be some sort of humanoid creature or mutated humans who became monsters.

This way, it would certainly be hard for a normal person to deal with them.

While contemplating, Gu Qing Shan exercised his lower body a bit.

He was currently getting used to his mundane body to make sure that he would be able to perform some reflexive movements with the stamina he currently had.

A few moments later, the sound of an engine or machinery could be heard outside.

Gu Qing Shan stuck close to the wall and sneaked a few glances outside the window.

He saw a primitive transportation vehicle.

A truck.

## **Chapter 846**

The truck rumbled as it stopped by the side of the road.

A black hair middle-aged man, a woman, a black man, and a blonde man.

They jumped down from the truck and moved the obstacles on the road away.

Gu Qing Shan observed indifferently as they were busily working without making any decision.

He noticed that from start to end, only these four people were working on the road, no one else came out from the small town to help them.

That was a bit strange.

From the pictures he saw from the newspaper, this world seemed to have faced a sort of mutated creature threat and was heading towards ruin.

Whenever a truck went into town like this, the people of the town should be wary or should try to check it out. At least, from their desire towards food and information alone, there should be at least a few people who would come to try and see the situation.

But the reality was that no one came out of the town at all.

Gu Qing Shan stuck close to the wall and silently watched as they pushed the obstacles on the road away.

They seemed quite skilled at it as if they had already gotten used to doing this.

After a while, perhaps because he was a bit tired, the black hair middle-aged man who carried a gun on his back breathed heavily and complained: "I don't want to keep moving these roadblocks around anymore, can someone please find me some more living people please"

The black man spoke seriously: "Don't even joke about that, old Li, without these roadblocks, we would all be finished"

"We can only hope that God above helps us and let us find some people during later searches. We really are lacking in manpower" the blond man also commented.

They stopped talking and slowly stopped working as well.

At this point, the sun had gone down a bit more so the temperature became slightly lower again.

Sunset was arriving soon.

The three men and one woman gathered under the shade of the truck, each lighting a cigarette and slowly smoking it.

The blond man spoke dejectedly: "Tonight is going to be another busy night, everyone should take a short rest first, otherwise, you might not last"

The man called old Li shook his head: "It's regretful that we couldn't find anyone to replace us, really unlucky, we finally managed to find two people, but they were girls"

The only woman there glared at him and angrily spoke: "So what if they were girls? At least they could help us cook and clean"

Old Li smiled bitterly: "I'd rather eat and live a bit worse if those girls can take up the guns and deal with the monsters"

The woman refuted: "Those girls were barely old enough to be high school students, the fact that they could keep calm at all was already good enough, and you want them taking up guns to kill monsters?"

Old li shrugged with a helpless expression.

" I'm hungry, let's deal with our stomach first"

The black man mediated between them without giving his opinion.

The group arrived at the back of the truck and opened the shielding.

Gu Qing Shan hid in the shadow, squinted his eyes, and carefully observed.

There were all sorts of things inside the truck , including food, household items, clothes, and even a living pig.

The pig was gnawing on some white radish.

The four people carried a small crate down from the truck and swiftly pried it open.

Inside, there were various cans of food neatly lined up as well as a bit of alcohol.

In an apocalypse, this was already quite a considerable bit of food.

“I don’t really like beef” the woman complained.

“We can’t help it, we need three cans each, so you should at least eat two, otherwise you won’t be able to replenish your stamina and there would be a problem at night” old Li told her.

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan had a different thought.

In an apocalypse setting, canned beef can be considered a luxury item, yet she was complaining about it.

And these people weren’t being stingy with it at all, three cans of food were normally enough for an adult male to feel a bit too full.

Seems like their current state of living could be considered decent.

Fortunately, Gu Qing Shan knew a lot of languages so he managed to tell that they were speaking a sort of less-widely used human language in the 900 million World Layers.

From their earlier conversations, he knew that they were sheltering two young girls who couldn’t fight.

And those two girls were kept quite safe.

Gu Qing Shan’s gaze fell onto the gun on old Li’s back and carefully observed it.

This was an old and primitive sniper rifle.

Gu Qing Shan was originally a Mech expert who was able to create the Seraph, a Mech that was considered to be ahead of its time, almost by himself, so he naturally had extensive knowledge of such basic weapons.

The sniper rifle that old Li carried on his back only had the range to attack enemies within 800-1000 meters, and only enough power to damage a small-sized target. It wouldn’t be much use against armored Mechs or giant monsters.

It can’t even perform a sniping ambush that exceeded the line of sight.

But from how much old Li appeared to treasure this gun, it must have been with him for a considerably long time, or it was his main form of attack.

*How weak.*

*Even when they’re so short on hands, they still decided to shelter a couple of powerless girls.*

*This partially proved both their living standards and disposition.*

*Combined with the box of canned beef as well as the still-living pig on the truck.*

*This doesn’t seem to be too bad of a start.*

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded.

He finally made his decision.

On the outside, the blond man gave each person a can of food, then turned around to take a bottle of alcohol and four glasses from the truck.

“Don’t drink too much, only one glass per person at most” old Li reminded them.

They knocked their glasses together and drank.

At this point, a sound came not too far away from them.

Everyone immediately turned towards the source of the sound.

Only to see a man standing at the burnt door of the building.

“Help me!”

The man leaned on the handles of the door and breathed heavily.

“Don’t move!”

“He’s not a monster”

“Stay where you are!”

“Wait, it’s a living person”

They all shouted and awkwardly pulled out their weapons.

Gu Qing Shan just stood still, feeling a bit speechless.

Their reactions were too unprofessional.

With their standard, against a true hitman like Zhang Ying Hao, they would’ve been killed who knows how many times over.

“Help me”

“What happened? What’s the problem?” the black man loudly questioned.

“Thirsty” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The four of them exchanged glances.

The blond man took out a pair of binocular and carefully observed Gu Qing Shan.

“He’s unhurt, apparently a bit exhausted”

“His eyes haven’t mutated, a normal person”

The blond man reported to his companions as he observed him.

“Give him some water” the black man said.

“But we already drank all the water we brought” old Li refuted.

“Then give him alcohol” the black man suggested.

“No, his body is too dehydrated, we need to give him water” the woman spoke.

“We’re too far, give him some alcohol to first quench his thirst” the black man insisted.

“We can’t, alcohol won’t do anything, it could affect his judgement instead” old Li also shook his head.

The blond man joined their discussion: “Why not? In ancient times, people were afraid that water wasn’t clean so they all brewed alcohol to use as regular drinks”

Gu Qing Shan silently listened to their bickering.

The sun was already going down and night would soon arrive.

If it truly was as they said and there would be a lot of danger at night, being stuck here wouldn’t be a good thing.

Do they really have time to waste on something like this?

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

“Water, give me water”

After saying that, he fainted.

This time, the four people stopped bickering.

“Carry him, we’ll give him some water back at the base”

Old Li ended their quarrel.

A bumpy ride later.

Someone pried his mouth open and gave him some water.

Gu Qing Shan took a few sips, then slowly opened his eyes.

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A 16-17 years old girl was the one feeding him.

“Are you awake? Can you drink water by yourself?” The young girl shyly asked.

“I can”

Gu Qing Shan acted like he struggled a bit to sit up from the sofa, received the bowl of water, and drank everything inside.

He felt a bit better.

“Is there any more water?”

“Here”

Another girl gave him a plastic bottle of water.

Gu Qing Shan received it, twisted the cap open and drank everything inside.

With enough water, his body could finally recover some strength.

“Thank you a lot, for saving me”



Gu Qing Shan looked at the two girls and smiled.

“You’re welcome, but we were also saved by others” one of the girls told him.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the other direction and asked: “Which means, you were the ones who saved me?”

Within his vision, the four people were cautiously looking at him.

Gu Qing Shan was a lot more casual.

Since he could already guess their personalities from before, as long as he dealt with them carefully, there wouldn’t be any problems.

The blond man openly held a dagger in his hand.

The woman placed her hand close to her chest, apparently also holding a weapon as she stared closely at Gu Qing Shan.

The black man was standing at the front, old Li leaning on the wall on the back with their weapons seemingly relaxing on their thighs.

*A decent emergency team.*

Gu Qing Shan silently praised.

*Seems like aside from how often they bicker, this was still a decently competent team.*

*At least, judging by a normal person’s perspective.*

“Young man, what’s your job?” old Li asked first.

“I’m a scientist” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The group was surprised.

They didn’t expect that to be the answer.

“Where did you come from?” the black man asked.

“From the Southeast highway”

“That place isn’t very peaceful” the blond man scowled.

“That bunch of low lives” the woman muttered in a low voice, apparently a bit upset.

Gu Qing Shan quickly followed up: “That’s right , my vehicle was stolen, I had to walk all the way here and almost died in the process”

“They didn’t kill you?”

“I was in the toilet at the time. When I saw those guys coming from a distance, I buried myself underneath the sand and waited, after a while of searching, they couldn’t handle the heat so they took my vehicle and left”

“So you have some wits about you. You said you were a scientist, what do you research ?”

“Weapons”

“Guns?”

“No, a bit more advanced than that” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Fighter jets? Tanks? Canons” the black man tried asking further.

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

*So in his perception, those things were already considered advanced.*

*I can now confirm that the level of technology in this world is not too far from what I had thought.*

*They've only just begun to study hot weapons for at most 300 years, and their Mechs were still at the opening stages of research.*

*Mechs...*

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but feel nostalgic.

...

In the ancient era , personal combat units like Mechs were never really considered by true military experts.

A single ballistic missile could deal with a lot of problems.

And the cost for a single Mech suit could cost up to several thousand ballistic missiles.

Any other weapon was able to do a Mech's job at a fraction of the price.

Because of this, no one bothered to spend several hundred times the effort to research and create Mech suits.

This was the situation for a very long time.

Only after science had advanced to a high enough degree that the Mech suits were able to show up again in the public's eyes with the role of “superheroes”.

As science and technology continued to develop, the problem of the production cost for Mechs was slowly resolved and artificial intelligence became good enough to be used commercially.

A Mech suit could learn everything by itself and complete various jobs in the place of people, thus humanity entered an era of comfort.

As Mechs started to replace people's jobs, another seed of inner conflict was buried among the people, since the rate of technological advancement for each country was different, the types of Mechs that could be created also differed.

And soon, war broke out.

Countless Mechs conducted intense wars of attrition in place of people.

At some point, the situation changed.

People began to notice that when a large number of Mechs are deployed onto the battlefield, at certain points in time, some independent and rare situations would occur.

One of the most notable ones was that the Mechs would perform mutual communication.

They formed a type of mechanical language that humans don't understand, study and copy them among one another and headed towards what was essentially mechanical evolution.

Humans couldn't understand what they were communicating with each other.

But the Mechs could completely understand humans and war.

At the same time, they were connected to the world wide web and were constantly studying, observing every scientific breakthrough and shift in humanity's social structures.

Everyone felt true terror brought about by their own technological growth.

The wars immediately ended.

From that point onwards, the central autonomous AI of each Mech was erased and made sure that the movement and actions of every Mech must be under the control and orders of a rider or central commanding officer.

This was the famous first Principle of Mobile Mechs: People must take control over every action of machines.

...

"Do you know about Mechs?"

Gu Qing Shan awoke from his nostalgia and asked.

"You're telling us that you're a Mech scientist?" old Li asked.

"I am" Gu Qing Shan nodded.

"Unfortunately, we don't have those things here" old Li spoke regretfully.

"Which means, we can't confirm your identity. We can't trust you" the woman said.

The blond man also spoke: "If you belong to one of those damned gangs who was sent to infiltrate us..."

The atmosphere became heavy.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied: "Proving my identity is easy. I know a little bit about everything as long as it's a machine, so you can test me on those"

"What can you make?" old Li asked.

"What do you need?" Gu Qing Shan rolled his sleeves up.

*As long as there are enough material and time, I can make any powerful antique hot weapons.*

*This is exactly my expertise!*

His openness and confidence made everyone sigh in relief.

The people of those gangs didn't know much about machines or technology, before this apocalypse, they were nothing but thugs.

Everyone exchanged looks.

"Can you really make anything as long as it's related to machinery?" the black man asked.

"Maybe not everything, but I'm quite the mechanical expert, so I should be able to make the majority of things" Gu Qing Shan humbly replied.

*Antique machines are quite simple, but I have to consider the fact that there might be things I haven't seen, and since this was the Earth World, there might be a lot of things I don't know the use of that I need to slowly study.*

"Can you fix things as well?" the woman asked.

*Fix?*

Fixing was considerably easier than making something from scratch since the majority of the components are already there and assembled. All he needed to do was identify the problem and deal with it.

Whether it was the truck or their guns, or perhaps even "fixing" their vehicles to make an excavator that dealt with the roadblocks was nothing but child's play for Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "Of course I also know how to fix things"

Everyone exchanged glances again with clear expressions of fortune on their faces.

The atmosphere of the room became even better.

"Thank god, we finally got someone who could look into this, our toilet has been broken for a while" the black man said

dejectedly. Gu Qing Shan froze.

## **Chapter 847**

The sofa was so comfortable that when Gu Qing Shan plopped himself on it, he didn't want to move again.

*A normal person's stamina really is no good, I get tired so easily.*

The two young girls brought him a plate of steaming hot food.

The blond man poured him a glass of liquor.

Everyone's opinion of him had greatly changed.

Not only did he fix the toilet, Gu Qing Shan even fixed their lights and washing machine.

The black-skin brother then informed him that there seemed to be some issue with the truck's engine, so Gu Qing Shan also dealt with the engine's overheating problem.

If someone could fix so many appliances so quickly, there was no doubt that he was a real machinery expert.

So at this point, there were no longer any doubts about Gu Qing Shan's identity.

"Eat, Mr. scientist, I can tell how exhausted you are. Rest after you're done and take the night off, leave the outside to us" old Li told him.

"Will there be an attack?" Gu Qing Shan asked blankly.

"Maybe, those things have been constantly evolving. I saw one of them trying to walk around in daylight while driving on the highway a few days ago. It took 7-8 seconds before he was burnt to death" the blond man – Thomas – told him.

"They're constantly evolving every day, who knows what the situation would be tonight" old Li sighed.

"It will be fine, our firepower is strong" the woman encouraged everyone.

"Alright, we'll make the preparations for tonight. Mr. Scientist, you don't have much to worry about, but we'll be very tired after the night shift, so we'll probably sleep until noon tomorrow, try not to wake us up in the morning" the black man told him.

"Got it"

Gu Qing Shan answered and didn't ask any further.

*From how sure these people were acting, there shouldn't be any problems.*

*My body is currently that of a normal human, so I need to replenish my energy and rest well enough to recover myself.*

He picked up the spoon and began to eat his share of food.

Canned food that had been reheated and instant curry rice.

As well as a glass of wine.

This was already quite a decent meal.

"Can I have a bit more wine?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Of course, since you need to sleep well tonight, a bit more wine would certainly help" old Li put the entire bottle on the table for him.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized something.

*I'm now a normal person.*

*If I drink alcohol now, without spirit energy to disperse it, I'll definitely become drunk.*

*That's not a good idea.*

He slowly put the glass back on the table and ate his food.

“Didn’t you say you wanted more wine?” old Li asked in confusion.

“I’m feeling a bit of a stomach ache, so that’s probably not a very good idea” Gu Qing Shan replied.

While he ate, the four people began to sort their gear.

Bulletproof vests, flashlights, guns and ammunition, walkie-talkies, infrared night goggles... they basically had everything they needed, prepared.

“This mansion is big so you can pick out any room for yourself. We put our names on our room’s door so it will be fine as long as you don’t pick any room that already has a name” the woman informed him.

“Alright, I got it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

At this point, everyone had finished gathering their things and headed for the top floor of the mansion.

“If you hear the monsters’ screams, don’t worry about it” old Li finally said that before he left.

Gu Qing Shan had a few thoughts and loudly asked: “When does the danger start?”

“At about 11” the woman answered.

They left.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the clock on the wall.

It was currently ten minutes from 7:00 pm, still quite early.

The two young girls were still having their meals across from him.

“Leave the dishes, we’ll clean it up for you” one girl noticed his gaze and told him.

“Thank you”

Gu Qing Shan stood up and left.

He walked around the mansion.

This mansion was the biggest building in the town, apparently, its owner had already taken a plane to the capital before the calamity hit.

After all, that place was the center of the entire country, so there would surely be plenty of countermeasures and ways to survive.

But in the end, most people found that the safest place was actually the desert.

The fewer the people in a location they were in, the safer it was.

While walking across the hallway, Gu Qing Shan memorized the location of each room.

Even after making a full round, he didn’t find a suitable room.

*The apocalypse...*

He sighed, returned to the dining room and sat down in thought.

“You haven’t found a room yet?” one of the girls smiled at him.

“I haven’t,” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The other girl spoke: “Then, Gu Qing Shan, can you come with us to the basement to get something? We’re a bit scared by ourselves”

“What is there to be scared of? And what are we getting?” Gu Qing Shan smiled and asked.

“A few cooking ingredients, after their night shift, they would always come down looking for something to eat and replenish their stamina” the girl replied.

“Then let’s go” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Thank you”

Both girls appeared glad.

The three of them then moved to the living room. The two girls lifted the thick carpet off the floor, opened a locked hidden door beneath and headed downwards.

“To hide the basement under the floor of the living room, what extraordinary thinking” Gu Qing Shan praised.

“Yeah, the original owner of this place was a VIP, he had a lot of farms and crops, as well as a whole mountain of minerals” the girl explained to him.

“How did you discover this place?”

“The blond man was that VIP’s son”

“He didn’t leave for the capital with his father?”

“He felt that the situation in the capital was unclear, so instead of entrusting his life to the unknown, it was better to fortify what they already had to defend themselves and act according to the situation”

“A smart guy” Gu Qing Shan praised.

They went down to the basement.

This place was made very sturdy, with ample ventilation, a lot of weapons and ammunition as well as food, freshwater, and medicine, all stored underground.

There was also a small desk and a basic bed, most likely for the previous record keeper of this basement to use.

However, since this was still constructed underground, one couldn’t help but feel a bit chilly.

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The two girls grabbed the cooking ingredients and wanted to leave right away.

But Gu Qing Shan was a bit hesitant.

“Let’s go, there’s nothing left to do here” one girl urged him.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly asked: “Are there any medicines that can make a person feel more spirited?”

“You mean stimulant drugs? There are some” one of the girls answered him.

She skillfully searched for a box of medicine and took out a disposable syringe, giving it to Gu Qing Shan.

When Gu Qing Shan received the syringe, a line of blood-red text appeared in front of his eyes.

[Military-use stim pack, 50mg]

[Usage method: intravenous injection]

[Side effect: 24 hours headache afterward]

[Description: Takes effect in 30 seconds with a duration of 10 minutes]

“Do the others use this?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Of course, everyone carries one with them” the girl answered.

Gu Qing Shan nodded: “You two can go up first, don’t lock the basement door since I’ll stay here to rest”

The two girls exchanged looks, then smiled knowingly.

“You want to sleep here?”

One of them asked.

The other tried to persuade him: “You don’t really have to be afraid you know, this is the desert, there aren’t any monster that the four of them can’t handle”

*That’s incorrect.*

*During my initial observation, they were constantly complaining and bickering with one another.*

*These are the symptoms of feeling pressured, uneasy and impatient.*

*During the meal earlier, although they didn’t lash out at one another, they were clearly feeling heavy.*

*They weren’t as confident about tonight as they let on.*

Gu Qing Shan simply smiled bitterly at the girls: “I’m not that brave, and I can’t sleep if I hear any noise so this place is the most suitable”

Seeing how insistent he was, the girls didn’t try to convince him otherwise.

They left the basement, closed the door without locking it, covered it back up with the carpet and went to the kitchen.

Gu Qing Shan went to the door of the basement, checked the door latches properly before going back down and laid on the bed.

As the wave of exhaustion hit him, Gu Qing Shan almost couldn’t keep his eyes open anymore.



But suddenly recalling something, he lifted himself out of the bed and slowly searched the trunks of weapons for something.

Automatic high-powered rifles, various pistols, grenades, bulletproof vests, combat clothes and boots, there was everything inside this trunk.

*Bulletproof vests are good.*

Since his cultivator clothes had no effects here, Gu Qing Shan undressed and changed into a suit of combat clothes with the bulletproof vest on the inside.

“A cold weapon, please”

He muttered as if he was praying and continued his search.

All the way until the final trunk in the room.

Various cold weapons were neatly lined up inside.

Whenever Gu Qing Shan touched one of them, an appropriate blood-red text would show up in front of his eyes.

[Dagger: Whale Hunter survival blade]

[Scimitar: Gurkha blade]

[Long weapon: Triangle blood thorn]

[Military Bow]

[Standard carbon fiber arrows]

Gu Qing Shan picked out a few of these cold weapons, neatly stashed them into his clothes, and clutched the military bow in his hand, finally feeling a bit safer.

At this point, a line of blood-red text appeared from the void of space:

[Attention please, all of your abilities cannot be used here, and your spirit energy cannot be unleashed]

“Thanks for the reminder” Gu Qing Shan replied, “I’m still more used to fighting with cold weapons than anything else, so it’s fine even without special abilities”

He then laid down on the bed.

After walking in the desert for half a day and repairing a bunch of things for the other half, Gu Qing Shan had finally reached his limit.

This was a feeling he had forgotten for many years that only showed up during exceedingly tough battles.

This was a sensation that only normal people felt, true and pure helplessness.

Gu Qing Shan understood clearly that his body needed deep rest in order to recover.

During this rest, he would completely lose the ability to defend himself and become vulnerable to outside danger.

Because of this, regardless of how others viewed him, he needed to find a secluded location as soon as he could.

He fell into a deep sleep.

The night slowly passed.

All of a sudden, loud noises of explosions and gunfire could be heard from the outside.

Gu Qing Shan abruptly opened his eyes.

He laid still on his bed and silently listened.

They were the sound of mechanical firearms, grenade explosions as well as loud shouting.

The battle had begun!

Gu Qing Shan got off the bed, donned a pair of combat boots and quickly left the basement.

He soon arrived at the top of the building.

The four people each took up a direction, raining bullets down below.

“Mr. Scientist! Why are you here? This place is too dangerous, quickly go back down!” old Li shouted in surprise.

“I’m here to fight” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The blond man threw a grenade down, took the opportunity when it still hasn’t exploded to shout at him: “You haven’t gone through any training, if something happens, later on, we won’t be able to protect you!”

“Won’t be a problem”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan sat down in the middle of the four of them.

Seeing how determined and calm he was, the group didn’t know how to convince him.

*He could’ve rested, but decided to come out and fight.*

*Why does such a person exist?*

“Is his head already fried?” the woman muttered in a low voice.

Gu Qing Shan put the military bow down on his left, took out the syringe stim pack, fully pulled the injector back and placed it on the vein of the wrist of his right hand.

“My head is still fine. Since you helped me earlier, I’m just repaying the favor and help you now”

He calmly said.

**Chapter 848**

On the top floor of the mansion.

The four people here were busy killing monsters without a second to spare.

Gu Qing Shan still hadn't acted yet.

He calmly observed the situation of the battle.

These 'monsters' were nothing but a bunch of slow and stiff undead.

At a glance, they seemed like the failed products of bottom-level disciples from a third-rate corpse marionette sect.

*How could monsters like these bring an entire world towards ruin?*

While observing them, Gu Qing Shan seriously contemplated.

He suddenly noticed that some newcomers appeared on the outside of the group of undead.

It was a fleshy giant about 3 meters tall with bulging muscles who didn't budge even after being hit by bullets.

An evolved form.

"Grenade Launcher!" old Li shouted.

The blond man then picked up an RPG set up from the ground, propped it on his shoulder, aimed at the muscle monster and fired.

The grenade was shot out, leaving a long trail of smoke as it hit the monster at a rapid speed.

*Boom*

The monster's blood and flesh splattered all over.

But all the other undead weren't bothered by that at all, they simply continued to drag their feet towards the mansion.

Gu Qing Shan also noticed that from afar, more and more figures could be seen approaching them.

"Too many"

The black man angrily grumbled.

The others didn't say anything.

The horde of undead swarmed towards the mansion in unendingly huge numbers, they couldn't kill them all.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan collected his gear, stood up and patted old Li's shoulder.

"Hey"

"What do you want?" old Li couldn't help but ask.

“Your side seems to have the least monsters, so I’m going to move down from here and assess the situation” Gu Qing Shan loudly explained.

“What situation!? It’s all monsters down there, you’re going to die!” old Li shouted back.

The sound of the machine gun was a bit too loud that they couldn’t help but shout like this.

Old Li lifted his rifle and shot another monster in the head.

“I’m a scientist, I want to study their body structures a bit” Gu Qing Shan answered.

“Weren’t you a mechanical scientist?”

“To be exact, I’m a Mech scientist. Mech research includes the study of human anatomy, we usually use this to understand our enemies”

Old Li finally understood what he wanted to do.

“What good does it do to understand them? They’re monsters!” he seemed confused.

“You have to trust in science” Gu Qing Shan patted the gun in old Li’s hand.

Old Li was already half-convinced from hearing that. Without guns, their group would’ve already been dead long ago.

*Not to mention, this scientist is the real deal, he was really able to fix everything related to machinery as he had claimed.*

“I can’t guarantee I’ll be able to protect you” old Li told him.

“Don’t worry, I won’t go too far, and I can protect myself”

Gu Qing Shan patted the bow in his hand.

Saying so, he came down from the roof, quickly left the mansion, and went out to the empty field just outside the building.

The other three quickly realized where he was.

“Why did Mr. Scientist go down there?”

The blond man picked up a grenade and threw it far away.

*Boom*

Old Li covered his ears, waited until the explosion was over before he answered: “He said he wanted to study the monsters a bit”

“What a mad scientist!” the woman commented.

Everyone looked down.

They saw that Gu Qing Shan had crouched down in front of a corpse.

Despite being filled with bullet holes, this undead still hadn't died, so as it noticed someone came closer, it tried to bite him.

"Don't move"

Gu Qing Shan stabbed the military dagger straight into the undead's eye socket and pinned its head to the ground.

The undead squirmed a bit before staying thoroughly still.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan turned on the flashlight attached to his shoulder, took out another dagger, and began to perform an autopsy on this body.

His movement was swift and effective, neat, and flexible without any hesitation.

"Checking organs first"

"No heartbeat"

"The blood has already turned black, most likely because of the infection"

"Other organs have greatly withered, the stomach has become bigger"

"Lost all normal human symptoms, where does your strength come from?"

"Hm... quite a few things in the stomach, let me check. Apparently human body parts"

"Devours humans to supplement energy for activities"

"Eyes have mutated, no pupils, but can accurately see me"

"Shaper teeth, similar to those of animals"

"Nose have gone through thorough necrosis, ears have undergone metamorphosis similar to mutation"

Gu Qing Shan spent a bit of effort to cut the ears off completely.

He observed it like he was looking at an art piece.

"Indeed, a very slightly but real mutation, truly a miracle of life"

Saying so, he stood up and headed to the next undead body.

"Wait!" old Li shouted from above.

"What!?"

"You've already done your research, why haven't you come back?"

"One specimen isn't good enough, only by studying several more bodies can I draw an accurate conclusion!"

After answering, Gu Qing Shan crouched down in front of another corpse.

He seriously performed another autopsy on it.

The four people above all saw this clearly.

“What a maniac” the woman once again expressed her opinion.

“No, this is how a real scientist should be” the blond man praised him: “Those guys who do nothing but talk all day are only repeating the opinions of others. A truly competent scientist would rather personally analyze and research a problem instead”

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“Look, he’s already getting to the third body” the black man said.

“Watch out for his safety, I think he’ll probably be able to help us a lot” the blond man told everyone.

“Alright, I’ll guard him” old Li said.

...

Gu Qing Shan went back to the roof of the mansion.

He seemed a bit tired, but his eyes showed clear excitement.

“Did you learn anything?” the blond man asked.

“Hm, I can basically confirm the following: they are using sight and sound to find their prey, sound being the primary method; their eyesight isn’t particularly excellent, and they are only capable of seeing clearly up to 3-5 meters ahead, any further and they will only be able to tell if there is light or darkness. Furthermore, when it comes to evolution, as long as they obtain enough food, their bodies would mutate a lot quicker” Gu Qing Shan explained.

Everyone just looked at him in awe.

This scientist was a lot more competent than they had thought.

“Then what do you suggest?” old Li asked.

“My suggestion? Firstly, stop shooting” Gu Qing Shan told him.

“Stop shooting? Wouldn’t that be waiting or death?”

“Not at all”

Gu Qing Shan attached a grenade on the head of an arrow, pulled the grenade pin, and quickly pulled the bowstring.

Then he let go.

The arrow flew like a blurred image, carrying the grenade far away.

This shot was performed with full force so the arrow flew over the horde of undead and headed towards the highway.

*Boom!*

The grenade exploded.

All the undead abruptly froze.

About half of them stopped and turned around to head towards where the explosion happened.

Only the undead who were too close to the mansion hesitated briefly before continuing to head towards the mansion.

“What just happened?” old Li was very confused.

“Sound. Those monsters were drawn and gathered here by the sound of the gunfire. From this point onwards, you will have to give up on using guns, it produces too much noise” Gu Qing Shan patiently explained.

“Then how are we going to deal with the monsters?” the woman asked doubtfully.

Gu Qing Shan nocked another arrow and fired.

In the darkness, a single arrow silently flew out and caused the head of an undead to explode.

“They’re all extremely rigid and slow, only when they are close to their prey would they be able to greatly increase their speed by exerting themselves, so as long as you don’t come too close, you can use cold weapons to kill them” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“So that’s why, but you also said that they could see us” the blond man commented.

“They’re all heavily near-sighted, so this can be solved a lot easier than sound, we only need to turn on the lights for the other buildings and turn off the lights inside the mansion” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Then use this instead”

Gu Qing Shan gave one of the infrared night goggles to the other party.

The blond man was shocked.

*Why didn't I think of such a simple thing before?*

“That’s true, we can use night vision goggles” he muttered.

The others also nodded.

The blond man received the night vision goggles and told the others: “Let’s proceed as Mr. Scientist said, let’s go!”

They quickly went down to take the military bows, shut off all the lights in the mansion, and quickly killed the undead outside the building with bows and arrows.

Halfway through, Gu Qing Shan once again shot another grenade towards the highway with his bow.

Another group of undead left.

Their pressure was greatly alleviated.

What was originally a fight for their lives became a simple shooting game.

They even had the time to get a midnight snack.

“How did you find all of this out?” the black man couldn’t help himself asking.

“Perhaps you’ve never heard of a thing called humanoid Mechs. In truth, us scientists have already found out everything there is to find out about the human body” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“I really regret not taking time to study all those years ago” the black man sighed.

“You probably wouldn’t have been able to anyways, IQ’s different” old Li casually commented without looking up as he ate.

The black man scowled.

“This type of science is really cutting edge, there are no references so the only thing one can do is slowly research through trial and error. Unless you’re really passionate about it, only those who are forced to learn it for the sake of survival can learn it” Gu Qing Shan diffused the tension between them.

“So you’re passionate about anatomy?” the woman asked.

His rational yet excited appearance as he dissected those corpses caused her to feel a bit fearful.

“Anatomy?” Gu Qing Shan laughed, “That’s just the basic skill of another art”

“Which art?”

“Cooking”

They stood on top of the open roof and held a small contest over who could pick off more of the rest of the undead below.

Under Gu Qing Shan’s request, they split into two groups to rest and stand guard in shifts.

Finally.

Dawn came.

Gu Qing Shan stood on top of the roof and watched the sunrise as he was the one who took the last shift.

When the first few rays of sunlight approached from the horizon, lines of blood-red text appeared on his retina.

[The will of the Earth World has noticed your actions]

[It will soon arrive to communicate with you]

[Before that, the Demon King Order must give you an emergency warning]

[Absolutely do not offend it, as it is a World-class Entity within the Eternal Abyss]

[It is more powerful than any entity you’ve ever met before!]

Abruptly, as if it noticed something, all the blood-red text vanished.

*Oom*



Gu Qing Shan's vision exploded as the mansion, the highway, the small town, the undead, the sky, and everything else vanished from in front of his eyes.

A boundless stream of grey liquid had surrounded him.

Gu Qing Shan didn't know what this stream of grey liquid was, but he could sense an unbelievably vast power coming from it.

If a real normal person were to see this, they would most likely believe that they were meeting the Creator<sup>1</sup>.

Although, from a certain point of view, a World-class Entity itself was indeed a Creator.

The grey liquid gradually gathered across from Gu Qing Shan to form a giant humanoid head.

He looked down at Gu Qing Shan and spoke with a slow and stretched voice:

「 Cultivator, why have you come to my domain? 」

Gu Qing Shan regained his calm and replied: "I came to face my Tribulation"

The giant head formed from grey liquid mused for a while: 「 Hmm, certainly, you do exude the power of growth. It has been several ten thousand years since a human came to my domain through a Tribulation 」

## **Chapter 849**

Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized.

He wasn't in the Age of Old anymore, it was currently the present, over 10,000 years later!

*Just like the Fire Tribulation, during the Earth Tribulation, I moved out from the phantom images and returned to my own timeline.*

Gu Qing Shan looked at the surging flow of grey liquid and carefully asked: "Is there a problem with me facing my Tribulation here?"

「 It is fine, this is part of the ancient covenant I signed with you humans, the duration for its term was infinite 」 the giant that was formed from grey liquid answered him.

"Covenant?" Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask.

「 Indeed, cultivators are miraculous existences within humanity, they need to take in every source of power in order to strengthen themselves 」 the giant's voice echoed, 「 That is why you formed this covenant with me to go through your training in this world and obtain the recognition of the Earth Saint Pillar from me 」

"The Earth Saint Pillar?"

As the giant noticed that Gu Qing Shan didn't understand, it explained: 「 Simply put, living life forms cannot detach themselves from the worlds created from the four Saint Pillars – also known as the Pillar Elements 」

“I know about them, the four Saint Pillars are Earth, Water, Fire and Wind, representing the creation and formation of all things in this universe” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 That is exactly correct, for a lifeform specifically, the Earth Saint Pillar represents the body 」

The giant sighed, then slowly continued:

「 Sentients lifeform believe themselves to lord over all things, but in truth, they are always controlled by their own bodies, by time, by the limit of space, and by the inner workings of Law that determines their fate 」

“Controlled by their bodies, I’m not sure I can agree with that” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The giant chuckled and told him: 「 That is because you are a cultivator, the various desires that your body manifested cannot lord over your own will. That is also the reason why you came to me, for the trial of the Earthen Origin power 」

Gu Qing Shan understood.

*So the Earth Saint Pillar represented the body, no wonder I couldn’t utilize any power but my own body.*

*In this Tribulation, I must act like a normal person and use other means to win against the shackles placed on myself by my own body and survive.*

“Thank you for your wisdom, may I ask why your venerable one had come to see me?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

As a sword cultivator, the fact that he bothered to chat so long before going into the main topic showed just how much Gu Qing Shan respected the other party.

The giant’s expression turned stern:

「 In the last 100 years, a small problem had appeared on this world 」

“The undead?”

「 Indeed. Although their evolution is slow, from my glance into the future, they would surely destroy everything. It was because of this destruction that my powers would be greatly reduced, causing one of my future battles to end in an uncertain way 」

“These things should be nothing before you, why did you not deal with them yourselves?” Gu Qing Shan asked in confusion.

「 They do not use any supernatural power, only their own bodily mutation. As this complied fully to my rules, I cannot act 」

The giant sighed emotionally: 「 I have already bestowed the most severe restrictions and circumstances on this world and made it so that all supernatural powers cannot act on it. For that reason, I cannot forcibly include another rule, otherwise this world itself shall collapse 」

“What do you mean, sir?”

「 Cultivator, you will stay here for a few more days. Within that time, if you can help me resolve the problem of the undead, I shall grant you a gift 」

Gu Qing Shan seriously listened to him and smiled bitterly: “Your world is vast and boundless, while I have already lost all of my powers. I am currently nothing but a normal person, I do not have the means to help save your world”

The giant replied: 「 The powers inside your body certainly cannot be used, that is the rules 」

「 But you are a very smart cultivator. You have an acute sense of observation and ample knowledge to back yourself up. Furthermore, you have an unimaginable power reinforcing yourself. I truly believe you hold the hope of saving this world, that is why I came here to see you personally 」

Gu Qing Shan was a bit confused as he heard that: “I don’t know what power you are talking about”

Without waiting for him to finish his words, a finger reached out from the flowing grey liquid and tapped his forehead.

The giant’s voice resounded:

「 This is not a power that naturally belongs to your body, nor was it from the cruel [Order] that you carry 」

「 This is an unknown power, it does not belong to the Eternal Abyss, so I am not familiar with it, but it was a replication from another source. As its power is contained within itself, when you use this power, it would not violate my rules 」

Following its voice, an icon appeared in the void of space in front of Gu Qing Shan.

A golden saber was depicted on that icon.

Gu Qing Shan stared at this icon blankly.

He recalled the time at the Cold Jade forest, right after killing the God of Frost and Chill, in order to impersonate this Divinity, he had spent Soul Points to upgrade [War God Skills].

It was only after that that he managed to learn all of the God of Frost and Chill’s techniques from the Frostlie staff.

Even now, he can clearly remember the conversation at that time.

...

*“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.*

...

*So the War God UI had already been preparing for this ever since that time!*

Gu Qing Shan recalled the conversation between himself and the War God UI within the Tie Wei fortress, just as they were activating [Human Regiment].

...

*“Have you been collecting Soul Points for this moment?” Gu Qing Shan asked.*

*[No, I only hope that all my preparations were excessive] the War God System replied.*

...

Indeed, this icon was [War God Skills]

Several lines of blood-red text appeared on the [Origin] UI to describe this icon.

[Discovered suspicious power system]

[Origin: unknown]

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[Conducting further evaluation... conclusion drawn:]

[Name: War God Skills (replication), comes with 300,000 Soul Points, can be used to help you learn skills]

[This power system is equivalent to a comprehension unique skill, harmless]

[Activation requirement: an unknown requirement]

[As the unknown power system was noticed by the World-class Entity, it had been officially activated]

Gu Qing Shan sighed deeply.

*It turns out that the icon that can jump was actually left behind for me.*

*And it turns out the War God UI's preparations actually has a use after all.*

Gu Qing Shan had an indescribable feeling in his heart.

The giant within the flowing grey liquid looked at Gu Qing Shan and asked with an echoing voice: 「 Are you willing to help me save this world? If you can, I will grant you a reward as my thanks 」

Gu Qing Shan calmed his emotions and replied: “Alright, I can try, but I only have a few days left in this world, there is a very limited amount of time. Since I’m helping you, can’t you provide me a bit of convenience to do so?”

The giant contemplated briefly before stating with a resolute tone: 「 I shall grant you my favor 」

“Favor? What use is such a vague thing?”

Gu Qing Shan said disappointedly.

The giant smiled and told him: 「 I wish you luck 」

Saying so, it turned back into the surging flow of grey liquid and vanished from Gu Qing Shan’s sight.

All the supernatural phenomena disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan discovered himself still standing guard on the roof of the mansion.

On his retina, the [Demon King Order] was there.

The [War God Skills] replica was standing outside of the [Demon King Order], giving off a superior aura.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and muttered: “Old friend, looks like we’ll be fighting alongside one another again”

A voice came from behind him.

“Fighting alongside one another?”

The black man had just woken up and spoke to him in a half-awake voice: “Then regardless of what danger comes later, I’ll call you first, scientist Gu Qing Shan”

“No problem” Gu Qing Shan smiled back.

Two more voices came from the top of the stairs.

The two young girls had prepared breakfast and brought it up to them.

“Please have breakfast, you’ve worked hard last night” one of the girls smiled sweetly.

The others also woke up at this time.

The group yawned as they sat around in a circle and ate while they chatted.

“So we know how to deal with those monsters, now what?”

Old Li took a big bite of bread and asked with a mouthful.

The blond man took a sip of wine and smiled: “I think we should hear our scientist’s opinion first”

Everyone looked towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan stuffed a piece of omelette in his mouth and replied: “I want to leave this place and take a look in the big city”

“The city is dangerous” the woman chimed in.

“But to change this situation, I have to go to places with relatively advanced technology and come into contact with the Mechs they have” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“We’ve already found the way to deal with the monsters, why not just stay here? It’s obviously a lot safer” old Li asked.

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly and muttered: “Because these monsters are always evolving. Eventually, there will be a day when they become so strong that we simply can’t win, we need to deal with the root of this problem before that happens”

Everyone fell into thought.

At a time like this, it certainly was very hard to make a choice.

“It’s ok, you guys can stay here, I’ll be fine moving on by myself” Gu Qing Shan smiled as he told them.

“I’m coming with you” the blond man volunteered first.

“If staying here is essentially long-term suicide, then I’m willing to come with you” old Li also said.

“I feel like staying here would be best, I won’t risk my life” the black man answered.

The woman hesitated briefly before sighing: “I will also not go, I want to stay and take care of the girls”

Gu Qing Shan consoled them: “Alright, it’s fine, we need someone to stay back here either way, in case something happens, we will at least have a place to go back to”

The woman glanced at him in disbelief.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t bother to look at her reaction.

He was already contemplating on his next move.

*Since this place is quite deep in the desert, even going to the nearest city would take an entire day of driving.*

*It’s really convenient.*

“If only we have a plane here” Gu Qing Shan muttered in a low voice.

The blond man shrugged: “My father already took our only plane to the city”

Old Li also said: “So we have no choice but to take the truck, but it’s not all bad, we can at least carry a lot of things with us”

A few seconds later.

*Oooo*

The roaring sound of rotors could be heard coming from above.

Everyone turned in that direction.

A plane was coming towards them from the horizon with thick smoke coming from its tail.

Obviously, the plane had noticed this town as it turned in the air to make an emergency landing on the highway not too far away from here.

Everyone on the roof was stunned.

“Erm, Mr. Scientist, what did you say just now?”

## **Chapter 850**

“You’re a mechanic? What a blessing!”

The female flight attendant shouted in delight.

There was really nothing to say about what happened afterward.

Because everything went too well.

Gu Qing Shan only needed to take a quick look at the tail of the plane to identify a small problem.

After changing out some small parts, the problem was fixed.

Everyone on the plane was tearing up from joy.

As this was a commercial plane without any powerful means of defense, if they couldn’t hurry up and fix the problem, once night fell, most passengers on the plane would be sitting ducks in the middle of the desert.

So when Gu Qing Shan expressed his will to hitch a ride to their destination, no one refused.

The blond man and old Li also went with him.

“This plane is currently heading to Dong Fan city and should arrive in about 2 hours”

After flirting a bit with a beautiful flight attendant, the blond man came back and told them.

Old Li opened a map to check and reported: “That’s good news, Dong Fan city was already quite close to the capital, only half an hour on the highway”

The most advanced Mech research center was situated on the outskirts of the capital, so the three of them had already decided to first visit the capital.

Gu Qing Shan checked the map and spoke while in thought: “This plane’s route seems to go past the capital, is it not going to land there?”

“Unfortunately, it’s heading straight for Dong Fan city without pause” the blond man told him.

The plane’s announcement speakers suddenly turned on.

A gentle flight attendant’s voice sounded from the speakers:

[Attention please, as you know, there was some problem with the plane earlier, so we will have to land in the capital for the airline’s maintenance crew to perform an overall evaluation and ensure safety for all our passengers, thank you for your understanding]

The three of them exchanged glances.

The blond man commented: “Alright, seems like our luck is quite good today”

After the plane landed, the three of them were led into a private room inside the airport to wait for their accommodation.

They didn't know that their appearances had already been sent to the central processing system of the capital's defenses to be evaluated.

The results quickly came out.

[Appearance conformity 97%, identified as Li Wei, discharged military veteran, sniper, owner of the Medal of Patriotism]

[Appearance conformity 99%, identified as Joel Thomas, member of the North Union Mining Group board of directors, philanthropist, Northern state Autonomous Region VIP]

[Unknown individual, unregistered within the system, reporting to the National Defense Bureau]

...

On the other side.

"Let's go, let's go, emergency meeting!"

"Raul, are you done with your part yet? Come quickly!"

"Coming!"

The man called Raul hurriedly clicked the [Confirm] button on his screen.

These were all matters that are already processed and dealt with, all he needed to do now was to do the final confirmation.

"Hey Raul~ Wait for me after work, I want to have a private chat with you"

A woman in a tight business suit whispered into his ears before quickly making her way into the meeting room.

This was the prettiest woman in their office, as well as the dream lover of all the men in the bureau, whether they were already married or not.

Raul's hot gaze stuck close to the figure of the woman as she went inside, smelled the lingering fragrance of the woman's perfume, and couldn't help himself replying: "Yes, I'll definitely wait for you later"

His hands continued to press the [Confirm] button unconsciously to process and pass every document that went to him, among which was Gu Qing Shan's unknown individual profile as well.

When Raul's eyes went back to the computer screen, he saw that every document had already been processed and passed.

He shut his computer down, picked up his mug, and quickly made his way into the meeting room.

...

The airport.



“Here you go, these are your temporary IDs, after finishing the registration here with me, you may leave”

The airport’s security manager gave three cards to Gu Qing Shan’s group.

As he left the room, the manager gave Gu Qing Shan a wink and smiled.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t understand anything.

The other party believed that he was a secret agent working for the government, but Gu Qing Shan didn’t know a single thing.

“That fatty winked at you before he left” old Li whispered.

“I saw that he’s a bit strange” Gu Qing Shan put the card into his pocket.

“What’s so strange about that? No one can control their romantic emotions after all” the blond man commented, sympathizing with him.

Old Li and Gu Qing Shan exchanged glances.

They secretly took some distance from the blond man.

“Where are we heading?” old Li asked.

“We need to find a Mech first, I want to check the specs of this country’s technology so far” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“That’s not easy, each Mech is a dangerous machine that’s closely guarded, civilians like us wouldn’t be able to get close” old Li told him dejectedly.

*Bam!*

The door was opened again.

The security manager came forward and looked at Gu Qing Shan: “Were you the one who fixed the plane?”

“I am”

“There was a malfunction in our security Mech, but our engineer happened to be off-duty today. I thought that you might be a mechanical expert, so can you take a look for us?”

Old Li and the blond man both had looks of utter disbelief.

“No problem” Gu Qing Shan smiled.

He stood up first and followed the security manager.

Old Li and the blond man hurriedly went after them.

Old Li couldn’t help but glance at the blond man.

His expression was clearly asking a question.

(Who exactly is this guy?)

The blond man shrugged and mimicked the action of screwing something in to express his answer.

(A Mech scientist, he's already proven his excellence when it comes to this)

Old Li pointed at the sky and made a praying gesture.

(No, I think he might be God instead)

The blond man chuckled and shook his head.

(You think too much, it's just a coincidence)

...

On the security sentry post, 7-8 staff members were loading the large-scale security Mech onto a transport vehicle.

As soon as they hoisted the Mech up and was about to put it on the transport vehicle, the airport security manager arrived.

"Wait a minute, don't move it yet, let an expert take a look"

As the staff members heard that, they sighed helplessly and prepared to put the Mech back down.

Gu Qing Shan thought of something and told them instead: "It's fine, transport this damaged Mech to the component reserve center, if I can identify the problem, I would be able to change out the parts right away"

Thinking that to be a good idea, the security manager agreed.

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They quickly arrived at the component reserve center.

The Mech was then hoisted down.

The staff members left.

"How is it? Can you help us take a look?" the security manager asked.

Gu Qing Shan circled around the Mech and carefully observed this 3-meter-tall machine.

This Mech was equipped with a large machine gun in its hand, the majority of its components were housing ammunition, there was also a heavy artillery that could be detached at will on its back.

This was a primitive humanoid Mech suit, the cockpit was left in the open, allowing the controller to observe their surroundings, all of the Mech's movements must be manually inputted through its controller.

This was definitely not a Mech that was used for normal security, usually, these models were employed for clearing out a battlefield through heavy firepower.

Despite being so primitive, this Mech was designed to sacrifice its mobility for an overall increase in firepower, which showed how powerful the mutated undead around the capital had become.

Gu Qing Shan squinted and continued to evaluate this primitive Mech.

From a design perspective, this Mech was still within the most primary design phase, the designer must have yet to encounter the infamous design concept struggle between [Humanoid Machine] and [Machine-like Human].

*But that's a good thing since I'll be able to remodel this Mech as I please.*

"There aren't any major issues, perhaps it's a malfunction due to some minor components being damaged, I'll need to perform a more thorough check" Gu Qing Shan told him.

"That's great, this thing is too expensive so if anything too serious happened, we would be troubled to report it" the security manager said in relief.

Gu Qing Shan, the blond man and old Li pushed the maintenance stair up to the Mech together.

"I need to check the control panels" Gu Qing Shan said.

The security manager hesitated for a second.

*The other party is a secret agent, his identity has already been confirmed by the intelligence bureau.*

*Furthermore, this is only a malfunctioning security Mech.*

"Alright, no problem"

He came up first, turned the control panels on, screened his fingerprints, entered a series of passwords, and changed the authority of the Mech to [Maintenance].

While the Mech was in [Maintenance] state, the controller wouldn't be able to engage its movement system, turn on the ignition or connect to the military network.

The controller would only be able to obtain a schematics of the Mech as well as the authority to replace and fix its components.

*This should be safe.*

The security manager climbed down and smiled: "Please come to the employee cafeteria for lunch, I've already made the arrangements. Furthermore, when you leave, our airport will arrange your transportation for you"

"Please come up with me as well, I'll need some helping hands" Gu Qing Shan said.

The blond man and old Li nodded.

They climbed up the maintenance stairs and onto the cockpit of the Mech.

Various flashing lights, buttons, communicators as well as a pair of stick controllers appeared in front of them.

Old Li blew a whistle.

The blond man also held his breath.

For every man, large-scale war machines made completely of cold machinery and technology had a sense of romance to them.

Gu Qing Shan lightly stroked these devices.

The [War God Skills] icon in front of his eyes glowed brightly.

Lines of glowing text appeared:

[Organizing]

[The skills that this Mech have performed that can be comprehended include the following:]

[Discovered this world's language and writing system, cost 100 Soul Points to learn]

[Discovered Mech directional controls, as you are a Mech engineer that far surpasses this world's civilization, cost 1 Soul Points to learn]

[Discovered confidential communication password system, cost 30 Soul Points to learn]

[Discovered this world's programming language and operating system structure, as your expertise far surpasses this world's civilization, cost 1 Soul Points to learn]

[Discovered this world's Mech maintenance method, as your expertise far surpasses this world's civilization, cost 1 Soul Points to learn]

[...]

Gu Qing Shan glanced over and silently said in his mind: "Learn everything"

A warm flow came from his hand into his mind.

Very quickly, he fully grasped the language system of this world, their Mech structure, their operating system, password system, and organization, so on and so forth.

"How is it? Will it be hard to repair?" the security manager loudly asked from below.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Some components need to be replaced, but after that, there should be no problem"

He quickly operated the control panels.

The damaged components were quickly detached by a mechanical arm and showed in front of Gu Qing Shan.

"Here are the damaged parts, please take these down and show the manager"

Gu Qing Shan selected a few and gave them to the blond man and old Li.

They carried the components down.

The security manager understood enough to confirm that it was indeed a problem of damaged components.

“I need you to give me the authorization to take and use new components to replace them” Gu Qing Shan told him.

“I’ve already given the authorization” the security manager smiled.

Gu Qing Shan then turned around, had the blond man and old Li to help operate the machines. Since the controls were quite simple, they easily got the job done.

While Gu Qing Shan continued to operate the mechanical arms to fix up the Mech wherever he could.

When everything was ready, the blond man and old Li once again climbed up to the cockpit, breathed heavily, and reported to him: “The new components are ready”

“Are we going to start fixing it now?” old Li asked.

Gu Qing Shan nodded, then whispered: “When he leaves, we’ll begin”

*When he leaves?*

The blond man and old Li were both confused.

*Tututuruturu*

All of a sudden, the security manager’s communicator rang.

[Manager! A group of mutated undead approaching the airport!]

The security manager’s expression changed.

“I’m coming!”

He hurriedly ran out.

The Mech maintenance and repair center returned to silence.

Old Li and the blond man were both shocked.

“Good, now I’ll be repairing this Mech”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan instinctively took out his Holo-Brain from his Inventory Bag.

He began to make his true preparations.

Next to him, the blond man and old Li silently exchanged glances.

They both said nothing.

Old Li shrugged and showed a questioning expression.

(What do you think now?)

The blond man pointed at the sky without hesitation.

(Yup, he’s definitely God)