

Apocalypse 951

Chapter 951

Night time.

The gates of the Holy Sanctuary slowly opened up.

Knights in full armor sat on their armored steeds with weapons in hands, riding rhythmically out of the city.

The holy priests and casters that marched together with them were protected by the knights in the middle of their formation.

After a few dozen years, the Divine Church's army had been mobilized once again.

Under the order of God, they were marching towards the Southern Empire to deal with any situation that might arise.

This event shook the entire world.

The organizations of the world quickly questioned what was going on.

But the Church didn't have time to explain to them, they could only answer one thing——

God wanted his divine army to arrive at the Southern Empire as soon as possible!

The Pope brought the Church's Cardinals as well as a hundred of the Church's elite troops to go ahead.

They didn't hesitate to spend precious resources to directly teleport to the vicinity of that destroyed faraway village.

The Southern Empire had already quarantined and sealed off that faraway village from God's order.

Everything was left as they were while waiting for people of the Divine Church to arrive for investigation.

The small merchants who reported the situation were all being kept in one place.

Even the young boy who escaped death by herding sheep on a nearby mountain was being kept in holding.

"Your Excellency, do you find any fault in my actions?"

The Emperor asked.

His gaze was a bit anxious.

As an Emperor, he was a sovereign with great vision and wits, so he was able to easily arrive at certain conjectures after a bit of thinking.

——this was the first time in over 20 years that God had actively interfered with mortal matters.

Combined with the explanation of the Church when they started to establish the world-wide information network.

It was said that God ordered the establishment of this information network all over the world in order to find clues of the world's destruction.

Could the source of the destruction be right here?

Thinking of this, the Southern Empire's Emperor felt nothing but anxious.

The Pope gave the Emperor a look of consolation and replied: "You have done very well. Even I wouldn't have been able to do it better than you did if I had been in charge"

The Southern Emperor lightly sighed in relief.

When he was about to ask something else, the Pope stopped him.

The Pope seemed to be listening to something.

After a while, the Pope displayed a strange look on his face.

"Emperor, please turn the care of the lucky survivors over to us" the Pope requested.

"No problem" the Southern Emperor swiftly complied.

The Pope gestured 2 Cardinals behind him to come up and ordered them to bring subordinates to receive these people.

"Everyone, keep in mind to be cautious of any evil creatures that might be hidden within those people. Take away their weapons, set up evil-warding barriers around them, no one is to approach them too closely, do not give them any food, do not even speak to them"

"Understood, Your Holiness!"

The 2 Cardinals bowed and responded.

They brought two groups of knights and quickly left.

The Pope then ordered the rest of the men: "All of you, go into the village and check for any suspicious information. Remember to collect the bodies and take a headcount while cross-referencing with the village records, make sure that no one is missing"

"Understood!"

The remaining Cardinals and knights responded.

The search took 2 days.

The Church's personnel arrived one group after another.

Following the Church's request, organizations all over the world sent the best men they had to this place.

With the might of the entire Church, as well as the cooperation of the Southern Empire and various other forces, the entire village was practically turned upside down several times over.

To take an accurate headcount, the knights and hunters conducted tests to verify every piece of bone.

To confirm the reason of death for each creature within the village, the priests didn't hesitate to utilize Holy Arts.

No suspicious matter could escape their view.

When Gu Qing Shan arrived at the village, a complete and accurate report had been prepared for him to read.

This was the power of his management for the past 20 years——

And the results of it.

Sitting on a high throne, he was seriously reading through every line of the report.

[Every poultry in the village was dead from the evil sacrificial ritual, except a single chicken]

[This chicken was discovered in a secluded location, found to have been eaten completely clean down to the bones, there were clear traces of human teeth crunching on these bones]

[As for population, an issue was noticed during the process of cross-referencing the number of villagers and corpses found in the village]

[Several people were missing]

[None of the people from other places who knew these missing people have met them before or after the incident]

[The only thing we can confirm is that the missing people should have been inside the village during the incident]

[Every organization in the world has been fully mobilized to search for these people]

After reading through everything, Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

In the room, the Pope, the Southern Emperor, and the Cardinals all held back their breathing in order not to disturb God's train of thought.

"Where are the surviving merchants and the child?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"As you've ordered, they are temporarily being held in prison. We've sent heavily-armed guards to keep watch of them, at the slightest unusual movement, they will be killed without question" the Pope answered.

"Have they been given anything to eat?" Gu Qing Shan continued to ask.

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"Not at all" the Pope replied.

Gu Qing Shan then ordered: "Bring those survivors here, I want to take a look at them"

"Understood"

Soon enough.

Those people were led in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan watched over them.

The merchants didn't know who he was, but since he was at the center of all these VIPs, they understood that he must be someone extremely important.

They quickly prostrated themselves and quickly begged for forgiveness.

The child seemed a bit clueless, only after he saw the merchants begging did he also start to beg.

"Have their identities been confirmed?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Indeed, we have looked through the records with the Southern Empire, they were indeed native merchants from this area. All of them were born in well-off families, their records of business including items bought and sold, as well as tax records have all been confirmed to have no issues" the Pope replied.

"What about the child?"

"There were also no issues, he is a native"

Gu Qing Shan looked down on them and asked in slight confusion: "Why do they all appear so famished?"

The Pope silently thought:

Wasn't this your order, why are you asking this now— wait, could it be the Lord was purposely asking this?

The Pope made a serious expression and replied: "Because these people were fortunate enough to survive the sacrifice. I was afraid that they might have some sort of issues so I did not feed them anything"

"It has already been two days. How could anyone endure that?" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

He told a knight on his side: "Go, give them a portion of our dinner"

"Yes!"

A knight next to him left the room.

Several minutes later.

The knight carried a large pot of steaming hot noodles over and prepared portions for each of them.

"Eat. After you're done, I will have my men send you home. All of you are lucky survivors of this calamity"

Gu Qing Shan spoke with a sympathetic tone.

Hearing that, the people all sighed in relief.

They haven't had anything to eat for 2 days straight, so now that they heard that they would be released, they all felt glad and received the bowls of noodles.

The child looked blankly before noticing that the merchants had all taken their own fill, only he was standing there.

The priests and knights around were also looking at him.

The child then ran up and received a bowl of noodles for himself.

This is so good!

The one who made this bowl of noodles must be an expert cook.

While eating, the child silently thought this.

He was still young, and had been left hungry for two days already, so he couldn't help himself from digging in and ate without reserve.

While they were enjoying themselves, a voice suddenly asked.

"After all the villagers were dead, which one of you ate that chicken?"

The merchants and the child looked up to find that the one who asked the question was the knight next to Gu Qing Shan.

Everyone was staring at them without saying a word.

They understood that they had to answer this question.

"I didn't eat it"

"Not me"

"We've already left the village at the time"

"Not me"

"I was on the mountain"

They all swiftly replied.

For some reason, they noticed that the air in the room had become tense once again.

An aura of murder slowly exuded from the people of the Church.

Except those who were the true people in power, as they all lowered their heads. From their expressions, it seemed they have fallen into some sort of devout state of belief.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan opened his mouth.

"After all the villagers were dead, which one of you ate that chicken?" he asked

This was strange.

Someone had already asked this, yet this VIP was personally asking this same question again.

But the merchants couldn't not answer.

"I didn't eat it"

"Not me"

"We've already left the village at the time"

"Not me"

"I was on the mountain"

They all repeated their answers.

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

It was completely silent in the room, no one said a single word.

At this point, the boy's expression suddenly became blank and he replied:

"I ate it"

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After answering, the boy's expression returned to normal.

He didn't have a clue what he just said.

But he noticed the changed expressions of everyone around him.

The boy became tense and abruptly looked towards the void of space—— as if there was actually something there.

This was such a familiar sight.

Gu Qing Shan didn't hesitate for a single second.

The knight next to him suddenly vanished, stood in front of the child, and caught his shoulder.

A light blue arc of lightning appeared on the knight's hand.

Lightning Thaumaturgy—— [Dreamjolt]!

This was a War God Thaumaturgy that not even the Desolate monsters from the Age of Old could manage to resist!

The boy fell into a brief state of immobility.

But it would only last for a few seconds!

"Gongzi!" the knight sent her voice over.

"I know!"

Gu Qing Shan answered and swiftly asked the boy: “What is the truth of this entire incident?”

This was a very big question.

The boy showed a look of nostalgia on his face as if reminiscing about something.

He was just about to speak.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't intend to listen.

There were too many ways that language could alter the context, it also left a lot for imagination.

Gu Qing Shan wanted to take a look at it himself!

For a brief moment, Gu Qing Shan's eyes faced the boy's eyes head-on— —

Just like the time he faced Lin; his Iris Sword technique activated!

Gu Qing Shan instantly began to sense a certain thought.

A thought that wasn't his.

Gu Qing Shan maintained this thought and continued to activate his World Technique.

The conversion between illusion and reality began!

The world around him turned to dust and swiftly receded in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

Emptiness.

Followed by countless arcs that flowed in from the endless void around him to create another world in his vision.

“The day of the calamity?”

Gu Qing Shan muttered as he took a step forward and entered this world.

The sky was just right.

Under the blue sky, the mountain greenery was lush as the snow of winter was beginning to melt, the river calmly flowed.

This was a scene of a peaceful midday.

Everyone in the village had either gone home to enjoy a meal or just finished their meal and were preparing to sleep.

Gu Qing Shan stood on the street of the village and quickly found the boy at a glance.

He was running somewhere from a corner of the street several dozen meters away.

Gu Qing Shan followed him.

The boy weaved through the street corners nimbly without hesitation, as if he was going through a determined path.

After a certain point, the boy abruptly turned and looked around.

Gu Qing Shan stopped in front of him.

The boy didn't see Gu Qing Shan— since this was only his memory of that time.

"No one is following me; I'm just being paranoid"

After confirming that everything was normal, the boy sighed in relief.

He turned around and continued to run forward until he reached the westmost big tree of the village.

The boy hesitated.

"This is the final rune necessary for the ritual, right?"

He looked at the void of space and asked.

Something seemed to have appeared there.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't see anything.

He only saw the boy's eyes quickly moving around, as if to look at something that was appearing in the void of space.

— as if to read something.

What a familiar sight, this wasn't any different from how I normally am, is it?

So, is this boy carrying an [Order], or the War God UI?

Gu Qing Shan silently thought to himself.

The boy continued: "Are you sure? Don't deceive me, I've spent over half a year and killed 5 people just to arrange these 1001 runes like you asked"

"Fine, I hope these runes can really activate your power"

The boy seemed to have become determined and took out a piece of human skin that depicted a rune in blood.

"I'm glad that I'm still young and that no one is suspicious of me, I just hope this would succeed"

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He mumbled as he buried the piece of skin with the rune drawn on it under the big tree.

After a while.

"It's done?"

"Ah, then everyone in the village will die? Ahaha, that's perfect, that bunch of foolish mortals— I'm so hungry I could eat a whole chicken now— I've been waiting so long for this!"

The boy turned around and ran.

While everyone was resting, he caught a chicken and directly snapped its neck.

In a secluded place, he cooked the chicken and ate it all.

At the same time, countless screams and cries of desperation began to resound in the village.

A dark-colored light descended from above and enveloped the entire village.

The boy didn't care about any of that and focused on eating his chicken.

The screams in the village slowly faded.

Seemingly, everyone was dead.

The ritual was most likely complete.

At some point, the boy seemed to sense something and suddenly stood up.

"Have you completely descended?"

He looked at the void of space in excitement.

The boy then looked as if he was seriously reading something for a long while without saying anything.

Until several people with blank expressions appeared behind him.

The boy turned around and looked at those people.

His eyes suddenly became serious.

"You are the dependents that I've chosen, those who would become my aid from now on" the boy declared.

"Yes" those people quickly lowered their heads and answered.

The boy stopped for a bit and asked: "Now tell me, what kind of [Chaos] did you obtain?"

One of them answered: "I obtained [The Plague], as I spread the plague and diseases, both my [Chaos] and I will become stronger"

Another answered: "I obtained [Broken Bodies], whenever I obtain the body parts from those of the same race, both my [Chaos] and I will become stronger"

Another one answered: "I obtained [Unsettling Times], when I push calamities to occur in the world, I would be able to obtain power from them"

"Very good" the boy nodded.

He turned to the next person.

He hesitated: "During the ritual just now, I seemed to have obtained more power than they did. The [Chaos] I obtained was [The Seven Sins], whenever living beings around me succumb to their Pride, Envy, Wrath, Sloth, Greed, and Gluttony; my power would quickly grow"

The boy looked at this person and praised: "You have been favored by [Chaos], your future is limitless"

“Thank you for your encouragement, Great Envoy of [Chaos]” the man humbly replied.

The boy turned to the next person.

The man casually answered: “The [Chaos] I obtained was [Star Destruct—”

Before he finished his words, the boy had already plunged a dagger into his heart.

“Why...” the man resentfully asked.

The boy pulled the dagger out, grabbed his hair, and sliced off his head.

“Because the [Chaos] you obtained was too powerful, and my powers aren’t enough to contain you for now— I don’t want to be killed by your [Chaos]” the boy curtly answered.

He made a ‘please’ gesture.

The man’s corpse slowly disappeared in front of everyone.

But the sound of loud crunching could be heard resounding from the void of space, giving everyone who heard it a chill down their spines.

The boy continued to ask several people what kind of [Chaos] they had.

They answered one by one until the last one.

The boy raised both his arms and declared to those below:

“Go, spread the [Chaos] in this world, you are my dependants, which makes you secondary Envoys of [Chaos]. All of you must find a way to quickly become stronger, and quickly!”

“Understood!”

All the people responded.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan found that both the world and these people were frozen completely still, no longer moving.

—the boy’s memories of this only lasted to this point.

After a moment of silence, Gu Qing Shan regretfully dispelled the World Technique.

The world then collapsed.

Emptiness.

Gu Qing Shan then found himself back at the camp.

Shannu was still transformed into a knight and holding onto the boy’s shoulder.

Everyone else was staring at this in shock.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

The situation is much more complicated than I had thought.

And even stranger compared to the Apocalypses that I've faced before.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the boy and muttered: "Tell me, Envoy of [Chaos]— what does this title mean?"

The boy's expression changed as he shouted in disbelief:

"That's impossible! How could a mortal like you know about that!"

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When the boy shouted out loud, Gu Qing Shan only said one thing

"Continue"

Shannu understood.

Another arc of blue lightning emerged from her body and went into the boy's body.

Lightning Thaumaturgy, [Dreamjolt]!

The boy's body started shaking nonstop.

The thing he prepared as he shouted also vanished.

Gu Qing Shan walked up, crouched down, and faced the boy's eyes head-on.

"Where did [Chaos] come from?"

He lightly asked.

The boy's expression became blank and fell into nostalgia again.

Just as the boy was about to open his mouth to speak, Gu Qing Shan activated his World Technique once more.

The entire camp vanished and the world fell to emptiness.

The world of the past manifested and appeared around Gu Qing Shan.

Sunset.

Outside the village.

There wasn't anyone around, and the boy was sitting by a lake, having fished up an entire bucket full of fish.

He put his fishing rod away and silently sat there, staring blankly.

— as if his heart was full of heavy thoughts.

Gu Qing Shan walked forward in front of the boy.

What's going to happen?

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

The boy hesitated for a while, took out a fish from the wooden bucket, and cut off its head.

“Sacrifice”

He spat out a single word.

Instantly, countless whispers of both male and female voices resounded on and off around the boy.

“About to begin...”

“Needs more death...”

“Power...”

“For you to grow...”

“Time...”

It was now that Gu Qing Shan noticed that his World Technique had improved.

Because he was now able to hear the voices that the boy heard.

Within this World Technique, Gu Qing Shan was gradually able to perceive the same things that the target was able to.

As Gu Qing Shan seriously listened to those whispering voices, his expression slowly turned solemn.

This was completely unheard of.

From the looks of it, this doesn't seem like a coincidence, but rather something that had been predetermined.

Hearing those whispers, the boy displayed a look of confusion.

But the voices slowly faded away.

The boy's expression changed.

He swiftly took out several more fishes from his bucket, killed them all, and threw them into the water.

Blood began to dye the water red within the vicinity, while the boy displayed a look of unadulterated desire on his confused face.

He asked: “Why could I hear voices that others couldn't after I kill, and it's becoming clearer and clearer?”

The countless whispers resounded around him again, this time addressing him directly.

“Death...”

“The origin of life...”

“Souls...”

“You need...”

“Kill...”

“For...”

These voices were filled with provocative intentions, but they soon faded away again.

The boy paused and remained silent for a long while.

He wasn't fearful about this at all, instead appeared to be excited and anticipating.

“I knew it, I'm completely different from those other mortals”

He muttered, killed the rest of the fishes in his bucket, and threw everything into the lake.

The light of the sunset had already faded, the darkness now clouded over the lake and the blood of the fishes had turned the lake completely murky, making it so that the boy could no longer see his reflection clearly.

He asked: “Who exactly am I?”

The voices sounded again.

They were a lot clearer and gentler.

“You are... one-of-a-kind...”

“Descended...”

“Once more...”

“Will ultimately awaken...”

“The Lord of spreading...”

“The Envoy...”

“Many worlds...”

The boy couldn't hold himself back and suddenly raised his voice, shouting out loud: “Tell me! What should I do in order to know everything!”

At his question, the countless voices merged and turned into a unified answered:

“Kill!”

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“Only by killing can you understand everything”

“Envoy of [Chaos]!”

The world stopped here.

The boy's expression of realization froze still.

The memory was over.

The world scattered away like drifting sand.

Emptiness.

Then Gu Qing Shan found himself standing in the middle of the camp once again.

“Seal!”

Gu Qing Shan ordered.

Shannu stepped back as the 12 Divine Knights around them tossed their chains of light towards the boy.

These chains were the most powerful retributive Divine Art the Church had, capable of completely sealing someone and making sure they couldn't move a finger.

Unless the imprisoned was three times stronger than the 12 Divine Knights combined, they would not be able to escape this seal.

The boy's expression regained clarity.

He looked down at the chains on his body and smirked in contempt.

“I didn't want to spend so much effort, but if all of you wanted to die, then that's a different story”

A black light emerged from his body and easily severed all the chains.

The 12 Divine Knights groaned at once and were forced to step back.

Everyone was shocked.

How could this child that wasn't even 10 years old have such incredible strength?

The boy showed a grudgeful expression and spoke: “Very well, foolish and laughable mortals, die——”

Without being able to finish his sentence, he was caught by a knight and vanished from everyone's sight.

Gu Qing Shan ordered everyone: “There is no need for you to concern yourselves with this boy any longer. Search for those missing people, find them, then report their locations to me”

Saying so, he also vanished from the camp.

Several thousand miles away.

On top of a barren mountain.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly appeared.

The boy was standing in front of Gu Qing Shan, the look of contempt and killing intent on his expression already vanished without a trace.

He stood still. An autumn water blue steel sword had been placed against his neck.

This sword gave him a terrifying feeling.

With his current strength and power, he could feel that every technique, every spell, every means he had was useless against this sword.

This was a sword that could break any Law!

The boy's gaze fell onto Gu Qing Shan.

—this person was the master of the sword.

"Who exactly are you!?" the boy shouted in question.

"Who are you? What do you intend to do from now on? What is your ultimate goal?" Gu Qing Shan asked back.

The boy kept his mouth shut, refusing to say a single word.

—-the effects of [See you once again] had disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

Everything is completely different from what I had assumed.

What kind of thing is [Chaos] exactly?

I need more information.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly, pulled the colorful rooster out from his Inventory Bag and pulled on its comb.

The colorful rooster came to life.

—-this was an item that the War God intelligence system had affixed itself to, from which he could obtain a lot of information about himself.

"Hm, long time no see, you need something from me today?" the colorful rooster yawned and lazily answered.

"Hm, there's something I need you to look into" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The colorful rooster rubbed its face with its wings and replied in a bored tone: "The time flow of this world is different from the outside world, 20 years here is barely a second on the outside—- what kind of intelligence do you expect to hear in that little time?"

Its comb had completely drooped down, seemingly unable to mount a single bit of effort.

"This time it's different, I want information about this world" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Ahahaha" the colorful rooster laughed, "What kind of information do you expect from this world? Do you want me to be like last time and tell you about how many high-ranking female personnels of the Church wanted to pay you a night visit?"

The rooster shook its wings and continued, completely bored: "Let's just stop here, after you return to the normal world, we'll talk information—- I want to go to sleep now"

Looking at its disinterested attitude, Gu Qing Shan silently fell into thought for a single second.

A thought flashed through his mind and suddenly said: "This time I called you out because I found a chicken thief"

"Chicken thief? So wh— — WHAT!? A CHICKEN THIEF!?"

The rooster's voice was suddenly raised.

Gu Qing Shan pointed at the confused boy and replied: "That would be him. Not only did he steal a chicken, he even roasted and ate the entire thing right away"

The colorful rooster narrowed its eyes and approached the boy.

"Brat, was the chicken good?"

The rooster asked in a low voice.

The boy was completely clueless.

This was completely out of his expectation, this wasn't related to any fighting, killing, schemes, or plans.

What is this chicken talking about?

I'm the Envoy of [Chaos], a legendary character, the one destined to conquer this world.

So what if I ate some chicken?

The boy puffed out his chest and replied: "Very delicious, I ate everything, so what?"

The colorful rooster didn't say anything.

Its comb slowly stood straight up.

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As the rooster's comb stood up, it started emanating an unknown sense of pressure.

What's going on?

For some reason, the boy felt a chill run down its back.

The rooster looked at the boy and spoke with a hoodlum tone of voice.

"Haahh? You sure like to talk big, don't cha? This brat probably hasn't even gone through society, old Gu, why haven't you taught him how to live like a person?"

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: "I've only just captured him. I still don't know where he came from yet"

The rooster was unable to hold itself back: "Fine, then I won't waste any more time, I want this much"

It raised its wings to form a heart.

"This is— how much?" Gu Qing Shan hesitantly asked.

"You don't even understand that?" the rooster asked in surprise.

“I don’t” Gu Qing Shan was a bit embarrassed.

“With how close we are, you can just give me however much you think he’s worth” the rooster generously declared.

Gu Qing Shan silently thought that this rooster seemed to follow a kind of urban law gang member style.

After thinking about it for a bit, the rooster doesn’t really ask for much Soul Points each time he uses it, and since this matter was so crucial, he generously put his hand on the chicken.

— and sent him 10,000 Soul Points.

Receiving this excessive amount of Soul Points, the chicken changed.

Its body began to give off a golden glow, its comb turned bright red.

“You’ve shown your sincerity, brother, I guarantee I’ll be able to get even information about this brat’s past life, no issues”

The rooster patted his chest and declared.

“I’ll trouble you” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He then waved his hand to prepare a complicated defensive formation— although there weren’t any targets to actually be on a look-out for right now, it didn’t hurt to remain vigilant when collecting crucial information.

The colorful rooster had extended its long neck upwards, currently looking into the void of space.

“This brat is a Returnee”

The rooster spoke up first.

Returnee!

Hearing this term, Gu Qing Shan became focused.

This information alone was considerably valuable.

The rooster continued: “He’s too much of a coward so he’s been hiding away in the Inner Plane worlds, only after the Inner Plane was thoroughly destroyed did he use his final secret technique to give up everything and fled to the Outer Plane”

“But since he reincarnated in an emergency, he didn’t prepare enough and got his memories completely sealed away, most likely unable to awaken it again during this life”

“Knowing this, he reached out to the [Chaos] faction of the Inner Plane worlds and submitted himself to them as a price in order to gain the protection of [Chaos]”

“As this world was a relatively unremarkable place in the parallel world, [Chaos] aided him with reincarnating here and prepared to help him grow stronger, spreading [Chaos] from here until he reached the infinite worlds and finally destroys the entire Reality”

“He is currently in a state of half-awakening”

“He had already sent out 5 secondary Envoys of [Chaos], all of which were using everything they could to become stronger— the stronger they become, the quicker this guy will awaken”

Gu Qing Shan asked right away: “Do they have a dependent relationship?”

The rooster shook its head: “Not at all, on the contrary, due to the struggle for power, they might turn on one another and become enemies instead— however, because this Returnee created 5 Envoys at once, as long as those 5 continue to grow stronger, [Chaos] will help him awaken faster”

Gu Qing Shan pondered: “That sounds like a kind of reward”

“That’s exactly what it is” the rooster answered seriously.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Then, if I kill him and the Envoys, can I end [Chaos]?”

“An Envoy of [Chaos] has the ability to spread the seed of [Chaos]. It was only because these people are in their weakest state that you were able to catch them— I’ll be honest, as soon as [Chaos] had descended, it could no longer be stopped”

“What would happen if I kill him?” Gu Qing Shan asked further.

The rooster answered: “You will be turned into an Envoy of [Chaos], forced to spread the seed of [Chaos] against your own will— that’s why you must be careful with this, [Chaos] is something that even I can’t get a grasp on”

After telling him that, the colorful rooster returned to being a statue, no longer able to say anything.

The ground then began to tremble.

Gu Qing Shan silently sensed it.

From a faraway unknown, he was able to perceive the anger of the remnant will of this world.

Quite obviously, the remnant will of the world had a perfect understanding of everything that went on here.

It was able to hear the colorful rooster’s words.

If [Chaos] couldn’t be stopped, what would even be the point of retaliating?

Gu Qing Shan was able to tell just how much the remnant will of the world was in despair.

“Don’t worry, there’s still a chance even under this situation” Gu Qing Shan consoled it.

The trembling ground stopped.

Everything returned to normal.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and spoke: “Shannu, watch him carefully, if he shows any sudden movement, kill him”

“Yes, gongzi”

Shannu’s voice emerged from the sword.

The boy had been standing there listening to them, so he showed a fearless smirk and spoke: “You already know the truth and you dare to treat me this way?”

Gu Qing Shan just looked at him without saying anything.

How troublesome.

I wouldn't gain anything from killing this guy and instead get turned into an Envoy of [Chaos].

There are too many variables to come up with a sufficient plan.

After carefully thinking for a bit, Gu Qing Shan suddenly recalled something.

The colorful rooster was dependent on [War God Intel], whose main ability was to collect information from the void.

But the War God UI itself also had the ability to answer questions—— it might not be able to obtain information from the void, but it knew a lot of secret knowledge.

“War God UI” he silently summoned it in his mind.

[Ting]!

A clear chime.

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[I'm here]

The War God UI replied.

“If I kill an Envoy of [Chaos], would I always turn into an Envoy of [Chaos]?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Thank you for 10 Soul Points, the answer is affirmative]

“Then, what if I killed myself after that?” Gu Qing Shan asked again.

The War God UI paused for a moment, then replied: [This is truly an extraordinary thought, but I must tell you, even if you kill yourself, Chaos itself would be unaffected, it would only once again search for another Envoy. On the other hand, thank you for 10 Soul Points]

“Is there really no way to end [Chaos]?”

[Chaos is forever and unending, thank you for 10 Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan went silent for a short while longer.

Seeing how he was, the boy chuckled triumphantly and spoke: “You fool, it's all useless, now release me, I will—-”

Bam!

The autumn water blue steel sword suddenly turned to its side and slammed on his head.

The boy was knocked unconscious.

A cold female voice came from the sword: “Gongzi isn’t a fool”

Gu Qing Shan glanced over that, pondered for a while longer and asked the War God UI: “You and I have already dealt with the [Demon King Order] once”

[Indeed] the War God UI replied.

“At the time, you were able to dismantle the [Demon King Order] from me” Gu Qing Shan continued.

[Indeed]

“Then, what about [Chaos]?”

[To dismantle it will require 100,000 Soul Points, just like when I dismantled Origin from you on the snowy peak of the Old Gods—— I have answered three questions, you have paid 30 Soul Points] the War God UI replied.

Hearing this, Gu Qing Shan calmed down.

But why is it like this?

Gu Qing Shan had a sudden thought, so he asked: “Is [Chaos] also a kind of [Order]?”

[It is not, Chaos is the enemy of Order, they are locked in eternal mutual combat with no chance of reconciliation]

“...I see, but what exactly are they?”

[Respectively, they are Chaos and Order]

“You know what I mean, can’t you answer me a bit more directly?”

[No, you don’t understand why I avoided answering this question]

“Because I’m not yet qualified to obtain the actual answer?”

[Correct, I’ve answered 4 questions and taken 40 Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

I’m not yet qualified to learn the root cause of everything.

But now, at least I’m not in a total deadlock.

“Keep a close eye on him for now, if there are any issues, contact me” he spoke to the Six Paths Great Mountain sword.

“Understood, gongzi. You don’t need to worry about anything and do what you have to”

Shannu’s voice sounded from the sword.

Gu Qing Shan’s body blurred as he returned to the temporary camp.

“Have you found any clues of the missing people?” he asked.

The Pope handed him a report and replied: “Yes, my Lord. We’ve mobilized every Professionalist in the world, including the Wizards, in this search. Their general locations have been found, but without your orders, we haven’t dared to try and recklessly capture them”

“Well done” Gu Qing Shan praised.

He received the report, memorized their locations, and vanished from the temporary camp once again.

— — — it would be best to deal with these guys while they haven’t had the chance to grow yet.

After getting rid of them, I’ll worry about how to deal with the Returnee boy later.

He went across thousands of miles in the blink of an eye.

Gu Qing Shan soon arrived where the first secondary Envoy of [Chaos] was at.

He silently floated in the sky, watching over him.

This person seemed to be limping, staggering as he slowly moved along, but wherever he passed, everything was withering away.

The ground behind him had already turned into a lifeless black zone of death.

Gu Qing Shan was expressionless.

The Earth sword appeared behind him, flashed, and vanished.

Unable to even react, the man was sliced in half from the top of his head.

A line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[You’ve killed a monster that contains a large number of Soul Points]

[Although you are vastly stronger than it is, its ability to destroy the infinite worlds vastly overpowers your own]

[Considering this situation, you haven’t simply killed someone weaker than yourself]

[During this combat, the War God UI have absorbed the appropriate amount of Soul Points for you]

[You’ve obtained 10,000 Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan looked at these notifications in surprise.

Right, I brought quite a bit of Soul Points back from the Age of Old.

But I can’t keep spending without earning, so every bit of Soul Points I get is valuable.

At least, I’ve replenished the number of Soul Points I gave the rooster.

Hm...

This isn’t bad...

While he was thinking, 2 more lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Attention, you are about to carry the Plague Chaos]

[One minute later, you will become a primary-level Envoy of the Plague Chaos]

Chapter 955

Gu Qing Shan stood in the air, silently waiting.

One minute.

After only one minute, he would turn into the Envoy of the [Plague Chaos]

The War God UI's voice came: [Aren't you being a bit reckless like this?]

"Why do you say that?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Even if I can help release you from Chaos by expending 100,000 Soul Points, Chaos itself would not disappear and continue to exist in this world] the War God UI told him.

"I first have to feel for myself what [Chaos] is, then remove it and make my conjectures later—— this is the only way" Gu Qing Shan replied.

A bit more time later.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

A green UI suddenly manifested in front of his eyes out of nowhere.

This UI was exceedingly simple, only containing two lines of green text.

[You must first spread the plague within the world of the living in order to comprehend the wonders of Chaos]

[Everything starts from this moment]

After reading these words, Gu Qing Shan noticed something changed.

He sensed some sort of power attaching itself to him.

He opened his palm.

A small flame that gave off green mist appeared and slowly floated above Gu Qing Shan's hand.

"Plague..."

Gu Qing Shan muttered to himself.

For some reason, he immediately knew about how to use and spread this plague.

The plague felt like it belonged to him, like something he was born with.

"How miraculous, quite a bit different from [Order]—— even though I didn't agree to spread the plague at all"

Gu Qing Shan whispered to himself.

A small line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI, drawing his attention.

[It is nothing but a pile of garbage, no need to pay attention]

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

But truthfully, this secondary [Chaos] wasn't really that strong.

Especially when compared to the other secondary [Chaos].

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts moved.

He flew up higher while determining where the next secondary Envoy of [Chaos] was.

All of a sudden, he activated [Ground Shrink] and vanished from the sky.

...

Within a certain graveyard.

Gu Qing Shan appeared.

Not too far in front of him, a figure was digging up a grave, trying to cut and steal the corpse's limbs.

Gu Qing Shan didn't say anything and just controlled his sword with his mind.

A flash of light appeared.

The figure was sliced to bits, losing its life on the spot.

A new notification popped up on the War God UI:

[You've killed the Envoy of Broken Bodies]

[This is a power of Chaos more powerful than the Plague; you've obtained 30,000 Soul Points]

[Attention, one minute later, you will carry the Broken Bodies Chaos]

Gu Qing Shan stood still and waited for another minute.

Another UI appeared in front of him.

This was a grey UI that had more options compared to the plague UI, but all of them were locked and inaccessible.

Lines of notification appeared on this UI.

[Envoy of Plague, your actions are unusual, but perfectly demonstrates the principles of Chaos]

[You can now obtain the power of the Broken Bodies Chaos]

[First, you must supply enough body parts for the Chaos]

Gu Qing Shan looked at it for a while.

He flew up and continued to search for the next secondary Envoy of [Chaos].

A few moments later, he determined the correct direction according to the received intel.

Gu Qing Shan vanished from the air.

He directly appeared inside a city.

Within a certain alleyway, Gu Qing Shan found the third secondary Envoy of [Chaos].

The man wasn't doing anything, just standing and leaning on a wall.

He was showing off an indescribable smile.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and found that everyone within a one-kilometer radius was already dead.

"Did you kill them?" Gu Qing Shan walked forward and asked.

"Not me" the man smiled, "I didn't kill anyone"

"I don't believe you" Gu Qing Shan replied.

A sword phantom appeared and illuminated the entire alleyway.

The man was completely erased from this world by Gu Qing Shan's attack.

By habit, Gu Qing Shan looked at the War God UI.

Sure enough, a new notification popped up.

[This was an Envoy of Chaos with great potential, the power he obtained was the Seven Sins]

"Seven Sins?" Gu Qing Shan was intrigued.

The War God UI replied: [Indeed. He is able to trigger the core of living beings' sins simply by being near them, driving living beings to kill one another. Later on, this ability would evolve into a powerful Mystic-type Law]

[By killing such a monster, you've obtained an ample amount of Soul Points]

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[You've obtained 200,000 Soul Points, deducting 10 Soul Points from answering your question, you've obtained 199,990 Soul Points]

[Attention, one minute later, you will carry the Seven Sins Chaos]

Gu Qing Shan stood still and waited again.

One minute later.

A colorful UI with all the colors of the rainbow appeared right below the War God UI.

Lines of notification had already appeared on this UI:

[You have grasped the true principle of Chaos]

[As true Chaos, you do not care about factions!]

[With your power, you are able to utilize the power of the Seven Sins Chaos]

[When you want to use it, it will silently trigger within the hearts of living beings]

[Please use Seven Sins as the main power of your Chaos, because it is currently the strongest among the Chaos you've obtained!]

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

He continued to think of the intel he received and searched for the next Envoy of [Chaos].

A few moments later, he vanished from the small alleyway.

...

Time slowly passed.

It didn't take long for Gu Qing Shan to complete what he wanted to do.

The remaining two Envoys of [Chaos] also couldn't escape from the fate of being eliminated by Gu Qing Shan.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan had already gathered 5 types of [Chaos], respectively they were:

[Plague Chaos]

[Broken Bodies Chaos]

[Seven Sins Chaos]

[Unsettling Times Chaos]

[Massacre Chaos]

Gu Qing Shan looked in front of his eyes for a moment, then couldn't help but shake his head.

「What is it?」 the Earth sword asked.

It had been able to kill to its heart's content today.

"It's nothing, I'm just— a bit dizzy" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Indeed, right at this moment, there were a total of 6 differently-colored UI floating in the void of space in front of him, almost completely obscuring his vision.

Beside the War God UI, the other 5 UIs were occasionally giving off tiny resonations with one another.

"How strange, there wasn't any resonance when I collected 3 or even 4 [Chaos]" Gu Qing Shan pondered.

All of a sudden, the War God UI spoke up by itself: [This is an insane act, I didn't think you would actually go this far]

“I didn’t either, I just wanted to check and see if there were any changes when so many [Chaos] of different levels were gathered together” Gu Qing Shan replied.

[The results?] the War God UI asked.

“The results were that they seem to be able to relate and connect to one another”

After saying that, Gu Qing Shan had a revelation in his heart.

“Wait a minute, if that’s the case...”

He fell into thought.

The [Plague] was able to trigger the birth of [Seven Sins] in the hearts of living beings.

The [Seven Sins] would then push people to kill one another, leading to [Broken Bodies] and [Massacre].

It would then lead to mass death.

Which creates an [Unsettling Times].

[Unsettling Times] would then create feedback and push the other [Chaos] to grow.

This was a complete process that would allow each of these [Chaos] to become stronger through killing.

[So you’ve noticed] the War God UI said.

“Indeed, it truly can’t be underestimated” Gu Qing Shan’s expression turned serious, “No wonder such a powerful Magic-type world was destroyed”

[In reality, there are hundreds of thousands of levels and forms of [Chaos], but all of them could perfectly combine with one another to create Apocalyptic power] the War God UI told him.

[Gu Qing Shan, you’ve thought of and managed to achieve something that many of your predecessors have failed to do, but there is still one more crucial point regarding the secret of Chaos that you must find out by yourself]

Gu Qing Shan noticed the solemnity within the War God UI’s voice.

He couldn’t help but asked: “Why can’t you tell me directly?”

[I cannot tell you because this is the rule, a trial, an agreement made by both Chaos and Order. This single secret is mutual kept by both sides, so regarding this, I must also respect their will]

[Gu Qing Shan, you must figure this out yourself]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised to hear this.

The War God UI had always been very strict with keeping its secrets, going as far as taking Soul Points from him for asking questions, so it very rarely said so much to him on its own initiative.

Which meant, a secret that the War God UI was so serious about that it was actively hinting for him to figure out must have incredible value.

Then——

What exactly did I not pay attention to?

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

I've already gathered the 5 kinds of secondary powers of [Chaos] that were scattered throughout this world.

So what exactly did I miss?

After a while, a flash appeared in Gu Qing Shan's mind.

"I've figure it out"

Gu Qing Shan said.

[According to the rules, you must say it out loud] the War God UI told him.

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "I've collected the 5 kinds of [Chaos], but I'm still missing one thing"

[What is it?]

"The one who sowed the seed—— the true Envoy of [Chaos] who led them to descend into this world"

The War God UI went silent briefly before replying: [Exactly]

Chapter 956

Gu Qing Shan's gaze was focused on the void of space in front of himself, silently watching the 6 UIs in his vision.

One War God, five [Chaos].

The 6 UIs were sitting side by side in front of him, flickering like neon lights.

"I've already said the answer out loud, now what?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The War God UI replied with a slow and low tone: [You must think about it yourself Gu Qing Shan. You must consider very carefully whether or not you need the power of Chaos]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

This statement carried a lot of implications.

The War God UI doesn't seem to reject the idea of my using the power of [Chaos]

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help himself asking: "What would happen if I also collect the power of the real Envoy of [Chaos]?"

[I can't answer that] the War God UI replied.

Gu Qing Shan complained: "Again with that. I've already figured out the answer, but you won't tell me anything else"

The War God UI replied: [Because this was also part of the secret, I've already guided you very clearly, you will need to take a look at the rest of it yourself]

“Then I can only try it out” Gu Qing Shan declared resolutely.

The War God UI continued: [I must warn you, if you truly intend to try this, it will require all of your current Soul Points in order to safely pass this ordeal]

Gu Qing Shan froze.

I'll use up all my Soul Points?

He carefully considered it for a long while before replying: “I can always earn more Soul Points, but there most likely won't be any other chance as good as this one to gather all the [Chaos] while the Envoy and the secondary Envoys are still at their weakest”

[Indeed] the War God UI agreed: [Chaos grows in an excessively rapid manner; you will find it very hard to get such a good chance a second time]

“Let's go”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan vanished from mid-air.

He used [Ground Shrink] several times and returned to the top of the barren mountain.

The boy was still lying unconscious on the ground.

——seems like Shannu's strike was quite severe.

Gu Qing Shan pressed certain points on the boy's body.

The boy slowly opened his eyes.

He sat back, angrily glaring at Gu Qing Shan: “Mortal, you should've already known by now and fear the power of [Chaos], now release me”

Gu Qing Shan looked at him and muttered: “It seems you've awakened your memories”

“That's right, your conversation with that chicken triggered something in my mind, and being forced unconscious allowed me to remember a lot of things in the past, I really should thank you for that”

The boy pridefully said.

Having memories of his past life, he would be able to grow even faster and stronger than ever before, using the power of [Chaos], he would even surpass himself in the past life.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Then, as your thanks, answer me one question”

The boy asked: “What question?”

“When you killed all those people in the village—— what did you feel at the time?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The boy was stunned, then scowled: “Feel? I only killed some people, what is there to feel?”

He slowly pondered Gu Qing Shan's intentions and realized something: “Ah, I understand. This sly fellow, you're actually trying to convince yourself when you ask me this question aren't you?”

“You want all the people in the world to mock me? Or do you want to awaken some sort of emotions in my heart, use that to lull me, and convince me to no longer spread [Chaos]?”

The boy tilted his head and answered in a mocking tone.

At this point, he no longer seemed like a boy, instead, he was more akin to a sly and shrewd person in power.

“Not at all” Gu Qing Shan replied: “I simply want to know what you think about killing other people, nothing more, nothing less”

The boy faced his eyes head on to confirm his intentions.

And found that he was truly curious about his answer.

What a strange person.

But he currently has the advantage, so why should I offend him?

And if I can somehow turn him into my aide, wouldn't that be even better?

The boy thought for a while and replied: “The lives of mortals are too pitiful and tough. I simply sent them off from this harsh and cruel world. From then on, they would no longer need to feel any joy, anger, sorrow, or frustration from the changes in this world. This is simply my own selfless contribution to them— and there's no need for them to repay me”

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Gu Qing Shan went silent briefly.

“So? What kind of words are you going to try and convince me with?” the boy asked with an expression as if looking forward to seeing a play.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “You're probably right”

The boy was shocked.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “Ever since the appearance of the Apocalypse, even spreading into this reality from parallel worlds, the Inner Plane has already been destroyed, the Outer Plane no longer has any peaceful or safe haven, even the Eternal Abyss is running into problems in some parallel worlds— like the parallel world that I come from, so I agree with your statement— living beings are always suffering”

Gu Qing Shan sighed, then went on: “I truly believe that even if you didn't reincarnate in this world, this world would have faced the Apocalypse sooner or later”

The boy looked at Gu Qing Shan with glowing eyes and spoke emotionally: “That's right, all living beings are suffering, this couldn't be said any better— so you really do understand it well, even in my past life, there weren't many people who could clearly see this”

He continued: “The entire Inner Plane had already been destroyed, the Apocalypse is simply unstoppable, only the power of [Chaos] could help me— and it could also help you”

“Help me?” Gu Qing Shan questioned.

The boy’s mind was quickly moving and answered him with a bit of thought: “It really is a shame for a person of your caliber to be my opposition, so what do you say we make a deal instead?”

“What kind of deal?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The boy replied solemnly: “I’m currently still in a state of having just awoken and still very weak, but you’re already very strong, capable of helping me spread [Chaos] throughout this entire world”

“Why should I help you?”

“Because when I’ve obtained more power, I will bestow you a kind of [Chaos]”

At this point, both parties went silent and simply stared at one another.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and waved his hand.

He had grabbed the Six Paths Great Mountain sword.

“I also want to make a deal with you” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“It’s not easy to agree to a deal when the other side holds a weapon”

The boy scowled.

At this point, his gestures and speech were already no longer that of a young child.

“Sorry if you think that way, but a weapon is the prerequisite of this deal”

Gu Qing Shan stabbed his sword into the other party’s body and slowly explained: “I’m going to ask you to die for a bit. I’ll preserve your body, and if necessary, I’ll revive you”

The boy spat out some blood and opened his eyes wide.

“You... You actually trying to kill me... aren’t you afraid that [Chaos] would... enter your body?”

He struggled to speak a complete sentence.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t answer.

The boy’s face slowly showed an expression of fear.

He was sensing the descent of death.

All of his powers were slipping away.

I’m actually going to die!

“No, I don’t want to die!” he shouted with his remaining strength.

Gu Qing Shan simply stared at him with an emotionless gaze.

“Your life is too pitiful and tough. I’m simply sending you off from this harsh and cruel world. From now on, you will no longer need to feel any joy, anger, sorrow, or frustration from the changes in this world. This is simply my own selfless contribution to you— and there’s no need for you to repay me”

Gu Qing Shan simply said.

The boy froze.

This was the exact words I told him just now, he’s returning them to me.

—-with my death.

The boy struggled and groaned: “I... don’t... want...”

“To die?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The boy couldn’t say another word so he simply nodded.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and sincerely replied: “All living beings are suffering, so your departure from life is simply happiness. Farewell”

The boy finally displayed a look of despair.

He still wanted to say something else, but his eyes were already covered by the endless darkness.

He died.

Chapter 957

The boy’s head slowly slumped down.

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly.

“War God UI, you said that you can’t tell me the secret, but what about now that I’ve actually done it?” he asked.

While Gu Qing Shan was talking, the 5 [Chaos] UIs disappeared from in front of him.

Gu Qing Shan’s vision became clear again.

The only thing left in front of his eyes was the War God UI.

Lines of notifications popped up on the War God UI:

[You’ve gathered a combination of 5 random Chaos]

[You’ve obtained the qualifications to spread Chaos]

[The lowest requirement for evolution had been met]

[Chaos is currently giving you a preliminary evaluation based on the feats you’ve achieved]

[You’ve obtained the following titles on the side of Chaos:]

[Dragon Slayer, Secret Keeper, Wielder of a Samsara weapon, Master of the parallel world's key, Scorn of Order, Eye of endless worlds]

[As the powers of secondary Chaos you've obtained are relatively crude, you've awakened the primary-level status board]

[Remember well, this is the power of Chaos that only belongs to yourself. No one else would be able to replace you and carry it]

[This is the power that Chaos has granted you!]

All the glowing text disappeared.

A new UI appeared next to the War God UI.

This was a UI completely sealed by black-colored stones, he couldn't see what was inside it, but from its appearance, it could be assumed that the UI hasn't been activated.

Lines of text appeared on top of this UI:

[Personal Chaos UI: Demon Dragon Slayer (Unique)]

[Please infuse 100,000 to the UI in order to activate your personal status board]

[Attention, your personal UI has infinite ways to evolve, its name and characteristics will also constantly shift and change, as long as you are strong enough!]

Reading this description, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but feel shocked.

"Interesting, how interesting"

The corner of his lips twitched slightly as he whispered.

Who would've thought this would be the secret?

It turns out that combining several [Chaos] together with the power of the Envoy of [Chaos] would result in evolution.

This evolution would then create a personal UI specifically for the individual that accomplished this task.

At the same time, this special personal UI also has room to continue growing.

But, is the agreement between [Order] and [Chaos] just referring to this?

Wait a minute—

Gu Qing Shan slowly fell into thought.

If this is the case, [Order] and [Chaos] are certainly different.

[Chaos] would consume one another in order to evolve and grow.

Of course, [Orders] would also evolve.

Take the [Demon King Order] for example, the process of its evolution was: [Kindling], [Origin], [Revolution], [Demon Tide Descends], [Demon King Ascension].

However.

Regardless of how an [Order] evolves, it was still possible for there to be many users of a single [Order].

Each user carries and has the ability to use the power of the [Order]— like my past life, as well as the demonized people of the Fallen Zones.

But [Chaos] is different.

After [Chaos] evolves, it would become a distinct personal UI.

Only one person may use it.

In other words, each user of [Chaos], if they evolve to a relatively high level, would obtain their own unique [Chaos] UI.

“War God UI, what exactly is the relationship between [Chaos] and [Order]?”

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask.

The War God UI replied: [They are mutual enemies. Thank you for 10 Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

— to be honest, I’m more interested in [Chaos].

Because of how specialized the UI was, every high-ranking [Chaos] is an absolute mystery. As long as I don’t say anything, no one would be able to infer my background.

But [Order] had its own advantages.

An [Order] could issue a large-scale Mission that involves many people, using the strength of many to accomplish a single task.

Just like what the [Demon King Order] did in Triste’s collection world where the 2 million demonized people all received a Mission to kill me.

In the end, they both had their own characteristics.

The War God UI’s voice sounded again:

[Gu Qing Shan, you’ve obtained your own unique power of Chaos. You can now activate it]

Gu Qing Shan mused: “I remember you telling me that if I did this experiment, I would need to spend all my Soul Points to remove and get away from it, right?”

[Correct]

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then continued: “Then I’m going to return the goods”

[...What do you mean?] the War God UI asked.

Gu Qing Shan rubbed his hands together and spoke in a flattering tone: “As you can see, I haven’t actually spent any Soul Points to activate it—— and now that I’ve somewhat understood the power of [Chaos], I don’t need to look into it any further, please save a bit of Soul Points for me”

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The War God UI stayed silent for a brief moment and replied: [In this case, I can certainly save you a bit of Soul Points after the removal, but that would be meaningless]

“Why?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The War God UI answered: [Even if you don’t activate your personal Chaos power and I remove it, it would still not be destroyed and instead scatter to another location, unable to escape this world]

“Isn’t this just an illusory world? You mean this [Chaos] is real?”

[Indeed, this corpse of a parallel world contains the power of Chaos, not only does it actually exist, it had already destroyed this parallel world—— that is why you must defeat this Chaos in order for the remnant will of the world to listen to you and leave with you]

“So that’s what this is about, no wonder I feel that this UI contains some sort of power unlike an illusory object” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

He stood still on the barren mountain, silently staring into the void of space in front of himself.

This world filled with supernatural power and potential was thoroughly destroyed by [Chaos].

This caused the remnant will of the world to feel the unwillingness to accept.

However——

There is no way to kill [Chaos]

[Chaos] is eternally existing and couldn’t be destroyed.

This [Demon Dragon Slayer] personal UI is the target that I want to defeat.

——then how should I defeat it?

Gu Qing Shan silently contemplated.

The sky slowly turned dark.

Dawn came.

The sun rose, then set once more.

The world returned to darkness.

A second night had gone by.

The light of dawn peered through the darkness.

Gu Qing Shan simply stood still for 2 days straight, not moving a single step.

When the morning dew wet his sleeves the second time, he slowly regained his senses from deep contemplation.

“War God UI” Gu Qing Shan called out.

[I’m with you] the UI replied.

“I have a question”

[Thank you for 10 Soul Points, ask]

“Can an [Order] be created?”

The War God UI went silently.

After a long while, the War God UI asked him in return: [Why do you want to create an Order?]

“[Chaos] is the enemy of [Order], so if and when this world obtains an [Order], I would be able to have them reach an equilibrium”

Gu Qing Shan muses, then continued: “Due to this equilibrium, the world would continue to grow and develop— it would no longer be destroyed”

The War God UI replied: [This is quite an impressive solution, but regretfully, you are unable to achieve this]

“You mean, I won’t be able to accomplish this with my powers?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Correct, an Order isn’t something you can create] the War God UI replied.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought again.

He thought for a long time, then suddenly looked up at the sky.

Maybe...

This should be possible?

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and loudly asked: “Do you want revenge?”

A few moments later.

A thunderous bolt of lightning resounded across the sky.

The remnant will of this parallel world is constantly watching over Gu Qing Shan, so as soon as Gu Qing Shan called out, it answered him.

Gu Qing Shan loudly shouted again: “Good— then I have an idea. If you and I can fight alongside one another, we would be able to win against [Chaos]— are you willing to cooperate with me?”

Boom!!!

A blindingly bright bolt of lightning fell from above and exploded right in front of the barren mountain.

The remnant will of this parallel world angrily roared.

Gu Qing Shan nodded in satisfaction.

“Shannu, remain here and take care of this Returnee’s body”

“Yes, gongzi”

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the sky again: “Now, just leave the rest to me”

He leapt straight up to the sky and started to fly.

Fly.

Fly.

Continued to fly.

Gu Qing Shan was flying towards the center of civilization in this world—— the Grand Tower of the Wizardry Association.

Quite unusually, the War God UI asked him: [Gu Qing Shan, what are you trying to do?]

Gu Qing Shan smirked.

“It’s nothing much, I’m just very familiar with the things called [Order]”

He replied.

Chapter 958

There was a gigantic tower that reached all the way to the sky in this corpse of a parallel world.

The Grand Tower of the Wizards.

It recorded the entirety of this world’s known knowledge.

Including humanity’s own progression over time.

Gu Qing Shan hovered outside the Grand Tower, releasing his spirit energy.

Thanks to [Conversion], the people of this world didn’t recognize the power he was giving off as spirit energy, but rather pure and boundless white holy light.

Almost instantly, almost a dozen Wizards emerged from the tower and flew up to greet him.

Out of respect, they didn’t hover at the same position as Gu Qing Shan but one step lower.

The chairman of the Wizardry Association—— the white-haired wizard who came to the scene of the giant ravine, led the wizards and bowed to Gu Qing Shan.

“Venerable God, it is a great honor and surprise of our Wizardry Association to be graced with your presence” the old wizard spoke up first.

“Stop” Gu Qing Shan smiled, “Spare me the theatrics, I know that you lot hold no affection for anything except the truth of the world”

The old wizard froze, causing what he was about to say next to be caught in his throat.

It's almost like God is strolling in our stomachs.

—-but can you not say it that way?

How am I supposed to respond to that?

Gu Qing Shan didn't care about his reaction and continued: "I'm here to look at the knowledge you've accumulated"

The old wizard hurriedly said: "Omnipotent, omniscient God, what kind of knowledge do you need? I will have our people prepare them"

Gu Qing Shan silently chuckled.

This old fox's words are full of implications, while he's praising me as omnipotent and omniscient, he's also berating me.

—-aren't you the omnipotent and omniscient God? Why do you need to look at our knowledge?

Gu Qing Shan didn't care to refute him or to kill weaker people just to show off his magnificence.

He simply replied: "I need all the knowledge regarding human supernatural Professions"

"Understood, we will prepare them right away" the old wizard respectfully replied.

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded before standing still in midair.

The old wizard brought his subordinates back into the Grand Tower, compiled and reorganized the records they have of human Professions, finally ending with over 1300 volumes.

He hesitated a bit but didn't use magic to gather all these records into one magic tome.

—-in reality, wizards had quite a few ways to gather specialized knowledge into a magic tome of knowledge.

"Sir"

A wizard behind him tried to remind him in a low voice.

The old wizard shook his head and gestured to him not to say anything.

For the last 20 years, their association's research of God had stagnated.

This was the best chance they had to probe and see if this God had any other abilities.

The old wizard used magic to slowly carry these 1300 volumes of books out from the tower.

"O' God above, these are all the knowledge regarding human Professions, please take a look" the old wizard told him.

He pointed to the 1300 books floating in the air behind him.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and swiftly formed a Telekinesis hand seal.

In front of him, the 1300 books stood up to form a giant wall, neatly lined up and flipped through each page one by one.

The books were displaying their content to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and memorized all of it.

The old wizard and the other wizards exchanged glances.

This method wasn't particularly hard, some higher-leveled wizards would be able to do the same.

God wasn't omnipotent or omniscient, and the way he obtained knowledge wasn't particularly special.

Then, where exactly was the limit of God's power?

They were silently musing this.

Gu Qing Shan silently absorbed all this knowledge and quickly understood everything about the levels, powers, and categorization of Professions in this world.

First of all, the main Professions in this world consists of Divine Caster, Knight, Hunter, Wizard, and Sorcerer.

The way to train these Professions and their power levels were also not the same.

Each Profession had its own subsets of schools, and the abilities they had were also very different.

Strange, varied, and disorganized.

This description perfectly matched the state of these Professions.

During their recordings, the wizards have tried to unify these Professions into a single comprehensive guide, but many Professions have their own core secrets that couldn't be revealed to other Professions.

Furthermore, the wizards didn't want to anger every Profession and become the public enemy of the world.

In the end, the wizards could only record the general powers, characteristics and growth cycle of each Profession through their observations.

Even they can't pry into the core secrets of every Profession.

Gu Qing Shan stood still in the air and fell into thought.

The old wizard stood respectfully to one side, silently observing him.

After a while.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly spoke to the void of space:

"To win against [Chaos], or rather, to use [Chaos] to trigger a stable growth in this world, I will need to do some arrangements"

"First of all, regarding supernatural humans— while they can wield the world's supernatural powers, don't allow them to arbitrarily access it"

As soon as he said this, the entire world changed drastically.

The remnant will of the world heeded his request!

The wizards standing next to him suddenly found themselves losing all of their mana.

“Ah——”

“Help me!”

“What’s going on!?”

They were desperately screaming as they fell from the sky.

These great people who could easily shake the world with a stomp of their foot were about to fall unceremoniously to their deaths.

Gu Qing Shan obviously noticed this.

He immediately added: “They’re still useful, they can’t die yet”

As the wizards were just about to come into contact with the ground, they found their mana completely returning to them.

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They hurriedly released their powers to stabilize their fall and landed on the ground.

The old wizard staggered a bit before being able to stand up straight again.

He looked at the man in the sky with a wide-opened mouth, unable to say a single word.

He completely stripped me of all my powers with a single statement.

This is——

Completely preposterous!

Seeing how everyone was fine, Gu Qing Shan continued:

“The naturally occurring supernatural powers in the world can’t be wielded arbitrarily by living beings, but needs to be divided up into stages”

“Only by dividing it into stages would everything have a stable and clear structure to them, this is the most basic [Order]”

“By dividing supernatural power up into many stages from shallow to deep, Professionals would be able to tell exactly where they are and understand the difference between them and other people. This would further rouse their desires to rise and improve themselves”

“We can name the same stages different ways for each Profession, for example, wizards corresponding to the Magic Weave, this would allow them to understand the will of the world more easily”

“The different levels of supernatural powers would correspond to the level of power of Professionals”

“Whenever their understanding of their power becomes deep enough or fulfills a certain condition, they would qualify to obtain supernatural power of a deeper level”

“And the condition I mentioned before would be your authority— you can tell them what they need to do in order to obtain further power— yes, think of it as a specialized mission that will allow them to obtain the power of the world”

“This specialized mission will be to fight against [Chaos]”

“Every Professionalist in the world will have to go up against [Chaos] to become stronger, they would be both citizens of the world as well as its protectors”

“You can judge based on how they perform within this mission to bestow them more power— or some other kind of gifts. For example, some treasures hidden within the world, rare materials, unique abilities— or perhaps even lifespan”

“This way, we would form a world [Order]”

“[Chaos] cannot be thoroughly destroyed, but when Professionalists of the world use your world [Order] to go up against [Chaos], both sides would come to an equilibrium, perhaps even greatly weakening [Chaos], pushing the world to develop and grow stronger”

“This is my solution!”

Gu Qing Shan finished his explanation.

Ooo— oooooom— uuuu—

The consecutive and low rumble of thunder resounded across the sky.

After listening to his explanation, a blurry but indescribable will was answering something.

Gu Qing Shan sensed the urging intention among the thunder and replied: “That’s true, I forgot about that. Wait after I remove this [Chaos] before resuming the world simulation”

“Very well, let us see how it will turn out in the end”

Gu Qing Shan’s figure flashed and vanished from in front of the Grand Tower.

The wizards floated in midair, completely stunned by Gu Qing Shan’s words.

They were unable to understand what he meant.

But that didn’t stop them from feeling its effects.

“Sir! Sir!” one of the wizards called out.

The old wizard replied: “No need to tell me, I can sense it”

He had already felt the change of supernatural powers in the world.

Their power really had been divided into stages!

“How many stages of power can you control?” the old wizard asked his attendant.

The attendant sensed it for a bit and replied: "I can only go up to the 4th stage, after that I couldn't go any further—sir, what exactly just happened?"

The old wizard sighed with a complicated look in his eyes: "With just a few words, he completely changed the power structure of the world"

He said in despair: "The knowledge we've obtained so far is no longer valuable. In the end, from now on, we only need to study the words that God spoke just now in order to grasp the most basic knowledge of the world"

"But sir, isn't that what the Church usually does?"

The old wizard said nothing.

The other wizards also fell to silence.

...

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan had returned on top of the barren mountain.

With Shannu here to watch over everything, there was nothing to fear.

Gu Qing Shan nodded to Shannu and took out the Heaven sword from the void of space again.

Luo Bing Li's voice came from the Heaven sword: "When I wake up, you're going shopping with me"

"No problem, I'll pay for everything" Gu Qing Shan promised.

"Hm, good"

Luo Bing Li replied in satisfaction.

Gu Qing Shan slowly walked up to the boy's dead body.

A faint slash appeared.

[Chaotic Flow] activated!

The boy suddenly jumped back up from the ground.

"Don't kill me!"

He screamed furiously and desperately, but then suddenly stopped.

Huh?

I'm... still alive?

What exactly happened?

The boy was completely stunned.

Gu Qing Shan put the Heaven sword away and casually told him: “Relax, I’ve already told you, you don’t have to act that surprised”

“What exactly do you want?” the boy cautiously asked.

“Nothing, from now on, you can do whatever you like” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The boy froze.

Earlier, this guy wanted to kill me, but now he’s acting as if he doesn’t care at all.

What is this situation?

While staring intensely at Gu Qing Shan, the boy was silently feeling anxious.

He suddenly remembered what Gu Qing Shan said earlier——

...

“I’m going to ask you to die for a bit. I’ll preserve your body, and if necessary, I’ll revive you”

Chapter 959

I was revived?

The boy silently thought.

All of a sudden, he realized that he was missing something.

The countless whispers by his ears had disappeared.

The transparent screen that displayed his qualifications as one who would sow the seed of [Chaos] had vanished.

The boy gritted his teeth: “You.... You stole my power of [Chaos]!”

He jumped forward, pulled out a dagger, and tried to stab Gu Qing Shan.

This time, he used his full power, causing the dagger to faintly echo with a thunderous boom as it ripped through the sound barrier.

Gu Qing Shan simply reached his hand out and grabbed the dagger with his fingers.

No matter how much the boy tried to swing the dagger, he found that he couldn’t move it even an inch.

The boy’s expression changed.

The difference in strength between them was so great that he didn’t even have a chance in the first place.

“Damn it, why is it that I had to run into you right as I awakened!?”

He was unwilling to accept it.

Gu Qing Shan simply smiled and replied: “Don’t think too much and relax, I already told you, you can do whatever you want”

The boy cautiously asked: “Are you trying to deceive me again?”

“You’re a Returnee, how could any of my schemes deceive you?” Gu Qing Shan sincerely replied.

He didn’t say much else and simply pressed his hand on top of the boy’s head.

Feeling like he was struck by a sledgehammer, the boy took several steps backwards.

He was stunned.

The familiar UI, these familiar whispers, they had all returned to him.

“You returned the power of [Chaos] to me, and didn’t do it through any killing—— how is that possible!?” the boy shouted in disbelief.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “You don’t need to care about that, just go and spread your [Chaos], that’s your mission”

The boy looked at him with a wide-opened mouth, not sure of what to say.

He killed me.

Revived me.

Gave [Chaos] back to me.

Encouraged me to spread [Chaos]

——this situation is too bizarre, I can’t explain it at all.

Even if I’ve reincarnated and regained all my memories, I still don’t understand a single thing that just happened.

——at this time, it is almost like I’m a real child.

But my mission truly is to spread [Chaos], there’s no doubt about that.

“If you don’t interfere, I will spread [Chaos] to this entire world. I will need the lives of every living being of this world as a foundation to grow my power” the boy told him with extreme emphasis.

“Good, I won’t stop you again, do and do what you want, accomplish your dream” Gu Qing Shan nodded in agreement.

The boy was still half-suspicious: “Are you really not deceiving me? Or do you have some sort of other schemes?”

“I normally don’t deceive people” Gu Qing Shan answered with a straight face.

The boy gave him one last look before jumping down from the barren mountain.

He sprinted with his full speed down the steep mountainside, quickly going out of sight.

Gu Qing Shan stopped watching him and looked towards the void of space.

Lines of glowing text were floating on the War God UI:

[You've lost the Chaos UI: Demon Dragon Slayer (Unique)]

[The power of Chaos has completely vanished from you]

[Special note: Because you did not truly carry the unique 'Demon Dragon Slayer UI, this removal of Chaos costed fewer Soul Points than expected]

[Calculating your remaining Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan waited for a while.

A line of glowing text appeared:

[Your remaining Soul Points is: 1/600]

Looking at the single-digit number [1], he couldn't contain his anger: "Oi! After everything I did and spoke with you about, you're still going to rob me blind!?"

[Ting]!

A clear chime resounded.

The War God UI replied: [Complaint received. For being able to maintain your calm in such a way even after facing the unique Chaos UI, you should indeed be rewarded]

[In a hopeless situation, to come up with the idea of cooperating with the remnant will of the world to fight against Chaos, you should also be rewarded]

[Recalculating your Soul Points based on the above factors]

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief, looked at his remaining Soul Points, and silently waited.

The number [1] moved down, replaced by another number:

[Remaining Soul Points: 2/600]

Gu Qing Shan completely deflated and helplessly asked: "...Are you serious?"

[Very serious] the War God UI replied.

Right now, Gu Qing Shan had every reason to believe that the UI was keeping a certain amount of Soul Points for itself, trying to achieve something.

He didn't want to react to this damn UI any longer, its miser attitude towards Soul Points was causing him a headache.

——if it weren't for the fact that he couldn't do anything to the War God UI, he would definitely have a nice and long 'chat' with it.

The world around him started flickering.

The barren mountain, the sky, everything was turning into a quickly flowing image show.

Gu Qing Shan noticed that he was now hovering outside of the world.

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The world seemed almost like a movie that was being fast-forwarded.

Begin.

The remnant will of the world first divided the levels of the supernatural powers the way Gu Qing Shan had suggested, using this to make every living being join the [Order] and fight against [Chaos].

Gu Qing Shan silently waited.

After a while, everything disappeared.

At the very last moment, Gu Qing Shan saw a man— the man faintly had features resembling the boy.

He was wearing a terrifying [Chaos] armor, laughing triumphantly.

Under this attack, the world suddenly collapsed and was destroyed.

Darkness engulfed everything.

The void was constantly trembling as if to transmit a certain emotion.

Briefly sensing it, Gu Qing Shan slowly calmed down.

The remnant will of the world didn't feel dejection or despair from the failure.

Instead, during the simulation just now, it realized a certain possibility.

—hope.

It had felt the hope of winning against [Chaos]

The remnant will of the world became excited and couldn't wait to try it again.

—after all, besides the power of [Chaos] itself, the entire world was just an illusion that was created from its own power.

As long as it was willing to, it could always remake this world.

A second later.

The world reappeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Another simulation began.

Everything in the world was swiftly moving along like a surging river.

In one of Gu Qing Shan's breath, ten years had already passed in the simulated world.

After a few moments of waiting.

The world's changes slowed down to reveal the final outcome.

— the grown-up boy still managed to destroy the world.

But at the very last moment, the heroes of humanity used all their power and managed to kill at the cost of their death.

Mutual destruction!

Gu Qing Shan praised: "Very fast improvement, I reckon you'll be able to win against [Chaos] next time"

The void gave off vibrations, seemingly replying to him in its enthusiasm.

Time reversed.

Everything began again— from the moment that Gu Qing Shan left this world.

Gu Qing Shan was also feeling a bit emotional.

This was only the weakest Envoy of [Chaos], and yet it took this much effort to get rid of him.

If the one who obtained [Chaos] was some sort of ridiculously powerful and terrifying monster instead?

Who would be able to stop it from spreading [Chaos]?

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and stopped thinking about this.

The world was swiftly changing in front of his eyes.

The final results would soon arrive.

— the world's speed gradually slowed down again.

A scene appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

Humanity's heroes were conducting a grand ceremony to celebrate their victory.

Seven large metal coffins carved full of mysterious runes were laid out, the Envoy of [Chaos], and his dependents whose powers were sealed were individually put into each of the metal coffins.

The metal coffins were shut and sealed.

Darkness.

From then on, [Chaos] would be sealed under the Divine Church, watched over by the 12 most powerful heroes of humanity.

Unless something happened, they would be suppressed here until the end of time, never to set foot on the surface and spread their [Chaos] ever again.

Endless fluctuations spread all over the void.

The remnant will of the world was emanating overwhelming mental tides in order to express its current mood.

“Who would’ve thought, you actually succeeded on the third try, that’s a bit quicker than I thought it would be” Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

In front of his vision, lines of glowing text appeared.

[You’ve overcome the trial of the remnant will of the world]

[You’ve aided it in winning against Chaos]

[From now on, this will of a parallel world will follow you]

[Your World Technique has obtained the Laws of the Inner Plane; the power of Primal Chaos; the foundation of Earth, Fire, Water, and Wind; the reinforcement of the Iris Sword. Now, you’ve obtained the final necessary power]

[You’ve obtained the Origin Power of a parallel world]

[After this countdown, that world’s Origin Power will be infused into your World Technique and belong to its most suitable place]

[5]

[4]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[Your World Technique has been fully completed]

Chapter 960

The 900 million World Layers.

The Fallen Zones.

Every world had fallen to ruin.

An Abyssal Behemoth was climbing upwards through these worlds.

Its body was gigantic, from the perspective of these worlds, all they could see was a giant foot that heavily stepped onto them before swiftly moving onto the next as the ground crumbled and collapsed.

This Abyssal Behemoth was moving at an incredibly quick pace and soon made its way across half the Fallen Zones on the way towards the Strife Zones.

Occasionally, it would also pause between some worlds.

Just like now.

「 『 Wait 』 』

A male and female voice resounded at the same time, muttering: 『 『 I've clearly killed every carrier of [Order] there is, why do I sense the vitality fluctuations of a sentient being in this world? 』 』

The streak of light flew across the sky and fell into a certain place in this world.

A humanoid body, a half-man, half-woman face.

The Soul Shrieker.

It swiftly made its way into the ruins of this civilization, walking across the destroyed path deep into the ruins.

Until it reached a thick metal gate that blocked its way.

As the Soul Shrieker reached its hand out and was about to blow this gate open...

It seemed to have thought of something and instead pushed its fingers into the gate, grabbed tightly, then forcefully pulled the gate outwards.

Boom!

The gate was pulled off its hinges, crushed, and was thrown behind.

The Soul Shrieker stood and looked inside.

A young human female was cradling a baby in her embrace, staring at the Soul Shrieker with an expression of despair.

"I beg you, please spare my baby, he's still too young" the female sobbed and begged.

The Soul Shrieker silently walked forward and looked down on the female as well as her child.

『 Answer me 』

It spoke with its male voice: 『 I remember the people of this world were all carriers of the [Demon King Order], so why do you and your descendant not have the smell of [Order]? 』

The female answered: "Because I'm afflicted with an incurable disease and would not live for long, and my child was only born today"

『 No wonder 』 the Soul Shrieker's male voice went again, replaced by the female one: 『 The [Demon King Order] doesn't care about lives that have no value 』

The Soul Shrieker walked forward and stretched out its hand.

"Spare me, no— — I'm willing to die, but please spare my baby" sensing death approaching her, the female embraced her child tightly and cried out loud.

The Soul Shrieker reached out its finger and pressed its razor-sharp nail on the female's forehead.

Blood swiftly began to flow from the point of contact.

The Soul Shrieker's female voice spoke:

『 Don't worry, I won't kill you 』

The female looked up, staring blankly at the Soul Shrieker, unable to understand what the other party was saying.

The Soul Shrieker looked down at her as its female voice became more gentle

『 You are one abandoned by [Order], your child is one unaccounted for by [Order]. The two of you fulfill my condition, and thus you shall become the seeds of [Chaos] 』

The female continued to hold the baby tightly in her chest and hesitantly asked: “You—- are willing to spare us?”

The Soul Shrieker replied: 『 Indeed, but as the price, you will come with me to the Strife Zones. The two of you shall become hidden pawns that I place in certain worlds, silently accumulating power for the decisive battle to come in the future. Try and become stronger 』

Following its words, the female suddenly felt its sharp nail piercing deeply into her forehead.

Before falling unconscious, she seemed to notice a transparent UI appearing in front of her vision.

Thud!

The female collapsed on the ground.

The Soul Shrieker stood still, silently staring at the unconscious female lifeform and the child in her chest.

It lightly twitched its finger.

Ooom— — —

The ruins fell and collapsed; the sky was gradually becoming dim.

The female and her child slowly floated up and flew away far into the sky.

— — —towards where the Abyssal Behemoth had stopped.

The Soul Shrieker stared at the gloomy greyish sky, all the way until after the female and her child had vanished through the thick layers of clouds.

Its expression turned a bit serious and stood still without moving.

“You chose a weak human female and her child in order to carry [Chaos], for what reason did you do such a thing?”

A voice sounded from behind the Soul Shrieker.

「 『 Because they were not chosen by [Order] 』 』 the Soul Shrieker replied.

“No, that is definitely not what you think at all”

The voice refuted it.

The Soul Shrieker slowly turned around to face the other party.

A young man wearing a pair of black sunglasses was looking at it with a casual smile on his face.

The Soul Shrieker thought briefly, bowed down, and responded with its male voice: 「 The Abyssal King, the Exiled Apostle, the Peerless Fallen One, Greatest Above the Star Crown, Great Lord of Infinite Origin, this humble one did not think such a small matter would trouble you personally, this humble one is honored 』

The young man was still smiling, but his tone had changed slightly.

“You think my titles are something for you to recite? Since when did you dare to not answer my question?”

The Soul Shrieker responded with a sharp female voice: 『 I will answer your question—— it is because that female and her child have both carried [Chaos]. Through my help, they will surely grow, and one day, I will have them face off against one another 』

“And then what?”

『 The one who survives will surely obtain a unique [Chaos] title 』

“Hm, that explanation sounds like what [Chaos] would do indeed, I’ll buy it for now”

The Soul Shrieker slightly bowed: 『 As I have answered your question, I will go ahead and leave 』

The young man spoke: “Wait a minute, there is something else”

『 Please 』

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“The struggle of the parallel world and the Apocalypse has already begun. At a time like this, there is no need for you to mess with [Order]”

『 Your Excellency... I spent untold amounts of time, just to permanently seal [Order] away, and yet at this moment, you wish for me to stop? 』

“That’s right. If you permanently seal [Order] right now, [Chaos] will surely sweep through the infinite worlds and destroy everything”

『 But surely you understand, there is hope for those who carry [Chaos] to begin the era of [Chaos]? 』

The young man rubbed his forehead a bit and scowled: “And I also know that I don’t want to see the birth of the era of [Chaos]. Such a world without any rules is truly uninteresting”

『 Your Excellency, you are siding with [Order]? 』

“No, I just don’t hope that your struggle will come to a conclusion at this point in time”

『 So you have decided to stop me, to stand against [Chaos]? 』

The young man shivered a bit, then laughed: “Who would’ve thought, that pitiful existence that prostrated at my feet begging for survival now dares to speak to me with that kind of tone”

『 That is all in the past 』 the Soul Shrieker replied.

Countless mysterious runes suddenly manifested around its body, drifting like morning mist before gradually scattering from its body into the void of space.

『 『 Your Excellency, you seemed to have been exiled for too long, now you’re even trying to interfere with the matter between [Order] and [Chaos] 』 』

As it spoke, the Soul Shrieker’s presence abruptly shot up.

The male and female voice roared at the same time in fury: 『 『 I represent the boundless [Chaos], nearing my goal of squashing [Order]. Regardless of who it is, if they stand in my way, they will be irreconcilable enemies of [Chaos]! 』 』

Sensing the overwhelming presence it gave off, the young man’s expression turned serious.

He muttered: “So that’s what happened. You’ve inherited all the [Chaos] from the Inner Plane, and this avatar is actually your true self, no wonder you dared...”

Thump!

The Soul Shrieker took one step forward.

Endless, overwhelming darkness expanded to fill this entire world.

“The will of [Chaos]”

The young man no longer had a smile on his face as he looked at the void of space.

The Soul Shrieker continued to walk towards the young man, its killing intent overwhelming everything else.

『 『 My main body as well as every [Chaos] that exist are right here 』 』 the Soul Shrieker pointed at its enemy and shouted: 『 『 And you are nothing but the weakest soul avatar, how dare you stop my actions 』 』

『 『 The crown of the Abyss will be broken in the near future, and even a powerful existence as yourself will have no choice but to wither in front of [Chaos]! 』 』

...

At another location.

The Strife Zones.

A certain world.

Endless black flames burned all the monsters to ash.

The black scythe that gave off this intense air of darkness was recalled, caught by a pearly white hand.

The owner of the hand was the Saintess of Death, a girl with crimson red hair and a beautiful appearance.

She looked up at the sky and shouted: “Who else dare come to seek death!?”

Layers upon layers of black flames suddenly shot up from the ground, preparing to attack the sky above.

The remaining monsters hurriedly turned and ran, escaping to the air.

They fled.

Seeing that, Anna let go of her grip.

The black scythe swiftly vanished.

She turned around to Su Xue Er and spoke: “Right now we should—— hm? Why is your complexion so pale?”

In her eyes, Su Xue Er’s smooth forehead was covered in a layer of cold sweat, staring blankly at a Card in her hand.

——this was the [Predictor of Fate] Card within the King of Fate Card deck.

The face of the Card depicted a tombstone.

Around it, there was nothing but graves.

“Get away from me, Anna” Su Xue Er said.

“Why?” Anna asked.

“I don’t need your protection” Su Xue Er replied.

“Take a look again at yourself, you’re obviously in a state of power metamorphosis, you surely need someone to protect you in that weakened state” Anna refuted.

“I’ll be fine by myself, but if you keep going with me, both you and I will be heading to death” Su Xue Er replied.

Anna was shaken.

Seemingly thinking everything through, Su Xue Er reached her hand out to touch Anna’s face: “The [Predictor of Fate] wouldn’t be wrong, I truly will die this time around. Leave now, live for me, then help me tell him——”

Pap!

Anna slapped her hand away, then grabbed the Card.

“Do you really believe this?”

She pointed at the graves in the Card and sternly asked.

“Of course I do, there is no escaping from Fate” Su Xue Er sighed helplessly.

“I ask you again, where did this Card come from?” Anna went right up to her face and asked.

“It was a Card I exchanged for with Gu Qing Shan—— I’m sure I’ve already told you about this”

“Then tell me again, what appeared on the Card back then? And why did you exchange it?”

“Because this Card said that Qing Shan would become demonized and die——”

Anna grabbed Su Xue Er’s neck and loudly questioned her: “And you believed that Fate, right? Then tell me which one of you actually died!?”

Su Xue Er froze.

That’s true, neither of us is dead.

Although we indeed carried the [Demon King Order], both of us were fine in the end.

The battle between the 900 million World Layers and the [Demon King Order] ended with the 900 million World Layers’ victory.

“Hmph!” Anna released her grip and scoffed: “If you keep being so soft and weak like this, you won’t even be qualified to stand by Qing Shan’s side”

“Why wouldn’t I be qualified?”

“Because I have never seen him succumb or surrender to Fate” Anna muttered in response.

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Su Xue Er went silent for a while.

“You’re right”

“How ridiculous, a Card user like myself was actually being manipulated by a Card”

Su Xue Er whispered.

Seeing her regaining her fighting spirit, Anna replied with a more satisfied tone: “You can use any kind of Card to fight, but it’s better to not trust this kind of Card that simply likes to stir things up”

She threw the [Predictor of Fate] Card away.

Su Xue Er calmly watched this.

The Card flew and suddenly made a turn in the wind, returned, and stopped in front of Su Xue Er.

“Strange, it can return to you? I’ve never heard of a Card having this kind of power before” Anna said.

Su Xue Er explained: “Since long ago, I’ve already returned this Card to Gu Qing Shan, but for some reason, it still ended up with me”

“Tch, it’s not polite to senselessly stalk a girl”

Saying so, Anna manifested her black scythe of darkness.

The black flames burned.

The entire Card was sliced to pieces and scattered to the wind.

“There” Anna smiled.

Su Xue Er sighed and shook her head.

She reached out her hand and gently grabbed the void of space.

The Card once again appeared in front of the two of them, intact.

Anna was stunned.

“That’s odd, my flames of death are supposedly able to burn anything”

She was in complete disbelief.

Su Xue Er put the Card away and smiled bitterly: “It’s because it knows I’m currently in the middle of a crucial advancement that it’s acting so calm, otherwise it would be urging me to search for the other Cards in its deck”

“If that’s the case, this Card is actually sentient” Anna muttered.

Seeing the [Predictor of Fate] Card that was depicting nothing but graves, Anna suddenly felt a chill for no reason.

She tried to smile: “Just ignore it, there are too many unusual and inexplicable things in the 900 million World Layers, maybe someone will be able to sever its connection to you someday”

“Hm, let’s ignore it for now, we’re going” Su Xue Er replied.

“Let’s go!”

...

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan sensed an immense power raising himself up and spitting him out from another Space-Time.

He looked forward.

There was nothing in front of him.

It was completely dark; he couldn’t see anything.

Strange, what’s going on?

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to observe the situation.

His inner sight was released and expanded without any issue.

Through his inner sight, Gu Qing Shan ‘saw’ himself standing below a giant vortex.

—the unending abyss of broken worlds.

Not too far above him was the floating Bramble Bird ship.

Gu Qing Shan once again confirmed his situation.

He started flying up.

A few moments later, he landed on the deck of the ship.

Lin noticed him right away as she was enjoying her drink.

“Hm? Weren’t you going to look for something? Why are you back already?”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Seems like the time flow between this world and the parallel world was different.

Which means, I didn’t actually leave for very long.

“I’m already done” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Sure enough, Lin also commented: “Then it seems the time flow of that parallel world was different from our world”

Lin looked at Gu Qing Shan and gradually noticed something.

“What’s wrong with your eyes? Why aren’t they moving at all?”

“I don’t know, I can’t see anything right now so I’m just using my inner sight to observe my surroundings”

Gu Qing Shan was also confused.

Lin stood up, walked up to him, and carefully observed his eyes: “You said you wanted to go complete your World Technique, but you can’t see anything after you returned... wait a minute, is your World Technique somehow related to your eye?”

“It is” Gu Qing Shan admitted.

“What a bold idea for a technique— did you come up with it yourself?” Lin sighed and asked.

“That’s right. You know how I kept getting killed by being looked at by the ancient spirit beasts? I’ve been thinking about it for a long time until I came up with it and finally tried to complete this technique” Gu Qing Shan explained.

“Are you sure you’ve completed that technique?”

“Very sure”

“Then this can’t be helped. Even in the Bygone Era, eye techniques were synonymous with being powerful and dangerous. Not to mention, you’re creating a World Technique on the basis of an eye technique, I reckon your eye will need quite a bit of time to recover— or will need some sort of stimulus” Lin explained.

Gu Qing Shan scowled and said: “In other words...”

“Yup, you’re blind”

Lin nodded, then as if afraid that he would be too dejected, added:

“Don’t worry, it’s just temporary, after you recover, your technique can be used again”

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Fine, it doesn’t matter if I can’t see anything for now since inner sight can replace my eyes without issues.

I’m just not very used to seeing only darkness in front of me.

—wait a minute.

The War God UI is still here.

A line of glowing text was flashing on the UI.

[Congratulations, your World Technique has been completed]

[Reminder, as this technique is still in an adaptive state, it would result in some temporary side effects]

[Special note: You’re blind]

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

Fortunately, this is all temporary, and I can use inner sight to see, so there aren’t any big issues right now.

There’s a small issue though—

Gu Qing Shan observed himself and found that his eyes were blankly staring straight forward as it couldn’t see anything.

After some thought, he took out a black piece of cloth, stretched it thin, and used it to cover his eyes.

Seeing him like that, Lin offered him the bottle of liquor: “Here, have a bit to drink. Alcohol promotes blood circulation so you might just recover right away”

Gu Qing Shan received the bottle and was about to drink, but felt an abrupt sense of pain that warped his expression.

Since Lin was looking at him, she immediately noticed the change on his face and felt slightly worried.

“What’s the matter?” she asked in a low tone of voice.

“It’s been a month already, today is the day for the dance” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Lin froze.

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She recalled what happened at the time.

That terrifying dance——

It truly was——

Lin turned around and walked away.

“I’m going below deck. After you’re done, tell me”

Her voice came from far away.

“Alright, I’ll be dancing at the tail of the ship, dancing on the deck makes for too much of an eyesore!”

Gu Qing Shan replied and swiftly dashed toward the tail of the ship.

The Demon Dragon power in his body was already boiling, the sense of prickling pain had already started to spread all over him.

This couldn’t be helped. Although he came up with ways to get rid of the Demon Dragon, the Demon Dragon’s power vastly overwhelmed his own, he had to slowly digest it bit by bit.

——without hesitation, Gu Qing Shan took a readying stance.

To convert the Demon Dragon’s power as my own, to improve my physique and constitution, the Living Being Sacrificial Dance, 1st stage, begins!

Step!

Ready!

Shake shake, shake your head, turn your hips!

One two three four,

Two two three four,

...

Gu Qing Shan had completely mastered this first stage of the dance, so he was able to perform every step and movement without even thinking about it.

As he carefully and meticulously danced, he was soon soaked in sweat.

Following his dancing, notifications occasionally popped up on the War God UI.

[Your resistance against frost had been improved]

[Another strand of the Demon Dragon’s power had been converted; your physique has become slightly more robust]

[Your reaction speed has been improved slightly]

[The functions of your kidney have been improved]

...

Gu Qing Shan continued to dance tirelessly.

At the same time.

On the other side.

Lin had just gone below deck.

Last time, I was instantly sliced apart and killed.

It was such a terrifying power.

Lin shook her head, trying not to recall the pain of being cut into pieces at the time.

She was feeling a bit traumatized by that dance.

But strangely, I've actually forgiven the dancer.

Wait.

Lin cautiously looked around.

—-that's odd, where's Laura?

Lin looked around the cabin below the ship but still couldn't find Laura anywhere.

She paused, then recalled something Laura told her while they were chatting.

...

"The cabin of the ship can lead below deck from this direction, and lead to the tail of the ship on the other side— the tail of the ship is where I keep all my snacks, so if big sis has some free time, you can grab some if you like, all the snacks I collect are nothing but delicious!"

...

This was Laura's own words.

Oh no!

Gu Qing Shan is dancing at the tail of the ship!

Lin's heart sank.

At the time, it was because I had the Abyssal ring and the Eternal characteristic that I was able to revive myself after being cut apart.

But Laura—

Lin didn't have much time to think and hurriedly ran towards the cabin of the ship.

Sure enough, a small door wasn't fully closed at the back of the cabin.

Lin gritted her teeth and went in.

Right away, she saw Gu Qing Shan performing that terrifying dance.

Meanwhile, Laura sat on a chair next to him, clapping her hands.

“Ehehe, big bro, your dancing is so good!”

“Do that one just now again!”

Following the rhythm, Gu Qing Shan performed the same dance step again.

Laura uttered in surprise.

“Whoa, that seemed really hard! Big bro is so cool!”

Following her praise, a soft, faint light emerged from the void of space moved onto her body.

“Huh? What’s this?”

Laura curiously wondered.

She randomly waved her hand towards the outside of the ship.

A cluster of fiery light emerged from her palm, went into the void and accurately hit the corpse of a floating airship.

Instantly, the corpse of the ship turned transparent and vanished into thin air from within the space vortex.

“Whoa, such an impressive ability, are you granting it to me? Thank you so much!”

Laura was speaking to the void of space.

Lin blankly stared at this.

——the difference in treatment between them was so great that she actually felt hurt.

Lin didn’t say a single word, turned around to get back inside the cabin and slammed the door shut.

A few moments later.

Gu Qing Shan finally finished the dance.

As he was about to rest, a sprite of light emerged out from between his eyebrows and turned into the bald old man.

——the strongest Combatant from the Bygone Era!

He had reappeared!

[Long time no see, little one] the bald old man told him.

Gu Qing Shan looked at and greeted him: “Why did you suddenly appear?”

[Because of you, of course. You’ve done well to perform the 1st stage of the dance to this degree, the Demon Dragon’s outer layer of power has already been fully absorbed]

“Then, what now?”

[I came out to inform you that you now need to start learning the 2nd stage of the Dance]

“Sure, do I begin right now?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The bald old man had a serious expression on his face: [Not right now. For the upcoming period of time, you need to eat a bit more and prepare your stamina, only after a certain chance appears would you be able to learn the 2nd stage of the Dance]

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask: “I need to wait for a chance? Is the 2nd stage of the Dance really that hard?”

[Exactly, because it is a group dance]

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The bald old man explained: [Unlike the solo dance, a group dance requires its own spirit and charm. That's why you must prepare yourself in regards to both stamina and mentality]

[When the chance arrives, I will trigger the power of the 2nd stage of the Dance— this power will help you and your back-up dancers in learning this dance, this way, even if it is your first time performing the Dance, there shouldn't be any issues— as long as you try to perform it as best as you can, remember, there mustn't be a single mistake in your movements and dance steps]

“I understand” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Although the bald old man had a solemn look on his face, his flower-patterned shirt, beach shorts, and pink slippers made it so that Gu Qing Shan really couldn't feel any sense of tension.

He had no choice but to keep what the old man said in mind.

[Good, I'll be going first, I also need to stock up a bit of energy] the old man informed him.

“You will also need energy?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Of course, I'll be providing the background music when you dance]

After saying so, the bald old man nodded at Gu Qing Shan.

He turned into a spark of light and entered Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows.

— the projection of the strongest human Combatant of the Bygone Era vanished in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan wiped the sweat off his forehead and fell into thought.

What do you mean by background music?

The Dance isn't a festival, what kind of thing are you trying to pull?

He didn't notice that the door of the cabin was already opened as Lin watched what happened just now with a strange expression.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and went for a shower.

He changed into a set of dry clothes and returned on top of the deck.

Hm...

First, I should probably eat something to store some stamina like he suggested...

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag, took out his cooking apparatus, and began to cook.

He immediately got busy.

A few moments later, a full course meal of spirit cooking had been prepared.

Laura and Lin were both lured by the alluring smell of cooking and silently arrived to help him arrange the table.

Gu Qing Shan took out a bottle of strong liquor for Lin—— when he returned from the corpse of the parallel world, he clearly saw how Lin had already finished the bottle of liquor he put on the side.

“A drink?” he asked.

“Hah, I just ate not too long ago. If I start eating again, I’m definitely going to gain weight”

Lin sighed, received the bottle, poured herself a cup before taking a sip.

Gu Qing Shan chose a bottle of fruit juice for Laura and also offered it to her.

“Here’s your juice” he said.

Laura received the juice from Gu Qing Shan’s hand, then also took a sip before speaking to Lin.

“You know, staying with a cook like Gu Qing Shan makes it so easy for your figure to change—— I think I’ll need to go on a diet soon, being too fat makes it hard to look at myself in the mirror”

The two girls put down their drinks, picked up their bowls and chopsticks, then began sampling each dish.

“Ah? This one is delicious, big sis, you try a bit as well”

“Hm... it’s quite decent. Laura, have a bit of that fish, I think it’ll suit your taste quite well”

“It does, the fish meat is so fresh and so well done”

While talking, their chopsticks were constantly moving around at incredible speed.

Looking at how the girls were digging in; Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but feel a bit confused.

——why do female actions and words frequently don’t match up?

“Hm? Gu Qing Shan, why aren’t you eating?” Laura asked in confusion.

“I—— ah, right, I forgot”

Gu Qing Shan decided not to think about it any further.

Right now, I need to prepare for the 2nd stage of the Living Being Sacrificial Dance, so I must eat as much as I can.

He picked up his bowl and began to eat as well.

...

After the meal.

Lin and Laura helped clean the eating utensils before sitting back down.

The Bramble Bird ship was still sailing through the endless space vortex along a unique route.

The three of them had some tea, occasionally spoke about random things, sometimes stopping for a bit to look at the strange and unusual things drifting through the void outside of the ship.

Laura praised: "Gu Qing Shan, I knew that you were a decent cook, but I didn't think your dancing would be so beautiful as well"

Recalling what happened to the Dance just now, Gu Qing Shan trembled a bit.

He seriously told her: "Laura, from now on, whenever you see me dancing, it's best that you don't suddenly appear"

"But why?" Laura asked.

"This Dance is actually very dangerous; it would sometimes kill people" Gu Qing Shan explained.

"What!? Kill people!?"

Laura was shocked.

"Yes, this was actually an Occult-type Dance, a completely unpredictable— do you know what the Occult is?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Occult-type... that should be quite rare to see. I remember there being countless treasures in my vault, but only one Occult-type treasure— apparently, it's the most uncommon among Mystic-type powers" Laura replied.

"That's right, so you have to be careful" Gu Qing Shan told her.

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"But that Dance just now gave me an ability, and it was so catchy as well, I almost wanted to dance along" Laura replied.

Just as Gu Qing Shan was about to say something, he stopped.

Wait a minute.

The 2nd stage of the Living Being Sacrificial Dance is a group dance.

Unlike other people, Laura was actually able to obtain an ability from this Dance.

Maybe she's suitable to perform this Dance with me?

Thinking about that, Gu Qing Shan hesitated a bit.

"Regardless, I need to tell you about it so that you understand. Don't try to ridicule this Dance despite how it seems, this is very important" Gu Qing Shan finally told her.

"Got it!"

Laura smiled brightly, then looked down and searched inside her backpack.

"An Occult-type item, even this Empress only has a single one, now where did I put it..."

After a while of searching, she stopped.

"Found it!"

Laura took a certain thing out.

Gu Qing Shan and Lin both turned to her.

It was a broken-looking wooden arm that had been painted red all over with a single closed eye in the middle of its palm.

"I have a very uncomfortable feeling looking at this thing, perhaps even a bit fearful" Lin scowled and said.

"I actually don't like these things a lot either—-- what kind of girl would?" Laura sympathized with her, "The Occult is too mysterious, my father used to say that it was rare for such things to show up, but whenever one did, it would always appear in this incomplete-looking state"

Laura waved the broken arm and explained: "This thing here can only be used twice. When I obtained it, it was already used once, so it only has one more use"

"What can it do?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

At this point, the broken arm suddenly moved by itself.

The eye in the arm's palm opened and looked towards Laura.

「 Young lady, you must be looking forward to returning to your kingdom; but I really must warn you, you are currently heading towards danger 」

The arm spoke with a hoarse voice.

Laura explained to Gu Qing Shan and Lin: "It can detect what the user wants to do as well as the brief future of the user, if the situation is very dangerous, it would help the user find their mutual saviour"

"How does it detect the danger, and can it be trusted?" Lin asked.

"I don't understand either" Laura turned to ask the broken arm: "Hey, what kind of danger did you say I was going to run into?"

The broken arm responded: 「 A large number of Professionalists are currently heading towards you, either to capture or to kill you, this was their order 」

The three of them went silent.

Gu Qing Shan and Lin's expression became solemn.

Someone was going after Laura.

Even if they had to face the might of the Bramble Bird Kingdom and the Bramble Saint Tree itself, they were still willing to attempt it.

This meant that they weren't regular people.

Seeing Gu Qing Shan and Lin's expressions, Laura muttered: "That shouldn't be possible, this ship of mine is currently under camouflage, unless they had a special way to specifically target it, they shouldn't be able to find us"

The broken arm continued: 「 And that is exactly what they have 」

As Laura was about to ask something else, Gu Qing Shan signaled her to not be impatient.

He asked the broken arm himself: "Who ordered them to come here?"

「 Unsure, I only know what kind of danger the person holding me is going to face, but not the specifics behind such danger 」 the broken arm replied.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Just now, she said 'mutual saviour' — what is a mutual saviour?"

「 This item has one use left, the little girl can activate the power of this item and save an unknown person who might, in the future, return the favor and help the little girl — this is the so-called mutual saviour 」

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and questioned further: "Why does such a thing like a mutual saviour exist?"

「 That is simply this item's rules, it is impossible to guarantee that after you saved the other party, the other party would definitely save you in return, who can actually predict such things? 」 the broken arm replied.

Gu Qing Shan asked again: "After both uses, what would happen to you?"

The broken arm answered: 「 I will then search for my body — after all, I am only a broken arm 」

The three looked up and exchanged glances.

"Use it Laura. Saving people isn't a bad thing, and they might actually save you in return in some far future" Gu Qing Shan told her.

Laura tilted her head for a bit, then put the broken arm into Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Gu Qing Shan looked at her in confusion.

Laura inhaled and smiled: “I don’t need anyone to save me”

“Why not?”

“Because if I run into any danger, I have you, Gu Qing Shan. As the Duke of our Kingdom, you surely won’t allow me to be killed by anyone, right?”

“Of course, I would naturally save you”

“Then that’s fine, I won’t need this thing, but you aren’t the same. You might face even more danger than I ever do, so it’s best that you use it”

Gu Qing Shan was feeling a bit emotional, unsure of what to tell her in response.

Laura tried asking the broken arm.

“Hey, now that he’s holding you— do you think he’s currently safe?”

「 Safe? 」

The broken arm opened its eye wide and answered straight: 「 The thing he’s trying to do is too incredible, there’s probably not going to be such a thing as a time when he’s ‘safe’ 」

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Regardless of how Gu Qing Shan tried to refuse, Laura insisted that he use that broken arm.

She even threatened him that if he doesn’t need it, she would simply throw it away into the space vortex.

Having no other choice, Gu Qing Shan accepted her goodwill.

As he held the wooden arm, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Occult-type item: A Lending Hand (two-of-a-kind: because there is the other arm)]

[This item is able to detect and understand the wielder’s inner wish, predicting any danger that might arrive in the wielder’s future, as well as bypassing the limit of Space-Time to save a mutual saviour of the wielder]

[Remaining use: 1/2]

[How to use:]

[Step 1: Pick it up;]

[Step 2: Use it to grab the void of space]

[Step 3: Save and transport a mutual saviour who’s in a state of danger to where you are]

Gu Qing Shan silently felt amazed.

This item had three functions by itself, while also having the ability to save someone in danger bypassing the limit of Space-Time.

—Mystic-type as a whole had always been known for being powerful, and among them, Occultism was infamous for being especially so.

However, Occultism items were too uncommon, so uncommon that one might not even know of their existence in their entire life.

“How do you use this thing, is it difficult?”

Lin was standing with her arms crossed on the side, asking with intrigue.

Gu Qing Shan read through the glowing lines of text on the War God UI and replied:

“Doesn’t seem to be very hard”

Saying so, he held the shoulder end of the wooden arm and tried grabbing something in the void of space.

The arm swept through the void of space, then returned.

—without catching anything.

The three of them all felt confused.

“Hey, why didn’t you catch any mutual saviour just now?” Laura couldn’t help herself asking.

「 It’s like this— I did grab someone in danger just now, but he immediately breathed his last, so I let him go 」 the wooden arm replied.

“That’s not very trustworthy” Gu Qing Shan said with disappointment.

The eye on the wooden arm opened wide and explained: 「 Brat, you should have some self-consciousness 」

“Self-consciousness?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The wooden arm helplessly explained: 「 It’s extremely hard to find someone suitable to be the mutual saviour for someone like you 」

“Then what should I do now?” Gu Qing Shan also had nothing to say.

「 Let me look again, I’ll take a good long look this time around 」

The eye on the wooden arm looked into the void, constantly shifting around as if to peer into countless worlds.

All of a sudden, it loudly shouted:

「 Hurry, use everything you have and grab again— I found an excellent ally for you, but he’s in such extreme danger that he’s already about to die 」

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly wielded the wooden arm and reached into the void of space again.

Learning from his experience, Gu Qing Shan even used a sword seal in order to speed it up and quickly grab the dying person.

The wooden arm sunk into the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt the arm becoming heavy.

“Got them!”

He shouted, both hands grabbing the wooden arm and suddenly pulled back...

...

At the same time.

The 900 million World Layers.

The Fallen Zones.

A certain ruined world that was close to the Strife Zones.

The Soul Shrieker was looking down from above.

The world was shaking, trembling, collapsing.

Under its constant attacks, the world was about to be thoroughly destroyed.

「『 Against the countless [Chaos], even you will lose your life 』』 the Soul Shrieker declared triumphantly.

Facing him, the man was kneeling with one knee on the ground, wiping blood from the corner of his mouth.

He calmly replied: “It’s a shame my main body isn’t here, otherwise—”

The Soul Shrieker curtly replied: 「『 You won’t have the chance. I’m constantly gaining more and more power from [Chaos] as we speak. By the time your main body makes it to this place from the bottom of the Eternal Abyss, I will no longer fear you 』』

『 『 Now die! 』 』

Endless power erupted from its body.

The void of space itself was warped and spread to both sides.

Within the intense wind, an attack that contained the power of [Chaos] arrived!

The man heavily sighed as his gaze became sharp.

Even if this is the last moment of my life, I will face it head on!

He was about to attack with all his strength as well.

Boom!

The boundless power of [Chaos] emerged and pressed down on him in an unstoppable manner.

Right at this moment, a strange wooden arm suddenly reached out, grabbed the man, then vanished from this world.

「『NO——!』』

The Soul Shrieker furiously roared.

In the blink of an eye, it had reached the ground.

But there was already nothing left.

Only the lingering scent of scattering spatial fluctuations remained.

The Soul Shrieker quickly crouched down, closed its eyes, and carefully sensed the spatial fluctuations.

『『It's close to the Mystic Zones...』』

『『Too far away』』 the Soul Shrieker regretfully said, 『『No, I need to travel the Strife Zones and eliminate the [Order], this is the most important matter right now!』』

It stood up, leapt into the air, and left the destroyed world

...

On the other side.

Bam!

A figure dropped on the ground.

When everyone looked, they found that it was a man covered in dust.

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The man was heavily wounded all over his body, enough for him to pass out from it.

The wooden arm sighed in relief and spoke: 『『There, he's still breathing, although just barely. But for entities like him, as long as he isn't attacked by 'that' kind of power, he'll gradually heal just fine』』

『『My work here is done, farewell』』

The wooden arm waved to Gu Qing Shan, Laura, and Lin.

It shot straight up and vanished from their sights.

The three of them pulled back their gazes and turned back to the ground.

The man seemed to have been dug out from some sort of collapsed ruin, covered in so much dust that his face couldn't be seen.

"Who's he?" Laura asked.

"If you don't know, I definitely don't know" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He formed a hand seal.

It was the Cleansing seal.

All the dust detached from his body and scattered outside the Bramble Bird ship.

The man's appearance and clothing were now clearly visible to everyone.

Looking at him Lin was a bit shocked.

Why does he look like the legendary...

She silently muttered, crouched down, and carefully checked the man on the ground.

There are no abnormalities with his body.

This is a completely normal human male with a trendy hairstyle as well as a pair of black sunglasses on his nose.

How could that personage know about any of this?

Even more importantly, with how terrifyingly strong that personage is, how could he have gotten beat up to this degree?

—right, it's completely impossible.

Lin slowly calmed down.

Gu Qing Shan checked the man's wounds.

"Hm... he's wounded quite badly, but the wooden arm claimed that he wouldn't die, so I'll give him some first aid before anything else"

Gu Qing Shan said.

At this point, the Bramble Bird ship abruptly rumbled and stopped in place.

As if something had stopped the ship in its tracks not letting it travel forward.

Lin and Laura looked up at the same time.

In the space vortex just ahead of them, airships after airships were manifesting out of thin air.

These airships were so numerous that they had completely blocked their forward path.

"Let's change direction" Lin said indifferently.

"There's no time" Laura replied.

More and more ships were showing up all around them.

These airships had completely surrounded Laura's ship, making sure that there wasn't a single gap where they could slip out from.

A group of Professionalists jumped out from the airships towards the Bramble Bird ship.

"Give us the Bramble Bird Empress!"

The leader shouted.

Laura ran to hide behind Gu Qing Shan and poked him with her finger: "What now? I'm not an expert at fighting"

Gu Qing Shan still concentrated on treating the man's wounds.

"Lin"

He simply replied.

Lin looked at him, then looked at Laura's begging expression and smiled: "Usually I won't refuse a fight, but..."

"Is something troubling you, big sis?" Laura asked right away.

"I'm not troubled by anything, it's just that swatting flies is a really boring job" Lin replied.

Her slender body lowered just a bit, took a stance on the ship, and slowly threw a single punch towards the void of space.

While it was indeed just a single punch...

On its way forward, the punch vibrated countless times at a practically imperceivable speed before reaching its pinnacle.

In front, behind, above, below, left, right.

All the Professionals and their airships that surrounded the Bramble Bird ship were crushed all at once by the abrupt shockwaves that appeared out of nowhere.

Within the space vortex, the bright red hue suddenly filled the air, then was swiftly swept away by the intense wind.

This was an incredible level of martial arts expertise.

At her peak, Lin was simply this powerful!

The rowdy space vortex returned to peace by a single punch.

"I really don't like to bully the weak, but if you're provoking me, you should be responsible for your own life and death"

Lin pulled her punch back and calmly said.

...

At the same time.

In the faraway Strife Zones.

The Abyssal Demon Dragon was standing among countless treasures, carefully checking the recorded treasure list.

All of a sudden, a devout and panicked voice sounded from the void of space:

[Benevolent God, we have something to report to you]

The Demon Dragon couldn't help but scowl, continued checking the treasures, and spoke: 「What is it? My believer」

[The people we sent to the hidden current within the space vortex leading into the Mystic Zones, tasked with intercepting the Bramble Bird Empress' ship have all been killed]

「What?!」

The Demon Dragon abruptly looked up and solemnly questioned.

The voice became even tenser and continued to report: [A Combatant that is far above what we can handle is protecting the Bramble Bird Empress. She killed everyone on our side in the blink of an eye]

「Was it the Bramble Great Tree?」

[It was not, according to our analysis, it was the Empress' personal guard]

「Personal guard? Very well, I understand, you are dismissed」

[Yes]

The Abyssal Demon Dragon silently stood still in thought for a while.

「Such a powerful guard... how strange」

He muttered and slowly made his decision.

「Seems like I'll have to make a trip myself」

「Regardless of what happens, the Empress of the treasures must become my slave!」

Chapter 964

The Bramble Bird ship was speeding across the space vortex.

The Professionists that were sent to surround the ship had been wiped out and returned to dust.

The space vortex regained its calm.

It was almost as if the multitudes of Professionists just now were a still image that forced its way in front of Gu Qing Shan's group just to vanish a second later.

Gu Qing Shan stood up.

The man's wounds had been treated, but Gu Qing Shan didn't know when he would wake up again.

The man was laying on the deck of the ship, still unconscious.

—can this guy that was randomly grabbed by the wooden arm really save me in a future crisis?

Gu Qing Shan was a bit uncertain, looking at the man.

But he truly was saved from grave danger from within the void of space just now.

Gu Qing Shan didn't understand the power of Occultism, but he had already experienced it first-hand.

There was nothing they could do now except to wait for him to wake up.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to observe the space vortex and found that every Professionalist had already been killed by Lin.

"Did you kill them all?" he couldn't help but ask.

"You told me to act, is there a problem?" Lin asked in reply.

Gu Qing Shan just smiled back: "There aren't any problems, so of course not, well done"

But he couldn't hide the regret in his voice.

——all he has now was a pathetic 2 Soul Points, so if there were any emergencies, he wouldn't be able to use a lot of his abilities.

Lin thought about it a bit and slowly understood.

"I remember now, you seem to have some sort of strange [Order] that allows you to collect Soul Points from those you kill—— then I should've just crippled them instead" Lin said.

Seeing her regretful expression, Gu Qing Shan tried to console her instead: "It's ok, we'll wait until the next time there are enemies"

"It has to be enemies that are stronger than you are, right?" Lin asked with a pondering expression on her face.

"They can be the same level as I am as well" Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight, saw the itching look on Lin's face and quickly added: "——and I don't usually kill just anybody, I only kill enemies that I've confirmed as targets to die"

Hearing him, Lin understood what he was worried about and spoke full of implications: "Hah, you sure have a lot of requests, I didn't think you'd be such a saint"

"I'm not as virtuous as you're saying, but if you just randomly catch people for me to kill, I wouldn't be able to do it" Gu Qing Shan smiled bitterly.

The two of them suddenly stopped.

A bright flash of light appeared in the space vortex.

This flash of light was so fast that it reached the deck of the Bramble Bird ship in the blink of an eye.

Dong!

The entire ship was rocking a bit from the impact.

A rock person wearing a full suit of grey armor appeared in front of the three of them.

"The master of the Southern Cross Nebulae world!" Laura shouted in surprise.

"An acquaintance?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

As he observed the other party, he felt a familiar presence from him.

In the Age of Old, Gu Qing Shan used a Soul Artifact to transform into an Indestructible Giant, so he recognized the bit of Indestructible Giant presence that the rock person standing in front of him carried.

This was quite a formidable elemental life form.

“He’s an entity that has surpassed Lord-class, the strongest member of the earth elemental race. In the 900 million World Layers, he is one of the few who stands at the peak” Laura whispered.

The bulky rock person obviously noticed Laura.

He was a bit surprised and asked: 「 Bramble Bird Empress? Then, it was you and your subordinates who saved him? 」

“Who?” Laura was a bit confused.

The master of the Southern Cross Nebulae world pointed to the floor.

The three of them looked down to see that he was pointing at the unconscious man.

“I saved him, so?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The rock person grinned:

「 Then it couldn’t be helped. My master is too far away from this place, so they ordered me to take this guy away and kill those who saved him 」

He moved his neck around a bit, giving off chilling killing intent, and locked onto Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan was silently surprised.

This guy didn’t seem to have come here for Laura, but for the man I saved.

In other words, there are currently two groups with their attention on this ship.

One side wants to capture Laura.

The other side wants to capture this unconscious man.

This is such a complicated situation that it almost feels like the advent of a storm.

Gu Qing Shan opened his palm and silently wielded the Earth sword.

Next to him, Laura was anxious: “Master of the Southern Cross Nebulae world, what are you doing—— I can pay you anything you ask, as long as you are willing to ignore his matter”

While talking, a projection of the Bramble Great Tree had already manifested behind her.

Even while surrounded by so many people earlier, Laura didn’t call upon the Bramble Great Tree.

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But now, she had immediately summoned it.

The rock person looked at the Bramble Great Tree with a cautious expression: 「 If this was any other time, I would be willing to accept this proposal, but not this time. No wealth or treasure could possibly compare to what master is about to grant me 」

Laura was a bit worried and tried to offer more, but Lin stopped her.

Lin stepped in front to shield her and glanced at Gu Qing Shan.

“This guy seems to be a bit stronger than you” she commented.

“Hm” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“And he wants to capture your mutual saviour”

“Hm”

“He wants to kill you”

“Hm”

“Still going to be a saint?” Lin teased him.

“I’ve never been a saint, you know that” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Hmph”

Recalling what happened in the past, Lin scoffed in irritation.

Why isn’t this guy afraid of me anymore?

Should I teach him a small lesson?

While Lin was contemplating this, the earth elemental Combatant had already attacked them from lack of patience.

「 Die! 」

He shouted and vanished from where he stood.

At the same time, Lin also moved.

She lightly dashed forward, raised her long leg straight up, and swiftly chopped down.

Gu Qing Shan followed suit and swung the Earth sword upwards.

———life extinguished.

Pieces of rocks and rubble fell to the floor of the ship, scattered everywhere.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You killed an Earth elemental Combatant: Master of the Southern Cross Nebulae world (since it didn’t name itself, I can only call it that)]

[You obtained 49,998 Soul Points]

[Remaining Soul Points: 50000/600]

[Reminder: This combat was a bit shameless, going slightly against the War God System's rules]

Gu Qing Shan scowled and said: "I know you also took a bit of Soul Points, so either talk properly, or spit the Soul Points you took back out, choose!"

The War God UI froze briefly.

The last line of glowing text vanished.

Replaced by another line:

[I really must say, this was a perfect 2-person coordinated attack!]

Gu Qing Shan glanced over and ignored the UI.

Now that he has 50,000 Soul Points, he would have a lot more options in battle.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit more assured.

"Oh no" Lin suddenly said.

"What's the matter?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"We killed him too quickly and forgot to ask who his master was" Lin replied.

Gu Qing Shan said: "Laura, you seem to recognize him, do you know anything else?"

Laura shook her head and replied: "This level of Combatant is already among the strongest of the 900 million World Layers, I really don't know who would be able to order him around"

Lin added: "Furthermore, killing Gu Qing Shan was only a side job, the main thing he came here for was to bring your mutual saviour away"

All of them turned to look at the unconscious man.

— he was still completely out cold, unsure when he would wake up.

Laura sighed: "I didn't believe that this guy would be Gu Qing Shan's mutual saviour either, but if his enemy is at the level of the master of the Southern Cross Nebulae world, I trust that a bit more now"

Gu Qing Shan made a simple hand seal.

The man floated up, flew into a certain room below deck, and landed on a bed.

Gu Qing Shan said: "I can't really depend on him to save me right now, but maybe he'll help me get a bit more Soul Points"

The ship suddenly started to slow down.

"Is someone else here?" Lin asked.

"That's not it" Laura looked around her and smiled: "We've just made it to the current that leads into the Mystic Zones. We're about to arrive at my kingdom"

The scenery around them changed.

A giant old tree stood in the middle of the space vortex.

The ship seemed like an insignificant speck of dust in front of this tree.

— they had finally arrived!

Chapter 965

The Strife Zones.

A thoroughly destroyed world.

Intense wind was howling.

Pieces of the destroyed world were whisked away by the intense wind into the space vortex, vanishing from sight.

At a certain point.

Su Xue Er tossed a Card outward.

An assassin wielding dual daggers jumped out from the Card and charged at his opponent.

— Su Xue Er's opponent was a famous Combatant, someone at the peak of Lord-class, and a person of great prestige within the Strife Zones.

"Only this?"

The Combatant scoffed and blocked the bloody assassin's attack.

Anna suddenly threw her black scythe at him.

The scythe turned into a mass of black flames, then erupted as a pillar of glittering obsidian light as it struck the Combatant.

"Aargh!"

The Combatant groaned in pain, having no choice but to resist the obsidian light with all his strength.

"Hurry, Su Xue Er!" Anna called out.

"I know!"

Under the black flames, an ocean of red surged and swelled like a brewing storm.

Su Xue Er drew a Card from the void of space before throwing it out.

"Shadow Blood Cocoon, drain all his strength!"

Su Xue Er loudly declared.

The Card turned into a blood-colored cocoon that enveloped the Combatant.

"Meaningless stalling, if it was your master, then maybe it would have actually worked!"

The Combatant's angered roars could be heard from inside the cocoon.

Anna focused on maintaining her stance and whispered to Su Xue Er: "Looks like it won't be able to contain him"

"Right"

Su Xue Er said while clutching the wound on her shoulder.

— in the end, they were still stopped by their pursuers.

They were forced into a tough battle of attrition.

Despite them retreating as they fought, more pursuers kept catching up with them, each wave more powerful than the last.

By the time they reached this world, they had already exhausted a vast majority of their powers.

And right away, they ran into an unprecedentedly powerful opponent.

Even now, they weren't able to kill him.

But they couldn't drag this any longer!

A sense of chill silently spread in their minds.

— something was quickly approaching this world.

"Risk it, if that doesn't work, we can only try to exchange our lives with his" Anna gritted her teeth.

"I'm first"

Su Xue Er drew a blood-colored Card and wielded it in her hand as she spoke.

"Does it matter who goes first!? This is no time to be competing" Anna angrily refuted her.

All of a sudden, the two of them looked up.

A girl was silently descending from the grey-filled sky above.

She was wearing a beautiful set of female cultivator clothing, wielding a Blade in her hand as she charged towards the blood cocoon.

"An ally?" Anna quickly asked.

"No, I don't know" Su Xue Er stared closely at the woman and replied.

"But she seems to be—"

Before they could finish their short exchange, the situation had already changed.

— boom!

The Shadow Blood Cocoon collapsed,

The Combatant had reappeared, his punch still mid-flight.

At that split second.

The girl landed on the ground.

A gleam of the Blade flashed across their eyes.

Such a fast stroke!

Su Xue Er and Anna both opened their mouths wide, staring blankly at it.

That Blade attack suddenly bloomed to its fullest, exerting all of its wielder's power in the blink of an eye, it completely disregarded the consequences and even the possibility of survival.

What an amazing attack.

Just what kind of person would you have to be to make such an attack?

This was a killing slash!

—oong!

The intense Blade phantom was suppressed to its very limit, only erupting after it went past the neck of its enemy.

The shockwaves of the Blade slash turned into a strong gust of wind that blew the severed head away, sending it completely out of sight.

Only the headless body blankly remained.

The girl sheathed her Blade.

Pfft!

She spat out some blood.

She took the perfect chance to unleash that attack, exhausting all of her mental and physical power, completely bypassing the restraints of difference in strength and eliminating an enemy vastly stronger than herself.

After wiping the blood from her mouth, the girl turned around to look at Su Xue Er and Anna.

“Shen Wu world human General, Ning Yue Chan, greetings”

Ning Yue Chan seemed completely exhausted, her entire body appeared travel-worn; clearly, she had arrived after hurrying with all her strength.

Su Xue Er stared blankly at Ning Yue Chan, and so did Anna.

—she clearly isn't much stronger than I am, but that attack just now was enough to cause even the heaven and earth itself to pale in comparison.

This is an amazing girl.

Su Xue Er barely managed to stand straight up with Anna's help and walked in front of Ning Yue Chan.

“Was it you?” she asked.

“It’s me, I’ve been constantly tracking your location” Ning Yue Chan replied.

“Come, let us finish this quickly” Su Xue Er put her hand forward.

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“Very well”

Ning Yue Chan also put her hand forward and pressed it against Su Xue Er’s palm.

Following their actions, a line of blood-red text appeared in their vision.

[Fusion begin]

[5]

[4]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[Worlds Apocalypse Online: Demon King Ascension has awoken once more]

[The Order was the Demon King of Condemnation: Gu Qing Shan’s personal Demon King Order in the Age of Old]

[The Order had sensed the Demon King of Condemnation’s current position]

[The Mystic Zones, Bramble Bird Kingdom]

[If Gu Qing Shan wants to survive in the Chaos, he must quickly become one with me!]

Reading this description, Su Xue Er opened her eyes wide.

Ning Yue Chan also pursed her lips.

This really was related to his survival.

Su Xue Er forced a smile towards Ning Yue Chan and said: “You said you were... Ning Yue Chan? Thank you for your attack earlier, leave the rest to us. We will find Gu Qing Shan; you can now return back to safety”

Ning Yue Chan remained silent briefly before shaking her head: “I’ll travel with you. I also need to look for him”

Su Xue Er and Anna’s hearts jumped for no clear reason.

What does she mean by that?

Su Xue Er’s complexion went pale and was about to ask her.

But Ning Yue Chan took out a medallion before she could ask and showed it to both Su Xue Er and Anna in the palm of her hand.

The medallion gave off an overflowing emerald glow and carried a certain sense of vicissitudes.

“The Bramble Bird Kingdom’s Empress Guard medallion— which means, you’re a person of the Bramble Bird Kingdom?” Anna asked.

“It can’t be faked” Ning Yue Chan replied.

“But earlier, you said that you were a General from Shen Wu world” Su Xue Er doubtfully asked.

Ning Yue Chan casually admitted: “That is my homeworld— before leaving that place, I didn’t know that there were so many terrifically powerful worlds”

“Your homeworld is a scattered world?”

“That’s right”

Su Xue Er and Anna exchanged glances.

They both felt a sense of empathy towards her.

That’s right, before entering the 900 million World Layers, who could actually know that their original world was as small as it was?

She’s a person of the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

Even without the need to look for Gu Qing Shan, she would have to return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

“Alright, we’ll travel together, but since both of us are wounded, I’m afraid that we would be holding you back” Su Xue Er tried probing her.

Ning Yue Chan smiled gently.

“That’s fine, although we don’t know each other, the two of you are currently in a lot of danger. And with so many wounds, I wouldn’t be able to leave you two in peace”

Su Xue Er and Anna froze again.

If anyone else had said these words, that would give off an impression of being fake or purposefully trying to appear friendly.

But when Ning Yue Chan said it, they felt like that was naturally the case.

—she was truly thinking that.

She was truly such a person.

Su Xue Er and Anna’s impressions of her improved a bit.

“Let’s move quickly, I have a bad feeling about staying here” Ning Yue Chan scowled and said.

“I also have the same feeling, let’s go” Su Xue Er agreed.

“Hm, let’s go” Anna also agreed.

The three girls left this world.

About half an hour later.

An overpowering gigantic figure appeared above this world.

An Abyssal Behemoth.

The Soul Shrieker jumped down from the Behemoth’s back.

Dong!

It landed in this barren, broken world, closed its eyes, and silently sensed its surroundings.

A few moments later, its half-man, half-woman face displayed a smirk.

「 『...They haven’t left for long; I can quickly catch up 』 」

「 『 Everything will be over soon! 』 」

The Soul Shrieker leapt into the sky once again.

...

At another location.

The Mystic Zones.

The Bramble Bird Kingdom.

Gu Qing Shan met Ye Fei Li in the royal palace.

“You mean, the fact that I was declared a Duke was actually a way for you to contact Zhang Ying Hao?”
Ye Fei Li asked.

“That’s right, I didn’t think you’d actually go to the 900 million World Layers. But it’s also a good thing, now that you’re already here, we’d save a lot of trouble” Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

Ye Fei Li smiled bitterly: “I was already prepared to fight my way through the worlds, but ended up with boundless wealth and authority instead—— I’ll be honest, I still don’t find any of this to be real”

Gu Qing Shan told him: “You’ve actually arrived at a decent time, a battle is about to begin, and I’m lacking support”

“What do you need me to do?” Ye Fei Li solemnly asked.

“First of all, we need to find the [Demon King Order]” Gu Qing Shan told him.

“The [Demon King Order]?”

“It’s...”

Gu Qing Shan meticulously explained the situation to Ye Fei Li.

At this point, a guard arrived from outside and reported to everyone: "A man called Zhang Zong Yang claiming himself to be a relative of Duke Ye is outside asking to meet Duke Ye"

Laura turned to Gu Qing Shan and asked: "Is it the one you wanted to contact?"

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and swept outside the palace, then laughed.

"That's right, he's finally here"

Chapter 966

While waiting for Zhang Ying Hao to arrive, Ye Fei Li and Gu Qing Shan talked a bit about their homeworld's current situation.

"So, you made it to the top of the Tower of Infinite Worlds?" Gu Qing Shan asked with interest.

"Ah, yeah. Thanks to you bringing that thing out, I grew stronger so fast" Ye Fei Li replied.

"So, how hard was it to climb?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"The entire process felt like a dungeon crawler game— as you know, I'm an expert at things like these" Ye Fei Li triumphantly boasted.

"Have Barry and Kitty also climbed to the top?"

"They haven't. Since the presence of the Abyss keeps penetrating into the 900 million World Layers, not even scattered worlds are able to avoid the issue. They've been busy keeping things under control, occasionally they'd travel to the 900 million World Layers and silently save their friends"

"Right, why isn't Liao Xing here? With so many unknown matters in the 900 million World Layers, I was sure he'd be interested" Gu Qing Shan felt it a bit strange.

"About that— erm, how should I say it, you should know, he has a lot of children"

"Right, I'm quite clear about that" Gu Qing Shan nodded.

When he first contacted Liao Xing, this was the first thing that left the deepest impression on Gu Qing Shan.

"He has too many children, the oldest of which can already get married— so he's been busy with worrying about his kids. Things like buying houses, cars, finding jobs for them, so on and so forth"

"The Apocalypse is coming and they're still worried about jobs..."

"Of course, you're going to need money as long as you're alive, there's no way around it. Criminals have all been executed by Impartial Goddess"

"Are things really that chaotic?"

"No, without the Abyssal calamity, our homeworld is actually quite well-off. With the 6 realms of the Samsara fused into one, it's a scene of prosperity everywhere— in fact, Barry and Kitty have been living quite well, I even feel like they're a bit unwilling to leave"

"Is that so, well..."

Recalling their destitute appearance when he met them, as well as the two infinite-balance credit cards that Impartial Goddess gave them, Gu Qing Shan nodded in understanding.

Now that I think about it, it's been a very long time since I returned, I wonder how far Impartial Goddess has evolved.

While Gu Qing Shan was lost in thought, the guards escorted a person into the room.

He seemed like a gentleman among men, wearing a pair of glasses with a cigarette in his mouth, both hands in his pockets.

It was Zhang Ying Hao.

"I feel like it's been a long time since we met"

He greeted them.

Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li grinned, then moved up to give him a group hug.

"I heard you've been making preparations to kill 'God' after I left?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"You're my business partner, my losses are immeasurable if you die, so I had to get it back somehow" Zhang Ying Hao replied.

They exchanged glances—

"Wait a minute, oi, what's wrong with your eyes?" Zhang Ying Hao asked with a pale complexion.

"It's fine, I've been training a certain technique recently so my eyes aren't able to see anything for now" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Ah, so that's what it was"

Zhang Ying Hao calmed down.

He walked up to the sofa before plopping down and placing his foot on the table.

"I'm dead tired from the trip, you got anything to eat? It's been days since I last ate something"

He said relaxedly.

Even after going through various kinds of baptism, he was still able to keep up his natural casual manner.

— or perhaps hitmen were simply that way.

The Bramble Bird Kingdom's palace was basically safe, and since his good brothers Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li were here, there was no need for Zhang Ying Hao to act stiffly as he always did.

"We'll get something to eat later on, let me introduce everyone first"

Gu Qing Shan then started introducing everyone to each other.

"This is the Bramble Bird Empress, Laura"

Laura smiled brightly: "Greetings, everyone, I've heard much about you all from Gu Qing Shan, I hope you will enjoy a great time in my kingdom"

"Naturally" Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li responded at once.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "This person is, erm, my elder sister, her name is Lin"

Lin waved her hand to greet them.

"Huh? Since when did you have an elder sister" Zhang Ying Hao was confused.

"Long lost for many years, long lost for many, many years"

Gu Qing Shan glossed it over.

He then turned to Lin and Laura: "This one is Ye Fei Li, my good friend"

Ye Fei Li awkwardly waved to greet the two ladies.

Lin stared at Ye Fei Li for a long while and curiously asked: "I can tell that you are a World Destroyer, your evolution was stopped half-way, then suddenly changed into a perfect evolution——— how unusual, what kind of ability do you have now?"

She had always been interested in new abilities.

Ye Fei Li originally didn't want to say anything, but then he recalled that this woman was Gu Qing Shan's elder sister, and the way they interacted with each other was quite casual so it didn't seem to be fake.

If we aren't outsiders, it would be a good thing to know more about one another, that way it would make it better to fight alongside one another later on.

——perhaps this was Gu Qing Shan's intention when he introduced everyone.

With that in mind, Ye Fei Li explained: "My fighting strength isn't much to talk about, but this is my unique ability"

As he reached his hand out, an invisible power gathered on the palm of his hand and manifested as a can of drinks.

"What is this?" Gu Qing Shan asked with interest.

"A Soul Points Beverage" Ye Fei Li mysteriously answered.

"Soul Points Beverage? How have I not heard of it before?" Lin questioned further.

Ye Fei Li replied: "This is just what I named it——— whenever I cause damage to an enemy, I'm able to absorb their Soul Points, store it, then convert that Soul Points into various kinds of drinks as I wish"

"What are the drinks good for?" Zhang Ying Hao was also interested.

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"The most basic function is to heal wounds, but later on I was able to create power batteries—— spirit energy, mental power, mana, energy in general, I can replenish them all" Ye Fei Li explained.

Gu Qing Shan muses: “That... Why does that sound like recovery items in games?”

“That’s exactly it!”

Ye Fei Li excitedly said: “As long as I cause damage to an opponent, I’d be able to steal their Soul Points and directly store it and use as recovery items whenever we go up against particularly powerful enemies”

Everyone went silent.

This guy is too addicted to games.

Zhang Ying Hao silently thought.

“A very interesting power, truly an eye-opener” Lin expressed satisfaction with learning about this ability.

Laura thought for a bit before asking: “Then, how do these drinks taste?”

Hearing this question, Ye Fei Li deflated: “The taste is random, I’ve been trying over and over, but still haven’t found a way to control it”

“Can I have a try?” Laura seemed eager.

“What do you need to replenish?”

“Normal bodily energy”

“Wait a minute— there, here you go”

Laura received the can and popped it open.

She carefully took a sip.

“Ah? That tasted like champagne”

Laura took another sip, then became hysterical.

“This is perfect! I don’t have to be afraid of getting fat anymore!”

She shouted.

Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao were both confused.

Gu Qing Shan and Lin both understood right away.

If she’s able to directly replenish energy expenditures this way, wouldn’t that mean Laura is able to grab even more treasures?

—unless Ye Fei Li’s Soul Points reserve runs out, Laura wouldn’t have to worry about eating too full or becoming fat from eating.

That’s impressive!

Sure enough, Laura randomly put her hand into the void of space.

A big handful of ancient gold coins fell to the ground.

“Ahahaha, from now on, no one will be able to stop me from looking for treasures!” Laura happily declared.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and asked: “Fei Li, can you directly manifest the Soul Points you steal into beverages without converting it?”

“I can, it would actually take less effort” Ye Fei Li eagerly declared.

Gu Qing Shan patted him on the shoulder: “Very good!”

He was a bit glad.

From now on, I have another source of Soul Points.

But more importantly——

This source doesn't get subjected to the War God UI's robbery!

This source doesn't get subjected to the War God UI's robbery!

This source doesn't get subjected to the War God UI's robbery!

Importantly matters need to be said three times!

Ye Fei Li then said: “Hey, enough about me, what abilities do you have?”

Laura pulled out a compass from the void of space and replied: “I probably don't need to tell you; everyone knows about my abilities”

Indeed, as the wealthiest being in the 900 million World Layers, Laura was too famous.

Her three abilities had already become an open secret.

Ye Fei Li turned to Gu Qing Shan.

Four swords manifested from the void of space behind Gu Qing Shan.

“Four swords—— so you're still using them”

Ye Fei Li nodded, then turned to Lin.

Lin crossed her arms and indifferently replied: “I don't have any special abilities, but you won't beat me even if all of you attack me at the same time”

Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao exchanged glances, then glanced at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan nodded affirmatively.

The two of them gasped.

No wonder this woman could be Gu Qing Shan's elder sister!

Ye Fei Li then asked Zhang Ying Hao: “What about you? It’s been so long, how’s your hitman Card going?”

Zhang Ying Hao smiled bitterly and silently muttered: “Why do I feel like I’m actually a normal person after seeing your abilities?”

“You’re not normal at all, after being pursued for so long in the Strife Zones, not even the experts that God sent out were able to catch you” Lin casually commented.

Gu Qing Shan silently glanced at her.

If I remember correctly, the Strife Zones’ ‘God’ was actually Lin before I returned.

Zhang Ying Hao shook his head and sighed: “The difference between me and you guys is too great. Even those 3rd-rate movies and books wouldn’t write me into this cast of characters—usually, they put several heroes of similar strength to form a team, then save the world—just look at our lineup here—compared to you, I’m like a little brother”

Gu Qing Shan consoled him: “A little brother that can kill people, and this isn’t a novel”

Zhang Ying Hao swiftly turned the subject and added: “However, I’ve always relied on having friends all over the place, and an old friend just told me that he wanted to see you”

“See me?” Gu Qing Shan froze.

Zhang Ying Hao took out a black pistol from his chest pocket and placed it on the table.

Chapter 967

Zhang Ying Hao put the black pistol onto the table.

What does he mean?

While they were curious, the black pistol suddenly stood up by itself and pointed at Gu Qing Shan.

“Hey there, little guy, how’s it been?”

The black pistol spoke.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised for a split second, then he recalled a familiar figure.

—-it was a powerful gun that was able to easily eliminate any enemy it wished.

When it pointed its nozzle at Triste, not even she dared to move recklessly.

Barry and Kitty were its mutual friends, both Yun Ji and Chen Wang called it their good brother.

But when it took on a scout mission to God Institute, it was defeated by the Soul Shrieker and was declared dead by the Spire Keeper Association.

“You are— senior automatic machine gun!” he loudly said.

The black pistol replied: “It’s me, long time no see”

“Weren’t you killed in action?” Gu Qing Shan hurriedly asked.

The black pistol angrily replied: "That monster was too powerful, only in my last moments did I realize that I couldn't defeat it no matter what"

"And so..."

"I risked the last of my power right before my body thoroughly broke down to keep my most important parts, before drifting around in the space vortex for several dozen days until I finally reunited with those parts and reform as this handgun"

The black pistol then softly cleared its throat and solemnly spoke: "Let me introduce myself again, please call me Assault Handgun"

Gu Qing Shan looked at it, then at Zhang Ying Hao, and asked: "How did you come to know my friend?"

The black pistol replied: "Little Ying Hao's abilities as a hitman were quite decent, and so were his skills with a handgun. The only thing lacking about him was his strength, but strength can always be obtained and improved"

"Little Ying Hao had been looking for a suitable handgun through the hitmen's Spirit Summoning world, so after much consideration, I had a hunter friend of mine in the Spirit Summoning world to introduce us"

Zhang Ying Hao explained: "I had a deal with senior, it would fight alongside me, while I slowly collect parts for it to repair and eventually help it regain its peak condition"

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

He then recalled the wanted poster he saw of Zhang Ying Hao just a bit ago. At the time, Zhang Ying Hao was depicted to hold a Card in one hand and a black pistol in the other.

It seems he's been using this pistol for a long time, solidifying his fighting style to the point that it has become part of the impression he gives off, thus being recorded that way.

"Nicely done" Gu Qing Shan praised, "I've always believed that sometimes, one's equipment, as well as their brain, is worth a lot more than personal strength, and you've committed to that point quite well"

"It's the same principle, killing is like hunting— a beast will always be naturally stronger than a human, but humans will always have ways to borrow stronger external power and use an appropriate method to hunt a target" Zhang Ying Hao replied.

They then bumped their fists against one another.

At this point, the Bramble Bird General, Ilya came into the room and reported: "Your Majesty, the ceremony is about to begin, our guests from various worlds have arrived and are waiting to witness the occasion"

"Witness the occasion? What occasion?" Laura seemed confused.

"Your Majesty, have you forgotten? We've already sent news for the past while and intended to hold a ceremony to officially appoint Ye Fei Li as the Duke today afternoon" Ilya reminded her.

"Ah, so it was that. I've only just returned so it slipped my mind" Laura suddenly realized.

She turned to Ye Fei Li— she held quite a good impression of Ye Fei Li right now— since he was able to help her maintain her figure— and also because he was Gu Qing Shan's friend.

"Let's go, Ye Fei Li, let me officially appoint you as our Duke in front of the 900 million World Layers" Laura told him.

"Wasn't that only to lure Zhang Ying Hao here? Are we really going to do it?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"I'm the Empress, how could I go back on my words? Not to mention, you will definitely stand to fight alongside Gu Qing Shan and I in the future— Gu Qing Shan, what do you think?" Laura asked.

"I have no objections, but with how many people were on our pursuit during our way back here, I think you shouldn't personally show yourself" Gu Qing Shan told her.

Ilya agreed: "Your Majesty, I also need to report to you regarding that. We've received an anonymous tip that your safety will soon be greatly challenged"

"A treasure had already reminded me of my safety when I was on the ship, but who exactly was it that dared to try anything against me? Do they not fear the Bramble Great Tree? Or are they not afraid that I would use the 9000 worlds of treasures to bury them alive?" Laura asked in irritation.

Gu Qing Shan muses: "If the other party dares to show up, that means they naturally have means to reach you, there are simply too many strange and unusual abilities within the infinite worlds— but our goal is also quite clear, we need to make sure the problem of your safety is dealt with once and for all"

"Do you have any good ideas?" Laura asked.

"Yes, I'll replace you" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"You'll replace me?" Laura was surprised.

"Hm, I'll disguise myself as you, Lin and Zhang Ying Hao will stay with me. When the danger arrives, we'll smash it by force, then use it to look for the source" Gu Qing Shan said.

Lin agreed: "That's right. Being constantly watched by someone in the shadow isn't something that you should drag on, it's best to deal with it as soon and as thoroughly as possible"

Gu Qing Shan turned to the others: "What do you think?"

Zhang Ying Hao replied: "I see no issues"

He picked up Assault Handgun, then hid it somewhere out of sight.

Ye Fei Li also replied: "I'm fine with that as well"

Gu Qing Shan then turned to Laura and asked again: "Laura, what do you think?"

Laura clenched her fists worriedly: "Gu Qing Shan, are you confident about this?"

"This is nothing to worry about, any normal enemy would simply get crushed under our power, there won't be any issues— unless the one who arrives is the Soul Shrieker" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

Laura then relent: "Fine, I'll agree to this, but how are you going to disguise as me? Do you need me to call a special make-up artist?"

"No need, I'll just borrow a strand of your hair" Gu Qing Shan told her.

Hair?

Laura didn't think much and pulled out a strand of her hair, putting it in Gu Qing Shan's palm.

...

At another location.

Su Xue Er, Anna, and Ning Yue Chan were sitting on a large Card, borrowing the power of the chaotic wind of the space vortex to quickly move forward, heading towards the Mystic Zones.

Ning Yue Chan's expression was turning heavier and heavier.

"We can't continue like this; I can already sense an unstoppable great peril approaching" she said.

Anna asked: "I heard that all cultivators have their own spirit sense, is this your spirit sense?"

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"Yes" Ning Yue Chan affirmed it, "I can almost see a vision of my own death, we can't continue forward this way, we need to think of something"

Su Xue Er thought briefly and started to draw Cards from the void of space.

She drew a total of 12 Cards, selected the summoning Cards from them, and threw them all behind their path.

The Cards disappeared in the wind, turning into various heroic spirits of the Bloodsea to block the path.

Su Xue Er didn't stop her hands, continued to draw more Cards then unleashing any summoning Cards she got.

In just a few moments, she had spent almost all the Soul Points she had.

"I hope this will buy us a bit more time"

Su Xue Er sighed.

"Let me see" Ning Yue Chan said and closed her eyes.

After a few moments of silence, she sighed.

"Not enough, the path of certain death is still immovable, something terrifying is getting closer and closer to us"

Su Xue Er and Anna were both exhausted.

In truth, they could also somewhat sense what was going on.

After all, a certain indescribable presence was gradually growing within the space vortex.

It was a sort of power that vastly overpowered their own, certainly not something they could resist again.

“There’s no other choice” Anna said.

She stood up and walked to the back of the giant Card.

Endless black flames started to burn on her body, her crimson red hair fluttering in the wind.

“Anna, what are you trying to do?” Su Xue Er asked.

Anna calmly replied: “I can already sense its presence, we can’t possibly win against it, and if this goes on, everyone will die. Since that’s the case, I might as well burn my life away trying to stop it”

Su Xue Er couldn’t help but weep a bit: “No! You can’t give up like this, we’re already approaching the Mystic Zones”

She mustered the rest of her Soul Points and threw the rest of the Cards in her hand towards the back of the flying Card.

“It’s useless, you and Ning Yue Chan need to take the [Demon King Order] over to Gu Qing Shan, this is related to his life and everything else, the two of you must survive”

Anna displayed a resolute grin:

“But I’m not carrying an [Order], so I’ll take up the job to stop the enemy”

Ning Yue Chan was moved.

She tapped her Inventory Bag and took out a bottle of pills, giving it to Anna.

“It’s a kind of pill that can overdraw your power, it might help you”

“Thank you” Anna didn’t hesitate to accept the bottle.

Ning Yue Chan replied: “I should be thanking you. I’m not afraid of death, but I have something that I must do, I owe you for this”

Anna continued: “Then I’ll—”

Her words were cut short.

「 Little Anna 」

A low voice resounded.

In the void of space, masses of black flames began to manifest out of nowhere.

The masses of flames fell onto the giant Card and manifested as a black hound.

“Hound Deity, why are you here!?”

After a brief moment of shock, Anna shouted.

Black Hound slowly walked up to her and smiled: 「 How could I have not come? I've been drinking your liquor for free for so long, now that you're trying to rush to your death, of course, I need to help you out 」

Anna hesitantly: "But your powers wouldn't be able to win against that—"

「 No, things aren't quite as simple as you think 」 Black Hound cut her off again and spoke with a solemn expression: 「 From the faraway unknown history to today, it is finally time for this world to heed the final confrontation between [Order] and [Chaos], everything is heading to destruction. But you shoulder the heritage of the original God of Death, I cannot allow you to plunge yourself into the eternal embrace of darkness just yet 」

Anna was shocked.

God of Death...

From what I know, the seven Holy Churches were simply nothing but the acting servants of a certain mysterious will of God.

But from the looks of it, the Demigods of the Churches had their own hidden missions to fulfill.

At this time, another cluster of black flames manifested on top of the giant Card and turned into a giant Black Crow.

"Anna, hurry, you and the carriers of [Order], get onto my back, I will bring you away" Black Crow said.

"Crow Deity, you're here as well!" Anna blankly muttered.

These two were Demigods of the Holy Church of Death, existing since eons ago and have always been loyal to the Holy Church.

—regardless of which 'God' held control over the Strife Zones, they had always been the same, silently working under them without openly retaliating or resisting.

The Black Crow of Death took the three girls on its back and said: "My speed is a bit slower than an Abyssal Behemoth, but with Black Hound stalling for us, I can probably take you to the Bramble Bird Kingdom!"

"But then, Hound Deity would—" Anna said.

「 Don't worry about me, I've accumulated the power of Death over countless millennia, I will leave after I have stalled it just a bit 」 Black Hound told her.

It then leapt upwards, left the giant Card, then manifested as a towering humongous monster that blocked out the sky.

Dog head, humanoid body, its entire visage emanated a sense of solemnity while wielding a mysterious black scepter fully covered in runes.

「 Go, first help the [Order] survive, then it will be time for you to truly take on your mission 」

「 When the Apocalypse ends this era, the God of Death shall reawaken! 」

Black Hound's voice resounded by Anna's ears.

Anna couldn't say anything else.

Black Crow had already spread its gigantic wings and carried them away.

Its speed was tremendously greater than the giant Card, streaking across the fog of the space vortex like a bolt of black lightning towards the deep the Mystic Zones.

Chapter 968

The endless void outside the Bramble Great Tree.

The Abyssal Demon Dragon silently appeared.

He silently watched the faraway towering great tree and fell into thought.

The Bramble Great Tree isn't weak.

This is where its main body is, so if I tried to act, it would surely be the onset of a tough battle.

It is a bit troublesome...

It would be much better if this wasn't its territory since the Bramble Bird Empress needs a bit of time in order to call upon the tree.

The first thing to arrive would only be a projection of the tree, the Bramble Bird Empress would need to continue using her power to call upon it for the tree's main body to arrive.

At this point, I have a way to make sure that the Bramble Bird Empress would not be able to thoroughly summon the tree's real body.

Which means...

The best way is to think of a method to lure the Bramble Bird Empress out.

How can I achieve such a thing?

After a bit of thought, the Demon Dragon asked someone behind him: 「 Is everyone here? 」

Behind him, Divinities appeared one after another.

A burning flame lies between their eyebrows, giving off a sense of divine holiness.

But before the Demon Dragon, they were his subordinates.

「 Master, all of us are here, what do we need to do? 」 a Divinity asked.

「 As you are the true Divine race, you will need to appear and do it yourselves 」 the Demon Dragon spoke as he thought about the plan, 「 In just a few moments, the Empress will appoint a new Duke, at which point you will need to show up to the scene. Remember, do not fight, simply invite her to the Strife Zones, saying that the True God wants to see her 」

「 This way, she would not be able to refuse 」

「 But what if she does refuse? 」

「 All of you are at the strongest level of power for the 900 million World Layers, think of a way to make her understand— refusal means that the seven Holy Churches will be going to war against the Bramble Bird Kingdom 」

「 Understood 」

The Demon Dragon then encouraged them: 「 Do not worry, as soon as she leaves the great tree's main body, I will no longer have anything to fear— I will personally catch her 」

「 As you wish, master 」

「 Wait a moment— 」

The Demon Dragon thought for a bit, then said: 「 The Bramble Bird Empress might have a body double. You will need to make sure that it's her true self that comes out before you appear and invite her to the Strife Zones for an audience with the True God 」

「 Master, how should we tell if the Empress is real or not? 」 the Divinities asked.

The Abyssal Demon Dragon squinted his eyes and slowly explained: 「 The true Bramble Bird Empress has a few abilities, none of which can be replicated by anyone... 」

The Demon Dragon patiently explained it all to the Divinities, the Divinities then discussed among themselves and formulated a strategy before they left one by one towards the Bramble Great Tree.

The Abyssal Demon Dragon hid himself within the void of space and fell into contemplation for a while.

Hm, there aren't any issues.

The Demon Dragon thoroughly disappeared and silently waited for the ceremony to begin.

...

On the other side.

The Bramble Bird Kingdom.

The palace.

As Gu Qing Shan held Laura's strand of hair and was about to use [Mystery of All Beings Equal], he stopped.

Wait.

I think I forgot something.

Laura is a little girl.

If I turned into her, wouldn't I turn into a female?

Furthermore, I'd completely take Laura's form without any difference.

...Regardless of who it is, it's a bit embarrassing to change genders.

Gu Qing Shan muses a bit, then called out: "Shannu"

The void of space rippled slightly.

A female palace maid with an indifferent expression appeared.

"Gongzi, I'm here"

She then turned to bow slightly to the rest of the people, greeting them.

Everyone greeted her back.

—-they all knew that this sword and its spirit came from Huang Quan.

Not someone to be trifled with.

Gu Qing Shan gave Shannu the strand of hair and told her: "You can take Laura's appearance"

"Yes"

Shannu received the strand of her, closed her eyes, and silently activated [Mystery of All Beings Equal].

—-Shannu has [Law Breaker], so she's able to stop any and all probing techniques.

Furthermore, after my previous visit to the giant corpse, [Mystery of All Beings Equal] should have finished evolving.

This way, no one would be able to discover that Shannu was fake.

Shannu slowly turned into Laura, her voice also became immature: "Gongzi, I think that there are still some issues"

"What is it?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

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"I've never acted like an Empress before, I'm afraid I might make a mistake in my mannerism" Shannu worriedly told him.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and encouraged her: "You've been with Laura even more than I have so you should understand her words and actions quite well. All you need to do now is to utilize my other ability"

"What ability?"

"Acting"

Gu Qing Shan turned to Zhang Ying Hao and spoke with wholehearted gratefulness: "I really have to thank you for taking me to that acting course, it had helped me a lot"

Zhang Ying Hao replied casually: "Acting is a basic skill of all hitmen. A top-level hitman can act like anybody else—- this is an art form"

“Good, let’s relieve Laura of her crisis first before we continue with the topic of acting” Gu Qing Shan said.

At this point, Laura had already circled several times around Shannu and praised: “Whoa, you look exactly like me, but your outfit isn’t very suitable. Follow me, I’ll pick out some clothes that will be suitable for a ceremony...”

She pulled Shannu away.

After not too long, two Laura’s appeared between them.

They wore the same Empress outfit, the same jewelry, with the exact same appearance, there wasn’t even the smallest difference between the hair on their eyebrows.

The only way that they could be told apart was the look in their eyes.

One was aloof and indifferent, the other was cute and lively.

Looking at the two Laura, Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

This should be quite enough.

—there’s only one issue left.

From the perspective of the other party, if I’m looking to assassinate a world leader, I will first need to confirm whether or not the leader was the real one or a body double to avoid being duped.

Hmm...

Laura’s 3 abilities...

It’s not that there aren’t any ways to resolve this.

After some thought, Gu Qing Shan carefully informed Shannu what to do.

Everyone else silently listened.

Finally, Gu Qing Shan said: “Ye Fei Li, when the Empress is announcing the appointment, you will come out— at that time, Zhang Ying Hao and I will disguise as your guards”

“Sure” Ye Fei Li said

“No problem” Zhang Ying Hao also replied.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “Laura, since Zhang Ying Hao and I are still being wanted, do you have uniforms that can obscure the face?”

Laura nodded: “Yes, I’ll provide you with two sets of Great Tree Hidden Guardian armor, this is the official armor for guards at the ceremony, it has a special mask to hide one’s face”

Gu Qing Shan then went on: “Lin, you’ll hide in the shadow to protect Laura— in case that an enemy actually appeared, pick out the strongest one and kill him right away”

Laura then leaned onto Lin and begged her with a pitiful expression: “Big sis, you gotta help me”

Lin softly stroked Laura's head and gently told her: "Don't worry, I'm looking forward to seeing who dares to bully our Laura"

...

At another location.

The border between the Strife Zones and Mystic Zones.

An endless grey shadow was flying in from afar, almost like a boundless nebula.

An Abyssal Behemoth.

With the slightest movement, it flew across countless worlds, moving from one World Layer to the next.

This Abyssal Behemoth was moving along as fast as it could.

Even Black Hound's humongous body seemed small compared to this gigantic beast.

But Black Hound wasn't at all afraid.

It raised its scepter towards the Behemoth and chanted a mystical incantation.

As the Abyssal Behemoth arrived in front of it, it shouted in a low voice:

「 I am the servant who follows the will of the God of Death, so long as I'm here, no entity shall pass! 」

The space vortex started to tremble heavily.

The never-ending chaotic winds were avoiding this place.

The faint images of countless worlds suddenly manifested, warped and twisted, as if they couldn't handle the abrupt descent of some kind of power.

The Abyssal Behemoth couldn't help but stop and retreat, seemingly wary.

A humanoid figure jumped down from the Abyssal Behemoth's back.

『 God of Death? 』 a female voice.

「 That is a name that's long since been buried in ash 」 a male voice.

『 A rotten name that had long been lost to eternal history, still boasted by its servant 』 the female voice continued.

The male and female voice then both chanted like they were reciting some sort of gospel: 「 『 Whether it was Knowledge or Spirit, even Life and Death, these deities have long been lost to history, how dare you use their power to stop the wake of [Chaos]~ your soul shall be consumed by me! 」 』

Silence.

All of a sudden, an ear-piercing shriek resounded across the entire space vortex:

『 「 AAaaaaaa——- 』 」

The Soul Shrieker unleashed all of its power at once, triggering the souls of all living beings within the infinite space vortex to fly towards it.

Black Hound stood still without fear, simply pointing its scepter in front of itself.

Against the Soul Shrieker's endless shriek, immense power radiated from the scepter of death to protect Black Hound.

「 Using your strongest attack right away, monster from the Abyss, you seem to be afraid 」

Black Hound smirked and revealed its razor-sharp teeth.

Chapter 969

Two Bramble Bird guards came forward to report at the same time.

Laura stood up from her seat.

——the official appointment ceremony was about to begin, billions of worlds were waiting to observe it.

This was the first time in its history that the Bramble Bird Kingdom officially appointed a non-Bramble Bird person as part of their nobility, because of this, it held great significance.

Everyone hurriedly stood up as well.

“Alright, let's proceed as we planned” Gu Qing Shan clapped his hands and announced.

At this point, he was filled with eagerness.

Finally.

Finally, I've gotten so many comrades, I no longer have to struggle with everything by myself.

Ye Fei Li took out various cans of drinks and handed it out to everyone.

These were canned drinks specifically made for everyone to cater to their characteristics, used to replenish their stamina and energy.

Gu Qing Shan got a [Health Potion], a [Spirit Energy Potion], as well as a [Soul Points Potion].

Laura was currently informing Lin about the palace's layout so that Lin could choose a suitable place to hide.

Zhang Ying Hao reached into the void of space to draw Cards one after another.

——his Hitman deck was actually half-complete, although its direct battle strength wasn't very high, as a hitman, he relied more on his skills, not to mention the support of Assault Handgun.

Shannu was currently acting as Laura, conversing with something in the void of space.

They could only hear very faint 'wu wu' sounds occasionally.

Gu Qing Shan stood by a window, releasing his inner sight to observe the venue of the ceremony below.

His inner sight scanned through each and every person there.

Several cultivators in the crowd noticed his inner sight, but when they saw that the inner sight emerged from inside the palace, they all kept their mouths shut.

—during such a solemn ceremony, it was normal for the royal family to conduct safety checks, there was no need for them to react too strongly.

Once everyone had finished preparing, Gu Qing Shan turned to his group.

“Let’s begin”

With his confirmation, the Bramble Bird General, Ilya, pushed open the door of the balcony.

Laura was bringing Lin to her chosen hiding place.

Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Ying Hao, Ye Fei Li, and Shannu silently waited.

A few moments later.

The sound of thunderous cheers resounded from outside.

Followed by the divine and holy music.

Ilya’s voice resounded as she hosted the ceremony:

“Friends who have arrived from afar to participate in our ceremony, you are...”

“Today is the Bramble Bird Kingdom’s...”

“And so, we shall induct a new Duke...”

“Now, please welcome our esteemed royal majesty—”

The music started to pick up.

‘Laura’ looked at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan gave her an encouraging look.

‘Laura’ took a deep breath and took a step forward.

In an instant, her presence changed completely.

Graceful, solemn, and impersonal.

At this moment, she had truly turned into the Bramble Bird Empress!

She would now officially appoint a human male as the Duke of the Bramble Bird Kingdom!

‘Laura’ walked out of the room step by step.

A short moment later.

“Greetings, Your Majesty!”

“Greetings, Your Majesty!”

“Greetings, Your Majesty!”

Thunderous, constant cheers.

‘Laura’ walked up to the high balcony.

Facing the countless guests below, she began her speech:

“I, the Bramble Bird Empress, Laura, shall today announce to billions of worlds, the welcoming of our kingdom’s first non-Bramble Bird Duke. We have made this decision due to the encroaching Apocalypse, where we wish nothing but to unite and stand as one with the brave men and women of all worlds. For the sake of our country, our loved ones, our children, we shall stand against the Apocalypse and do everything in our power to win against it, we...”

Standing in the room, Gu Qing Shan silently listened to Shannu’s declaration and praised: “Well done”

After a bit, the Empress’ speech was finished.

But the Bramble Birds were a race that placed a particular emphasis on customs and etiquette.

There were many steps in this entire ceremony, including over a dozen tedious and broken-up formalities that must all be done one after another after the Empress’ speech.

Fortunately, since Shannu was bright and she had received a careful briefing of what to do beforehand, everything was going well.

It was only the wait that was incessantly long.

Zhang Ying Hao lit a cigarette and silently smoked.

Ye Fei Li took out a gaming console, started it up, picked a stage, and started to play.

“You’re still going to play games at a time like this?” Zhang Ying Hao asked in surprise.

“Aren’t you also smoking?” Ye Fei Li asked in reply without looking up.

“I’m just calming myself down a bit before a big battle”

“So am I”

A few moments later.

All the formalities were about to be finished.

It would soon be Ye Fei Li’s turn to come out.

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao had already changed into the Bramble Tree Hidden Guardian armors and donned their visors to obscure their faces.

“It’s our turn, Ye Fei Li will move in front, Zhang Ying Hao and I will follow behind” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Good”

“Got it”

The music raised again.

Ye Fei Li pushed the door open and walked along the corridor until he reached the venue of the ceremony.

Step by step, he approached the balcony as Zhang Ying Hao and Gu Qing Shan followed him from behind in full suits of armor.

'Laura' seemed to be a bit bored, so she reached her hand into the void of space.

In front of everyone, she pulled something out.

— it was a jade pendant in the shape of a gourd.

Adorable naturally had [Spotless Jade] that allowed it not to be discovered by living beings, only when Shannu caught it did it purposely reveal itself. To other people, this looked like 'Laura' used her [Vagrant Treasure Collector] ability.

At this point, Ye Fei Li walked up to 'Laura' and knelt down on one knee.

"Ye Fei Li, I hereby represent the Bramble Bird royal family to appoint you as the Duke of our Kingdom, do you have any objections?"

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"I do not, it is my honor"

"Very well"

Saying so, 'Laura' waved her hand.

An emerald green leaf manifested from the void and fluttered in front of Ye Fei Li.

The green leaf opened up, bestowing the Duke's scepter, medallion, headwear, seal, and uniform onto Ye Fei Li.

This was another of the Empress' famous abilities: [Blessing of the Empress]

This time, it wasn't faked, but the real [Blessing of the Empress], but the one who performed it was the jade gourd pendant, Adorable.

It had used its ability— [Hundred Lanterns].

However, no one had ever seen such an ability or even heard of the fact that an ability that could be stolen like this.

To everyone at the venue, it seemed as if the one who performed this technique was none other than the Empress herself.

'Laura' then took a ceremonial sword in her hand, tapped them onto Ye Fei Li's shoulders one by one, and softly spoke the words of appointment.

The ceremony was about to be completed, Ye Fei Li would also become an official Duke of the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

The crowd clapped and cheered.

Fireworks were shot off.

The music reached its climax.

Everything was as it was supposed to be.

But then, the situation abruptly changed.

The sun turned clouded.

The sky became dim.

Over a dozen figures clad in brilliant light descended from above.

“Who is it that dares to invade my Bramble Bird Kingdom!” Shannu sternly shouted.

「 Bramble Bird Empress, you misunderstand 」

A Divinity responded.

He was completely clad in luminous brilliance, hidden within countless layers of light that gave him the appearance of being a true God descending from above.

One, two, three, four... a total of 16 Divinities.

They all gave off boundless power and presence, their Paragon realm level of power caused everyone to be shocked.

This was a terrifying and insurmountable strength!

Seeing this, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit embarrassed.

Over several ten thousand years ago, these were all Soul Artifacts that he created.

However, since the battle was so tough at the time, he couldn't wrap everything up perfectly, ending with everything he obtained from the Age of Old to be taken by the Earth Creator to be gotten rid of.

Unfortunately, the Earth Creator died.

As these Soul Artifacts went past their expiration date, they gained sentience and acted as they pleased.

In the sky, their solemn presence radiated all over this world.

A Divinity clad in holy light spoke: 「 Empress Laura, the True God is waiting for your presence in the Divine Sanctuary of the Strife Zones 」

“The True God is waiting for me?”

Shannu froze.

Since she has been traveling with Gu Qing Shan, she knew exactly who that ‘True God’ was.

Despite the mental preparations that she had made, she didn't expect their mysterious enemy to be the Abyssal Demon Dragon.

Gu Qing Shan's trio was also using inner sight to silently communicate.

——since Gu Qing Shan had taught them how to cultivate, and even found suitable cultivation scriptures for them, they were able to utilize inner sight without issues.

"All of them are so strong, do you think they're going to directly attack us?" Zhang Ying Hao asked worriedly.

"They won't. With the Bramble Great Tree here, they aren't a match for it" Gu Qing Shan affirmed this.

"Not only are they strong, but they also outnumber us, what do we do now?" Ye Fei Li asked.

Zhang Ying Hao replied: "At least, we definitely can't follow them—— Gu Qing Shan, quickly come up with something"

He and Ye Fei Li waited, but didn't hear Gu Qing Shan's answer.

"Gu Qing Shan?"

Ye Fei Li doubtfully asked.

In Lin's secret hiding spot, Laura was also stunned.

"Big sis, the enemy is the True God, what do I do not?" Laura asked in her distress.

She had a feeling that she knew what the other party wanted to do.

Lin didn't say anything but her expression slowly turned solemn.

Although I've returned to my peak state, the Abyssal Demon Dragon is the greatest Soul Artifact ever created by the Bygone Era humans, now that it has been converted to an Abyssal lifeform, I'm not at all confident about being able to win.

Luckily, since the Bramble Great Tree is here, I'd be able to at least fight it to a draw with the Great Tree's help.

Lin silently sighed.

Gu Qing Shan's arrangements have certainly managed to draw out the enemy, but who could've thought that their enemy would be a group of 16 Paragon realm Divinities as well as the Abyssal Demon Dragon?

How regretful.

My current body is a human body.

If I still had my ring of vows...

Lin's gaze became deep as she looked towards the armored guard standing next to Ye Fei Li.

——for now, I'll have to see how Gu Qing Shan deals with this.

Wait a minute!

Lin abruptly sat straight up and scowled: "What's wrong with Gu Qing Shan?"

Laura followed her gaze.

Only to see that Gu Qing Shan had lowered his head, his body trembling.

That's right.

It was time.

Gu Qing Shan had felt the so-called opportunity.

At first, he only heard a faint humming of an unknown song.

The sound of the accompanying flute soon died down and faded away.

And then suddenly.

The beat of the drums sounded.

Dong! Dong! Dong!

Chaka chak chak! Chaka chak chak!

A resounding trumpet note—

Oooo— oong—

Sensing the pain on his body, Gu Qing Shan immediately understood.

The situation had gotten completely out of his control!

The second stage of the Living Being Sacrificial Dance was about to begin!

Chapter 970

String instruments started strumming.

A catchy rhythmic folk song began to play in everyone's ears, as if scratching at the itchiest part of a person's psyche, encouraging them to dance along with it.

Gu Qing Shan's hands and feet had already started to shake uncontrollably with the music.

The gentle rhythmic music suddenly stopped.

Followed by a heavy bass drop.

I can't control it anymore!

Gu Qing Shan suddenly stood up and walked forward.

—onto the ceremonial balcony.

Gu Qing Shan walked in-between 'Laura' and Ye Fei Li.

As a guard, his sudden interruption of the ceremony caused everyone's gaze to fall onto him.

All the guests at the venue, the people of the 900 million World Layers who were watching the live broadcast, as well as the Abyssal Demon Dragon who was hiding just a bit further away.

Everyone had the exact same question in their minds:

What is this guard trying to do?

'Laura' noticed that something wasn't right and understood what was going on after just a split second of thought.

Oh no.

Gongzi's Dance is about to trigger.

Shannu's heart sank, unsure of what to do.

Meanwhile, Gu Qing Shan was snapping his fingers rhythmically while cupping his hand on his ear as if he was listening to something.

—-he was listening to another person's voice.

The voice of the old man who taught him the Living Being Sacrificial Dance, the strongest human Combatant of the Bygone Era.

[Hurry up and get ready, the group dance is about to begin]

The old man's solemn voice resounded in Gu Qing Shan's ear.

Gu Qing Shan was madly shouting in his mind: "Why did it have to happen at this crucial moment in time!? Couldn't you have at least warned me first!?"

The old man replied: [Drop all of your ridiculous thoughts, I'll spell it out so that you can understand, none of these superfluous matters in front of you matter as much as the Living Being Sacrificial Dance!]

"But if I dance here, it'll cause a lot of unnecessary casualties!" Gu Qing Shan refuted.

[It will not—- hurry, this is your first time with this dance so you only need two other people, quickly pick out someone or it'll be a lot more troublesome when you miss this timing] the old man urged him.

Gu Qing Shan could hear the urgency in his voice.

In reality, Gu Qing Shan also understood that he couldn't offend this Dance in any way.

If even the strongest human Combatant of the Bygone Era is in so much of a hurry, then I definitely can't stall it any longer.

"Two? How do I pick them?" Gu Qing Shan hurriedly asked.

[Choose with your inner sight! You fool!]

"Understood!"

Gu Qing Shan unhesitantly focused his inner sight on Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li.

It couldn't be helped, the only people he could rely on now was them.

Following his choice, the bald old man loudly blew a whistle: [Fuu—whish!]

It seemed like it was some sort of signal.

Gu Qing Shan noticed that his armor completely disappeared.

He was now wearing a luxurious black coat with gold lining, a white mask with three empty black spots that formed a sad expression.

Meanwhile, Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao had changed to black coats with red inlays, also wearing white masks that instead depicted bright smiles.

Costume change?

Gu Qing Shan gasped.

Why does it feel like some sort of unprecedented ritual?

—damn it, is there really a need to have this solemn atmosphere of ritual for this Dance!

But wait, does that mean something special will occur after this?

On the other side, Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li were also not idle.

“Fei Li, what's going on? Is this your ability?”

Zhang Ying Hao hurriedly asked in a low shouting voice.

As he said so, he found that he couldn't help himself moving his feet together with Gu Qing Shan.

Ye Fei Li was also confused: “It's not related to me; I was going to ask you”

Saying so, he started to slap his butt with his hands.

One time.

Another time.

Then once again.

Seeing each other's movements, the two of them were both shocked.

They knew very well that the other party wouldn't make such movements.

Zhang Ying Hao instinctively wanted to pull his gun—right now, even his mental fortitude as an experienced hitman couldn't help him stay calm.

Having no other choice, Gu Qing Shan sent his voice to the two of them: “This Dance is to save my life, the two of you have to perform this dance with me for me to survive”

“WHAT!?”

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li both shouted.

They thought it was just some sort of strange power, but it was actually related to Gu Qing Shan's life and death.

At this point, the sound of music also sounded by their ears.

Boom boom boom! Boom cha chak!

Boom boom boom! Boom cha chak!

The old man suddenly looked up to the sky and howled: [Uuu———waaaaaah——]

Which was followed by an intense catchy sound of electronic music.

The intense rhythm made it so that they couldn't help but mosh their head up and down with the music.

Their hair began to stand straight up.

"What exactly is going on?"

Zhang Ying Hao continued moshing as he asked with a solemn tone of voice.

"Long story short, this Dance can help dispel a kind of evil power in my body"

Half-way through his sentence, he raised both hands and started to wiggle it like a bird small flapping its wings.

Ye Fei Li followed suit.

Zhang Ying Hao also did the same.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Right now, I need two dance partners in order to finish the ritual to dispel the evil power"

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He added: "Don't worry, for this performance, you two won't have to dance on your own—— your power is too weak, the Laws of the Mystics will control your bodies and perform the correct dance steps"

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li exchanged glances as they did the bird flapping hands.

——knowing Gu Qing Shan, he wouldn't lie about such a serious matter.

Then there's nothing else to be said.

Just to save Gu Qing Shan's life, we would have to perform this Dance no matter what.

Fortunately, we're wearing masks right now.

This way, at least no one would recognize our real faces.

——the entire 900 million World Layers is currently watching.

If not, whenever we go out from now on, even before any attacks are exchanged, just having a look at our faces would make the other party laugh themselves to death.

Of course, this could be considered a kind of superiority, but that's not our real power.

"I have no issues," Zhang Ying Hao said.

"Me too" Ye Fei Li replied.

Gu Qing Shan immediately said: "Then we're going to really begin— Shannu, quickly announce that this is the dance of deputation, something to help everyone enjoy themselves"

"Ah, yes" Shannu hurriedly replied.

She then turned to all the guests as well as the viewers of the 900 million World Layers and declared: "Now, let us enjoy the dance of deputation of our Bramble Bird race!"

Thunderous cheers.

—so, it was the Bramble Bird dance of deputation.

The guests all loudly cheered, but they silently sighed in their minds.

They even have a unique dance for the appointment of a nobility.

Too much etiquette!

In the sky, the Divinities were whispering to one another.

「 Let's observe first 」

The leader Divinity said.

In a hidden place of the palace, Laura was helplessly praying.

She was solemnly repenting:

"Father, forgive me, I've ruined the reputation of us Bramble Birds..."

On the ceremonial platform, 'Laura' also ran away.

Only the three dancing men were left on the platform.

All of a sudden, including her, everyone heard intense electronic music resounding by their ears.

Gu Qing Shan silently muttered in his mind: "Let's begin"

The old man shouted: [Three, two, one, let's all dance together!]

The overwhelming and touching shockwave spreads all over the venue.

Gu Qing Shan's trio began to move their bodies to the rhythm of the music.

Their movements were fluid and swift, perfectly coordinated, slowly creating various afterimages.

Each afterimage went to their own spot on the platform and also participated in the Dance.

More and more afterimages were manifesting.

The bald old man counted them and shouted again: [They are my energy shadows, specifically here to help you finish the Sacrificial Dance— keep dancing, a hard one is coming up!]

Hearing that, the three of them simultaneously did a series of tap dancing, then tilted their body backward a certain degree.

Followed by—

Wiggle their waists!

Round and round and round!

A specialized belly dance!

The three of them were sweating like crazy.

And finally, the final shadow appeared.

A total of 9 shadows.

Together with Gu Qing Shan's trio.

There were a total of 12 dancers.

It had truly turned into a group dance.

Jump and clap!

Jump and clap!

The music began to grow mad.

The dance steps were even madder.

The 12 dancers' movements were full of strength, while also perfectly coordinated to give off a sense of complete unity.

After dancing for a bit more.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly reached both hands outward, opened his palms, and waved towards the crowd.

On his sides, Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li also waved their waves.

The 9 shadows also waved.

[Finally, this moment has come]

The bald old man emotionally spoke, then suddenly roared:

[Shaman of the Living Being Sacrificial Dance, in the time of the Apocalypse over 100 million years later, I have nothing to offer but this supreme holy and noble Sacrificial Dance, I kneel at your feet, and implore you—]

[Des—cend—]

He continued his call like mad, not stopping for even a second to catch his breath.

And then.

A miracle occurred.

Besides the 12 dancers, the entire venue went silent.

Everyone fell into an utter blankness state of mind.

The guests at the venue, the viewers of the 900 million World Layers, everyone who witnessed this Dance, or happened to hear the music of the Dance, all fell into a state of blankness.

The viewer closest to Gu Qing Shan in the stands—— the emperor of a certain interstellar empire, closed his eyes and blankly muttered:

“I want to form a relationship with the Bramble Bird Kingdom, this way, my Empire would last forevermore”

A Lord-class Combatant next to him also opened his mouth: “Bless me! I must convince the official of the Bramble Bird Kingdom this time to allow me to choose a weapon from the Bramble Bird’s vault”

The next person to speak up was a mature noble lady with graceful bearing:

“I want to become acquainted with Laura, flatter her as much as I could and invite her to become a guest at my world, that way, I would have a chance to have her marry my son—— regardless of the method used”

Everyone was openly stating their desires one by one.

Chapter 971

Everyone was stating their desires.

“I want to approach that human Duke and ask him what he did to get appointed as a noble of the Bramble Bird Kingdom”

“I want more wealth”

“I love the Bramble Bird Kingdom, after the ceremony is over, I will stay here without leaving”

“I want to see Laura”

At the venue of the grand ceremony, the countless guests all stated their desires.

Within the infinite worlds.

Those who heard the music or saw Gu Qing Shan’s group dancing were also openly stating their wishes.

“I don’t want to work today, the Apocalypse is already approaching, I want to play games”

“What kind of woman does this human Duke like?”

“The Apocalypse is too terrifying; I want to take my vengeance before the Apocalypse arrives”

“Lady, it really wasn’t me last night”

“When will my book become popular”

“Does he love me or not? I truly want to know”

...

Countless wishes and desires were being said out loud by all living beings.

Billions of worlds, countless living beings.

At this time, they were expressing the biggest desires in their heart.

Watching this strange scene, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask in a low voice: “What exactly is going on?”

Him, Ye Fei Li, and Zhang Ying Hao were standing in place, slowly tapping to the beat.

Since there was a break in the dance steps, he had some time to ask what was happening.

Soon enough, the bald old man’s voice sounded in his mind:

[As you’ve successfully performed the second stage of the Living Being Ritual Dance, you are qualified to know a few things]

Gu Qing Shan felt a flash in between his eyebrows as something entered his Thought Sea.

Oom—

Countless mixed and complicated information appeared in Gu Qing Shan’s mind.

A magnificent, unprecedented scene unfolded before him, displaying the beginning of the Bygone Era.

Within the silent darkness, countless blazing suns were swiftly moving forward.

They went through an indescribable barrier, crossed an unfathomable desolation, arriving at the space vortex from an extremely faraway place.

Indeed, in the beginning, there were no worlds, only the space vortex.

These suns finally settled down after flying for a long while.

The light around them scattered.

Gu Qing Shan could finally see what the ‘suns’ truly were.

Each of these ‘suns’ was an indescribably gigantic metal ship, even the smallest one was comparable to an Abyssal Behemoth— or perhaps slightly bigger than one.

Inside the command center of one ship, Gu Qing Shan saw the bald old man.

This strongest human Combatant of the Bygone Era was giving his order to the entire fleet:

“On my order; status report”

[Yes sir!]

The sound of various reports resounded within the command center of the ship:

[Fleet casualty reached 79%]

[Successfully penetrated the parallel barrier]

[All fuel has basically been used up]

[Through analysis of the final fluctuations from the background, it can be confirmed that our original reality has been completely destroyed]

[Current environment: unknown parallel world]

Hearing the reports, the bald old man asked: "Do we have any loss of stockpiled species biomass material?"

[Sir, we have a loss factor of 21.793%]

Hearing that, the bald old man's expression became a bit relaxed.

"That's good, as long as the species remain, we can continue to breed and multiply, there is still hope"

He muttered.

The scene suddenly faded.

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses.

He noticed that only a split second had passed.

His surroundings seemed to have been affected by some sort of magic.

The flow of time was incredibly slow.

Everyone had fallen into their own thoughts, unable to escape for the time being.

Gu Qing Shan wiped the cold sweat from his forehead.

It couldn't be helped, what he just saw was too shocking.

[Did you see it?]

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The bald old man asked.

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded and muttered: "I saw that this place was originally an endless space vortex, while all the living beings that prospered within it arrived from the place you call home—— a certain destroyed parallel world"

[Indeed, this is the answer] the bald old man said.

“But there was a problem” Gu Qing Shan said, “Why did you not run to the next parallel world and instead stopped in the space vortex?”

The bald old man replied: [Our ships ran out of fuel]

Gu Qing Shan said: “I trust that with your capabilities, you would’ve been able to somehow replenish fuel for your ships”

The bald old man answered him: [It wasn’t as simple as you think, this place was an endless void between parallel worlds— before this, we’ve never traveled to a parallel world, only when we were forced to run by the threat of destruction did we have no choice but to make this trip]

[In truth, we did not know how to escape from this space vortex, we did not have a way to travel to another parallel world]

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “But since you made it here, from a logical standpoint, there must be a parallel world similar to this one, how could you have not found any clues at all?”

[Many of us dedicated ourselves to studying nothing but Space-Time and the void for generations, the more we studied, the more truths and secrets we encountered, many of us became truly mad— the greatness of Space-Time was truly a bottomless depth] the bald old man explained.

Gu Qing Shan immediately asked: “And then, you found out about the Reality Gate inside the Eternal Abyss. You assumed that the gate was a path, a way out, so you left this place and went through the gate”

[Indeed] the bald old man sighed, [This void was too dangerous, not only there existed the Eternal Abyss, the Space-Time Mystery Nest, the unending abyss of broken worlds, but there were also various terrifying entities that we couldn’t explain— we had to leave this place as soon as we were able to]

“But what do these matters of the Bygone Era have to do with the Dance we’re currently performing?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The bald old man’s expression turned very serious.

[Gu Qing Shan, do you believe in God?]

“I think that is nothing but a term that refer to entities more powerful than a certain degree”

The bald old man chuckled.

[It was only before the true me’s death that I made the decision to pass this Dance down]

[This Dance was the greatest discovery we found in this void]

[This Dance was able to awaken some sort of power— an unstoppable power that we’ve never came into contact with before]

[But up to now, no one had been able to perform this Dance to the final stage, myself included]

“Didn’t you say that there were 9 stages of the Dance that you would teach me?”

[I can only guide you to the second stage, from the third stage onwards, you will need to be bestowed the corresponding dance steps by that power, each stage is the same]

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but voice the question he wanted to ask most: "Wait a minute, then why did you have to do all of this?"

[Because, in the end, all of you are lifeforms that our world nurtured and created, our brethren and kin, I had to leave something for you]

The old man's voice carried a bit of warmth: [I truly believe that a person who's willing to sacrifice themselves to kill the Demon Dragon would not be some sort of villain— after all, during our era, no one had dared to attempt it at all]

"I understand, in other words— the existence of this Dance isn't purely to stop the power of the Demon Dragon?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Do not underestimate it. Stopping the power of the Demon Dragon is nothing but a small side effect of the Dance] the bald old man informed him.

He seemed to have more to say, but stopped himself.

[Look, it's coming!]

The bald old man shouted.

Gu Qing Shan quickly looked up.

In the anticipation of both him and the old man, while everyone was still stuck in a state of blankness, a new change occurred at the venue of the ceremony.

The Divinities in the sky were all gently lowered to the ground.

An invisible entity appeared.

Although he couldn't see it, Gu Qing Shan could feel this invisible entity very clearly.

He felt as if he was standing in front of boundless scorching light.

All of a sudden, where the invisible entity was, a hoarse, dry female voice slowly sounded:

「...The Ritual Dance... regretful... this much Prayers... is still lacking...」

Hearing that, the bald old man panicked.

He suddenly flew out from Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows, faithfully knelt on one knee and spoke:

[Regardless, I beg that you grant the performer of this Ritual Dance a faint hope]

[He is nothing but a normal and ordinary living being, without your protection and guidance, he would never be able to continue passing the Ritual Dance down]

The bald old man prostrated himself.

Silence.

「 Normal... and ordinary? 」

The hoarse female voice sounded again.

Apparently, she didn't agree with this description.

「 Your understanding of him is too shallow, but... the Ritual Dance truly does need to be passed down again... very well 」

After saying so, the female voice disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan could clearly sense that the invisible entity had disappeared from the void of space.

That entity had truly left.

At the same time, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You have been bestowed the third stage of the Living Being Sacrificial Dance]

[Due to your unique identity, your third stage of the Ritual Dance is different from others]

[You've obtained the Four Pillars Ritual]

[You have inherited the Dance of the Earth God]

Chapter 972

The mysterious entity had already left the venue of the ceremony.

While everyone was still stuck in a state of blankness.

As the lines of notifications popped up on the War God UI, Gu Qing Shan didn't waste a single second.

Oong——

The twin swords Heaven and Earth abruptly manifested, turned into streak streaks of light, blinked, and vanished.

The Heaven sword, as swift as a rainbow.

The Earth sword, as heavy as a mountain.

The twin swords flickered through the sky and approached the 16 Divinities.

The Heaven sword arrived first and split into countless sharp sword phantoms.

——in a split second, 9 Taiyi Sword Arrays had manifested around the 16 Divinities.

As the storm of swords began to rise up, the Earth sword arrived.

It slashed and created a crescent-shaped sword phantom in the sky.

This was [Crescent Slash]—— infused with [Earth's Choice]!

Gu Qing Shan scowled.

The power of using both [Heaven's Choice] and [Earth's Choice] at the same time was too terrifying.

He silently adjusted his control.

Following his thought, the sword phantoms no longer scattered outwards and instead weaved among one another, all heading upwards.

—this was the first time Gu Qing Shan had fought with his full strength ever since he achieved Paragon realm.

While they were still stunned, the Divinities weren't able to defend themselves and took the full brunt of the 9 Taiyi Sword Arrays unleashed by the Heaven sword, then also took the Earth sword's all-extinguishing attack.

They naturally couldn't survive.

Over a dozen glowing lines of text popped up in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes on his UI:

[You've killed ancient personal combat Soul Artifact #1 (expired)]

[You obtained 150,000 Soul Points]

[You've killed ancient personal combat Soul Artifact #3 (expired)]

[You obtained 110,000 Soul Points]

[You've killed ancient personal combat Soul Artifact #4 (expired)]

[You obtained 160,000 Soul Points]

...

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed in relief.

It's a good thing that I managed to act fast enough and earned all these Soul Points myself.

If I had waited for any longer until Lin acted, I wouldn't have gotten anything.

And that would also reveal Lin's existence.

After he read through all the notifications, Gu Qing Shan looked up at the sky.

I now have ample amounts of Soul Points.

And the Divinities have been dealt with.

I wonder what that guy behind the Divinities would do next?

It's already been several ten thousand years.

How much clarity has his mind regained?

Gu Qing Shan waited for a few moments.

The guests at the ceremony venue all slowly regained their senses.

“Huh? What did I do just now?”

“What happened?”

“I don’t know, my mind went blank just now”

“I think they were dancing on the platform earlier”

“Did the Dance conclude already?”

Everyone was lively discussing among themselves.

The same scene was occurring everywhere within the infinite worlds.

The clothes that Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Ying Hao, and Ye Fei Li were wearing also vanished.

They returned to their original appearances.

“Are you ok?” Ye Fei Li asked in a low voice.

“How’s your body?” Zhang Ying Hao also asked.

Feeling warm in his heart, Gu Qing Shan smiled and told them: “Hm, there shouldn’t be any issues for the next while, thanks a lot— -- next time I dance, I’ll need to ask for your help again”

“WHAT!?! We have to dance again!?” both of them shouted in shock.

Zhang Ying Hao recalled how he was belly dancing earlier and became speechless.

Ye Fei Li was also unable to utter a single word.

I thought I had already made up my mind to join and fight alongside Gu Qing Shan in the 900 million World Layers...

But now that seems like it was too hasty of a decision.

“Let’s not talk about that for now, the true enemy is approaching”

Gu Qing Shan looked up.

The other two also followed his gaze.

Only to see a black spot appearing above them.

This black spot descended like a meteor from the sky and fell straight into the venue of the ceremony.

Long grey horns that stuck close to his head, curving backward along with his hair.

A body clad in drifting grey mist.

Just by standing there, he gave off the impression of a brewing tornado.

— --the Abyssal Demon Dragon.

He still arrived in the end.

「 How strange, how did an insignificant mortal like yourself manage to survive to this day? 」

The Abyssal Demon Dragon stared closely at Gu Qing Shan and curiously pondered.

“You recognize me?” Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

「 Of course, you give off an immense Demon Dragon bloodkin aura, although it’s currently being obscured by something, it couldn’t possibly deceive my senses 」

The Demon Dragon moved his neck around a bit and continued: 「 Let’s put the Bramble Bird Kingdom aside, for now, your death will be my first priority— after all, in this world, there should only be a single existence like myself 」

Gu Qing Shan didn’t say anything.

An emerald green leaf had fluttered behind him and turned into a suit of blinding armor of light.

— the Bramble Bird Sovereign Armor.

Gu Qing Shan’s previous armor automatically detached itself.

It was replaced by this divine armor of light and swiftly protecting Gu Qing Shan.

The Demon Dragon squinted his eyes at this and spoke in a low tone of voice: 「 Bramble Bird Kingdom, you mean to shelter this man? 」

No one answered him.

Those with a certain level of background at the venue were already shocked and stunned by the scene in front of their eyes.

The man clad in grey mist was giving off an unprecedented sense of power.

His strength had already surpassed what was known by the 900 million World Layers as a whole.

As for the Bramble Bird Kingdom—

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‘Laura’ stood below the platform, staring coldly at the Demon Dragon.

She slowly walked up to the platform and stood by Gu Qing Shan.

After her, Lin also showed herself.

She was wearing a full suit of golden armor, equipped with a pair of Elemental Fire gauntlets, nimbly landing on top of the platform.

「 Ah? Your wounds— 」

The Demon Dragon looked at Lin and muttered in surprise.

“I’m perfectly fine, it’s about time we settle our debt” Lin replied.

While they were talking, Ye Fei Li also walked up to stand by Gu Qing Shan's side, a pair of crimson bird wings spread behind his back.

He was wielding a khopesh.

——this was a weapon specifically to flay the soul from a person's body.

The Forgetting River Soul Flaying Hook¹.

Zhang Ying Hao took a step back behind the group and drew a black pistol.

As he was about to reach his other hand into the void of space to draw Cards, an emerald green leaf fluttered in front of him and turned into a black shoulder-mounted ballistic launcher.

"Hurry and pick it up, this thing is very powerful" the black pistol suddenly told him.

Zhang Ying Hao stopped drawing Cards and hurriedly received his ballistic launcher instead.

"What is this?" Zhang Ying Hao asked in a low voice.

"This the Cannon Brother—— do you know what the Cannon Brother is? It's the kind of firearm that was specifically made to destroy worlds!" the pistol replied.

Zhang Ying Hao inhaled a cold breath and mounted the ballistic launcher on his shoulder.

Watching the group below, the Abyssal Demon Dragon laughed.

「 Bahahaha, how interesting, do you really think you can match up against me with only that much power? 」

His tone turned vicious:

「 The only thing I felt from the very start was that it might be troublesome, but if you're going to be like this, I've decided to kill each and every one of you! 」

A figure appeared.

Lin didn't bother to exchange meaningless words and jumped straight up to him.

Bam!

The heavy sound of impact created shockwaves that almost caused everyone to be blown away.

An intense burning fist struck the Abyssal Demon Dragon's chest dead-on.

——but the Demon Dragon didn't even display a slight bit of pain on his face.

「 Tsk, tsk, tsk, without your Abyssal form, you truly are pathetically weak 」

Without the Demon Dragon moving at all, Lin was already sent flying.

Rumble rumble!

A large chunk of the palace collapsed with her.

The Abyssal Demon Dragon was completely disinterested: 「 Good, now that the biggest ant has been dealt with, in what order do the rest of you want to die? 」

His gaze passed through Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li.

Zhang Ying Hao's body froze up.

Not good, my attack would definitely not connect!

Zhang Ying Hao had such a thought.

Ye Fei Li, on the other hand, was able to sense the other party's true strength.

Damn it, such power...

Ye Fei Li was slowly being covered in a cold sweat, unable to move even a muscle.

Among the rubble, a figure climbed back out.

Lin wiped the blood from her mouth and spoke: "The fight has only just begun"

She went forward step by step towards the Abyssal Demon Dragon, her fighting spirit gradually accumulating.

If even I can't do it, who would be able to stop it in this place?

No, I have to——

Lin's gaze focused itself as her power practically solidified around her body.

——she was about to risk it all!

The Demon Dragon shook his head and spoke with confusion: 「 This place is no longer the Earth World or the Gemini Star, if you know that I've regained all of my Abyssal powers, why are you still looking to die? 」

Lin didn't answer him.

Her body swiftly moved and charged towards the Abyssal Demon Dragon again.

This time, she was simultaneously using both her fist and palm!

The Demon Dragon became serious for a brief moment, blocked her strikes a few times with his hands, then lost all interest.

The difference in strength between them was simply too great.

——he was the strongest Soul Artifact of the Bygone Era humans, now sheltered by the power of the Abyss, his strength had far surpassed what it originally was.

With only her martial expertise, Lin wasn't even a match.

After a few exchanges, the Demon Dragon reached his hands out and caught Lin's fist and palm.

No matter how she struggled, Lin couldn't escape from his grip.

The Demon Dragon gave off killing intent and smirked: 「 You who were abandoned by the Abyss can only use your death to—— 」

Before he finished his words.

The Demon Dragon noticed that the one he caught had changed.

——for some reason, he was now holding the man who carried the Demon Dragon bloodkin aura.

While Lin was standing where that man originally stood.

What's going on?

Just as the Demon Dragon fell into thought, the man looked at him and smiled: “It really wasn’t easy to catch you like this, now, let us have a nice and long talk”

——*it truly wasn't easy.*

With my strength, it was incredibly hard to grasp such an opportunity.

And this was the only hope for everyone to survive!

As he spoke, the pattern of a golden coin emerged out from the man’s body, followed their connected hands, and entered the Demon Dragon’s body.

Because Gu Qing Shan was too weak, this coin had been hiding inside his body without manifesting itself.

But Gu Qing Shan was still able to draw a bit of its power.

For example, absolute prohibition of the Earth.

[Absolute Prohibition: A target struck by you will have all their supernatural powers sealed away, duration 1 minute]

This was one of the three powers of the Earth Pillar God, just like [True Luck] and [Shelter], it was usable once every 30 days, an extremely precious power.

With the current situation, Gu Qing Shan had no room to consider other solutions.

He had to use this power now.

“I heard that you’ve become the boss of the Strife Zones recently, so everything you say and do has become a bit too willful. After thinking about it, although this might be hard to hear, but for your own good, I think I should still give you some advice”

As Gu Qing Shan spoke, he triggered his Lightning Thaumaturgy.

[Dreamjolt]!

Having lost all of his supernatural powers, the Demon Dragon couldn’t do anything in time and was completely engulfed by the blue lightning, thoroughly losing his ability to move.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and continued:

“While traveling from world to world, it’s best to be an honest person. This way, even if someone wanted to kill you, they would consider your feelings and at least make it swift”

He pulled one hand out and drew a Card from the void of space.

Rare item, [True Crimson Demon Spear]!

Chapter 973

A spear that gave off blinding crimson light appeared in Gu Qing Shan’s hand.

[Dreamjolt] will only last for 5 seconds.

Gu Qing Shan activated it while he was talking.

He wielded and cut the Abyssal Demon Dragon into pieces as soon as he finished talking, only two seconds had passed.

The Demon Dragon’s two arms, two legs, tail, torso, and head were separated from each other and laid on the platform.

Lin reminded him: “That’s not enough, his power is still too much”

Gu Qing Shan looked at her wounds and said: “I’ll leave it to you”

Four seconds.

“Hmph”

Lin glared at Gu Qing Shan but still smirked.

She understood what Gu Qing Shan was saying.

However—

It’s still a bit irritating to recall that time.

Fine, at least this time he’s doing it to let me release some steam...

Five seconds.

[Dreamjolt] ended.

Lin’s figure flashed and appeared next to Gu Qing Shan.

With a single punch, she knocked all of the Demon Dragon’s body parts into the air.

Followed by a barrage of attacks.

In a split second, the Demon Dragon’s arms, legs, tail, and torso were all sent flying.

They were attacks that contained Lin’s full power as well as anger.

The Demon Dragon’s body parts were sent flying, crossing the world barrier towards different directions.

Only the Demon Dragon's head remained.

—-as it was now a true Abyssal monster, it didn't die right away.

Compared to Lin who was fully awake to see herself being cut apart, the Abyssal Demon Dragon had obviously not been killed this way before.

So he was very confused.

How did—-

Clearly—-

Why did—-

—-how am I suddenly on the ground?

No matter how much it wracked its head, the Demon Dragon couldn't figure it out.

Lin stood in front to shield Gu Qing Shan and told him: "Even though only its head remained, it still contains the power of the Abyss so it won't die right away. It's best that you maintain caution"

"You're right"

Gu Qing Shan nodded in agreement and sent his voice to Laura who's been hiding in a secret location: "Do you have items that can seal supernatural power away?"

"Yes, I'll give them to you now" Laura searched her backpack and answered right away.

Several emerald green leaves appeared out of thin air and fluttered around Gu Qing Shan.

The leaves disappeared, each turning into a different sealing artifact.

—-since they were things from Laura's personal collection that she took out right away, they were surely not any ordinary items.

Since Laura understood the situation, she had immediately sent Gu Qing Shan the strongest sealing artifacts she had.

Gu Qing Shan glanced over them.

Firstly, he took the two talismans, activated them with spirit energy, and sent them out.

The two talismans fell onto the Demon Dragon's two horns and started glowing.

They were both high-leveled Cultivation-type sealing talismans. Gu Qing Shan instantly recognized the power they contained with a swift glance of his inner sight.

Following that, Gu Qing Shan found and threw almost a dozen kinds of different Magic-type hexes of absolute sealing onto the Demon Dragon's big face.

Various strange and unusual patterns appeared on the Demon Dragon's face.

Followed by numerous accessories with sealing effects—- usually, things like these were made to be small and beautiful trinkets that made it convenient to wear (put) on your (other people's) body.

With some thought, Gu Qing Shan used his spirit energy to braid the Demon Dragon's hair into locks and tied a sealing accessory onto each one.

But there were too many sealing items and not enough of the Demon Dragon's hair.

Lin spoke up:

"That's enough, you've already used too many sealing artifacts"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "It's best to make absolutely sure"

He looked at the Demon Dragon's long and thick black beard——

Yes, I can tie things to this as well.

The remaining accessories flew over and were tied onto the Demon Dragon's beard.

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the air.

Only one sealing artifact remained.

This was the strongest one among all the sealing artifacts.

It was a pointy hat that gave off a clear emerald glow as if it was created from one of the Bramble Great Tree's leaves.

Gu Qing Shan sent the emerald hat so that it perfectly fit over the Demon Dragon's head.

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief and asked: "There, all finished. Can you check if the head's power has been sealed or not?"

"Let me check"

Lin looked down at the Demon Dragon's head and silently sighed emotionally.

I only reminded him just in case there might be some sort of unseen change.

Who knew he would be this cruel...

——the Demon Dragon's face was now filled with Magic-type runes and patterns, his two horns were wrapped by two pieces of paper (talisman), his hair and beard were tied full of tiny accessories of various sizes, and was wearing an emerald green hat on top.

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Even a powerful Abyssal would be greatly limited in what kind of secret technique and power they were able to utilize if all they had left was a severed head.

And now that the Demon Dragon's head was practically filled to the brim with sealing artifacts, he couldn't even dream of unleashing any power.

———how did a terrifying monster that was supposed to be undefeatable within the 900 million World Layers fall to this sad state?

Lin shook her head and said:

“It probably won’t be able to unleash any sort of power now”

“That’s good to hear”

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief and approached it.

This time, Lin didn’t stop him.

Gu Qing Shan crouched down, grabbed the Demon Dragon’s long horns, and lifted his head to face him.

“I’m sorry, I really didn’t want to kill you”

Gu Qing Shan said apologetically.

‘Equipped’ with so many artifacts around as well as a ridiculous green hat on his head, the Demon Dragon was staring a hole into Gu Qing Shan.

If a gaze could kill, Gu Qing Shan would’ve already died in the most horrible way possible.

Gu Qing Shan cleared his throat and continued: “Truthfully, your strength is known far and wide to be feared, but I didn’t know much about you, so I was afraid and had to take measures to protect myself”

The Demon Dragon remained silent.

Gu Qing Shan went on: “I’ll be honest, I actually want to talk business with you”

Silence.

Everyone who heard this went completely speechless.

—*are you seriously trying to strike a business deal after turning the other party into that state?*

The onlookers all had the same thought.

While Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li silently exchanged glances.

The same old Gu Qing Shan.

But Laura was thinking of something else entirely.

She crossed her arms in front of her chest with a nostalgic look in her eyes.

For some reason, she was recalling their journey in Triste’s collection world, when Gu Qing Shan made the countless demonized people willingly remove the [Order] from themselves on top of the snow mountain.

Hearing Gu Qing Shan’s words, Lin couldn’t help but blink her eyes at him.

—she just noticed that she hadn’t made this expression for a very long time.

—sure enough, even the Demon Dragon himself couldn’t help but react when he heard Gu Qing Shan.

「 You want to talk business with me? What do you mean? 」 he asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I want you to tell me the location of a certain person—— she might actually be with you right now”

The Demon Dragon’s expression turned dull and emphasized every word: 「 Regardless of who that person is, I will never tell you 」

Gu Qing Shan sincerely told him: “If you still want to exist, you will tell me”

The Demon Dragon laughed: 「 Do you know what kind of entity you’re threatening? 」

His laugh was so resounding that the trinkets all over his head shook with it.

The two talismans on his horns fluttered like a couple of loose bandages.

The green hat on top of the dragon head was shaken by the laugh and almost fell down.

Lin scowled.

Although it isn’t my place to say such a thing, this dragon head looks so bad right now that it’s actually bringing shame to the Eternal Abyss.

Gu Qing Shan helped the Demon Dragon wear his hat again in a friendly manner and gently told him: “I know what you’re trying to say, and since you’re only a head right now, you can fall into slumber at any moment—— so we’re going to have a nice and sincere talk without any falsehood”

「 Don’t even think about it. Talking business with someone like you? Do you really take me for a fool? 」 the Demon Dragon mocked him.

“I suggest that you think about it carefully” Gu Qing Shan’s tone slowed down: “There are many dangers that come with traveling the infinite worlds since you’ve always been treated as a god, most likely no one had ever helped you understand this fact”

“But now that we’ve had the chance to become acquainted, I’m more than willing to help reintroduce you to this world”

「 What can you actually do? An ant who doesn’t even have control over his own life and death is trying to threaten me? 」 the Demon Dragon mocked him again.

Gu Qing Shan slowly replied: “Then, let us take a guess, what would happen if I bring this jagged head of yours and put it near the Reality Gate?”

The Demon Dragon’s heart sank.

An entity with the eternal characteristic was unkillable and couldn’t die, as they would simply reawaken after a dormant period.

Except for one particular situation.

In the vicinity of the Reality Gate, that overwhelmingly powerful parallel world was still wrestling against its own Apocalypse.

The struggle between the parallel world and the Apocalypse created an ever-expanding Fate Corrosion.

This was a terrifying occurrence as it was able to directly overwrite an individual's Fate and cause anything that came into contact with it to be thoroughly destroyed.

「 Ridiculous, with your meager self, can you even muster the courage to head to the Reality Gate? 」

The Demon Dragon scoffed.

“I can” Gu Qing Shan seriously nodded.

「 You will surely die 」

“I probably will, but before that, I'll guarantee that this head of yours is going to disappear first”

「 You don't even know how to head to the Reality Gate. Even within the Abyss, this is a secret among secrets 」

“The one standing right next to me is Lin, can you guess why she and I allied with each other?”

「 That place isn't a joke, with just you alone——」

“We will make it there; I can guarantee that”

A man and a dragon head stood facing one another for a long while.

The Demon Dragon suddenly remembered something.

That's right.

For countless years, everything Lin had done had been for the sake of going through the Reality Gate.

This was her obsession.

Which means, they will truly go there.

Chapter 974

When the Demon Dragon entered the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

On the other side.

The border between the Strife Zones and the Mystic Zones.

The Soul Shrieker was being blocked by Black Hound.

Its long, high-pitched shriek slowly faded.

From the blurry fog, every hidden lifeform had their soul absorbed while their bodies were swept away by the wind of the space vortex.

Black Hound wielded the scepter of Death and remained where it was, completely intact.

「 『 That is impossible! 」 』

The Soul Shrieker stared closely at Black Hound's scepter, displaying an expression of disbelief for the first time.

「 『 That era has long ago ended, the so-called Deities have already left to somewhere unknown. You should be nothing but specks of remnant dust that remained of that time, how could you wield the power of Death!? 」 』

This seemed like a complaint, but it also felt like a question.

Black Hound simply stood still with a mysterious smile on its face.

「 Pitiful monster of the Abyss, you know nothing of the past, your understanding of Death's power itself is too crude 」

Loudly declaring so, Black Hound then secretly focused its mind on the scepter of Death.

It checked the scepter without changing its expression, but its heart slowly sank.

——there wasn't much power of Death left on the scepter, and their battle had only just begun.

This monster of the Eternal Abyss—— the Soul Shrieker, was a powerful enemy.

Not only did it have the power of the Abyss but it was also the Envoy of [Chaos], capable of utilizing both powers.

To resist its shriek, Black Hound had to use the power of Death that was accumulated and saved over countless years on the scepter.

Ever since the Gods left this reality, ever since 'that' era, it became incredibly hard to obtain the power of Death.

All the power that remained on the scepter was gathered by Black Hound through countless years, a tiny strand at a time.

「 I don't believe it! The Age of Gods had already ended! 」

The Soul Shrieker howled.

Behind it, endless grey mist swirled and surged, slowly encroaching the sky above.

A voice emerged from inside the grey mist:

“Sir Envoy, this one has arrived at your summon”

Following him, another voice sounded from the grey mist:

“Following our agreement, I came at the Envoy's summon to fight for the sake of [Chaos]”

The voices didn't stop, as if more and more people were showing up within the grey mist.

“I've come”

“How interesting, sir Envoy is making me show myself so soon”

“Once I've been summoned, regardless of what kind of entity they are, they will fall at my hands!”

“Has the fight not begun yet?”

The grey mist slowly dissipated.

Over 10 people appeared behind the Soul Shrieker.

「 『 I know you, bell ringer dog of the Holy Church of Death, you do not originally have such great power, capable of going up against myself with the power of [Chaos] 』 』

The Soul Shrieker continued: 「 『 Come, if you follow the will of the God of Death, let me see how long you can actually hold off those who carry [Chaos] 』 』

It gave the orders.

The summoned carriers of [Chaos] dashed forward from behind towards Black Hound.

Black Hound silently complained but maintained a dignified expression.

Each of these people carry a unique [Chaos] UI, their strength has also surpassed Lord-class, so if I rely on my power alone, it would become a tough battle of attrition.

The Soul Shrieker would then immediately recognize my trick.

— — — I can't let that happen!

Black Hound raised his scepter of Death and chanted:

「 As all things have a beginning, all things shall end 』

「 What originated from dirt will return to slumber in the dirt 』

「 Only the soul can surpass it all and enter the secret holy sanctuary of death 』

Its voice was suddenly raised:

「 Souls! 』

「 I am your master! 』

Shadowy light came forth from the scepter of Death and accurately illuminated the bodies of the carriers of [Chaos].

The charging carriers of [Chaos] fell down one by one.

Faint figures emerged from their bodies, led by the shadowy light into the air.

The figures were all struggling as much as they could, silently screaming and howling, trying everything they can to return to their bodies.

「 Souls, return to your slumber 』

Black Hound deeply chanted the final verse of the incantation.

Ooooooooooooo— — —

The scepter of Death emanated harrowing whispers of sorrow.

Facing this Death technique, nothing that the faint figures did was of any use.

They went into the scepter of Death one after another.

In a mere breath's worth of time.

The magic ended.

All the carriers of [Chaos] collapsed on the ground, no longer breathing.

Even though they each had their own [Chaos] UI, they were still powerless against this technique.

The Soul Shrieker's pupils contracted and shouted in horror:

「 『 Whispers of the Death Deity! 」 』

It couldn't help but take a step back, cautiously observing Black Hound.

This was an ancient powerful Deity technique that had been lost to history, only recorded in the bible of the Holy Church of Death, but never once had it been successfully performed for over hundreds of thousand years.

It was because of this that living beings know that the God of Death is no longer here.

But then, how did I see with my own eyes that technique being performed once more?

After unleashing its technique, Black Hound once again stared closely at the Soul Shrieker.

「 If you have any other means, you had better use them now 」

Black Hound waved the scepter of Death and casually declared.

While the other party was stunned, Black Hound used his mind to check the scepter again.

—to reap the souls of those carriers of [Chaos] just now, all the power of Death stored in scepter had all been used up.

Seeing this, Black Hound slowly felt a sense of uncontrollable fear rising from its heart.

Without the scepter, with Black Hound's power alone, it had no way to go up against the Soul Shrieker.

It would be devoured whole by the other party.

「 Soul Shrieker, retreat now, in front of Death, you will not take even a single step forward 」

Black Hound maintained a calm expression and spoke with a deep, harrowing voice.

Facing it, the Soul Shrieker was indeed not making any movements.

「 『 Bastard, this should be impossible 」 』

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The Soul Shrieker whispered and kept its eyes on Black Hound.

It is only a servant of a lost Deity; how could it still have so much power?

What other thing is it capable of?

The Soul Shrieker clenched its fist tightly and silently considered the difference in strength between the two of them.

Perhaps, I should probe it first?

While the Soul Shrieker was about to make its impulsive decision, it noticed something changed.

Wait—

This black dog—

Its originally raised tail is slowly lowering and is keeping it close between its legs.

What does that mean?

Is it also making some sort of preparation and is also waiting for the moment I charge forward to strike?

The Soul Shrieker was hesitant and gave up on the idea of charging forward recklessly.

...

On the other side.

Black Crow was bringing Su Xue Er, Anna, and Ning Yue Chan flying through the space vortex.

“Do your best! Crow Deity!”

Anna encouraged it.

“Don’t worry, Anna, we will definitely make it to the Bramble Bird Kingdom before the Soul Shrieker does” Black Crow informed her.

Anna’s expression turned a bit sorrowful and muttered: “I wonder how the Hound Deity is doing right now”

“Don’t mind it, it’s been through a lot and is a lot more reliable than it appears, there shouldn’t be any issues” Black Crow answered.

“But he has a big weakness, I’m just afraid that the enemy might see through it right away” Anna replied.

“Weakness?” Black Crow asked in surprise.

“Hm, he can’t conceal his true emotions” Anna sighed.

A warm hand placed itself on Anna’s shoulder.

It was Su Xue Er.

“Anna, don’t worry, even if the servant of God can’t handle it, he would still be able to escape more easily compared to us” Su Xue Er consoled her.

Anna nodded.

The two of them then looked to the other side.

The female cultivator wearing flowing silk clothing was standing alone in front, observing the endless space vortex.

Anna thought for a bit, then walked up and asked: "I still haven't thanked you for saving us"

Ning Yue Chan didn't turn around and simply replied: "Don't mind it too much"

Su Xue Er insisted: "How could I not mind the debt of my life? And I have a suggestion for you"

"Say it"

Su Xue Er pointed to Anna: "How about you give the authority of waking up the [Order] to my friend, she and I will continue on our way alone to the Bramble Bird Kingdom. You won't need to return, as the Bramble Bird Kingdom will surely become a great field of battle very soon"

After a moment of silence, Ning Yue Chan's voice gained a bit of warmth: "...Thank you for your consideration, but I must return no matter what"

"Why?" Su Xue Er curiously asked.

Ning Yue Chan lowered her head, then answered gently but resolutely: "Because the one I have been waiting for is there"

This immediately changed the atmosphere between the three girls.

For the girls, this statement contained a topic of girls' talk that never got boring.

Su Xue Er and Anna exchanged glances.

Anna tried asking directly: "I'm sorry for asking but, is it your Dao companion?"

Ning Yue Chan turned around and smiled: "Not to that degree, not yet"

"Ah—"

Anna and Su Xue Er both uttered the same exclamation filled with implications.

This woman is a soldier of the Bramble Bird Kingdom, which means the one she loves surely belongs to the Bramble Bird Kingdom as well, perhaps a childhood friend, or a fellow soldier.

How strange.

The tense atmosphere of the situation had been defused completely by this topic.

— their situation hadn't gotten any less urgent compared to earlier, but through these words, the three girls all calmed down and even got a bit closer to one another.

Anna pointed at Su Xue Er, then at herself and spoke: "She's called Su Xue Er, 18 years old. I'm Anna, 19 years old, can I ask how old you are currently?"

"I'm a bit older than you two, 22 years old this year" Ning Yue Chan replied.

“Then I’ll call you big sis—— I’m truly curious what kind of person the man you missed so dearly would be like” Su Xue Er smiled a bit and said.

“Why so?” Ning Yue Chan asked.

“Your Blade technique is too excellent, a normal person wouldn’t be able to reach that level, yet your beauty is unrivaled, not to mention your generous and gentle nature. Even I feel greatly drawn to you, so I really want to know what kind of person would cause a person like yourself to fall so deeply” Su Xue Er sincerely answered her.

“You praise me too much. There’s no need to focus only on me, what about you two?” Ning Yue Chan felt a bit awkward and avoided the question.

“We——”

Su Xue Er and Anna faced one another, then helplessly sighed: “We seem to be a bit unfortunate, as we both fell in love with the same man”

Ning Yue Chan had already noticed this a while ago and asked: “What kind of person is he?”

“Ah, it’s quite hard to say. Hm, he’s also a cultivator”

“Really?”

Ning Yue Chan was a bit more interested and pursued: “What kind of path does he cultivate? You should know, it is possible to guess the general personality and behaviours according to the different paths that a cultivator focused themselves on”

“Is that really the case?” Anna was also interested.

“Indeed, this has been confirmed since long ago” Ning Yue Chan nodded.

Su Xue Er also felt intrigued and replied: “I guess it doesn’t hurt to tell you, in the terms of cultivators, he’s actually a sword cultivator”

“A sword cultivator?”

Ning Yue Chan’s long and thin eyelashes raised a bit, her expression turned grim.

Noticing the change in her expression, Su Xue Er and Anna asked at the same time:

“What’s wrong with sword cultivators?”

Ning Yue Chan scoffed and replied: “Most cultivators who use swords nowadays choose the path of deviousness. This represents that they themselves are constantly swaying without true allegiance”

“Taking it a bit further, there are very few sword cultivators who can actually be considered true men—— personally, I think sword cultivators, in general, are nothing decent regardless of gender”

With a displeased look on her face, Ning Yue Chan continued: “And here I was wondering what happened, turns out it was a sword cultivator who used devious means to make the both of you pledge your true love. Furthermore, making you live in such a tattered and sorrowful state, I hate this kind of person”

Anna and Su Xue Er were both shocked.

“Ah, about that, we actually did this on our own” Anna awkwardly denied it.

Su Xue Er also sighed and told her: “That’s right, he didn’t use any devious means on us, it’s just that we were both already in love with him before we knew it”

Hearing their words, Ning Yue Chan was even more displeased.

She placed her hand on her Blade and casually said:

“There’s no need for you to make any excuses for this kind of man. Once we return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom, I’ll help you see clearly just how he truly is”

Intense Blade qi radiated from her body.

Su Xue Er and Anna exchanged glances, both seeing the helplessness in each other’s eyes.

Indeed, the first thing Ning Yue Chan did was save the two of them.

And it was also because Ning Yue Chan was worried that they had run into some sort of scum that she was acting like this.

Anna recognized this, and so did Su Xue Er.

That was why they couldn’t do anything but stay silent, not knowing how to clear Gu Qing Shan’s name.

Chapter 975

How strange.

This doesn’t seem right.

The more the Soul Shrieker observed the bell ringer dog, the more suspicious it became.

During their exchanges earlier, this black dog was radiating with the ancient and powerful power of Death.

But now, this dog isn’t giving off even a little bit of the power of Death.

—what exactly is this one up to?

Staring intently at the other party, the Soul Shrieker recalled the past of the 7 Holy Churches.

Through paradigm shifts and countless hardships, the 7 Holy Churches had already become empty husks, now controlled by Abyssal entities while acting as their puppets that rule over the Strife Zones.

The Demigods of the Holy Churches haven’t said anything about this up to now.

Furthermore, for the sake of survival, they normally choose to abide and cooperate instead.

But now, right at this moment, the bell ringer dog of the Holy Church of Death had awoken the power of Death.

It had already stopped two of my attacks.

The Soul Shrieker's caution was turning heavier.

「 It seems you have become an opponent that I need to be serious with 」 the Soul Shrieker's male voice spoke.

Following that, the female voice shrieked in a high-pitched tone: 『 Let us engage in deathly combat, let this era decide by itself whether the one who gains control over it would be the stale Gods of the remote past, or the boundless and active [Chaos]! 』

The Soul Shrieker stared closely at the black dog; its presence skyrocketed.

—-it was prepared to risk its life!

—-however, the Soul Shrieker felt even stranger as it noticed that the higher its presence rose higher, the tail of the black dog facing it was becoming tighter and tighter.

Seems like it's also preparing for one final struggle.

The Soul Shrieker displayed a vicious grin.

Good, let's go, let us engage in mad combat!

The change in its attitude had been clearly seen through by Black Hound.

Black Hound smirked and revealed its mouth full of sharp teeth: 「 Very well, then let me show you personally, the power of Gods isn't something you can face 」

It made a stance to attack.

Recalling their two precious exchanges, the Soul Shrieker couldn't help but prepare itself to defend.

Immediately after that, perhaps ashamed of this reaction, the Soul Shrieker howled: 『 「 Death cannot block my path, and neither can you! 』 』

Its steps quicken, swiftly charging at Black Hound.

Seeing that, Black Hound suddenly shouted: 「 Wait! 」

Not knowing what was going on, the Soul Shrieker paused.

Black Hound stared intensely at it and begrudgingly spoke: 「 Shameless bastard, you actually ordered people to destroy our Holy Church during our decisive battle! 」

The Soul Shrieker was shocked.

Black Hound shouted in anger: 「 Soul Shrieker, you are not a true warrior! You are trying to stall me here! 」

Saying so, its body shrank and turned back into a black dog.

Black Hound didn't hesitate for a single moment and hurriedly ran towards the Strife Zones.

Its speed was fast, clearly running with all it had.

—at a glance, it seemed to be hurrying back to save its Holy Church.

A few moments later.

Black Hound went far out of sight.

The Soul Shrieker stood still in place, thoroughly confused.

What's going on?

I... didn't send anyone specifically to destroy the Holy Church of Death...

Just as it was about to give chase, it stopped.

What am I trying to chase it for?

Chasing after it just to fight, wouldn't that be a waste of my time?

What does it matter to me if the Holy Church of Death gets destroyed or not?

The Soul Shrieker slowly regained its senses.

It turned to look at the direction of the Mystic Zones.

There was no one else blocking its path.

「 『I've wasted too much time; I need to hurry up!』 』

The Soul Shrieker muttered.

Roar—

With a resounding response from the void, a humongous figure comparable to several solar systems arrived next to it.

An Abyssal Behemoth.

Its speed was the fastest within the Abyss, capable of traversing several planets with every step.

The Soul Shrieker jumped onto the Abyssal Behemoth's back and quickly left this part of the space vortex.

Black Hound was running in the opposite direction.

When it noticed that the Soul Shrieker wasn't giving chase and instead sped up in another direction, it sighed in relief.

This is too dangerous, I'm lucky I didn't get devoured whole.

「 Hmph, fool, I still managed to escape in the end 」

Black Hound coldly said.

Its tail stood straight up, waving happily from side to side.

For some reason, the tail suddenly stopped.

Black Hound sighed and muttered: 「 Hah, this is the limit of what I can do, let's hope that Anna will be able to succeed 」

...

Let's rewind time for a bit.

The Bramble Bird Kingdom.

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The royal palace.

Inside a particularly open room.

A man opened his eyes and sat up on the bed.

He stayed silent for a few moments.

"My wounds have all been treated..."

"It seems someone saved me at the last possible moment"

The man plopped himself down again, putting his hands behind his back and spoke with a troubled tone of voice: "An existence like myself, saved by someone else... how very embarrassing"

"—Should I kill the one who saved me, or think of a way to repay him?"

"How conflicting"

The man muttered, then gradually smelled food.

He noticed that he was hungry.

The man stood up, got off his bed, and looked around.

The carpet was luxuriously soft, simply standing on it allowed him to feel vitality rushing into his body through his feet.

Across from the bed was a long table made of pure gold, filled with steaming hot dishes of food ready to be enjoyed.

A pair of sunglasses sat at the corner of the table that were acting as a paperweight for a sheet of paper.

The man walked over, pulled the sheet of paper out, and looked through it.

It said:

[Your glasses were broken, we've made another pair of the same size, although the material was different, it should achieve the same effect, hope you can forgive that much]

[Your wounds are quite severe, please rest well, if there's anything you need, ring the small bell next to the bed. There will be servants always ready to serve]

The man put down the sheet of paper and picked up the pair of sunglasses.

This was his original pair, not only were the lenses broken, even the frame had been warped.

—*this was something I had Demon Dragon buy for me when I saw someone else wearing it, it seemed quite nice.*

—*I didn't expect it to break so fast.*

The man picked up another pair of sunglasses.

This was a brand-new pair of glasses, it was light, sturdy, and completely clean. It had an automatic dust vacuuming function as well as resistance against the 5 main Elements.

“Heh...”

The man put the glasses on, then sat in front of the table.

Seeing the entire table full of delicious food, the man felt hungrier.

“In any case, let's have a meal first, if they taste good, I won't kill you people”

Saying so, the man began to enjoy his meal.

At first, the man ate very slowly, but it didn't take long for him to start gorging food down like a vacuum, swiftly emptying plate after plate of food.

“Ah... it's truly delicious”

“The level of energy in this crab is exactly what I needed”

“Ah? Is this the legendary Starsea Lobster? And Demon Dragon claimed that we didn't bring enough money to eat this last time we went out, really...”

“Very good, very good!”

The man occasionally sighed emotionally.

—*don't be ridiculous, this place was the wealthiest country in all the 900 million World Layers.*

How could the food that the master of this kingdom personally picked out to be any lacking?

After happily finishing his food, the man even tried drinking a black liquid with what seemed to be bubbles rising from inside.

“Yah... this black bubble liquid, why do I feel so fulfilled after drinking it?”

The man smiled and put his cup down.

This meal satisfied him.

After some thought, the man pulled out a book from the void of space.

“After I was unconscious” the man declared.

The book opened by itself.

Lifelike images started to unfold in front of his eyes.

Being caught by the wooden arm; the Bramble Bird ship; the conversation between Gu Qing Shan, Laura, and Lin; as well as everything that happened after that was recorded and displayed in the book.

The man looked closely at Gu Qing Shan, seemingly recalling something.

“The Book of Fate had told me to look for this person, who would’ve thought we would become acquainted by way of the saviour and the one being saved”

He sighed emotionally.

The book continued to turn.

The man continued to watch as the book displayed everything up until the final page.

The page depicted Gu Qing Shan’s group leaving a room, about to climb onto the ceremonial platform.

In reality, when the man saw this page, the ceremony in the palace had only just reached his point as well.

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao were disguised as guards to escort Ye Fei Li onto the platform.

The man closed the book and rubbed his chin.

“I’ve lost too much of my power now, the only thing left is the Book of Fate”

“That World Destroyer’s drinks would most likely be able to directly cure my wounds, although I will need a lot, there should be nothing better than these beverages”

“How ironic, a World Destroyer awakened a Mystic-type ability specifically to help others— is this his own desires?”

The man thought to himself.

All of a sudden, a dignified voice resounded outside the palace from the sky:

「 Empress Laura, the True God is waiting for your presence in the Divine Sanctuary of the Strife Zones
」

The Divinities have arrived.

The man sat still in contemplation for a bit before slowly standing up.

His figure blinked and disappeared from the room.