

Apocalypse 976

Chapter 976

As the ceremony was taking place.

The entire palace was being heavily guarded.

At the top of the palace, a hidden defense post.

A single Bramble Bird royal guard was responsible for this post.

He was carefully observing for any abnormal movements.

The Divinities had just appeared in the sky.

The guard couldn't help himself looking up.

At the same time.

The man wearing sunglasses appeared behind him and looked up at the sky together with him.

The man carefully observed the Divinity's appearance and felt interested.

"What a wonderful train of thought, creating Soul Artifacts using the appearance of Deities as a base, but didn't they know that it would cause the Soul Artifacts to lose control?"

"Not to mention, their power would be so vastly inferior to a real Deity that they would essentially just be toys"

The man commented.

While he was speaking, the guard standing in front of him seemed completely ignorant and continued to stare at the Divinity in the sky.

The Divinity was talking with 'Laura'.

All of a sudden, on top of the platform, a guard stepped out between 'Laura' and Ye Fei Li.

This drew the attention of everyone.

The sunglasses man also looked down to observe the commotion below.

He knew who this guard was, and knew that he saved himself once.

"Choosing this occasion to appear in front of the 900 million World Layers, what are you trying to do?"

The sunglasses man muttered to himself.

The results didn't disappoint him.

Gu Qing Shan together with Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li suddenly began to dance.

...

After the dance was over and when everyone was beginning to state their desires.

The sunglasses man also couldn't help himself speaking: "I want to continue searching——"

All of a sudden, his eyes regained their clarity.

"What a bizarre Dance, I don't seem to recall such a dance ever existing before"

The sunglasses man contemplated and carefully pondered.

He flipped open the book in his hand and muttered: "Record"

Following his words, a page on the book began to display the scene of the Dance just now.

All of a sudden, flames erupted from the book.

The page that was recording the Dance was burnt to ash.

The sunglasses man was stunned.

"It can't be recorded?"

He doubtfully asked the book.

The book was trembling slightly, as if afraid of something.

The sunglasses man slowly closed the book and put it away.

"Even a book that can take a peek into Fate couldn't record this Dance..."

He muttered and fell into thought.

A Dance that I don't recognize.

Not even the Book of Fate is able to record it.

Things have gotten quite interesting.

If all he did was save me, there would be nothing else to say, but when he's this mysterious, I have to remain here and look for the truth.

Just as he was thinking this, Gu Qing Shan leapt out from the platform and killed the 16 Divinities who were still in a trance.

Immediately after that, the Demon Dragon descended from above.

Demon Dragon exerted his prowess.

Demon Dragon died.

The only thing that remained of the Demon Dragon was a single head that was thoroughly sealed away with a green hat.

It was now that the sunglasses man regained his senses from his earlier contemplation.

"Huh? Isn't that my pet? What is he doing here?"

He seemed surprised.

...

On top of the ceremonial platform.

Gu Qing Shan was trying to negotiate with the Demon Dragon.

“There are too many people here, let us find a peaceful place to have our talk” Gu Qing Shan said.

He pulled the dragon head along with him into the palace, while also ordering various arrangements around the palace.

“Laura, cut the live broadcast, have the guests return and order the entire palace into a state of maximum security, and be prepared to face any possible situations”

“Got it” Laura replied.

“Lin, please protect Laura, I’m worried that the Demon Dragon might have an accomplice”

“It probably didn’t think that far ahead— but fine, it’s better to be careful” after saying so, Lin left to find Laura.

“Zhang Ying Hao, Ye Fei Li, follow me into the palace for now”

“Sure”

At this point, the Bramble Bird General, Ilya, appeared again to announce the closing of the ceremony.

The Bramble Bird guards got busy with their work to maintain and enforce order.

Very quickly, the Bramble Bird army appeared on the scene, they were fully armed and swiftly joined the work of keeping the venue peaceful and orderly.

Officials came up to each group of guests and led them out of the venue.

Even now, everyone was still confused.

The Divinities appeared.

The Divinities were wiped out.

There was a blank period of time between these two events, so what occurred?

No one managed to recall what happened at all.

After that, it was the appearance and death of the Demon Dragon.

The more one understood the prowess it displayed, the more shocking its death was.

The Bramble Bird Kingdom actually had enough power to deal with an opponent of that level!

It turns out that aside from having the Bramble Great Tree and endless wealth, the Bramble Bird Kingdom was also a considerably powerful country!

The 900 million World Layers as a whole was shocked.

Right at this moment, countless forces and organizations were reconsidering their attitude and relations with the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

Today's ceremony had basically been ruined, but what occurred instead was more than enough for them to gradually digest over the next period of time.

...

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The palace.

Gu Qing Shan put the dragon head on the table and silently waited.

Ye Fei Li gave Zhang Ying Hao a can of drinks, then another for Gu Qing Shan.

"No need, I've already gotten one" Gu Qing Shan told him

"The one I prepared for you earlier was for the sake of intense battle, it can replenish a lot so it's a waste to use it now. Better use this one with a lower capacity just to recover your stamina" Ye Fei Li explained.

Gu Qing Shan then received and popped it open, slowly consuming it.

These things always had a random flavor that couldn't be controlled.

But Gu Qing Shan's luck was quite decent this time since the can he received was strawberry flavored.

Zhang Ying Hao's can had a much deeper flavor, it was pork ribs soup.

Taking a few sips, Gu Qing Shan's stamina that was used up during the Dance and the battle afterward was slowly replenished.

How miraculous.

He couldn't help but asked: "Fei Li, would there be any adverse effects to you when you're making so many canned drinks?"

Ye Fei Li smiled and replied: "It does cost me Soul Points to create these things, but it's ok for now. I obtained quite a bit of Soul Points in the Tower of Infinite Worlds"

"You mean you killed a lot of monsters?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

"Hm, that tower was seriously huge, I discovered a certain spot in the tower where monsters would respawn very quickly, so I camped there for a few days killing them until I reached the absolute limit of Soul Points I can store before I left" Ye Fei Li replied.

A few moments later.

Laura and Lin returned.

"Everything has been arranged properly. In case anything happens, we'll immediately receive reports and choose whether to engage in combat or flee" Laura told them.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and turned to the Demon Dragon.

“So, have you thought it through?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Whose information do you want to know about? 」 the Demon Dragon asked him in return.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “The Angel of Condemnation and her corresponding coin, if I remember correctly, they should be on your hands, correct?”

The Demon Dragon thought for a bit, then slowly understood.

「 You’re trying to collect the three coins? To travel through time? So that’s what you were after 」 the Demon Dragon said.

“Even if not for that, I would still look for Little Dusk, she’s my partner” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Demon Dragon went silent briefly, then spoke up: 「 I have one condition, if you accept it, I will tell you 」

“Then what if I don’t?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Then you can forget about ever finding that Angel of Condemnation 」 the Demon Dragon replied.

“Tell me your condition first” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Demon Dragon told him: 「 When you use the coin to return to the past, I want to come with you 」

“You? What are you going back for?”

Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

The Demon Dragon mused before answering: 「 Ever since that battle several ten thousand years ago, I would feel my mind occasionally becoming clear and sometimes falling cloudy. I want to return to that moment and look for the root cause of all this”

Gu Qing Shan looked up for a bit and contemplated.

Apparently, the Earth Creator took advantage of when the Demon Dragon fell into slumber and did something to him...

“Not possible” Gu Qing Shan refused, “I won’t take you back to the past”

The Demon Dragon’s face went grim and questioned: 「 Why not? 」

“Because I don’t want to return to the Age of Old, but rather a different period of time” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Demon Dragon thought for a bit, then made another offer: 「 Then how about this, after you finish your trip to the past and return to the present, give me the coins, I will use them once 」

Gu Qing Shan refused right away: “Still not possible, I have no idea what you would attempt in the past, so I can’t let you go”

Staring at him, the Demon Dragon grumbled each word: 「 So you won't give me anything? 」

Gu Qing Shan shrugged and said generously: "Aside from this, you can demand anything else, I'll consider them"

「 I can tell that you're the one in charge here, then I want to take the Bramble Bird Empress away with me 」

"Not possible"

「 Then I want this World Destroyer, he's very valuable 」

"Not possible"

「 Then give me your sword, choose among the twin swords Heaven and Earth and give one of them to me 」

"Not possible"

The Demon Dragon went silent, closed his eyes, and ignored Gu Qing Shan.

"Oi, can't you think of something else? Maybe we'll arrive at some sort of agreement" Gu Qing Shan encouraged him.

The Demon Dragon roared in anger:

「 Bastard, not only did you kill me, you refused to give me anything I want. I'd rather die right now than to tell you the answer you want! 」

Gu Qing Shan scowled: "Wait, let us negotiate again"

「 What bullshit negotiation! You're trying to rob me blind! 」

"You really insist on not telling me?"

「 I'd rather die! 」

While roaring, the Demon Dragon suddenly heard a sound by his ears:

"Tell him"

Hearing this extremely familiar male voice that sounded straight out of his nightmare, the Demon Dragon froze.

Even while he only had his head left, he could still feel the traumatic shadow in his heart rising back up.

Oh no!

It's him! It's him! It's him!

Master is actually here, and is giving me an order from the shadow!

—what does master mean to do?

—what should I do?

The Demon Dragon's mind quickly moved.

As a part of the Abyss, how could I go against him?

But why is he on Gu Qing Shan's side?

Although the master is sometimes unreliable, he would always resolve crucial moments without fail.

Then that means, Gu Qing Shan might be on the same side as the master.

In other words—

The Demon Dragon slowly displayed a flattering smile and said:

「 Gu Qing Shan, actually, I was just joking with you before. I'm more than ready to tell you where the Angel of Condemnation is 」

Gu Qing Shan: "..."

Everyone else: "..."

Gu Qing Shan stared at the Demon Dragon, then remembered how his head still wasn't completely clear and hesitated.

"Demon Dragon... your words changed even faster than the wind... I don't think I can believe you"

Gu Qing Shan tried probing him.

A knock then came outside the door.

A certain male voice came from the other side: "Excuse me for arbitrarily showing up here, but I would like to personally thank you for saving my life"

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Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and knew immediately who was on the other side of the door.

Lin walked up to him and muttered: "It's that person, seems like he's quite strong"

"Hm"

Both of them were a bit surprised.

With their respective strength, they would immediately notice if someone came near them.

But neither of them noticed he was there before he spoke up.

"Gu Qing Shan"

Laura called out and pointed at her arm.

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Indeed, this is the person I saved using the wooden arm.

It said that this is my mutual saviour, I saved him, so he would also save me in the future.

I can't be cold to him.

If possible, it's best to keep him close.

"Please come in" Gu Qing Shan spoke.

The door was opened.

A man wearing sunglasses and a set of casual clothing with a refined appearance appeared in front of them.

"Who is this?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and turned to the man: "I still don't know your name; do you mind telling me?"

The man smiled and replied: "My name is Boss"

"Boss?" Zhang Ying Hao couldn't help but repeat the name.

What kind of convenient name is that?

If that's really his name, everyone he greets would have to call him 'Boss' in return.

Everyone had various thoughts.

But none of them noticed that the Demon Dragon had closed his eyes, silently regretting something.

At that time——

I really shouldn't have taken him to see a mafia movie...

"That's right, I'm Boss, and Boss is me, gentlemen, nice to meet you" the sunglasses man replied.

"Nice to meet you, have your wounds healed yet?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"It's actually like this" the man cleared his throat and told them: "Quite a long time ago, I suffered a considerably terrible injury, then something else happened in the past few years that caused my wounds to become even worse, making it so that I had to go look for a way to recover"

"But then, as you know, not to long ago, I was caught up in a dangerous battle, causing my wounds to worsen again to the point of near-death—— and then you saved me—— in reality, I was already feeling a bit dejected, so death would have been nothing but sweet release"

"At the moment, the most I could do is move around a bit, full recovery is practically impossible"

Listening to him, everyone fell into thought.

This man called 'Boss' had been through quite a lot.

"Then—— you're just called Boss? You don't have any other names" Gu Qing Shan tried asking.

The man had a reminiscent look and replied: "Actually, I was called Handsome Guy before this, but after I found out that the name was a bit shallow, so I changed it to Boss"

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "Didn't your parents name you?"

"I've never met the entities you call 'parents'" the man replied.

Laura went behind Gu Qing Shan and pulled on his sleeves.

—-never seen his parents before, he didn't even have a name, as well as having been through so much hardship and wounded so heavily that he almost died.

This man had been through a considerably bitter life.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and expressed his understanding to Laura.

Laura then took out her backpack, searched for a few healing treasures, then handed them to Ilya so that Ilya could give them to him.

"Take them, they are all healing treasures, perhaps they might be useful to you" Laura told him.

"No, no, no. My body is different from normal people" the man refused her, but his smile contained a bit more warmth: "These things won't be of any use for my wounds, there should only be one thing that can truly heal me"

"What is it?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Healing items that manifested from pure Soul Points" the man replied.

Everyone went silent, then turned their gazes to Ye Fei Li.

Ye Fei Li opened his palm and activated his ability.

A canned drink appeared in his hand.

Ye Fei Li then tossed the canned drink to him.

The man caught it, then looked confusedly at it for a long while.

"...Should I simply consume this thing whole, or how do I open this?"

"There's a tab right there"

"Ah, I see it, then what?"

"Pull on it with some force"

"Hm"

Ka-chak!

The man opened the can, then drank the entire thing in one gulp.

He closed his eyes for a bit.

“Just like I thought, it’s effective” the man smiled.

“Have you recovered?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

So you were only guessing that it would be effective earlier...

“It’s impossible to heal me completely, but my wounds are no longer worsening. This is already quite an achievement, as long as I can drink more at regular intervals from now on, I’ll always be able to get better” the man replied.

His attitude suddenly turned serious and slightly bowed: “If that’s the case, I hope that I can remain here until my wounds fully recover”

Laura nodded.

Gu Qing Shan also nodded.

Seeing how easily convinced they were, Zhang Ying Hao cut in: “It’s fine if you remain here, but I believe you should know the current situation of the 900 million World Layers. We’d have to face a lot of dangerous situations so it’s unlikely that we would be able to take care of you”

—so, this man can unironically name himself Boss, how interesting.

He seems to be quite a strong person as well.

But does that mean we can leave him here to sponge off of us?

Hell no!

“Take care of... me?”

The man showed a confused smile and repeated those words.

“There’s no need to take care of me, and as the payment for letting me stay here, I can do quite a few things”

“Like what?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

The man walked forward and slowly spoke: “In truth, I can also participate in battles, I’m quite strong you know, not to mention my other abilities, like— beast taming”

The man placed his hand on the Demon Dragon’s head.

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The Demon Dragon immediately smiled as brightly as he could and respectfully spoke: 「 Are you Boss? Hello Boss! 」

“Did they demand something from you?” the man asked.

「 Yes, they wanted to learn a secret from me 」 the Demon Dragon replied.

“Then what were you going to do?”

「 I was going to tell them fake information 」

“If I request you to tell them the truth, can you do it?”

「 Yes 」 the Demon Dragon replied.

Everyone watched this in shock.

“As long as they’re a beast, I can tame them. This is my ability” the man explained.

“But that guy you just tamed was an Abyssal monster” Zhang Ying Hao muttered.

“Hm, regardless of where it came from, as long as it’s a beast, I can tame it” the man informed them.

Everyone went silent.

The Eternal Abyss was currently invading the 900 million World Layers.

More and more monsters from the Abyss were currently showing up one after another, and more frequently as well.

In a situation like that, this ability was truly too useful.

—maybe he can catch some sort of especially powerful monster to use as a subordinate?

Something similar to the Demon Dragon would certainly be very useful.

The man then continued: “Some of my abilities are trump cards, so I can’t tell you, but I can show you another of my ability”

“What is it?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“Summoning” the man replied.

A dark crimson flame erupted from his palm as he drew a circle in the air, followed by various runes of flame.

“A Devil Flame and a unique summoning circle”

Laura nodded in understanding.

Regarding knowledge alone, no one in this room was probably able to match her.

—she had seen and judged too many treasures from many worlds, which naturally gave her an understanding of the uniqueness of various worlds.

Lin herself was only knowledgeable about things during the Age of Old and the time before that, but since she had been focused on nothing but her own plans for the past few ten thousand years, she didn’t get to come into contact with as many new things like the little monster Laura, who saw more extraordinary things every day than normal people see in their entire lifetimes.

Laura sent her voice to Gu Qing Shan and Lin: “This guy might be a Devil from Purgatory”

“I know” Gu Qing Shan replied.

—no wonder he didn't want to inform them his name.

All fiends and devils hide their true names out of fear that someone would find it out.

"Are you sure that's a technique of evil creatures?" Lin asked.

"Yes, the fire in his hand is the Prison Flames at the deepest part of Purgatory, an object of endless power" Laura said

Lin slowly calmed down.

It wasn't that entity.

That personage is the most terrifying sovereign of the Abyss, why would they lower themselves to play with fire from Purgatory?

Lin reflexively sighed in relief.

Meanwhile, the Demon Dragon was silently maintaining a low profile and lowered his head to make sure that no one noticed his expression.

That fire—

It was actually something the master randomly took from a passing-by Archdevil of Purgatory to make a campfire.

Then, is the master hiding his identity in order to infiltrate them?

"Catch"

The man told Zhang Ying Hao.

He lightly pushed the summoning circle of crimson flame towards Zhang Ying Hao.

Zhang Ying Hao received it with his hand.

The crimson flame circle suddenly vanished.

Zhang Ying Hao silently sensed himself and nodded: "This is a devil covenant, but what does it do?"

The man took out a book from the void of space and turned to a certain page.

The page depicted Zhang Ying Hao.

He put his hand on the page and muttered: "Summon"

Sha!

Zhang Ying Hao vanished from where he was standing and appeared in front of the man.

"You can summon me?" Zhang Ying Hao was shocked.

"Ah, that's right. Humans liked to summon evil creatures, so I studied and created this summoning technique to do it in reverse and summon a human"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Is there a spatial or temporal limit?"

"They must be within the same time flow, but it can bypass any spatial limit" the man replied.

Everyone went silent.

That was quite a considerable power.

In a war, regardless of how far it was, he would be able to gather everyone in one place.

From a certain point of view, this ability might even prove to be a decisive factor in overturning a situation.

Not to mention how this man was able to tame even an Abyssal monster...

"How is it, can I remain here?" the man asked.

Gu Qing Shan gladly replied: "You're very welcome to join us"

Laura cut in: "But since you're an evil creature, and we haven't gotten to know you well, we can't fully trust you yet. There must be a sort of protective measure"

"Understandable" the man nodded.

Laura took out a ring and handed it to Ilya.

Ilya then presented the ring to the man.

"This is one of the most powerful treasures I have, it's a Causality item called [The Ring of Loyalty]" Laura explained.

"Causality huh? Quite powerful indeed, what does it do?"

The man checked the ring in his hand and displayed a solemn expression.

Laura replied: "It has a powerful enforcing effect. I want you to wear it and swear that you will help Gu Qing Shan——"

Gu Qing Shan suddenly cut Laura off and told him: "You must swear that you won't try to harm everyone here, everything else is up to you"

At first, the man's expression turned a bit solemn, but after hearing Gu Qing Shan, his smile returned.

"Such a loose condition?" he asked.

"We don't like to be under too many restrictions either" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The man praised: "I'm quite similar to you in that regard"

He then put the ring on.

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The Ring of Loyalty looked very small at first, like something that only a little girl could wear.

But as the man held the ring between his fingers, the ring grew by itself to accommodate his size.

The man wore the ring and declared: “My name is Boss; I hereby vow that I would never harm anybody in this room”

The Ring of Loyalty gave off a faint light that circled around the man before it was absorbed into his body.

Laura told him: “Even if that wasn’t your original name, the Ring of Loyalty would still produce the same results, because it directly locks onto your soul”

Saying so, she carefully looked at the man to observe his reaction.

“I used to have quite a few different titles, but none of them are very interesting at all, so I’ve decided. From now on, I’m Boss” the man confirmed again.

Everyone felt a bit awkward.

—do we really have to call him Boss?

Wouldn’t that mean, normal conversations would go like this:

“Boss, time for dinner”

“Boss, good afternoon”

“Boss, where are you going?”

Is this really how it’s going to be?

Gu Qing Shan didn’t care much about that and was the first to reach out his hand, smiling: “Boss, welcome to our little group”

The man looked at his outstretched hand and curiously asked: “What does this signify?”

Zhang Ying Hao explained and casually asked him: “He’s offering to shake your hand, this is meant to as a welcoming gesture— if you don’t even know about this, do you normally not make contact with anyone?”

“That’s right” the man generously admitted: “I’ve been staying in a place far from the masses, only very recently was I heavily injured and saved by Gu Qing Shan, leading to my current contact with you all”

Hearing him, everyone felt sympathy.

No parents.

Away from people.

Heavily injured.

This person is genuinely strong, but he still fell into such a predicament.

Fine, ‘Boss’ it is.

It’s only a name either way.

With that in mind, everyone accepted the name.

Gu Qing Shan told him: “Boss, you should rest up a bit first— Fei Li, give him another can of Soul Points drink”

“Sure” Ye Fei Li replied.

Gu Qing Shan then turned to the Demon Dragon and asked: “Now, please tell me where Little Dusk is”

「 She’s being imprisoned in the deepest part of the Holy Church of Fate; the coin is also in the possession of the Holy Church of Fate’s pope 」 the Demon Dragon answered him.

“Very well, then let us move right away” Gu Qing Shan said without hesitation.

「 I don’t want to 」 the Demon Dragon replied.

“Why not?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 That Pope revered me from the bottom of her heart, I was her God, and now you want me to meet her with this appearance? 」 the Demon Dragon half-complained and half-rejected him.

While saying that, he sneaked a glance at his master.

His master refused to say anything and simply looked at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan took a look at Demon Dragon’s appearance again: an emerald green top hat; hair and beard braided to hang all sorts of trinkets; a face full of patterns that looked like doodles.

—yep, this appearance is definitely not suitable to meet a woman with.

But I need to make sure of something first.

“Have you been using your identity as God to mess around with the woman of the 900 million World Layers?” Gu Qing Shan sternly questioned.

「 No, definitely not. I have no interest in such things. That Pope and I only came into contact from discussions about Space-Time and Fate 」 the Demon Dragon swore.

“Very well, I’ll trust your words— do you have anything that can be used to recognize that it’s from you?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Demon Dragon sighed in relief and answered: 「 Yes, take a strand of my hair, the Pope will recognize that it’s from me right away 」

Gu Qing Shan wielded his sword and cut a single strand of his hair.

As he was about to catch it, he froze.

A heavy sense of pressure that caused one to hold their breath flashed by his spirit sense.

Gu Qing Shan shivered.

He turned towards Lin.

Lin also had a heavy expression on her face.

“Did you feel that?” Lin asked.

“I did, and you?” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“My instincts aren’t as sharp as you cultivators, but I can sense a desperate battle approaching us” Lin explained.

She couldn’t help but emanate fighting intent.

Gu Qing Shan corrected her: “It’s not just a battle. My spirit sense is sharper than the majority of other cultivators, I can also feel death approaching”

Gu Qing Shan reached towards his back.

His back was soaked in cold sweat.

The others had different expressions on their faces as they heard them talking.

Ye Fei Li helplessly said: “I couldn’t sense anything at all”

Zhang Ying Hao seemed to be in thought and replied: “I was able to faintly sense something, as if we are in a state of being hunted”

The man called ‘Boss’ took out a book and carefully flipped through it.

“Ah, not good. I can see an enemy of mine approaching” he said.

“Your enemy? Then why do I have a feeling the target is me?” Gu Qing Shan scowled.

Boss replied: “That would depend on how much you’re related to my matter— come, press your hand against mine, I’ll check to see if there is anything related to you”

“Your book is—”

“It’s able to observe events that happened recently that might be related to my life and yours”

Gu Qing Shan pressed his palm against Boss’ hand.

He then looked towards the book.

Something unimaginable happened.

Where the book was originally blank, it quickly displayed the Soul Shrieker’s appearance.

—-the Soul Shrieker was standing on an Abyssal Behemoth, quickly moving along the endless space vortex.

On the next page of the book, a black crow slowly manifested.

Three women were sitting on the black crow’s back.

“Su Xue Er, Anna, and Ning Yue Chan! Why are the three of them together, and being chased by the Soul Shrieker as well!?” Gu Qing Shan shouted in shock.

“Ning Yue Chan?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“Who’s this Ning Yue Chan girl?” Ye Fei Li also asked.

“A person who came from the same cultivation world as I did” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“She’s a female cultivator who’s been running all over to look for Gu Qing Shan. I took her in and she’s currently a captain of the Bramble Bird royal guards” Laura replied at the same time.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li immediately understood.

But Gu Qing Shan didn’t care for the specifics and spoke: “Laura, let me borrow your armor”

“Got it!” Laura answered right away.

The Bramble Bird Sovereign armor appeared on Gu Qing Shan’s body again, four swords manifested behind his back.

There was no other way, if the opponent was the Soul Shrieker, any level of preparation would not be excessive.

“Can we see where they are?” Gu Qing Shan asked Boss.

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“Unfortunately, my book can only catch faint images, I don’t have a way to pinpoint where they are” Boss answered apologetically.

“Gu Qing Shan, don’t be too rash, if we can see these images, I have a way to find out more information” Laura told him.

“Really?” Gu Qing Shan was overjoyed.

Laura took out a golden alarm clock from inside her backpack and gave it to Boss.

“This is a single-use Space-Time instrument, it is able to discover something that happened in the past with the tiniest trace, display it and then try to locate it”

Boss received the golden alarm clock and smiled: “This thing looks very valuable, you said that this can only be used once?”

“That’s right, use it” Laura told him.

Boss nodded and crushed the golden alarm clock with his hand.

The hour, minute, and second hands as well as the numbers all fell onto the book, scattering as parts.

The golden parts began to give off light and levitated on top of the book.

At the same time, the picture on the book vanished.

The glowing light began to display the scene that was depicted in the book earlier.

“This was about 10 minutes ago, you can hear what they’re saying, but it’ll take some time to determine where they were exactly” Laura explained.

“10 minutes ago?” Gu Qing Shan felt anxious.

If it had already been 10 minutes, there was no telling if the Soul Shrieker had caught up with them or not.

Damn it!

Where are they now!?

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fist tightly.

The three girls in the picture began to speak.

Su Xue Er spoke up first: “We seem to be a bit unfortunate, as we both fell in love with the same man”

Hearing that beginning, everyone couldn’t help but feel shocked.

What’s going on?

If they’re being chased by the Soul Shrieker, why do you still have the leisure to be discussing such a thing?

Everyone couldn’t help but sneak a glance at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan pretended like he didn’t notice their gazes and continued watching the scene.

In the scene, Ning Yue Chan replied.

She asked: “What kind of person is he?”

“Ah, it’s quite hard to say. Hm, he’s also a cultivator”

...

“A sword cultivator? Tsk” Ning Yue Chan disdainfully scoffed.

“What’s wrong with sword cultivators?” Su Xue Er and Anna asked at the same time.

“...Sword cultivators... constantly swaying...”

“...personally, I think sword cultivators, in general, are nothing decent regardless of gender”

“...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”

“...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”

...

The conversation between the three girls was on full display in the scene depicted by the book.

Everyone’s gaze was focused entirely on Gu Qing Shan.

“Erm, about this, I can vouch for him, Gu Qing Shan doesn’t seem like he’s done anything” Ye Fei Li said.

“Certainly, he doesn’t seem like the type” Lin casually added.

Zhang Ying Hao’s eyes were a lot sharper than Ye Fei Li, and he had a better way around words, so he spoke up: “Gu Qing Shan is a good brother of mine, during all these years, he hadn’t even had time to sleep, so I’m sure he hadn’t gone around any women either. He’s simply well-loved by others, there was no way around that”

Hearing this explanation, and recalling what she saw of Gu Qing Shan’s experiences, Lin suddenly felt like Gu Qing Shan had gone through a lot of hardship.

Love?

She knew everything there was to know about Gu Qing Shan, and she knew these women, so she was already prepared to see this play out.

I already knew about this beforehand, so I shouldn’t be angry, but I still couldn’t control my emotions.

Hah, when it comes to romance, it has always been something that’s beyond the control of people.

Lin’s thoughts turned and recalled two other women she saw in Gu Qing Shan’s mind.

They were Gu Qing Shan’s maids, who later became his junior sisters.

They said—

Gu Qing Shan was a young birdie...

Recalling the scene at the time, Lin’s mood improved somewhat.

The scene slowly faded and left a long series of numbers in the air.

Laura looked carefully at these numbers and sighed in relief: “These are coordinates within the 900 million World Layers, now we can locate—”

She then spoke in shock: “Huh? They seem to be in the vicinity of the Bramble Bird Kingdom, they’ll arrive here very soon!”

The entire room was plunged into a sense of miraculous silence.

Everyone can infer without a doubt that the three girls were all coming for Gu Qing Shan.

But from the looks of things, they didn’t know that the one the other party was looking for was also Gu Qing Shan.

This is—

What should we do next?

All of a sudden, the sky outside darkened.

A black crow had appeared.

“Don’t stop me, I’m looking for Gu Qing Shan!”

Su Xue Er's voice arrived from above the sky.

The black crow flapped its wings and swiftly made its way towards the Bramble Bird royal palace.

Laura swiftly gave the order: "Go, let them in, do not trigger any defense mechanisms, and definitely do not harm them"

"Understood!"

The Bramble Bird General Ilya immediately left.

She was suppressing the smirk on her mouth as she made her way outside, loudly giving the orders.

"Big bro Qing Shan, what now?"

Laura carefully looked at Gu Qing Shan and asked.

Gu Qing Shan didn't answer.

He was completely stunned, his usual confidence and calm gone without a trace.

He seemed to be panicking.

Silence.

Everyone else tried to remain silent, occasionally sneaking glances at him.

Although a monster as powerful as the Soul Shrieker was approaching them, there was always the option of running away if they couldn't face the threat of such a monster head-on.

But there was no way for Gu Qing Shan to run from this matter.

Against a threat, this guy always had a way to turn the situation around and turn the tide in his favor.

But this situation turns out to be more dangerous than any other he had ever faced...

Within the stunned silence—

「 Pfft! 」

As everyone turned to look, they found it was the Demon Dragon.

The Demon Dragon recalled what Gu Qing Shan sternly questioned him earlier and couldn't help but chuckle out loud.

Chapter 979

The room.

Boss who had been silent up to this point looked at Gu Qing Shan and asked: "Is the matter of women causing him trouble?"

"Yeah, he's probably going to be very troubled by it"

Lin crossed her arms and replied with an inexplicable tone.

“Why don’t you help him?” Boss asked.

“How am I supposed to help him with a matter like this?” Lin asked in return.

While saying that, Lin still went up and stood by Gu Qing Shan’s side.

Watching this, Boss pondered.

These mortals really think in strange ways.

The battle of the parallel world and the Apocalypse is right at their doorsteps.

[Chaos] has suddenly broken out, seeking to thoroughly destroy [Order] and causing the void to head towards an Era of [Chaos].

Its Envoy is currently hot on those three people’s tails.

The Envoy is the Soul Shrieker who wields both the power of the Abyss and [Chaos], capable of triumphing over any opponent, even I wouldn’t be able to stop it at its current state.

This is the true danger that they are supposed to be worried about.

And yet, these people aren’t at all concerned with the danger brought by [Chaos] and are instead concerned about some minor insignificant issues.

Aren’t they worried about their own lives?

— not good!

Even if they aren’t worried, I have to worry.

Otherwise, if [Chaos] truly destroys [Order], that’s going to be a lot of trouble.

Boss quietly thought while standing on one side.

“There’s 15 seconds left until they arrive here” Ye Fei Li reminded them.

Zhang Ying Hao lit a cigarette and worriedly said: “Gu Qing Shan, quickly come up with something, we won’t be able to help you with this”

With Zhang Ying Hao’s years of experience in the field of love, he would be able to mediate between quarreling lovers or old couples without any issues.

But the current situation was so complicated that Zhang Ying Hao didn’t even want to think about trying to get involved.

— after the end of the battle of Huang Quan, when Gu Qing Shan left and Su Xue Er returned, Zhang Ying Hao saw personally just how dangerous that girl could be.

He had also worked with Anna for a while and understood that she was a considerably tough woman.

And then there was the one called Ning Yue Chan who originated from Gu Qing Shan’s cultivation world.

From the scene before, she was able to stump both Anna and Su Xue Er with a few words, she clearly was not a simple character.

And so——

This could only be resolved by Gu Qing Shan himself.

Boss silently listened to their conversations, then checked Gu Qing Shan's complexion.

With how Gu Qing Shan currently seemed, he was clearly only worried about the three women and definitely unprepared to face the Soul Shrieker.

Boss looked down at the can of drink in his hand.

So, in this most crucial situation, the only one I can rely on is myself.

He walked in front of the Demon Dragon and poured the Soul Points drink into the Demon Dragon's mouth.

"What are you doing?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"Since all of you are ignoring it, I can't do anything other than to make preparations for the upcoming threat against myself" Boss answered him resolutely.

Ye Fei Li didn't ask anything else.

Since he was able to tame the Demon Dragon and make it listen to him, there was nothing to worry about in the first place.

The others also didn't care too much about this.

——although Boss' action went beyond everyone's expectations, no one else was worried about what he was doing.

A shadow approached the window.

The Black Crow of Death had arrived at the royal palace.

The three girls jumped down from Black Crow's back and dashed into the room.

Blood-red notifications were popping up again and again in front of Ning Yue Chan and Su Xue Er's visions:

[The Envoy of Chaos is approaching, please give the Order to Gu Qing Shan immediately!]

[The Envoy of Chaos is approaching, please give the Order to Gu Qing Shan immediately!]

[The Envoy of Chaos is approaching, please give the Order to Gu Qing Shan immediately!]

The two of them understood the situation from that line.

Even while they were a long distance apart in the space vortex, they were both able to sense the Soul Shrieker's presence.

That terrifying, goosebump-inducing presence rendered them to feel the inability to resist.

I can only hope I make it in time.

I can only hope that with the [Order]’s help, Gu Qing Shan would be able to easily face this terrifying enemy.

Su Xue Er and Ning Yue Chan both leaped forward and extended their hands towards Gu Qing Shan.

“Give me your hand, Qing Shan”

“Qing Shan, prepare to catch this!”

They shouted.

As soon as they did, they turned to each other, then at Gu Qing Shan.

She called him ‘Qing Shan’—

Was this because of the [Order]’s message, or because of other reasons?

However, during such a crucial moment, they didn’t have time to ask about such a trivial matter.

Standing in front of them, Gu Qing Shan knew that the two girls wouldn’t try to harm him, so he already reached his hands out.

Both of their hands came into contact with his hands at once.

All of a sudden, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You’ve obtained a fragment of the Demon King Order]

[You’ve obtained the other fragment of the Demon King Order]

[Demon King Order: Demon King Ascension has been reactivated]

In front of Gu Qing Shan’s vision, the familiar blood-red UI appeared again.

The [Demon King Order]!

After several ten thousand years, it had once again found Gu Qing Shan!

All of a sudden, the Earth Creator’s voice rang in his ears: 「 Gu Qing Shan, I have split the [Demon King Order] in half and hid them respectively with two people whose fates are closely related to your own. At the time when you need it, you will obtain it again 」

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「 Let me say one thing, hopefully, when you returned to our age, the things I have arranged in the star chart would be able to help you 」

The Earth Creator’s voice vanished.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t have time to ponder the meaning behind these words.

Because as soon as the Earth Creator’s voice disappeared, the [Demon King Order] immediately began to issue loud warnings:

[The Envoy of Chaos is currently going after you, in order to thoroughly erase Order it will spare no effort to kill you. Demon King of Condemnation, you must flee right now!]

However, he had to resolve the issues as they arrived, and this was no time to pay attention to the [Demon King Order]'s warning.

In front of him—

Su Xue Er, Anna, and Ning Yue Chan were all looking at him.

The three girls all had gentle looks in their eyes.

It truly had been a long time since they met.

The scene was plunged into silence for a split second.

Su Xue Er was about to speak up first.

She wanted to ask how Gu Qing Shan was doing, but Anna already took the initiative.

With a glance, Anna noticed Lin who was standing next to Gu Qing Shan and couldn't help herself asking: "Lady, who are you? Why are you standing next to him?"

Hearing this little girl asking this question with such a suspicious tone, Lin scowled.

Are you questioning me?

What does my identity have to do with you?

Lin slowly clenched her fists.

—she was a martial arts master from the Bygone Era, a Combatant with a bad temper who could and had killed anyone that crossed her, no one had ever dared to talk to her this way before.

Just as Lin was about to act up, her gaze turned to Gu Qing Shan.

She paused for a split second and thought of something.

—this guy hasn't even had a taste of women yet and he's already about to face the questioning of three girls at the same time.

If I get involved with that, the situation would only become worse.

That's not fair to him.

...hah.

Lin silently sighed and relaxed her clenched fist.

She casually answered: "I'm his elder sister, who the hell are you?"

Elder sister?

The three girls were stunned.

Gu Qing Shan has an elder sister?

As Anna regained her senses, she felt regret.

If this woman is truly Gu Qing Shan's blood-related sister, my words just now were truly a bit rude.

Next to her, Su Xue Er also sighed in relief.

She looked at Gu Qing Shan, wanting to ask him if the woman was telling the truth.

—wait a minute!

Why is Gu Qing Shan covering his eyes with a black cloth?

Su Xue Er inadvertently felt sorrowful.

She was about to ask him about that instead.

Ning Yue Chan stood next to them, saw the look on Su Xue Er's face, then turned to Anna.

As sensitive as she was, she found their reactions to be strange.

Facing the three girls, Gu Qing Shan sighed and prepared to accept his fate.

It has been too long since I have last been with a girl so I don't know how to deal with any of this.

At this intense moment that hung by a thread—

Boss who was standing next to the dragon head put the can of drink in his hand down.

“My wounds are quite severe right now, so I will need to borrow your power” Boss informed him using telepathy.

「 Understood, master 」 the Demon Dragon responded.

Saying so, he began to circulate the power that he had just regained.

A divine and solemn voice resounded in the room, drawing everyone's attention.

“The end of the era approaches, your lives are also in peril, we do not have time to stall any longer!”

Everyone turned towards the voice.

Only to see that all the seals on the Demon Dragon's had already been taken off.

Boss placed his hand on the dragon head and continued:

“The Era of [Chaos] is coming, during this time of peril, I need you servants of the ancient Deities to prepare for battle!”

Following his voice, a bracelet on Su Xue Er's left wrist started to shine.

The bracelet was activated.

—this was the bracelet granted to the acting Pope of the Holy Church of Fate, representing her status and identity. It also had a certain unique capability.

It could guarantee that the acting Pope would immediately return to the Holy Church no matter where they were.

This was the most secretive spatial warp that only the Holy Church of Fate had, one hidden away from even the spatial experts of the Abyss monsters.

Boss' solemn voice declared: "Servant of the Goddess of Fate, you must return to the Holy Church with this strand of hair and awaken the sleeping Pope, she is to release the sealed Envoy of Condemnation!"

A strand of hair was silently wrapped around Su Xue Er's bracelet.

The bracelet emanated a blinding holy light.

It had been activated!

"God, please wait a minute, I——"

Su Xue Er didn't even have time to finish her sentence before she was enveloped by the light of the bracelet.

Boss then waved his hand.

The light enveloped Ning Yue Chan as well.

"Go, and you—— the two of you will go together, this is enough to deal with any situation"

At the next second, Su Xue Er and Ning Yue Chan both vanished from the room, warped away by the bracelet.

Boss then looked at Anna and Black Crow who perched waiting on the balcony of a nearby window.

He spoke to Black Crow: "Immortal servant of Death, the situation had become very urgent, I want you to take this girl who had inherited the power of Death to the secret path beneath the Holy Church of Death and use this to unlock the secret left behind by the God of Death"

He then threw a jet-black effigy towards it.

Chapter 980

The black effigy hovered in the air.

This effigy looked very similar to the Life Exchange Contract that Gu Qing Shan was wearing on his neck, but there was also a difference. The God of Death depicted on his effigy was sitting upright, holding his long scythe with one hand while pointing forward with the other.

——it looked almost like an order for his army to prepare for war.

Seeing this effigy, Black Crow shouted in shock: "Who are you!? How did you get the secret token of the God of Death!?"

Boss replied: "Nevermind who I am, hurry up and go, if you move one step too late, everything would be for nothing!"

“After countless years of waiting, this token has finally showed up once again... how great it is!” Black Crow was shedding tears.

Boss continued: “The path of inheritance of the God of Death is extraordinarily arduous, you must make sure to afford protection to the one who inherited the God of Death’s power”

He then pointed to Lin: “Bring her with you, her strength will be enough to deal with a lot of threats”

Lin looked at Boss and was about to refuse.

But then a voice sounded in her mind: “Do not try to bargain, simply aid her. The Abyss will see how well you accomplish all of this”

Hearing this, Lin felt goosebumps all over her body.

She lowered her gaze, no longer having the courage to face the other party.

“So it truly was you, The Abyssal King, the Exiled Apostle, the Peerless Fallen One, Greatest Above the Star Crown, Great Lord of Infinite Origin”

Lin whispered in her heart.

“That is all in the past, there is no need to mention them—- go, help the heir of the God of Death awaken her divine sanctuary, we now require power to stand up against this dangerous situation more than ever before” Boss’ voice sounded again in her mind.

After a short pause, he continued: “If you accomplish this well, the Abyss shall once again take you under its shelter, or perhaps possibly help you advance one step beyond”

“Understood” Lin replied.

Black Crow swiftly took the effigy, flew into the room, grabbed Anna and Lin with its talons before flying away through the window.

Far in the sky, Anna’s voice resounded: “WAIT A MINUTE—-”

Her voice slowly went further and further until it couldn’t be heard again.

After he did this, Boss was about to attempt something else, only to hear the Demon Dragon speak:

「 Master, my powers have run out, I will fall into slumber right away 」

Boss was shocked and regretfully said: “Oh no, I’ve used up what remained of my power just now, if you can’t even use your powers as well, it will become very troublesome after this”

The Demon Dragon didn’t answer him.

He slowly closed his eyes.

He was dead.

As an Abyssal monster, it will most likely require a long time in order to reawaken.

Boss sighed and pulled his hand away from the black dragon’s head.

“This way, the matter of the coin will be resolved, and the follower of Death will also enter his divine sanctuary. Following this, we need to think of a way to maintain the final [Order] and make sure that it isn’t eliminated by the Envoy of [Chaos]”

He muttered to himself.

The room was completely silent.

So much happened in the span of mere seconds, and those events contained so much information that everyone couldn’t react in time.

Until now.

Everyone stared closely at Boss.

Laura turned her eyes around and muttered: “Disregarding everything else, I finally understand why this guy became Gu Qing Shan’s mutual saviour”

“Indeed, he truly did manage to save Gu Qing Shan from the greatest peril he had ever faced up to now” Ilya nodded in agreement.

But—

More importantly—

Even if Boss was only using the Demon Dragon’s power, he knew a bit too much.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Boss, who exactly are you?”

“Ah, about that, in truth when you rescued me, I was actually fighting against the Soul Shrieker” Boss raised the book in his hand.

The book stood up by itself in the air and flipped through it automatically.

Gu Qing Shan saw how the battle between the Soul Shrieker and Boss went.

Boss continued: “I’ve been constantly trying to stop the spread of [Chaos], but due to my injuries, I’ve been unable to exert my true power and was defeated by it, and then I was saved by you”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Which means, you were trying to arrange measures in order to fight against the Soul Shrieker?”

“Of course, since I saw that none of you were concerned about this, I had to take matters into my own hands first”

Boss gave a puzzled look as he looked at everyone around and casually asked: “What is it? Did I do something wrong by seizing the time to make preparations before a battle?”

Everyone was startled and shook their heads at this question.

For Boss, he was truly just trying to make arrangements to fight the Soul Shrieker.

But he also did something else at the same time.

Gu Qing Shan patted his shoulder and praised: "You made the best possible decision"

Laura also added: "Indeed, you've saved a certain someone"

Boss stretched his back and yawned: "Hm, then it's good, I can only do so much"

His body started to slump down, his eyes already closed, but he was still speaking:

"The rest will depend on you"

"I do not want to wake up..."

"Just to see..."

"Everything is already gone"

He collapsed.

Gu Qing Shan swiftly caught him and carefully placed him on a sofa.

The rest of them came forward.

"Is he dead?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"No, he seems to have fallen into a dormant state" Zhang Ying Hao replied.

"According to what he said, his injuries were originally quite severe. Exerting his powers together with the Demon Dragon just now must've exhausted the rest of his strength" Laura made an educated guess.

Gu Qing Shan told them: "Let him rest, now it's our turn to act"

He looked towards the blood-red UI in front of his vision, only to see it that was still urging him to run away.

"Laura, protect your kingdom. Ying Hao, Fei Li, we're going to leave right now" Gu Qing Shan told them.

"Got it" Zhang Ying Hao replied.

"I'm ready to leave at any time" Ye Fei Li also said.

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"No! Why are you leaving already?" Laura questioned him with a displeased tone.

Gu Qing Shan crouched down in front of her and softly said: "The Soul Shrieker only wants to destroy [Order], as long as we leave, it would chase after us and will not do anything to your kingdom"

"You can't, Gu Qing Shan, I want to fight alongside you" Laura clenched her tiny fists tightly.

Gu Qing Shan sighed with a worried look in his eyes: "Silly girl, the Soul Shrieker is a soul-devouring monster, no one can win against it in the entire 900 million World Layers. Right now, we have no choice but to stall it while we think of a solution, so I can't let you get entangled in this"

"You're not 'entangling' anyone, I'm willingly joining in your battle!" Laura insisted.

“No, you’re still too young, you need more time to grow and mature. Before you have thoroughly matured, I can’t let you face a monster of the Soul Shrieker’s degree” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Laura took a step back and pursed her lips tightly.

Seeing the resolute look in Gu Qing Shan’s eyes, she understood that she wouldn’t be able to convince him.

“Men, prepare their ship!”

“Jerk, I don’t want to see you again!”

Laura turned around and ran away.

Gu Qing Shan kept his crouched posture and didn’t move for now.

“Her Majesty seemed angry” Zhang Ying Hao shrugged.

Gu Qing Shan kept his head down and spoke: “It’s useless even if she acts angry, there’s no way to prevent the Soul Shrieker’s soul absorption ability”

“Then what about him?” Ye Fei Li asked.

He was pointing at the sleeping Boss.

“Bring him” Gu Qing Shan replied.

This man who calls himself ‘Boss’ seems to know a lot of secrets.

He was fully committed to making preparations to fight the Soul Shrieker.

He also said that he was willing to join our group.

After he wakes up, he should be quite a decent fighting force.

The three of them didn’t have to wait for long.

The Bramble Bird ship was quickly arranged.

Gu Qing Shan’s group was guided to board the ship.

“Hey, why is there such a big difference, there isn’t even a single person here to send us off” Ye Fei Li said.

“Get used to it, the fact that they gave us a ship in the first place is already a godsend” Zhang Ying Hao replied.

He then put Boss down on the deck of the ship.

The deck was covered in a thick layer of white hide. They didn’t know which creature it came from, but when Zhang Ying Hao tried to slice it with his dagger, all that he was able to leave was a white mark.

Ye Fei Li then manifested his bloody aura into a sharp claw and tried scratching the railings.

The railing was made from an extremely sturdy metal alloy that he couldn’t even leave a mark.

While standing on the ship, an invisible warm flow enveloped their bodies, as if it was constantly replenishing the power of those who rode it.

——the ship seemed to be very high-quality.

“It is even bigger and more intricate than the Bramble Bird ship that arrived to pick me up”

Ye Fei Li’s gaze passed through the ship and spoke like he was very experienced.

Zhang Ying Hao also nodded: “After all my travels in the Strife Zones, I’ve never seen, let alone ride such a luxurious ship before”

“This is [The Empress], Laura’s personal airship” Gu Qing Shan sighed emotionally.

He had seen this ship before.

The Bramble Bird Kingdom was the wealthiest country within the 900 million World Layers.

And this ship was the best airship in all of the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

Although Laura was angry, she still provided them with the best possible ride.

“Take care of Boss, I’m going below deck to pilot the ship” Gu Qing Shan said.

“No problem, but where are we heading now?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

Gu Qing Shan pondered.

Recalling what happened just now, he slowly gathered some hidden information.

When the [Demon King Order] fused back together, the Earth Creator’s voice appeared and said that he hoped the things he prepared on the star chart would be able to help Gu Qing Shan.

——the Earth Creator had the ability to foresee future possibilities.

Since he was able to hide the [Demon King Order] away, he would naturally be able to hide other preparations as well.

He must’ve left something on the path marked on the star chart.

But Gu Qing Shan never made it through the entire star chart in the end, his journey got cut off as he was heading to Riddle world.

“I need to take a look at the World Layer chart, then compare it with my own navigation chart. Only then would I be able to determine where we need to go—— let’s just get out of here first so that the Soul Shrieker won’t catch up” Gu Qing Shan replied.

As he spoke, the ship began to move.

Huh?

The three of them looked up and exchanged confused glances.

Was this ship automatic?

All of a sudden.

With a 'sha', the airship turned into a blurred image that extended far into the sky.

"Aaaaa, why is this ship moving so fast!?"

"I don't know, but it looks very impressive——"

"Where are we going!?"

Their voices remained in the sky.

Following that.

Ship after ship started to take off and closely followed them.

The Bramble Bird royal fleet had been dispatched.

Ilya stood at the head of the flagship and spoke into her communicator:

"[The Empress], you can speed up further, we can still catch up"

A few moments later.

Laura's voice emerged from the other side of the communicator:

[Transmission received, at my command, all members of our fleet, full speed ahead!]

Chapter 981

Bramble Bird ship, [The Empress].

The cabin of the ship.

"Come out"

"I'm not coming out!"

"Come out, I won't scold you"

"Hmph, I've already seen your true intention with a treasure, you want to spank me! I'm not falling for that"

"Laura, if you do this, you'd be dragging the entire Bramble Bird Kingdom into war, I can't let you do this"

"Gu Qing Shan, I am THE Bramble Bird Empress, I have the freedom to do whatever I want to do, you can't interfere with my decision!"

"Open the door, let us talk about this"

"We're not talking about this! I'm an adult and I'm not going to change my mind!"

The control room had been sealed completely shut by several million kinds of different treasures, basically impossible to breach.

And Gu Qing Shan couldn't force his way in either.

He shook his head helplessly at the door.

Laura's voice softened up a bit: "Gu Qing Shan, trust me, I've made full arrangements for this sortie including a battle plan and everything else, the Bramble Bird Kingdom as a whole will be fine, and there won't be any casualties either"

"Really? Then tell me your plan" Gu Qing Shan said.

Laura then slowly explained.

A few moments later: "Your plan is decent, but there's a certain risk involve, I feel that you——"

Laura cut him off and raised her voice: "Who's never going to run into any danger in their lives? There's a risk of choking to death while eating as well! Gu Qing Shan, don't even dream about forcing me to return!"

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but facepalm himself.

After a moment of silence, he said: "Fine, then come out now"

"Not yet, I still need to control the airship for a while longer—— go ahead and do what you need to do, I'm going to come out and find you later" Laura said.

Don't be ridiculous, we haven't even left the Bramble Bird Kingdom's territory yet, there's no way I'm going to let you force me to return!

Laura clenched her little fists tightly.

...

The deck of the ship.

Zhang Ying Hao was sitting on the ground while leaning on a wall.

He took out a bottle of liquor, poured a glass full for himself and slowly drank it.

Next to him, Ye Fei Li was playing games on a screen that he projected in the air.

"I really have to say, I sympathize with Gu Qing Shan"

Zhang Ying Hao clicked his tongue and commented.

Ye Fei Li didn't turn his eyes away from the screen and said: "Don't mind him, what about you? I remember that you were trying win over the President's daughter"

"Me? I got dumped" Zhang Ying Hao dejectedly replied.

"No way, I remember before you left, the two of you had already gotten close enough to hold hands" Ye Fei Li was surprised.

"It can't be helped, she wanted a stable life where we can be together most hours of the day, get married, have kids, and support our parents—— there's nothing wrong with that, but it's currently the

Apocalypse. I need to come up with ways to become stronger, to look for certain truths within the 900 million World Layers and truly find a way to survive, not live on as a government official who can be satisfied with what he has and simply live day to day” Zhang Ying Hao explained.

“Not even a chance to reconcile?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“Hah, I am a person who has killed too many people to keep count and an expert at many things, capable of dealing with any situation— but I’ve always messed up when it came to pleasing women” Zhang Ying Hao shook his head.

Ye Fei Li thought briefly, closed his game, and sat down next to Zhang Ying Hao.

“Gimme one as well”

Zhang Ying Hao then also poured him a glass of liquor.

Ye Fei Li knocked glasses with him as the two of them drank the entire thing in one go.

Putting the glass down, Ye Fei Li then said:

“There’s always something that a person isn’t good at, no matter how impressive that person might be— just take a look at Gu Qing Shan, his swordsmanship is unrivaled, he has countless skills in his arsenal, a hardened steel resolve, capable of feats that we could only dream of— once he set his mind to do something, I feel like no one would be able to stop him— but he doesn’t have any experience with girls, so whenever an issue comes out regarding this, he would immediately get flustered and not even know where to start resolving the issue”

At this point, Gu Qing Shan’s voice sounded from behind them:

“So how do you think I should resolve it?”

The two of them turned around to see Gu Qing Shan walking up from below deck.

“Can’t convince her?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“The little girl is a bit nervous and afraid that I would send her back, so she refused to open the door” Gu Qing Shan helplessly sighed.

He sat down next to them, also got himself a glass, and toasted with the two of them.

“Let’s not talk about us, how’s your wife?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“She’s healthy. With your cultivation method, she’s slowly regaining her body, aside from the fact that she sometimes feels a bit cool when I hug her at night, everything else is normal” Ye Fei Li told them.

“How admirable” Gu Qing Shan raised his glass again.

“There’s also some issues” Ye Fei Li took a large swig of liquor.

“Like what?”

“She wants a baby”

Gu Qing Shan scowled and thought for a bit.

That is a bit troublesome.

Ye Fei Li's wife is already dead.

As a relationship between the living and the dead, the fact that they were able to be with one another is already a great achievement, never mind having children.

And she is a cultivating ghost who has once again created a body for herself, her original body has already rotten.

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Even if I used the Heaven sword and [Chaotic Flow] to fix it, a single soul having two bodies might cause some unknown and unforeseeable issues.

"That's a really big issue" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Ye Fei Li smiled and told him: "In truth, I'm already satisfied with this, your matter is a lot more troublesome—— you've probably never been in a relationship before so you don't really know what exactly is the right thing to do, yes?"

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

"From the way you said it, it almost sounded like you're quite the expert with relationships?" Zhang Ying Hao gave him a sidelong glance.

Ye Fei Li puffed his chest out and boasted: "Before I got together with my wife, I was already a Love Master. I'm a man of countless relationships, heh, at the time there were so many girls who were in love with me, but since I was focused on games, I didn't get into a relationship with any of them"

Zhang Ying Hao and Gu Qing Shan exchanged glances, noticing the look of admiration in each other's eyes.

So Ye Fei Li was actually an expert, a Love Master?

I completely didn't know this before.

"Then, do you have any solutions for Gu Qing Shan's situation?" Zhang Ying Hao asked seriously.

"I don't" Ye Fei Li answered right away.

Seeing their dissatisfied expressions, Ye Fei Li asked Gu Qing Shan: "Can you tell me which one of them you've been together with the longest?"

"Been together with the longest?" Gu Qing Shan scowled and thought for a while: "In truth, I haven't actually been together with any of them for an extended period of time at all, the one I was with the most was Su Xue Er—— but I barely spent an entire day with her"

"With so little time, do you think you're currently in a relationship with those girls?" Ye Fei Li asked again.

“Probably not. We still haven’t had time to get to know one another, and a lovers’ relationship should only be established after staying with one another for much longer” Gu Qing Shan muses the answer to this.

“And that’s where the issue is” Ye Fei Li clapped his hands and declared.

“That’s where the issue is?” Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

“That’s right” Ye Fei Li spoke with a stern expression: “You need to first experience love before you know what you need to do. The issue is that you haven’t gotten to know them, so you’re basically clueless about what they like or any details about them, how are you supposed to resolve this issue like that?”

Hearing this, Gu Qing Shan’s eyes lit up.

He muttered: “That makes sense, if I don’t have any knowledge of the issue, I would definitely not be able to come up with a solution to resolve it”

Ye Fei Li summarized everything: “Because of that, the most important thing for you to do right now is to personally experience what romance is”

Gu Qing Shan nodded in agreement.

On one side, Zhang Ying Hao was also silently committing this to mind.

Ye Fei Li suddenly took out his Holo-Brain and turned it on.

A screen of light was projected in front of them.

“I have quite a few romantic movies in here, you can watch them first to get an idea of what romance is” Ye Fei Li said.

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask: “Is this really important right now? We’re still in the middle of an Apocalypse, and the Soul Shrieker is still chasing after us”

Ye Fei Li spoke solemnly: “A man who knows so many girls and yet doesn’t understand romance is always in the middle of an Apocalypse”

Zhang Ying Hao patted Gu Qing Shan’s shoulder and added: “Ye Fei Li is experienced with this, and what he said makes sense, let’s study this together—— one of us is a hitman while the other is a swordsman, both of us are clueless about this”

“...True, you’re right, we should try and study it” after a moment of thought, he finally nodded.

The title card of the film appeared on the screen.

It was written in big letters:

[Online Course in Romance]

The three of them watched it earnestly.

Ye Fei Li was also fully focused on it.

After watching for a bit, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but wonder:

"Hey, this content is..."

Ye Fei Li solemnly told him: "Study it carefully, this is something I spent a lot of effort to find and download"

Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to nod and continue watching

...

At another location.

Gu Qing Shan's homeworld.

A young girl was currently cleaning the house.

"Shi Jun, I trouble you so much, always having you stay with me and help me with chores like this" Ye Fei Li's mother said.

"What are you saying? Since Ye Fei Li isn't here, this is what I should do" the young girl told her.

Ye Fei Li's mother smiled sweetly: "Our Fei Li is truly fortunate to know a good girl like yourself. That's right, you can take this home with you"

"This is?"

"Ye Fei Li's photo album when he was younger"

"Ah—"

The young girl received the album and flipped through it with interest.

Ye Fei Li's mother sighed emotionally: "Fei Li had always been a shy and introverted boy. It was rare for him to even talk to a girl, so I've always been worried for him, it's a good thing that he met you in high school"

As they talked about this, the young girl couldn't help but smile:

"We've actually been studying together in primary and secondary school as well; we just weren't in the same class"

"Is that so?"

"Yeah. He truly was an awkward person around girls, most of the time he couldn't even strike a conversation with them"

"Then, does that mean the only girl he could take the initiative to talk to was you?"

"That wasn't it. I was interested in his shyness so I took the initiative to talk to him, after that... we eventually got together"

"It's fortunate that he has you, truly fortunate"

Ye Fei Li's mother praised.

Chapter 982

The Fog Isle of the Dead Sea.

A lone island surrounded by a boundless ocean.

It was also where the Holy Church of Fate resided.

Above the island, far in the sky, two figures appeared.

Su Xue Er.

Ning Yue Chan.

“Where is this place?”

Ning Yue Chan looked around and asked.

“Right below us is the Holy Church of Fate” Su Xue Er replied.

She cast a communication spell with a flick of her hand, reporting her return to the Holy Church.

“I seem to need to help you save an entity called the Angel of Condemnation?” Ning Yue Chan asked.

“Yes, this must be directly related to what Gu Qing Shan is planning to achieve, so it’s necessary” Su Xue Er replied.

The two of them simply looked at one another without speaking anything else.

Several knights of the church flew up and respectfully bowed to greet Su Xue Er.

“Return, I will deal with a certain matter first before going back to the Holy Church” Su Xue Er told them.

“Understood”

The knights looked at Su Xue Er, then at Ning Yue Chan before flying back down.

Ning Yue Chan remained silent and watched as this unfolded.

After giving her orders, Su Xue Er turned to Ning Yue Chan without saying a word as well.

Although they only got to meet Gu Qing Shan for an extremely brief moment, with their level of intelligence and wit, it was more than enough for them to form several conjectures.

Silence.

Su Xue Er looked at Ning Yue Chan, hesitated for a long while before she spoke up: “I arrived at a certain conjecture— you actually know Gu Qing Shan, don’t you?”

Ning Yue Chan nodded with a calm expression.

Su Xue Er bit her lip and silently stared at her.

“Thinking back about what happened earlier, I believe you also know him” Ning Yue Chan said.

“Of course I know him, we came from the same world, we’ve already known each other since we were in school together” Su Xue Er told her straight.

Ning Yue Chan thought about those words.

School— is apparently a place to learn, like the places where people exchanged techniques and skills.

Then...

“What about you, why do you know him?” Su Xue Er asked.

Ning Yue Chan replied: “He is part of Bai Hua sect, the 3rd ranking sword cultivator disciple under Bai Hua Fairy, we met on the battlefield where he once saved my life”

Su Xue Er was stunned.

Bai Hua sect.

Bai Hua Fairy.

The 3rd ranking sword cultivator disciple.

What’s going on?

Su Xue Er looked at Ning Yue Chan and doubtfully asked: “Could you have gotten the wrong person?”

“I wouldn’t mistake him for anyone else— I want to know when you got to know him” Ning Yue Chan asked.

“I first met him several years ago” Su Xue Er replied.

After thinking for a bit, Ning Yue Chan understood.

“Occasionally, he would disappear without a trace, it must be at those times that he went to your world” she muttered.

Su Xue Er wielded her staff and pointed it at her, questioning:

“None of that is important right now, I ask you, earlier you said that you had a mutual Dao companion, it was him wasn’t it?”

Ning Yue Chan answered indifferently: “We didn’t spend much time together and rarely had time to even meet face to face, we certainly aren’t Dao companion, however—”

“However, what?” Su Xue Er pursued.

“I truly do like him” Ning Yue Chan replied.

Su Xue Er froze.

Her casual attitude made it so that she didn’t know how to respond at all.

“Did you know, this place is the Holy Church of Fate, and I’m currently its acting Pope. With a single order, I can have countless people charge forward to take your life” Su Xue Er said.

“What are you trying to say?” Ning Yue Chan asked.

“I forbid you from enticing Gu Qing Shan, or get close to him ever again!” Su Xue Er declared.

“I’m sorry, but I’ve never tried to entice him”

“If you aren’t trying to entice him, why would you still approach him?”

“Because I like him” Ning Yue Chan simply answered.

Su Xue Er was speechless.

She raised the staff in her hand.

Ning Yue Chan lowered her gaze and whispered: “I suggest that you don’t attack me. You’ve already exhausted all of your power during the previous battle, if you try to fight me right now before anyone else arrives running, I would be able to kill you”

Su Xue Er questioned: “If you’re so sure of that, why haven’t you killed me?”

“Why should I kill you?” Ning Yue Chan asked her in return.

Su Xue Er completely lost it and shouted: “Because I also like him!”

Ning Yue Chan drew the Blade at her hip and coldly replied: “Gu Qing Shan is a true sword cultivator, there will be countless people who hold affection for him, and he would surely come into contact with numerous excellent women, wouldn’t that mean I have to kill all of them?”

Su Xue Er froze.

Ning Yue Chan continued: “As this Ning Yue Chan traversed my world and the 900 million World Layers, I’ve met countless men who held affection for me, too many to even keep count, would my future Dao companion have to kill them all as well?”

Su Xue Er stuttered, but still insisted: “But then—— there is only one Gu Qing Shan, I would definitely not surrender him to you!”

Ning Yue Chan chuckled: “What a cute girl you are, I suppose you’ve never really come into contact with your admirers, have you?”

“I’ve never paid attention to any men other than Gu Qing Shan” Su Xue Er answered.

Ning Yue Chan mused and spoke: “Then from the looks of it, I’ve actually met him quite late. Having received the affection and courtship of so many men, I understand such relations much better than you do”

Su Xue Er coldly scoffed: “You’re trying to say that you’re better than me, is that it?”

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“No, I simply want to tell you this—— Gu Qing Shan doesn’t belong to you, or me, he belongs to himself”

Ning Yue Chan continued: "If you truly love him so obsessively much that you insist on having him no matter the cost, even to the point that you would kill every woman he came into contact with, then I have nothing more to say, we can have our bout right here and now"

"Don't play dumb, don't you also want to be with him?" Su Xue Er angrily refuted.

"I want to be with him" Ning Yue Chan nodded and admitted: "However, even if he can't be with me, even if he chooses to be with you in the end, I would still hold the same affection towards him"

Su Xue Er was stunned.

Indeed, a man of Gu Qing Shan's caliber would surely draw untold amounts of affection.

Am I really going to kill everyone that likes him?

Disregarding that, I can't even defeat this woman in front of me.

—not to mention she saved my life once.

"But if I don't fight you at least once, my heart can't calm down" Su Xue Er dejectedly said.

Ning Yue Chan smiled.

"Feeling discomfort from seeing the affection of another, that is a very naïve notion"

While saying so, she wielded her Blade.

"Come, I know you're feeling irritated, I'll spar with you just once"

Su Xue Er angrily: "I won't be holding back"

Ning Yue Chan watched her pure and angry expression, then grinned.

"But it seems I'll have to hold back today"

Ning Yue Chan vanished from where she was.

At the same time, Su Xue Er threw a Card out.

Their battle began!

...

Time continued to pass.

As the Bramble Bird ship, [The Empress] was heading away from the Bramble Bird Kingdom towards the deeper region of the Mystic Zones.

An Abyssal Behemoth had just crossed the border between the Mystic Zones and the Strife Zones in order to enter the Mystic Zones.

All of a sudden, a furious roar arrived from the back of the Abyssal Behemoth:

「 『 The [Order] had been born once again! Hurry, we need to arrive and kill the carrier of that [Order]! 」 』

The Abyssal Behemoth let out a low thunderous growl and sped up again.

All of a sudden, a spark of blinding light appeared from a faraway location inside the space vortex.

Boom!

The explosion rang out across the space vortex.

This attack caused the image of countless worlds to manifest around it, respectively displaying their current state.

With a pained and confused groan of pain, the Abyssal Behemoth stopped its advance.

Despite being a monster big enough to rival an entire galaxy, it was stopped by a single attack.

Another spark of blinding light.

Boom!!!

The Abyssal Behemoth was forced back.

This attack was so powerful that it would easily destroy an entire world.

The Abyssal Behemoth let out another thunderous roar.

And then...

White sparks of blinding light kept shooting at it from the void of space one after another.

The Soul Shrieker furiously shouted: 「 『 Who is it? Do you want to die? 』 」

No answer.

Only a consecutive barrage of attacks that rained on the Abyssal Behemoth, causing it to be unable to move.

— — — because of how big the Abyssal Behemoth was, the attacks would hit it no matter what.

After a bit of hesitation, the Soul Shrieker jumped down from the Abyssal Behemoth's back and prepared to move forward on its own.

But that wasn't possible either.

Countless sparks of light continued to be shot from far away in the space vortex towards the Soul Shrieker and the Abyssal Behemoth.

Soon, this manifested as a magnificent sight within the boundless space vortex.

All the attacks were chained together to form a wall of light that pushed from the Mystic Zones towards the Strife Zones.

The entirety of the space vortex was encompassed within this wall of light, leaving no room for evasion.

These sparks of light were countless scrolls, runes, weapons, ballistic shells, rituals, summoned creatures, Soul Artifacts, all of which were being shot from the faraway side of the space vortex.

The only thing that the Soul Shrieker could do was to protect its body and make sure that it wouldn't be pushed away.

Behind it, the Abyssal Behemoth was unable to endure this kind of attack and slowly fell back into the Strife Zones.

—facing hundreds of thousands of such attacks, it was forced to fall into slumber and would require an untold amount of time in order to reawaken.

Which meant that the Soul Shrieker had lost its steed!

Its speed would be reduced significantly, perhaps unable to even catch up to Gu Qing Shan's group.

...

The far side of the space vortex.

The Bramble Bird first, second, and third grand fleet were docked here.

The fleet didn't care who was approaching them or how powerful the other party was, they had received orders to simply bombard them with the countless treasures that the Bramble Bird Kingdom had accumulated over the years.

The unbelievable scene just now was manifested through unleashing treasures en masse without any regards to their cost towards the border of the Mystic Zones and Strife Zones.

When the first, second, and third grand fleet ran empty, they changed their direction and headed into the Mystic Zones.

The fourth, fifth, and sixth grand fleet then replaced them, continuing to rain single-use forms of attacks that should normally be kept in a vault as the last resort from their ships towards the Strife Zones.

This was essentially a continuous area of effect that absolutely couldn't be dodged no matter what.

Soul Shrieker could only endure the unrelenting attacks and roared: 「『 You dared kill my Behemoth! You insignificant obstacles will die here today! I am—the Envoy of [Chaos]! 』」

The fleets completely ignored its roaring and silently continued raining their attacks down on it.

Only the Bramble Bird General Ilya stood on the deck of a certain ship and muttered without care:

“That's right, you're the Envoy of [Chaos], but our Majesty is the Sovereign of Wealth”

Chapter 983

Bramble Bird ship, [The Empress].

Gu Qing Shan was having a conversation with Laura again.

The little girl was still paranoid about Gu Qing Shan sending her back.

So they were still talking through a thick door that contained over a million seals.

“You sent out every royal fleet you have, would that really be enough to stop the Soul Shrieker for a while?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“It should be. There are enough offensive treasures to continuously throw away for about half a day, in that time, it shouldn’t be able to catch up with us” Laura told him.

“Have the fleets been arranged properly?” Gu Qing Shan asked out of concern.

“They have. The final wave of attacks will consist of automatic trigger landmine-type treasures and allow the fleets to easily retreat”

Laura boasted without fear: “Now that the Soul Shrieker lost its speed and is continuously attacked for half a day, it would definitely not be able to catch up”

Gu Qing Shan told her: “This method can only be used once— and the Soul Shrieker seems to be able to sense where the [Order] is, so it will eventually come after us again”

“We’ll cross that bridge when we get there” Laura scoffed with displeasure.

“Still, we can’t let our guards down. Let’s hurry and move, we should get to Riddle world as soon as we can” Gu Qing Shan insisted.

“This Empress is personally controlling this ship today; don’t you worry about it” Laura told him in reply.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and went back on the deck of the ship.

Not too long after that.

Boss opened his eyes and sat up on the floor.

“How long did I sleep for?” he asked.

Ye Fei Li gave him a can of Soul Points drink and answered: “Three hours”

Boss received the drink, opened it, then drank it all at once.

He looked around.

Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Ying Hao, and Ye Fei Li were all sitting around him.

The ship was stably moving along the space vortex.

“It seems the Soul Shrieker hasn’t caught up to us yet— this is good news, please give me another can”

“Here”

Boss popped it open and chugged the drink one mouthful at a time.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “How’s your current state?”

Boss held the second can in his hand and wiped his mouth: “It was a good sleep. I probably won’t fall into slumber again too soon, if I have more of this drink, I’ll be able to regain a bit more strength”

Regain strength...

This person appears to be very wise and knowledgeable, so what's the extent of his strength?

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan asked Ye Fei Li: "Do you have enough Soul Points stored?"

Ye Fei Li replied: "Don't worry, I already made enough preparations before we left"

He used his ability again and created another can of drink for Boss.

Boss didn't say a single word, received the can and drank it all at once.

Ye Fei Li immediately gave him another.

Boss swiftly finished the drink again

...

After the 25th can.

Ye Fei Li was breathing heavily: "I can't anymore, I need to rest up a bit"

Boss sighed but said with satisfaction: "Thank you, thank you very much, this should be enough for today, any more would only be a waste— I wouldn't be able to fully recover all at once anyways"

"After I get well-rested, you can tell me whenever you need more" Ye Fei Li told him.

Boss glanced at him and nodded in satisfaction.

He stood up, walked to the railing of the ship, and stared at the void outside.

[The Empress] was moving along a wide arc while constantly adjusting its route.

There were no entrances to the strange and bizarre worlds to be seen.

The void itself was a greyish dark color, with a bit of knowledge, one would be able to tell that this was a ring-shaped windless passage that allowed the ship to move forward easily without interference.

But there was no way to infer where it was headed towards.

"We seem to be traveling in a hidden space current?" Boss asked.

"Yes, this is a hidden space current that's used for smuggling" Zhang Ying Hao replied.

"What's our destination?" Boss asked again.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "Riddle world, I have something crucial that I need to search for in that place"

To this end, Laura provided the ship, while Zhang Ying Hao provided a secret passage.

—as a hitman, the fact that Zhang Ying Hao managed to survive all this time within the 900 million World Layers was because he had his means.

Not to mention how famous Riddle world was among the forces and organizations that dealt with underground dealings.

Boss had a contemplating look on his face: "That world... I seem to recall that it was a world specifically used by many to dispose of evidence. It's a really hard location to reach, are you sure it would aid our upcoming battle?"

"I'm sure" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Earth Creator was able to foresee the future.

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It had made a lot of preparations.

—and it's surely trying to tell me something.

Boss then asked: "Alright, ah, how's the [Order]?"

"The [Demon King Order] has been constantly telling me to run away" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Hearing that, Boss laid down on top of the deck again and lazily declared: "If everything is going well, I'll rest up a bit more, call me if there's anything"

Zhang Ying Hao took out a map and looked through it, then said: "There's a supply station up ahead. After passing through that, we'd reach Riddle world in about half a day"

The group went back to rest.

Ye Fei Li was immersed in his games.

Boss felt a bit interested so he watched on the side.

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao were enjoying a drink while exchanging stories of their experience during this past year.

"Is [Chaos] really as you said it is? A highly personalized supportive power?" Zhang Ying Hao was intrigued.

"Ah, yes. It's quite interesting, but there is still a lot I don't know about it since I haven't gotten to study it completely" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"If that's the case, I might actually try it out if I have the chance. After all, my strength is an issue that needs to be resolved one way or another" Zhang Ying Hao considered.

Gu Qing Shan reminded him: "Make sure to watch out for the Soul Shrieker. It's the Envoy that spreads [Chaos], so it might have countermeasures against normal [Chaos]"

Zhang Ying Hao lowered his voice: "Right, why are you looking to get to Riddle world?"

"I once obtained a chance to enter Riddle world from a senior who might have left something there for me, but since I got stalled, I couldn't make it in time" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Zhang Ying Hao chuckled: "Left you something? There are all sorts of things in that world, it's a place that sells everything"

"I'm not too familiar with that world"

“It isn’t anything too complicated. Everyone in the underworld is wary of being backstabbed and betrayed, so Riddle world became a trading world under various tacit agreements and eventually grew to become prosperous”

“A trading world? I’ve been through a black-market world called the Drifting Sand world” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Riddle world is known as the most advanced black market in the 900 million World Layers” Zhang Ying Hao told him.

“What’s so advanced about it? Does it have some sort of rule that protects its integrity?”

“It actually does, the entirety of Riddle world is under a severely strict Law: While in that world, as long as a person hold their mouth shut and does not say anything, no one would be able to hurt them”

“What if someone insisted on trying?”

“The Law of the world would kick him out and randomly teleport him into an extremely faraway world”

Gu Qing Shan nodded in understanding: “So the name ‘Riddle’ actually meant ‘hidden words’¹, if that’s the case, it would certainly guarantee safe transactions”

Zhang Ying Hao continued: “That’s why the true danger lies in the area around Riddle world”

“What do you mean?”

“Organizations that had been conducting business in Riddle world for a long time are always keeping an eye out in the surrounding space vortex, preparing to plunder from any weak and foreign passengers that comes by”

“That’s a bit troublesome, but since we’re riding the Bramble Bird Empress’ ship, there shouldn’t be any issues” Gu Qing Shan concluded.

As soon as he said so.

Bam!

A dull sound of impact.

The ship swayed a bit.

Laura’s voice came from below: “Gu Qing Shan, there’s a small group of ships blocking the space vortex in front of us, preventing us from moving forward”

“Did they open fire?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“They did, the ship is fine, they wouldn’t have been able to punch through the hull anyways but I wanted to ask you what we should do now” Laura replied.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: “We’re currently riding [The Empress] but they still couldn’t recognize us?”

Laura told him: “I’m currently using a new type of camouflage, from the outside, this airship seems like a perfectly normal ship”

“You were afraid that this ship would be discovered by subordinates of the Envoy of [Chaos]?”

“Yeah”

“That was smart” Gu Qing Shan praised her, “Compared to being discovered by the Envoys of [Chaos], I’d rather encounter a few bandits”

“Then, what do we do now?” Laura asked.

“No hurry, they’re coming to us” Gu Qing Shan told her.

Several hundred people arrived flying from the void outside the ship.

They quickly surrounded the ship.

The leader of the bandits looked down on the four people on the deck of the ship and scowled.

He then turned to someone next to him and grabbed him by the collar: “This ship is clearly a pathetic wreck that’s falling apart with nothing but four pieces of garbage on it, and you said this is worth us moving out?”

The man who was grabbed seemed to be the scout, who nervously asked: “A lot of ships had been using this kind of camouflage lately, so I just thought they might be as well”

Hearing that, the leader was a bit less displeased.

He flew above [The Empress], looked down on the four people, cleared his throat, and asked:

“Which one of you is the Boss?”

Everyone was surprised.

Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Ying Hao, and Ye Fei Li stepped aside to reveal Boss who was lying on the deck.

“Boss, he’s looking for you” Zhang Ying Hao said.

Chapter 984

As the bandits surrounded [The Empress] ship, Boss was lying on the deck, resting.

It was only when his name was called that he opened his eyes.

“Strange, I’ve just changed my name and there are already people who know me?”

Boss muttered in a low voice.

He stood up and judged the other party: “I’m Boss, what do you want?”

The leader acted impatiently and made the gesture to shoo him away: “Piece of garbage, bring your men and scam from this ship or I’m taking your life right now!”

Boss was shocked.

Garbage...

That's a bit...

Boss was speechless.

“How interesting, no one had ever dared to talk to me this way before. Even the heir of [Chaos] only referred to me through my titles and did not disrespect my status” he muttered.

The leader heard that and chuckled: “I’ve been on this current for countless years and have seen too many greenhorns like you who don’t understand a single thing, all you’re ever good for is running your mouth”

Boss smirked.

“Then you should have already seen this too”

He put his hand up and opened his palm.

Without being able to react at all, the leader vanished from where he was.

A split second later, he reappeared in front of Boss, his neck inside Boss’ tight grip.

“Don’t struggle, or I’m going to break your neck”

Boss lightly declared.

The leader finally understood that he’d run into a tough one.

“Brother, I was wrong today, let me go and we’ll leave immediately” he tried smoothing things over.

“Really?”

“Really”

Boss thought briefly and let go of his grip.

The leader hurriedly flew back into the air, activated every defense mechanism he had, and hid behind his crew.

After confirming his safety, he angrily shouted: “All of you, charge and kill them all!”

As he said the word ‘them’, he vanished again.

—once again, he appeared in front of Boss, his neck gripped tightly.

None of his defensive measures did anything, the subordinates in front of him couldn’t even react.

“My mistake” Boss said very sincerely, “I forgot, humans are a race that like lying”

...

At the border of the Strife Zones and Mystic Zones.

Having lost its steed, the Soul Shrieker was stuck in a barrage of endless powerful attacks.

These were all attacks that far surpassed the normal possible output limit, nothing would be able to shield it so it could only stand and endure.

Normally, these kinds of attacks could only be unleashed through exerting all of a treasure's power at once, only used when the situation had gotten so bad that it was their last resort.

Under such a situation, the owner of the treasure would no longer care about the treasure and detonate it in order to buy themselves a chance to escape with their lives.

Because of how powerful such an attack was, it would also be swift.

— — — however, the barrage of attacks never stopped.

Ever since the wave of attacks began, countless treasures have been continuously thrown away to unleash this devastation!

Fortunately, the Soul Shrieker had been through a lot of situations and was capable of toughing it out against this... unprecedented style of fighting in the 900 million World Layers.

Over tens of thousands of years of preparation and layers upon layers of planning, it had basically killed every carrier of an [Order] there was.

Only one remained.

This would be the final one.

The Soul Shrieker believed in its own clarity.

And during a hunt, it had never lacked patience.

For the sake of today's plan, it had lived with a single word in mind.

Wait.

Wait until after all these attacks stopped, I would be able to continue forward and capture the final carrier of [Order].

As for these stalling minions, I'd be able to deal with them eventually.

The Soul Shrieker silently waited for the assault to end.

One hour later.

Boom boom boom boom boom!

The Soul Shrieker endured the barrage of attacks and silently waited for it to end.

Two hours later.

Boom boom boom boom boom boom boom boom!

The Soul Shrieker endured the barrage of attacks and silently waited for it to end.

Three hours later.

Boom boom boom boom boom boom boom boom boom boom boom boom boom boom boom!

—It's been three hours already, so why have the attacks only gotten more intense?

What's going on?

The Soul Shrieker believed itself to be a true hunter, calm, collected, and patient.

—but it wasn't a fool.

After some thought, it started to back down.

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Using its power and the recoils of the impacts, it swiftly left the scene of the battle and returned to the Strife Zones.

In the end, it fled the battle and gave up on capturing that person.

「 『 Such power... I've never seen such an enemy before... and will most likely not be able to catch up 』 」

The Soul Shrieker muttered.

It could sense that the carrier of [Order] was getting further and further away.

The Soul Shrieker stood still and silently pondered.

「 『 No, the advent of the Era of [Chaos] mustn't be delayed any longer 』 」

It told itself: 「 『 All the carriers of [Order] have already been eliminated, with only one of them remaining, they wouldn't be able to overturn this situation. It would be better to first bring about the era before chasing after him again 』 」

「 『 Although... a considerable price will be paid for this 』 」

「 『 But everything in this world has its price, doesn't it? 』 」

The Soul Shrieker quickly made its decision.

Standing in the void, it stretched its arms and grandly declared:

「 『 Show yourselves and come to my side, carriers of [Chaos], today you shall receive a divine baptism! 』 」

A gray fog began to manifest, drifting around the Soul Shrieker and expanding all over.

The fog filled the void.

Figures showed up one after another in the fog.

They were all life forms that had taken on [Chaos], each of them bestowed with a completely different power belonging to [Chaos].

While maintaining distance from one another, they looked towards the Soul Shrieker with a look full of desires.

“My liege, we’ve arrived at your summon”

“Envoy, I am yours to command”

“I have arrived, your excellency”

These people all declared.

The Soul Shrieker didn’t even react to them, it only lowered its head and began to chant in a low voice.

「 『 Come, for the advent of the new Era, you shall contribute your power 』 』

The figures of [Chaos] hidden inside the fog listened to its chant and swiftly began to move.

—although to be more accurate, their bodies were moving by themselves without their will.

“What’s going on”

“My liege, what are you doing?”

“Why can’t I control myself?”

“No, why are you doing this!?”

The carriers of [Chaos] all shouted in horror and shocked.

The Soul Shrieker looked up and explained to those around: 「 『 I spent untold amount of effort preparing everything in the shadow of the 900 million World Layers, teaching you how to fight, aiding you to grow, nurturing your [Chaos] abilities, originally hoping that you would become the first group of Combatants for the Era of [Chaos] 』 』

「 『 However— 』 』

「 『 [Order] had yet to be completely destroyed, greatly increasing the difficulty of bringing about the Era of [Chaos]. I need more power in order to achieve this feat, and thus you have received a special honor 』 』

The Soul Shrieker grinned: 「 『 That is to become a part of myself 』 』

It opened its mouth wide, chanting in both its male and female voices: 『 『 You all shall become one with me. Come! Enjoy this special honor! 』 』

「 『 Souls with the characteristic of [Chaos], come to me, become my power and usher in the new Era of [Chaos]! 』 』

The Soul Shrieker’s voice abruptly rose to a peak:

「 『 Aaaaaaaaaeeeeeee— 』 』

From the fog, each carrier of [Chaos] sped up, all throwing themselves straight at the Soul Shrieker.

This was a magnificent, but a bizarre sight to behold.

Hundreds, thousands of different powers belonging to [Chaos] gathered from every direction, all throwing themselves into the Soul Shrieker's body, then sunk in like objects in a murky swamp or a bottomless pit of quicksand, disappearing.

But the Soul Shrieker's body didn't show any visible change.

It maintained the high-pitched shriek, all the way until all the carriers of [Chaos] had entered its body and there were no longer any living beings in the void.

Complicated twisting runes manifested around its body for a brief moment, then vanished.

「 『 Finally, it has come 』 」

The Soul Shrieker was breathing heavily.

Countless faces of despair and horror appeared all over the surface of its body, then disappeared as if they had sunken to the bottom of a deep ocean.

The Soul Shrieker stood still in the void.

It opened its mouth and spoke in a multitude of overlapping voices; as if everyone in a giant choir was singing a gospel at the exact same time:

「 We who came from a time long lost ago. We were born at the collapse of all things. We took on the suffering of all living beings, not even the Apocalypse could do anything to us 」

「 Era of [Chaos]! 」

「 We sow your seeds of growth within the endless void, where you shall mature and grow, thus becoming an existence that lord over all things 」

The countless voices abruptly raised, as if roaring:

「 And we! Are your bodies! 」

「 We shall bring [Chaos] and spread it into the 900 million World Layers! 」

Figures made completely out of light emerged from the Soul Shrieker's body one by one, shattered into sprites of light, and scattered into the void of space like a rushing current, swiftly going out of sight.

This was an indescribably magnificent sight, as if a deity was spreading its dignity and awe to the infinite worlds.

The Soul Shrieker silently waited until all the figures of light from its body had shattered and scattered away only then did it regain its senses.

「 『 The Era of [Chaos] has arrived, and the final [Order] will soon fall 』 」

「 『 This time... I will move the long way around, no one will be able to detect me again...』 」

It changed its direction and slowly went out of sight.

Chapter 985

After bringing about the advent of the Era of [Chaos], the Soul Shrieker silently vanished.

[Chaos]'s silent dissemination began all over the 900 million World Layers.

At another location.

Within a hidden space current.

The leader of the bandits was being gripped by his neck with an expression of fear on his face.

I utilized every means of defense I had, but I was still caught so easily.

He wanted to struggle, but couldn't muster any courage to even move.

He could feel just how strong that hand gripping him was.

"I'm very sorry, brother, I was wrong, please give me another chance, I swear I will leave right away"

The bandit leader spoke up right away, trying to plead.

This time, Boss ignored him.

While gripping his neck with one hand, Boss touched the void of space with his other hand.

His thick book once again manifested.

Putting his hand on the book, Boss muttered: "Who is currently under my rule?"

The book then opened and began to flip through by itself, showing depictions of various terrifying and horrible monsters.

"Tsk, my power is a bit lacking right now... let's use a relatively loyal one"

"Come, I choose you"

Saying so, Boss touched the depiction of a monster in the book.

It was a humanoid monster whose body was filled with mouths.

It didn't have eyes, a nose, ears, but there were mouths on its head, its limbs, its torso, everywhere around its body.

When Boss touched it, it respectfully bowed down in front of him.

"Go eat"

Boss declared.

Following his statement, the void of space outside [The Empress] ship started to surge and boil.

That monster showed up.

Its body was as big as an entire airship, which swiftly charged straight into the group of bandits.

—-wherever the monster passed by, the bandits vanished.

A chilling sound of crunching and chewing resounded throughout the void of space.

A few of the mouths on the monster's body were closed, the blood flowing from inside started soaking its body red.

The monster didn't stop and continued its charge into the fleet of bandit airships.

Against this monster, the bandit ships that were trying to rob [The Empress] were completely erased and vanished from existence.

After it was done, the monster flew back and respectfully bowed to Boss.

"Wait there" Boss told the monster.

The monster then took a few steps back and silently waited.

Boss then leaned next to the bandit leader's ear and lightly asked him: "Now, who did you think was a piece of garbage?"

The bandit leader was already scared stiff and wanted to answer him right away, but Boss simply threw him out.

As the bandit leader flew outside [The Empress], he was caught by the understanding monster.

He was erased as well.

The sound of chewing and crunching continued to resound from the monster's body.

Gu Qing Shan's group of three silently watched this.

—-*Boss seemed to have summoned something terrifying.*

This monster managed to destroy an entire fleet in no time at all.

"You may return" Boss said.

The monster faithfully bowed towards Boss, kept its head down, and slowly retreated.

Its body slowly faded away into the void.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but asked: "Your wounds haven't fully healed yet, wouldn't using this type of super-distance summoning put a lot of burden on you?"

Boss scoffed: "This type of magic is nothing but a minor trick, it's nothing to worry about at all"

As soon as he answered, his body started to fall back and collapsed on the deck of the ship.

Gu Qing Shan's trio went up to see him.

Boss had closed his eyes and was snoring loudly.

Gu Qing Shan took a careful look and sighed: "He used up too much power at once, he'll probably sleep for a while longer"

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li exchanged glances.

“What a braggart, using such a powerful summoning technique to attack” Zhang Ying Hao commented.

“That’s right, we wouldn’t have lost even if we did things slowly” Ye Fei Li added.

Zhang Ying Hao went silent for a bit, then said: “I’m very curious about his background”

“What are you worried about?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“From what he said, he was fighting against the Soul Shrieker—— which means that he must be an extremely impressive VIP”

“Make sense”

“I’ve been in the 900 million World Layers for quite a while, but I’ve never heard that such a person exists in the 900 million World Layers at all” Zhang Ying Hao frowned.

“Hm, that’s an issue” Ye Fei Li mused.

Gu Qing Shan told them: “Asking too much is no good. Since he’s on our side right now, there’s no need to pry too deeply”

“We’re going to ignore him? Allowing an unknown factor to exist without any care so close to you, this wasn’t your style” Zhang Ying Hao was a bit surprised.

“He already made a Causality vow to not harm us, which means he isn’t our enemy” Gu Qing Shan emphasized this.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li thought for a bit and nodded.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “And he was also recognized by an Occultism artifact as my mutual saviour, so I believe that he can be considered an ally”

“So, we don’t need to understand him too deeply?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “Everyone has a past they don’t want to talk about, not asking him about it is a way for us to show our respect. If one day he’s willing to tell us, we’ll naturally find out”

Thinking of something, Ye Fei Li rubbed his chin: “Perhaps, even if we don’t ask, he’d tell us about it himself one day”

“Yup, that’s exactly it”

Half an hour later.

The ship was still moving forward.

The void around them was dim and unremarkable.

Boss slowly opened his eyes, still lying flat on the deck of the ship.

He was awake.

As he sat up from the floor, he seemed a bit embarrassed: "Sorry about that, I accidentally used up all my powers again, please give me a few cans of Soul Points drinks"

"Here" Ye Fei Li tossed one over.

Boss received and emptied it right away.

"Ah, no good, I can't fight again, I need some time to rest up" he sighed emotionally.

"No problem, just leave the rest to us" Ye Fei Li said.

"That's right, we've already eliminated a group of bandits, most likely no one would try anything against us again" Gu Qing Shan commented.

As soon as he said so.

Bam!

A loud sound of impact.

The ship trembled a bit.

Everyone turned to Gu Qing Shan.

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He also said the same thing last time...

Ye Fei Li cleared his throat and spoke up: "Gu Qing Shan—"

Gu Qing Shan raised both hands: "Stop, I know. Next time I won't say anything like that again"

Laura's voice sounded from inside the deck of the ship:

"Gu Qing Shan, we're under attack"

The four people on the deck of the ship looked towards the faraway space vortex.

A fleet of 10 ships was headed towards them.

"Are there any chances that we happened to block their way?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Let me try steering away" Laura replied.

[The Empress] adjusted its direction and started to veer off of its original course.

But the fleet of ships on the other side also changed their directions and continued heading towards [The Empress].

"This position... is very familiar" Ye Fei Li crossed his arms.

"That's right, we're about to be surrounded again" Zhang Ying Hao commented.

Perhaps to prevent Gu Qing Shan's group from fleeing, the 10 ships scattered and skillfully maneuvered to surround [The Empress]

“Gu Qing Shan, my ship is really impressive in more ways than one, should I just charge through them?”
Laura asked.

“They would just pursue us if we do that, let’s just deal with the issue right here” Gu Qing Shan replied.

A few people emerged from the flagship of the opposing fleet and hovered in front of [The Empress].

A bulky man that carried a large battle axe on his shoulder stepped out, walked in front of the ship, and looked down on Gu Qing Shan’s group of four.

“Which one of you is the Boss?”

The bulky man shouted.

Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Ying Hao, and Ye Fei Li all couldn’t help but look towards Boss.

Sitting on the deck of the ship, still exhausted, Boss sighed and muttered: “I suddenly want to change my name now”

“It’s ok, leave it to us this time” saying so, Gu Qing Shan was about to fly up.

Zhang Ying Hao stopped him: “Let me try to negotiate first”

He tossed a coin towards the man and said: “I’m a member of the Assassin Alliance”

The man caught the coin and carefully checked it, then displayed a hesitant expression.

Gu Qing Shan asked in a low voice: “Is this alliance’s name that useful?”

Zhang Ying Hao replied in a low voice: “Hm, the Assassin Alliance is an underground organization—— a killer organization. Most forces would give us some respect”

“Is that so...”

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly, then took out his Hitman Guild medal.

“Oi, there’s a member of the Hitman Guild here as well”

He pointed at himself.

The man received the medal and checked, only to find that it was also genuine.

An assassin.

A hitman.

In other words, the two people in front of him are two members of the underground world, most likely not here for any business related to wealth.

The only business killers deal with is killing people.

——could it be, everyone on this ship are killers?

Then I have to report to Boss about this.

The man brought the coin and the medal back to his group.

They discussed this.

After just a bit, these people turned back and faced [The Empress].

The man flew back and showed a malicious smile.

“Sorry, but life has been hard recently. Even a killer will have to leave this ship and everything you own if you want to survive”

He told Gu Qing Shan’s group.

Seeing his expression, Gu Qing Shan’s group quickly discussed with each other.

“They’re probably looking to kill us after we give them everything” Gu Qing Shan commented.

“Those guys are really at the end of their ropes” Zhang Ying Hao sighed.

“They soon won’t be” Ye Fei Li replied.

“Erm— I still need to rest” Boss insisted on chiming in.

“The three of us will be enough, you can rest” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Ying Hao, and Ye Fei Li all got ready for battle.

However, the people on the other side all showed unfocused expressions on their faces at the same time.

They stood still in the void, not saying anything, and simply stared forward, as if there was something that drew their attention.

“What’s going on?” Ye Fei Li couldn’t help but ask.

“Something seems amiss” Zhang Ying Hao squinted his eyes.

Gu Qing Shan grabbed the Earth sword from the void of space.

At the same time, his other three swords also manifested behind him.

For some reason, the scene gave him a very familiar feeling.

...

At another location, the Soul Shrieker was quickly moving across the space vortex.

All of a sudden, countless voices resounded by its ear.

“The Era had arrived...”

“[Chaos] spread...”

“You’ve completed...”

“The Path to Godhood of [Chaos], is yours...”

The Soul Shrieker abruptly stopped, the endless presence of [Chaos] traveled through the void and gathered towards it as strands and threads from all directions.

These strands of [Chaos] were being absorbed by the Soul Shrieker one after another.

「 『 Aaaaaaa! 」 』

The Soul Shrieker looked straight up and screamed.

「 Power! The boundless power of [Chaos]! 」

Its male voice excitedly screamed.

Its female voice also laughed: 『 Ahahaha, if I had obtained this power just half an hour earlier, I wouldn't have been stuck at the border of the Mystic Zones, or forced to be stalled in place by those attacks! 』

The strands of [Chaos] were soon fully absorbed into its body.

The Soul Shrieker paused for a brief moment and sighed.

「 『 Everything is no longer the same 」 』

Both its male and female voice spoke up at once, speaking in a chanting tone: 「 『 So this is the true path to Godhood—— I have finally reached this step. From now on, I will climb to the peak of [Chaos] step by step, escape from the control of the Abyss, and no longer have to fear any Apocalypse! 」 』

It suddenly stopped and displayed a focused expression, as if carefully listening to something.

——the countless whispers were resounding by its ears,

“Your path to Godhood has been granted...”

“Your power has been improved several times; it is enough...”

“You are [Chaos]...”

“But [Order] still exists...”

“Do not allow it...”

Suddenly, all the voices raised all the way up and shouted in thunderous fury: “Eliminate the final [Order] immediately! No power can stop you now!”

Chapter 986

While [The Empress] was being stalled by the bandits of Riddle world.

At another location.

The Death Wilderness world.

This entire world consisted of only the wilderness, but there existed no living creatures in this wilderness. Aside from a series of ancient death formations, there was only a single black structure.

A magnificent black cathedral that stood in the center of this world.

— the Holy Church of Death.

The central area of the Holy Church was the Death Sanctuary.

Only the servants of Death were allowed entry into the Death Sanctuary.

Not even the Pope had the qualifications to come here.

Its gates were shut tightly.

In the sanctuary, the black crow of death had led Anna and Lin inside, while the bell ringer dog was already here waiting for them.

Black Hound carefully observed the effigy of Death that Black Crow brought back, then sighed and spoke: 「 It's real, this effigy is really the token to open the underground passage 」

“Then, from what we've seen, that person is an ally more than an enemy” Black Crow commented.

The two servants of Death both turned to Lin.

「 Are you sure you want to enter the secret passage of Death? 」 Black Hound tried probing.

“The person who gave you that token of Death ordered me to protect the heir of Death” Lin curtly answered without a shred of emotion in her voice.

She then casually took out a golden armor and tapped on it.

The armor scattered into components and swiftly equipped itself onto Lin's body.

As the helmet and visor covered her face, no one else would be able to tell what Lin's expression currently was.

Lin then took out a pair of burning red gauntlets and wore it on her hands.

Both the armor and gauntlets were things that Laura picked out for her, so even with Laura's sharp eyes, they were the best possible equipment for the job.

The two servants of Death exchanged glances.

This woman has clearly prepared herself to guard and protect Anna.

Black Hound hesitated for a brief moment, then carefully asked: 「 It might be rude to ask, but who exactly was that person...」

Lin didn't say anything.

She put one hand forward, summoning Elemental Fire from the gauntlet that danced at the tips of her thin long fingers.

Her finger moved.

The fire morphed and changed into a pattern.

—on top of the flickering embers that looked like floating stars was a grandly shining crown.

Anna was shocked to see this.

This woman was extremely impressive, she only used a tiny bit of summoned Elemental Fire to draw such a complicated and meaningful pattern.

Her control over the element had reached an unbelievable level.

But compared to Anna, the two servants of Death were significantly more shocked.

「 This pattern... how familiar... 」

Black Hound appeared to be reminiscing.

While Black Crow immediately recalled the entity that this pattern represented.

“The Exiled Apostle, Greatest Above the Star Crown... it’s him”

Black Crow had retracted all of its feathers and spoke in a silent and wary tone.

Black Hound also realized:

「 It is him! So that’s the reason... 」

Black Hound lowered his head and couldn’t help but express a sense of respect.

The two servants of Death were respectfully bowing to Lin.

“There is no need to be formal, I’m also working as ordered— do you have any other questions?” Lin asked.

「None at all」

The two servants of Death answered at once.

“Anna, we will leave what comes next to you” Black Crow told her.

Anna was surprised and asked: “Leave what to me? What do you mean?”

「 Do not delay this, Anna and miss guard, the two of you may now enter the passage, hurry 」 Black Hound told her.

“Wait a minute, you won’t be coming with me?” Anna asked.

「 We are only servants of Death; we cannot enter that place— only the one who will inherit the power of Death, as well as her guard, may enter 」 Black Hound replied.

“I’ve never known about myself having some sort of power of Death” Anna was still confused.

Black Crow explained: “In truth, every member of the Holy Church of Death will undergo an awakening ceremony without them knowing it. Through coming into contact with the awakening Soul Artifact, they would have a chance to awaken the power of Death”

「 No one has been able to awaken the power of Death over the past 10,000 years. We had all given up until you appeared, Anna, you have awoken that power 」 Black Hound told her.

Anna raised her hand and manifested a boiling black flame in the middle of her palm.

“But this is only my God’s Chosen ability” she was still confused.

Black Hound answered: 「 That is a disguise, Anna. When you first awoken, the weapon manifested from your God’s Chosen ability underwent change, do you still remember? 」

Anna carefully thought about it.

Indeed, at the time I felt that everyone else obtained something good from the ritual, while I only...

And then the Scythe of Death mutated.

Black Hound continued: 「 Anna, both fate and opportunity that coincided at this moment in time. You are the true heir that we have been waiting for, if you want to witness the truth of reality, go and accept the inheritance of Death 」

Anna hesitated and turned to look at Lin.

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She is Gu Qing Shan’s elder sister...

Anna asked her: “How should I refer to you?”

“My name is Lin”

“—Lin, if you don’t want to risk danger, please wait for me in the Holy Church of Death, after I’m done with this matter, I will look for you and we’ll return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom together”

“Your concerns are unnecessary. Your strength is hardly enough to survive that passage, so I’ll accompany and protect you” Lin casually told her.

Anna was startled.

So I’ll have to travel with Gu Qing Shan’s elder sister...

Why do I feel a bit awkward about this?

Anna couldn’t help but look at the two servants of Death.

Both of them nodded.

“It’s very dangerous” Black Crow said.

“You will indeed require her protection. Even the ancient prophecy foretold that the heir of Death would enter the passage together with a guard”

“Fine”

Anna could only relent.

The air around them suddenly started to change.

The ground, the void, everything underwent a tiny but very real change.

The wind began to blow.

This was such a faint gentle breeze, yet it caused both servants of Death to turn pale.

「 The Era of [Chaos] has arrived 」 Black Hound muttered in a low voice.

“Indeed, at the time when all things are coming to an end, [Chaos] and [Order] are still locked in strife”
Black Crow sighed.

Lin sensed the changes in the world but stood still without moving.

No one could see her expression behind the golden visor.

Black Hound looked at Anna and spoke seriously: 「 Little Anna, I know you have much that you want to achieve, but for the sake of survival, to provide powerful support for the ones you care for, you must witness the truth of reality and inherit the power of Death—— only with strength can you truly change a situation as you see fit—— this reality had and always will be that practical 」

Anna nodded and encouraged herself: “Very well! That’s the most motivational thing I’ve heard all day”

As the two of them finished preparing themselves, Black Crow flew to the end of the Sanctuary and landed in front of a mural.

It was a gloomy mural that depicted an entity wielding a long-handle scythe with their back turned to the outside, silently hovering above boundless darkness.

This mural took up the entire wall and gave off an impression of magnificence and historicity.

As Black Crow viewed the mural, its eyes depicted all sorts of emotions.

Black Hound explained to Anna and Lin: 「 Under normal circumstances, I am responsible for accumulating the power of Death and dealing with any spontaneous battles that may arise 」

「 But Black Crow was different, its power of Death must not be utilized for anything at all 」

“But why?” Anna couldn’t help but ask.

Thinking back, she had indeed never seen Black Crow personally fight before.

「 Because Black Crow’s power was something that the God of Death himself passed down from ages ago. For the sake of inheritance, Black Crow was responsible for conserving this power until a certain moment arrived 」

Black Crow continued: “Indeed, and that moment has arrived”

It reached out with its long beak and lightly pecked the mural.

The mural silently split apart to reveal what was hidden inside.

It was a large 5-meter tall bronze gate.

The gate was completely bare without any decorations, but by simply standing in front of it, one couldn't help but feel insignificant.

Black Crow stepped forward and chanted an incantation:

“Eternal God of Death, I came here from the countless eons to report to you”

“A Saintess who carries the power of Death from birth has appeared, she spreads your dignity throughout the infinite worlds, she walks the path you walked, and stands where you once stood”

“At this moment, I use the divine power that you left behind to allow her entry into the underground passage”

Countless strands of gloomy darkness emerged from Black Crow's body and were absorbed into the bronze gate.

A moment of silence.

Rumble rumble rumble!

The heavy sound felt like a long sigh filled with vicissitudes.

The bronze gate slowly opened.

Black Crow breathed a sigh of relief and stepped to one side.

Behind the bronze gate was an underground path filled with darkness that extended very deep into the passage without any visible end.

Only a single stone slab hovered by the entrance, waiting for the one who entered.

Black Hound reminded her: 「 Black Crow has used up all of its power only to open this gate once. Anna, you must treasure this chance, as this will be your only chance, and also the entire Holy Church of Death's only chance 」

Anna gritted her teeth and nodded.

Black Hound and turned to Lin: 「 Please take good care of her 」

Lin replied: “Don't worry, I know”

Black Hound also stood to one side.

Anna and Lin entered the bronze gate and stood on top of the hovering stone slab.

Their figures were slowly swallowed up by the darkness.

It was nearly time for goodbye.

Black Hound couldn't hold itself back and muttered: 「 Little Anna, if it's truly impossible, you must protect your life above all else. Return alive 」

Seeing the other party's concerned expression, Anna felt warmth in her heart before she silently nodded.

The bronze gates slowly closed again.

Chapter 987

At the same time.

Outside the bronze gate.

Black Crow and Black Hound both noticed something.

「 How strange, what would arrive at this point in time? 」 Black Hound muttered.

“I sense an extremely familiar presence” Black Crow commented.

「 I will guard this place; you go check the situation 」 Black Hound said.

“Alright”

Black Crow flapped its wings and flew out from the Sanctuary.

It landed on top of the Holy Church of Death’s main cathedral and looked up at the sky.

The Pope of the Holy Church of Death had already led his men and prepared to face the opposition in the sky.

“Who is it? Who dares to barge into the Holy Church of Death without any warnings!” the Pope shouted.

Far above the sky, the Pope of the Holy Church of Mysteries appeared.

He had descended above the Holy Church of Death.

“Church of Death, I am the Pope of Mystery. I heard that you were fighting against the civilization that thrived on top of an Abyssal Behemoth, and so we’ve come to aid you” the Pope of Mystery declared.

The Pope of Death’s eyes turned sharp and signaled his subordinates with his hand.

Instantly, every Death formation inscribed around the wilderness of this world activated at once, manifesting as a Divine Craft that protected the Holy Church of Death.

The Pope of Mystery squinted his eyes and coldly smirked:

“What is this? Is this how you treat your comrades?”

The Pope of Death curtly replied: “You only came after the war was over, did you really think I’d buy your nonsense?”

The Pope of Mystery shrugged and spoke with a relaxed tone: “You are correct. I should have arrived here much earlier, but due to a certain issue I encountered on the way, I couldn’t help but face a bit of delay”

“What kind of issue?” the Pope of Death reflexively questioned.

The Pope of Mystery replied: “Can’t you tell? [Chaos] is awakening”

With a grin on his face, he continued: “There is a hidden divine teaching within our inheritance, one that pointed out many secrets of the Gods behind each Holy Church”

“And regretfully, the God of Death had always been a loyal follower on the side of [Order]”

“As such, at the advent of the Era of [Chaos], all followers of Death become our natural enemies”

The Pope of Mystery then chanted an incantation.

The dark sky behind him was illuminated by the brilliance of Mystery.

Fully-armored figures appeared one after another.

The army of over 100,000 men from the Holy Church of Mystery emerged from within the void of space.

The Pope of Mystery looked down on the Holy Church of Death and declared: “Go, the more you kill, the stronger your power of [Chaos] shall grow, this was the teaching of our God from long ago”

The Pope of Mystery then raised his voice: “As true [Chaos], we shall leave no survivors, eliminate them all!”

“Yes!”

The army of 100,000 roared in response.

...

At another location.

The Soul Shrieker was swiftly moving through the space vortex.

All of a sudden, it seemed to have sensed something and abruptly stopped.

「 『...Such intense feedback power 』 』

『 『 It seems the forces of the Chaotic Gods have recognized the advent of the Era and stepped out on stage 』 』

「 『 As the power of [Chaos] grows, so shall mine! 』 』

「 『 Aaaeeee—-』 』

The Soul Shrieker clutched its own body in pain.

Intense wind current drifted and swirled around its body until it finally turned into a spatial storm that swept everything around it away.

Standing at the eye of the storm, the Soul Shrieker hovered in place, its body constantly twitching and writhing.

The faces filled with despair appeared on its body but swiftly vanished.

Very quickly, its shoulders started to twitch and produced a pair of new arms.

Its skin was now covered in a black layer of runes.

「 『 All Mysteries within the void are displaying their truth to me 』 』

『 『 I have—- 』 』

「 『 Grown powerful to an incredible degree 』 』

The Soul Shrieker muttered, then suddenly turned its head towards a certain direction.

「 『 Indeed, I can feel it 』 』

「 『 He is there, the final carrier of [Order] 』 』

The Soul Shrieker's eyes seemed to be able to peer through the vastness of space and observe exactly what it wanted to see.

「 『 On an airship—-— at the border of Riddle world in the 900 million World Layers 』 』

The Soul Shrieker stared closely at the void, seemingly able to see [The Empress].

After a long while of thinking, it opened its four hands and looked down.

「 『 With my current power, even though I'm still a bit from becoming a Deity, as long as I exert my full strength...』 』

The Soul Shrieker soon made up its mind.

It put its four hands together, each of them performing a different seal.

It then looked towards the direction of Riddle world and whispered the incantation:

「 『 Even through the vastness of the void and countless worlds, no one can stop the magnificence of [Chaos] 』 』

『 『 All enemies shall prostrate themselves at the feet of the will of [Chaos] 』 』

「 『 Legendary creature of [Chaos]! 』 』

「 『 You shall bring death to our enemies and place the final solid foundation for the Era of [Chaos]! 』 』

As the Soul Shrieker chanted, surging faint grey fog started to manifest around its body.

The fog then converged and formed a mass of grey-colored light.

The light seemed almost sentient as the inside of it was constantly writhing and giving off sharp screeching noises.

The Soul Shrieker raised all four of its arms and shouted:

『 『 Aaaaaaaa! Be swift, your only mission is—-— 』 』

『 『 To kill him! 』 』

Oom—-—

The grey light shot from between the four arms through the void, bypassing the boundless void of space and countless worlds as it jetted towards Riddle world.

...

On the other side.

At the border of the Riddle world.

As Gu Qing Shan looked at the opposing people, he got his answer.

It isn't [Order], then perhaps [Chaos] has already begun to spread?

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

"This is [Chaos]"

Boss' voice sounded.

The three of them turned back to see that Boss' expression was very serious.

"[Chaos]? But the Soul Shrieker hasn't appeared yet" Zhang Ying Hao said.

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"The Era of [Chaos] had descended ahead of time— I didn't expect the Envoy of [Chaos] to be that flexible. The entirety of the 900 million World Layers will soon become the stronghold of [Chaos]" Boss replied.

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

This was exactly as I had thought.

"We need to hurry— not good, don't come near me"

Gu Qing Shan was about to say something, but changed his tone halfway through.

Without any warnings, he felt a great and heavy shadow of death passing through his heart.

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed as he immediately activated [Ground Shrink] and vanished from the ship.

"What happened?" Zhang Ying Hao immediately asked.

"What's going on?" Ye Fei Li was also anxious.

Boss looked up at the sky above.

Gu Qing Shan was standing in midair, staring at the faraway void.

A split second later.

Three swords appeared from the void behind him and swiftly flashed as they scattered into the void around them.

Gu Qing Shan drew a sword with an ancient design and held it tightly in his hand.

—then that attack arrived.

As if the giant cluster of grey light had sentience, it immediately radiated intense killing intent as soon as it saw Gu Qing Shan.

With a loud screech, it charged towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts turned.

His three swords moved forward and performed the same Secret Art, [Torrent]

An intense tsunami of sword phantoms manifested from thin air.

But as the tsunami of sword phantoms clashed against the vicious grey light, they were easily shattered apart.

Chao Yin sword and the sleeping Heaven sword were easily sent flying, only the autumn water blue steel sword managed to stab into the grey light just a little bit.

Shi!

The grey light gave off an angry screech.

Bam!

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword was sent flying as well!

—this cluster of grey light was simply too powerful!

Shannu's desperate voice resounded in Gu Qing Shan's heart: "No!"

Immediately, Gu Qing Shan's sense of danger went haywire.

Shannu know all of my abilities and power.

But she felt despair from it.

This meant that the grey light is vastly more powerful than I can deal with.

And it seemed to be some sort of strange sentient creature.

At the next split second.

Without giving time for Gu Qing Shan to react any more, the grey light had arrived in front of him.

—*fast!*

—I can't avoid it, it's too fast. If I avoid it, it would catch up right away and consume me, I won't even have a chance to retaliate!

That was all Gu Qing Shan had time to think about.

He raised the Earth sword and circulated all of his spirit energy into a single slash.

This slash was simple, an attack that didn't use any Secret Art at all.

But Gu Qing Shan concentrated all of his swordsmanship experience into this single sword slash.

He gave up on any planning, any fluctuating emotions, and simply converged his everything into this attack.

This was a desperate attack!

And it was also the strongest attack he had ever performed!

The sound of vibration emerged from his sword.

As the Earth sword protected its wielder, it automatically used its own Thaumaturgy---

[Earth's Choice]!

[Earth Choice: Slay and extinguish all entities]

[Note: The stronger the target you wish to slay, the more Soul Points Earth's Choice will cost]

Gu Qing Shan roared with all his might:

“CUTTTTTT---IT!”

The Earth sword swung forward.

The void was slashed apart.

Space was slashed apart.

The grey cluster of light clashed against this attack.

Shi---

An ear-piercing screech of desperation resounded in the ears of everyone here.

The bandits all clutched their heads and covered their ears and they dropped down from the sky.

The grey light was cut apart by Gu Qing Shan's slash and slowly turned dim.

It then thoroughly vanished.

It had been slain!

Gu Qing Shan stood still in the void of space, still wielding his sword as he continued to breathe heavily.

Although it seemed like all he used was a single attack, that one attack was an abrupt, all-out attack for the sake of survival.

Gu Qing Shan was able to clearly feel that he was only an inch away from death.

If he wasn't able to perform that attack in his desperation, he would have died just now.

The shadow of death had vanished from his spirit sense, but a certain feeling of pressure still remained.

Gu Qing Shan gazed towards the faraway void.

—*the threat is still there.*

That grey light did not appear out of coincidence.

Gu Qing Shan could faintly sense that something was observing the situation at this place from the faraway void.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Special note: You must thank all of your desperate efforts in the Age of Old because, without the revived Earth sword, you would have been devoured without leaving a scrap behind just now]

[This attack consumed all of your spirit energy]

[You've entered a state of weakness]

[Remaining Soul Points: 0/600]

[You killed the legendary creature of Chaos: Gloomy Devourer of God's Corpse]

[Although you have the identity of a God, you are still only a mortal]

[Because of that, this was a kill that far surpassed your power level]

[The War God UI has absorbed all the Soul Points from the Gloomy Devourer of God's Corpse]

[As you are in a state of life and death struggle, the obtained Soul Points will be fully under your jurisdiction]

[You obtained 3 million Soul Points]

[You obtained the unique Title: Enemy of Chaos (primary)]

Chapter 988

Gu Qing Shan wasn't in a hurry to check the War God UI.

As a sword cultivator, his spirit sense had always been extremely sharp.

He could sense an entity that could truly take his life staring at him from an unbelievably faraway location.

That attack just now came from that entity.

"Should be... from that direction"

Gu Qing Shan whispered.

He was currently blind, his eyes saw nothing but darkness, but he still turned his head and looked towards the boundless space vortex.

Across countless worlds, at the place where Gu Qing Shan's gaze couldn't reach, the Soul Shrieker was peering at him.

The entire process was witnessed clearly by the Soul Shrieker.

「『 No! The twin swords Heaven and Earth! 』』

It furiously roared.

Its failure during the Age of Old was still fresh in its memories.

But it was now over several ten thousand years later, and the Era of [Chaos] was approaching.

It was about to rule over all things!

—so why can I still not kill that detestable bug!?

「『 Despicable human cultivator! I will definitely devour your soul and force it to endure eternal suffering within my body! 』』

The Soul Shrieker cursed him.

Boundless grey fog drifted about the Soul Shrieker's body, constantly giving off thunderous echoes.

With its current strength, it was only capable of summoning a single legendary creature like the one earlier by exerting all of its power.

To summon upon more powerful forces to kill Gu Qing Shan, it still needed to become even more powerful!

The Soul Shrieker sullenly stood for a long while, then declared with a malicious tone: 「『 I shall allow you to live for a while longer, when my power reaches the next level, you will no longer be able to resist 』』

「『 Because it will be the power that truly belongs to deities! 』』

Saying so, the Soul Shrieker no longer looked towards Gu Qing Shan's direction.

It turned away and went on its way.

—as it moved its gaze away, across the boundless void, Gu Qing Shan's sense also ceased.

He stood still and waited for a while longer.

"That feeling of being watched had disappeared..."

"Because they failed to assassinate me, they temporarily hid away to accumulate more power?"

He muttered.

"Gongzi!"

Shannu suddenly manifested from the void of space in front of him and hurriedly observed him from top to bottom.

"Don't worry, I'm fine" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

After taking a careful look at him, Shannu sighed in relief: "That thing was too powerful, I thought..."

“Hm, I was able to sense your emotions, so I became fully focused and exerted all my powers, that was how I managed to survive” Gu Qing Shan told her.

“That’s great, that’s very great” Shannu patted her chest in relief and commented: “What exactly was that thing earlier? Even through my travels with gongzi, I’ve never seen such an attack”

Gu Qing Shan mused: “An attack that was unleashed from a distance of several million world layers away... I shouldn’t have such a powerful enemy; unless the Soul Shrieker had gained more power from the evolution of [Chaos]”

Gu Qing Shan thought carefully for a bit and confirmed it.

I had also experienced this sensation before in the corpse of the parallel world.

That was indeed [Chaos], no mistakes about it.

“What truly terrifying strength”

He couldn’t help but sigh.

I didn’t imagine that the Soul Shrieker would become so powerful simply by carrying [Chaos].

If it continued to grow even stronger, then wouldn’t that mean its enemy won’t even have room to flee?

An ambush from infinite worlds apart— indeed, I was fortunate enough to manage surviving it this time around.

But the Era of [Chaos] had only just begun, and as its Envoy, the Soul Shrieker would surely obtain more and more benefits from it.

It would only grow stronger!

Unless—

Someone could stop [Chaos]

But who would be able to do such a thing?

The only remaining [Order] is hiding on my body, and it can’t do anything but tell me to run away right now.

If even [Order] is running away for its life, then Gu Qing Shan really didn’t know who would be able to go up against [Chaos].

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and turned his gaze towards the following lines of glowing text on the War God UI:

[You obtained the title: Enemy of Chaos (primary)]

[Enemy of Chaos (primary): Whenever you engage in combat against Chaos, your attack strength will be improved by two-fold]

[Note: Please use this title with caution, as your opposing force of Chaos will more easily discover your identity when you are utilizing this title]

Gu Qing Shan shrugged without much care.

At the moment, he had various unique [War God Titles] like [Enemy of Chaos], [Starflame War God], [Shen Wei General], [Ace Assassin] as well as others.

All of these titles had their own strength and uses.

Usually, Gu Qing Shan would set his title as [Shen Wei General] by default.

Because the title increased his attack speed as a whole and was extremely useful for any combat situation.

“What happened just now?” Zhang Ying Hao took flight and asked.

Ye Fei Li also flew up next to him and said in relief: “That thing just now was too scary, I was already in a bit of despair, thankfully you managed to survive”

Zhang Ying Hao shivered slightly and asked Ye Fei Li: “You were able to follow that battle just now?”

“I couldn’t see it clearly, but I saw how that thing leapt forward— if it was me, I wouldn’t have been able to react at all before I was devoured whole” Ye Fei Li was still fearful.

Zhang Ying Hao didn’t say anything.

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He couldn’t even observe what happened.

Gu Qing Shan patted his shoulder and consoled him: “Don’t feel too much of a hurry, just go at your own pace. There is no shortcut in improving one’s strength”

“Of course, I understand that, but it’s still a bit shocking to hear” Zhang Ying Hao smiled bitterly.

“It was also because of luck that I survived just now. It was a good thing that I had this sword” Gu Qing Shan told him.

He looked down gently at the Earth sword in his hand and sent his voice: “Earth sword, thank you”

During that decisive moment just now, he couldn’t even communicate to the Earth sword as he was fully focused on performing that single attack.

The Thaumaturgy [Earth’s Choice] was triggered by the Earth sword itself.

This was the benefit of having a sentient weapon.

It understood what its wielder needed and would automatically utilize its own abilities for the wielder.

The Earth sword’s heavy mountainous voice sounded with an unusual solemn tone:

「 I suggest that you rethink your attack just now as carefully as you can, because I have never seen you perform swordsmanship to that degree ever before 」

Gu Qing Shan paused.

That's right.

How did I unleash that slash just now?

No matter what Secret Art of Sword Array I used, I would always need some time in order to circulate my spirit energy and unleash it to manifest as an attack from my swords.

So how did I accomplish that in just a split second?

And also...

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

He raised the Earth sword, wanting to swing it——

His arms were numb.

Not only did that slash just now fully deplete his spirit energy and Soul Points, it also exhausted his bodily strength as well.

He wouldn't be able to experiment with it right now no matter how much he wanted to.

No wonder the War God UI specifically gave me a [You've entered a state of weakness] warning.

Gu Qing Shan could only put his swords away, telling Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li: "Let's go, return to the ship"

The two of them nodded and returned to the ship.

Gu Qing Shan plopped himself down on the deck of the ship, laying completely flat on the floor.

"How does it feel to exhaust all of your strength?" Boss asked.

——he had also exhausted all of his power and was lying right next to Gu Qing Shan.

"Quite uncomfortable, I'll need a bit of rest" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Hm, you reacted very quickly just now, and that slash was quite interesting" Boss praised.

"If I hadn't been able to, I would've already been dead" Gu Qing Shan smiled deprecatingly.

Boss casually replied: "After that thing killed you, none of the people on this ship would have been able to escape as well"

"Unable to escape? Not even you?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Boss answered: "I was already severely wounded to the point of near-death, having lost all of my powers, I would also be helpless"

"Then it looks like the situation was a lot more dangerous than I had thought" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Indeed, that's why I can finally feel relieved to stay here after I saw you unleash that attack" Boss told him.

Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao's expressions both twitched.

Boss claimed that he had lost all of his powers, but he also revealed something extremely important.

Boss was able to observe the combat earlier.

From a certain perspective, this proved his strength.

Zhang Ying Hao walked up next to Boss and seriously asked: "What happened just now? You seem to understand it a lot better than Fei Li"

Boss asked him: "You want to know?"

"Yes" Zhang Ying Hao sincerely nodded.

Boss explained: "The one who attacked just now was the Soul Shrieker. From across countless worlds, it unleashed a mythical [Chaos] demon"

"This demon, well, it wasn't particularly powerful, but it had a special ability. It was able to bypass countless worlds and directly attack its target"

"With its power, it would supposedly be able to devour Gu Qing Shan without issues, but due to Gu Qing Shan's viciousness, he managed to counter-attack and slay it with a single strike"

Listening to this explanation, both Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li went silent.

The enemy summoned a demon to ambush Gu Qing Shan from across countless worlds.

What level of power is that?

Can a God even achieve that?

"A [Chaos]... demon?" Zhang Ying Hao muttered.

"That's right, it was quite impressive, at least, we aren't able to deal with it right now" Boss answered.

Zhang Ying Hao mused for a bit, then hesitantly asked: "Is [Chaos] currently working for the Soul Shrieker?"

Boss chuckled and shook his head: "It's actually the other way around, the Soul Shrieker is working for [Chaos]"

"Is the power of [Chaos] really that strong?"

"It is vastly stronger than your wildest imagination"

Saying so, Boss signaled for Zhang Ying Hao to take a look outside the ship.

The men on bandit ships were organizing their attacks.

Several hundred bandits gathered in the air, all looking down towards [The Empress].

"Kill him and I can obtain such generous rewards..."

Someone whispered as he read the personal UI in front of his eyes.

The others said nothing.

— they were all staring at Gu Qing Shan.

Zhang Ying Hao easily caught that.

He fixed his sunglasses, picked up a bottle of liquor on the floor before taking a sip.

Chapter 989

Hundreds of bandits were slowly approaching [The Empress].

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight scanned through the void and understood the current situation.

The other party intended to attack them.

He sent his voice to Laura: "Laura, pilot the ship, we can't waste much time here"

"Got it. Gu Qing Shan, you were really awesome just now!"

Laura got busy piloting the ship but still managed to spare time to praise him.

The ship quickly began to move.

The bandits also noticed that it was moving.

They piloted their own ships to block [The Empress]'s way.

More and more of the bandits started to move.

They were charging towards the ship with all their might.

— all the [Chaos] UI had issued a Quest for them to kill Gu Qing Shan.

Watching those carriers of [Chaos], Gu Qing Shan suddenly thought of something and asked in surprise: "If the Era of [Chaos] has begun, why haven't any [Chaos] tried to attach themselves to us yet?"

Boss told him: "You're the carrier of [Order]. Since the [Demon King Order] has already reached the [Demon King Ascension] stage, it's already stronger than any primary-level [Chaos], so they won't approach you"

"Then what about you?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I'm a person of high status, none of them dare to approach and bother me" Boss replied.

Zhang Ying Hao regretfully complained: "I'm actually quite interested in [Chaos], so why hasn't it come to find me?"

Gu Qing Shan and Bossed looked towards him at the same time.

"Are you sure you want to try it?" Boss asked.

"Will there be any danger?" Zhang Ying Hao asked him in return.

"There will be a lot of carriers of [Chaos] trying to kill you" Boss told him in a solemn tone.

"Is that it?"

“That’s it. Since the Era of [Chaos] had descended, the Envoy of [Chaos] would grow stronger from the feedback, but in exchange lose the power to thoroughly take control of other carriers, so you won’t need to worry about the Soul Shrieker” Boss explained.

Listening to this explanation, Gu Qing Shan nodded.

At the time when he was in the corpse of the parallel world, the War God UI didn’t stop him from carrying [Chaos].

The War God UI only reminded him to carefully consider his choices and actions.

In truth, the majority of the grudge that [Chaos] held against him was only due to the fact that he was the last carrier of [Order].

“If that’s the case, I understand”

Zhang Ying Hao mused and nodded.

He stood up and looked outside the ship, pointing his hand forward.

A small black pistol appeared in his hand.

Zhang Ying Hao’s eyes turned sharp as he pulled the trigger.

A short shivering sound emerged from the pistol:

“Haaaaaa—hm—”

A short burst of fire appeared outside the muzzle of the gun.

Although the sound seemed a bit shocked, the power exerted was truly considerable.

Blood splattered everywhere.

One of the bandit leaders’ heads exploded in one shot.

Zhang Ying Hao’s expression changed a bit as he looked at the void of space in front of him.

“Ah, so this is [Chaos]?”

Zhang Ying Hao asked in interest.

As soon as the other party died, a gloomy grey UI appeared in front of his eyes.

“What kind of [Chaos] is it?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“It’s telling me that I’m going to become a primary-level Envoy of Plunder” Zhang Ying Hao replied.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

Back then, I had to kill five carriers of [Chaos], then proceed to kill the Envoy of [Chaos] before I obtained a unique personal [Chaos] UI—

The [Demon Dragon Slayer] UI.

Now that the Era of [Chaos] has descended, does Zhang Ying Hao still need to kill the Envoy of [Chaos] to obtain his unique personal UI?

If every carrier of [Chaos] needs to kill the Envoy of [Chaos], there would be only a single person with a unique UI.

That doesn't make sense.

"Hm... Zhang Ying Hao, I have a certain conjecture, you can try it out" Gu Qing Shan told him.

All around them from the space vortex, countless bandits were charging at them without stopping.

"Tell me"

"Kill a few more carriers of [Chaos]"

"Simple enough"

Zhang Ying Hao put his gun away, then drew a Card and threw it out.

Poof!

A mossy green giant lizard appeared in front of them.

It glanced at the group of people with its large vertical eyes while faint green mist drifted around its body.

「 So many people, are you hosting an afternoon tea party? 」 the lizard asked.

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"No, they're here to kill people"

While answering, Zhang Ying Hao was holding a Card with both hands and scrunching it up.

Two puffs of white mist drifted from his hand.

The Card had vanished.

A straight black dagger and a bright red curved dagger appeared in each of Zhang Ying Hao's hands.

Wielding the two daggers, he hopped onto the lizard's back and vanished in front of the other three, together with the lizard.

At this point, the bandits had already gotten very close to [The Empress].

Despite facing retaliation, their battle formation and coordination was maintained without fail.

It was obvious they were long-term battle-hardened veterans.

Unfortunately, they ran into a true assassin.

A faint green mist suddenly started to drift in the middle of these people's formation.

With great proficiency, two daggers were drawing a bright red arc that stretched from one end of their vision to the other.

A long but straight arc was drawn across the heads of every enemy in their sight.

Zhang Ying Hao turned into a shadow and appeared behind each person for just the blink of an eye.

A swift forward slash was all it took to take an opponent's head.

Occasionally, when the angle wasn't quite as convenient as he'd like, Zhang Ying Hao would give up on taking off their heads, instead he stabbed the dagger into their spinal cord from their backs and simply twisted the blade.

Everyone was dead.

Their bodies were whisked away by the intense wind of the space vortex and were sent spiraling far away.

"I heard that Card users were an extremely powerful Profession, but I didn't expect Zhang Ying Hao to become such a powerful Card user already" Ye Fei Li mused.

"He's only using the Cards as tools. His true Profession is still that of an assassin" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Indeed, Card users don't actually fight this way, he is simply an expert at using everything he can to accomplish a kill" Boss also agreed.

Zhang Ying Hao reappeared.

He stood on the lizard's back, staring with extreme focus at the void of space in front of his eyes, apparently watching something.

"What is it?" Gu Qing Shan called out to him from afar.

Zhang Ying Hao shouted in reply: "Wait a minute, there are suddenly a lot of UIs in front of my vision, I think they're undergoing some sort of change"

The lizard carried him back onto the deck of [The Empress].

Still staring intently at the void of space in front of his eyes, Zhang Ying Hao said: "The UIs are starting to converge as one, they're telling me that I've obtained the unique [Chaos] UI: Hunter of the Death Jungle"

"After about 10 minutes, this unique [Chaos] UI will finish reorganizing itself"

"Furthermore, as my power increases, this UI can also be upgraded and transform into a more powerful version, a seemingly endless evolution path"

After reporting everything, Zhang Ying Hao felt extremely excited.

It doesn't matter what it is, as long as it's usable and won't take control of me.

Everyone else is vastly stronger than I am.

I can finally catch up to them!

Hearing how fun he described it, Ye Fei Li couldn't help himself:

"That sounded like a very fun reality RPG, how fun, I should also..."

Ye Fei Li's gaze swept through the void to observe if there was someone he could kill.

Unfortunately, the carriers of [Chaos] who charged forward had all been killed by Zhang Ying Hao.

Meanwhile, as the bandit fleet saw how the opposition killed so many people on their side with only one person, they already fled for their lives.

"Never mind then, I'll wait for another opportunity" Ye Fei Li regretfully sighed.

Boss patted him on the shoulder and told him: "Truthfully, you don't need to carry [Chaos]"

"Why not?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"As a World Destroyer, your power will surely grow infinitely strong" Boss replied.

"I understand" Ye Fei Li sighed again.

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

It seems my guess was correct, in the Era of [Chaos], a carrier of [Chaos] doesn't need to kill the Envoy of [Chaos] in order to have their [Chaos] evolve.

With this unique personal [Chaos] UI, Zhang Ying Hao's strength will grow even quicker.

In essence, this was a highly personalized combat support power, and Gu Qing Shan only encouraged him to use it due to how well he understood Zhang Ying Hao.

Gu Qing Shan himself didn't really reject the existence of the [Chaos] UI.

However, due to [Chaos]'s own characteristics, this thing isn't suitable to be wide-spread in the 900 million World Layers.

Because the foundation for a civilization is built on order.

Total chaos would only destroy everything.

The 900 million World Layers as a whole will only head towards its own end due to [Chaos].

Not to mention how the Soul Shrieker is still hot on my pursuit.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan couldn't delay things any longer.

"Laura"

"I'm here"

"Full speed ahead, let's enter Riddle world"

"Got it!"

[The Empress] ship began to gradually speed up along the hidden space current.

Chapter 990

“Gu Qing Shan, what happened to Zhang Ying Hao?” Laura used telepathy to silently ask Gu Qing Shan.

“He has become a carrier of [Chaos]— wait, you haven’t carried [Chaos] have you?” Gu Qing Shan asked her in return.

“I haven’t, but I’m constantly receiving new reports of the 900 million World Layers falling into [Chaos], deaths and murders are occurring everywhere” Laura replied.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

As the Bramble Bird Empress, her network of intelligence is definitely top-notch.

Which means what she said is most likely true.

The Era of [Chaos]—

Once [Chaos] becomes the standard of conduct, every world will undergo unimaginably great change.

Just like what happened when I was killing the carrier of [Chaos] at that time.

Relations become unprecedentedly weak.

Because there are no longer any rules to limit anyone from doing anything.

This is [Chaos].

However, when it came to intelligence, I also have a way to obtain intelligence, don’t I?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan wanted to stand up but suddenly felt the powerlessness and numbness all over his body.

—this was the sensation of being completely drained.

He took out the stamina replenishment canned drink and drank it all.

After his body felt less uncomfortable, he took out the spirit energy and Soul Points replenishment canned drinks and drank them both as well.

However, there was a bit of an issue when he drank the Soul Points drink.

Because the flavors were completely random, the stamina drink was lemon-flavored and the spirit energy drink was milk-flavored— neither of them were too bad, but the Soul Points drink was ghost pepper-flavored.

The taste didn’t seem to only affect the body, as he was still able to feel it even while using his spirit energy to cut off his sense of taste.

Gu Qing Shan scowled and tried to take small sips at first, but then decided to simply drink it all at once.

Finally, he felt comfortable again.

Ye Fei Li’s ability was truly excellent— although it was a bit harder to control.

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag, took out a whole gourd of spirit water, and gulped it down in order to ease the burning sensation on his tongue.

He then made his way below deck, choosing a room before closing the door.

Tapping his Inventory Bag, he took out the colorful rooster.

This was the War God UI's new function [War God Intelligence] that was affixed to this colorful rooster.

Gu Qing Shan pulled on the rooster's comb.

The colorful rooster looked at Gu Qing Shan and greeted him: "Yo, your eyes still can't see yet, little man?"

"Yeah, I can't help it at the moment" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Today is the first day of the Era of [Chaos], all sorts of information are flowing everywhere, so what do you want to know about?" the rooster asked.

"You can provide information related to me, right? I want exactly that" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The colorful rooster replied: "At this crucial point of [Chaos]'s descent, intelligence is very useful, so I'll give you a little tip, consider carefully what kind of intelligence you will need"

"Thank you, how much Soul Points do you want?" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Little man, did you really need to ask?"

Saying so, the rooster formed the shape of a heart with its wings.

Gu Qing Shan tacitly understood.

The rooster showing a heart meant that I could pay however much I want.

I spent all of my Soul Points to finish my iris World Technique, with only 2 Soul Points remaining, fortunately, I ran into the master of the Southern Cross Nebula world on the way and obtained 50,000 Soul Points.

Then I killed the Divinities.

However, during the life and death situation just now, I used up all of my Soul Points again to activate [Earth's Choice].

In return, I earned 3,000,000 Soul Points from killing that chaotic creature.

I can afford this much!

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out to touch the rooster and generously transferred 10,000 Soul Points over.

The colorful rooster clucked excitedly and refreshed, loudly declaring: "Aaaaaaa, so much Soul Points! How refreshing! Ask me what you need to know, I'll tell you without holding back!"

Gu Qing Shan said: "I want to know, what did the entity who granted me the star chart arrange in Riddle world"

The colorful rooster replied: "This matter is related to too many things too deeply. I can't reveal the entire thing to you, only secretly speak a bit of scarp information"

"Is it that troublesome?"

"It is, so listen carefully, I'll only say it once"

"Go ahead"

"The powerful weapon discarded for the sake of salvation, it had been taken to a place where no one could reach and stashed away by a mysterious figure who picked it up, it is the beginning of the infinite worlds' salvation"

After saying so, the rooster turned back into a statue and went silent.

Gu Qing Shan silently contemplated the rooster's words.

Powerful weapon discarded for the sake of salvation...

Have I ever thrown any weapon again?

No, as long as it's my weapon, I've never done such a thing.

Gu Qing Shan slowly recalled.

All of a sudden, he remembered something.

The Soul Carving Knife.

This was a special tool used to create Soul Artifacts.

When I returned to this timeline, it was held in the Age of Old by the Earth Creator.

Would this be referring to the Soul Carving Knife?

There was also---

During the battle at Huang Quan.

I once used the Six Paths Great Mountain sword to control and turn the Grand Tie Wei Mountain into a giant and threw the seven-colored spear out into the winds of chaotic tribulation.

Yes.

'A weapon discarded for the sake of salvation' should be referring to either the Soul Carving Knife or the 7-colored spear.

In other words, Riddle world is hiding the clue leading to one of these two items.

And this item would be of great use in the future.

The Soul Carving Knife can create a lot of Soul Artifacts.

The 7-colored spear... I'm not sure if it can be used...

Gu Qing Shan sat there and carefully contemplated.

...

At another location.

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The Wilderness of Death.

The war between the Holy Church of Death and the Holy Church of Mystery had reached a desperate stage.

Due to being ambushed by the Holy Church of Mystery, the Holy Church of Death could not mount a reasonable defense in time and suffered heavy losses.

Black Crow had no choice but to participate in the battle.

Black Hound stayed still inside the Death Sanctuary.

It was keeping watch in front of the bronze gate, not even moving a single inch.

「 Anna... do not worry, I shall keep this place safe 」

Black Hound muttered in a low voice.

...

On the other side of the bronze gate.

As Anna and Lin stepped onto the floating stone slab, it began to move on its own.

It maintained a stable and slow flight, gradually moving into the deep darkness below.

Silence, all around.

Deep and thick darkness.

Anna was clearly able to hear her own rhythmic breathing and heartbeat, but couldn't hear the woman who claimed to be Gu Qing Shan's elder sister's breathing at all.

This continued.

A long while after.

The stone slab was still flying forward.

Other than where they were standing, it was still a pitch-black abyss of darkness below their feet, no shore in front, no retreat behind.

Absolute silence.

After enduring this for so long, Anna finally couldn't bear it any longer: "Where are you?"

“I’m still here” Lin’s voice could be heard.

“I’m sorry, it had been so silent, and I couldn’t hear your breathing at all”

Anna felt a bit embarrassed, but she was a straightforward person who did things as she pleased.

After a moment of silence, Lin replied: “I’m a martial artist, my breath is much longer than yours, not to mention I’m already used to breathing through the pores all over my body”

Anna casually continued the conversation: “So that’s what it was. Right, are you really Gu Qing Shan’s elder sister? I’ve never heard that he had an elder sister before”

“Hm, you can consider me his elder sister” Lin replied.

“Consider?” Anna repeated.

She realized that something was a bit off.

“Indeed, we went through a few things together, then made the same preparations for certain goals, so we mutually recognize each other as elder sister and younger brother” Lin casually told her.

This matter has to be glossed over this way; I definitely can’t admit myself to be his biological sister.

Because if I did that...

I wouldn’t be able to cover up this lie.

Lin consoled herself in this manner.

Anna was fascinated by this topic so she stopped feeling fearful towards the silence and darkness.

“Why did he take you as the elder sister? Why not elder brother and young sister, but rather elder sister and younger brother?” Anna asked.

“Why not elder brother and younger sister...?”

Lin repeated that once before answering: “Because his meager level of strength is only suitable to be the younger brother, not elder”

Knowing how strong Gu Qing Shan was in battle Anna sighed: “So you are powerful to that degree, have you ever fought one another? And did you manage to hurt him?”

Lin fell silent.

Did I manage to hurt him?

How am I supposed to continue with this topic?

“Look— — I think I saw something fly across us just now” Lin said.

“Huh? Really?” sure enough, Anna’s attention was drawn away.

She released a small mass of flames from her fingertip.

The light of the flame illuminated Anna's beautiful visage, cancelling out the deep darkness and stifled silence, revealing their surroundings in front of the two girls.

Both of them froze.

Lin didn't think she would see such a scene either.

"Strange, is there something here capable of obscuring my senses? How come I never felt anything earlier?"

Lin couldn't help but mutter.

Around them, the two walls were spaced really far apart from one another, but both of these stretched endlessly towards the sky, so far that they couldn't see the top within their vision.

They couldn't see what was at the bottom of the wall either, as the area below the wall also stretched endlessly into the darkness.

The entire wall itself was made from corpses.

Countless corpses of countless forms.

Some of the corpses could be recognized as creatures and living beings that currently existed within the 900 million World Layers.

But some of them had never been seen before, they had clearly surpassed the limit of being normal lifeforms, all of which exuded a sense of vicissitudes.

Anna opened her mouth to discuss this with Lin, but Lin had already covered her mouth.

What?

Anna glanced doubtfully at Lin.

Lin gestured with her chin towards a certain direction.

Anna turned to look.

On the wall of corpses, a pair of giant arms had reached out to search for something around this place.

Under the illumination of the flame, it seemed a bit agitated and angry.

A pair of arms couldn't be sentient.

Clearly, something was hiding inside the wall of corpses.

And it was alive.

Lin reached her hand forward and extinguished the mass of flame that Anna sent out.

Their surroundings returned to darkness.

For a long while, both of the girls remained silent.

Finally, Lin spoke up with a solemn and low voice: "No wonder you needed a guard, but..."

“But what?” Anna also asked in a low voice.

“Why do I find this scene a bit familiar?”

Lin doubtfully commented.

Chapter 991

The fire had already been out for a long time.

There was no way for them to infer the passage of time.

In the darkness, the stone slab that carried Anna and Lin was silently hovering forward.

The walls that are composed entirely of corpses and were lined up one after another, all of them stretching endlessly towards the sky and the ground.

They were almost like trees in a terrifying forest of corpses.

Occasionally, the stone slab had to move around them in order to continue forward.

Anna held Lin’s hand tightly, both of them remained completely silent on top of the stone slab.

During their flight, it wasn’t completely silent.

Occasionally, Anna would hear things sounding from the walls, sometimes even voices.

Each of these times, Lin would squeeze Anna’s hand to signal her to be careful and stop paying attention to them.

Up until a certain point.

The stone slab slowed down.

Until it stopped entirely in the middle of the deep, stifling darkness.

Anna looked around.

Walls upon walls of corpses filled her vision.

Other than that, there existed only darkness.

The two of them as well as the stone slab seemed like specks of dust in the middle of a vast world, all alone without a place to return.

“The slab stopped” Anna couldn’t help herself from commenting.

“Hm”

Lin absent-mindedly replied.

Seeing her expressionless face, Anna silently understood that this was her decision to make.

The slab must have stopped here for some reason.

Then what’s the reason...

Anna stood at the edge of the slab, wanting to take a look around to find any unique areas.

She suddenly noticed that there was a broken wall of corpses right beneath the slab.

Unlike the other walls of corpses, this wall seemed to have endured some sort of heavy impact and became heavily damaged in the process, revealing what was hidden inside.

There was a secret passage right inside the broken wall.

“So that’s what it was, we need to go down” Anna sighed in relief.

Lin nodded.

“I’ll head down first, after I confirm that everything is safe, you’ll come after me” Lin told her.

Anna replied: “It’s fine. Since there’s a passage—”

“Listen to me!”

Lin cut her off and spoke with an extremely solemn tone.

Anna was a bit surprised and was about to raise her eyebrows.

Lin also noticed that her tone wasn’t correct and sighed: “Sorry, I lost my cool, I should’ve told you before”

She paused a bit, then continued: “This place is the Eternal Abyss”

“The Eternal Abyss!?” Anna exclaimed.

“Yes”

Lin looked down at the secret passage below and muttered: “There are very few true passages that lead downward within the Eternal Abyss. I’ve just checked our surroundings and found that no creature had made it to this place for at least several ten thousand years, which means that it’s an extremely well-hidden location even among the paths of the Eternal Abyss. That’s the reason why we need to exercise caution”

“Wait here”

Saying so, she lightly jumped off.

Anna knelt down on one knee at the edge of the slab, observing as Lin’s figure was slowly swallowed by the darkness.

...

At another location.

The space vortex.

In a certain hidden space current.

“Gu Qing Shan, we’re about to arrive at Riddle world” Laura reported.

“How much longer?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Do you see that shining planet giving off colorful light right in front of us?”

“I see it. Is that it?”

“No, that is a dead planet that can no longer house any living beings. Riddle world is hidden inside the green light at the north of this planet, the green light is the entrance to that world”

“I see”

While they talked, [The Empress] had begun to speed up towards the green light.

Half an hour later.

The ship finally entered the green light area.

The scene in front of Gu Qing Shan changed.

Large masses of trees and forest filled the entire area in front of them.

“Remember, you can’t say a single word from this point onwards. As long as you don’t say anything, no one would be able to do anything to you”

Laura’s voice resounded in Gu Qing Shan’s heart.

This was the power of telepathy.

As Gu Qing Shan glanced down at the faint layer of orange light around his body, he slowly nodded: “I’m not someone who likes to look for trouble”

This orange light represented the protection of this world’s Law, a protection provided to everyone who was here.

—so long as they did not speak.

As he watched the scenery below the ship, the star chart in his mind suddenly manifested in the void of space in front of him.

A projection appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The Earth Creator!

However, this was nothing but an image projection, it had no power.

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「 This is a recording of over several ten thousand years ago. At this moment, I was both observing the future and leaving this scene of the past to you 」 the Earth Creator’s voice resounded.

Watching the projection, Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

The Earth Creator was an unimaginably powerful being, to be able to arrange preparations for something that would happen over several thousand years later.

This truly went beyond a normal person's expectations.

The Earth Creator is able to foresee visions of the future.

The only time it let its guard down was a trip back to the past, several ten thousand years ago.

When it arrived, a calamity near the Reality Gate suddenly erupted and directly took its life.

「 I sealed a certain item away and placed it within Riddle world 」

「 Even after several ten thousand years later, it is still hidden deep below the water where no one would be able to discover—— before coming into contact with you, it would not leave Riddle world 」

「 That location is called the Sunset Bridge 」

「 The item I hid away is lying underneath the bridge, hidden by the murky water and surrounded by rocks 」

「 Go, find it 」

After declaring so, the Earth Creator's projection was about to dissipate but suddenly turned solid again.

It stared intensely at the void of space and hurriedly declared: 「 I can see a vision of [Chaos], the one pursuing you has become boundlessly more powerful, to the point that the current you could not possibly go up against it! 」

「 Gu Qing Shan, I can only see very brief visions related to your future, you will need to think of some way to resolve this, otherwise, the only outcome waiting for you would be eternal death 」

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

The more [Chaos] the Soul Shrieker spread, the faster it would grow strong.

I already received an attack from the Soul Shrieker that bypassed distance.

It's not good manners to only receive without returning, and simply enduring attacks would not resolve the issue.

Although I'm infinitely weaker than this Abyssal monster right now, the Earth Creator might have some sort of solution.

Unfortunately, this was only a projection that the Earth Creator set up, so I can't communicate with it.

Then again, would this BOSS level character not have any ideas if he already foresaw this?

Sure enough, the Earth Creator continued: 「 I am trying to think of how to deal with it—— who could have known this one would become so powerful in the future 」

「 How strange, why did I not try to stop it? 」

The Earth Creator's voice slowly turned weaker until it thoroughly faded into silence.

Gu Qing Shan waited for a while more.

The projection disappeared completely.

Seems like the Earth Creator only prepared so much in this place.

Let's just hope there would be more reminders the next time its projection shows up.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, then turned to Zhang Ying Hao and asked: "Do you know a place called Sunset Bridge?"

"Ah, I do, it's a bridge that connects an island city to the rest of the world, quite a famous location"

"Where is it?"

Zhang Ying Hao pondered a bit and pointed with his finger.

Gu Qing Shan said: "Laura, let's head East"

"Got it!"

The airship changed directions and started heading East.

Gu Qing Shan stood on top of the deck while observing the Riddle world.

A while later.

All of a sudden, Gu Qing Shan noticed that the faint layer of orange around him became cracked before slowly fading away.

And it wasn't just him, everyone else on the ship experienced the same thing.

"What's going on? How strange, this is supposed to be the Law of Riddle world" Zhang Ying Hao exclaimed from shock.

A sigh emerged from the deck of the ship.

Boss was currently laying on the floor and casually answered: "[Chaos] has completely descended and destroyed this world's Law"

"From now on, this world will be filled with lawlessness and [Chaos], it would not have the power to protect anybody at all"

The ship flew over a city.

Everyone stood on top of the ship as they looked down below.

The Law of Riddle world had been changed.

The Law that protected one as long as one didn't utter a single word had thoroughly vanished.

There was no such thing as peace in the city below.

— a plague was spreading, meteorites randomly flying, the earth trembled from the quake, the tides swept over the land, typhoons ravaged the earth, and frost froze everything over.

Wave after wave of unusual insects were gnawing and devouring the corpses on the ground under the command of a few carriers of [Chaos].

As far as the eye could see, robbery, violence, murder, arson, necrophilia, skinning alive, laceration, sacrifices, beheading.

It was utter [Chaos].

Witnessing this, Gu Qing Shan's brows furrowed.

He turned his eyes towards the two UIs in front of him to see how they would face [Chaos].

The [Demon King Order] seemed to have become a total scaredy-cat, still reminding him to quickly flee.

However, among the [Hurry up and flee] notifications, there would occasionally be a [Chaos is becoming stronger] notification.

Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze towards the War God UI.

The War God UI was completely clean and composed, seemingly unfazed.

Gu Qing Shan silently muttered in his mind: "War God UI?"

[Ting]!

A clear chime rang out.

[I'm here] the War God UI responded.

"You seem to be very quiet recently" Gu Qing Shan said.

[Facing the Apocalypse, Order and Chaos are both factions that stand against it. For the sake of fairness, I must remain a partial observer who does not comment]

The War God UI replied.

Chapter 992

"You're determined not to interfere with the matter between [Chaos] and [Order]?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Indeed] the War God UI replied.

"But if [Chaos] sweeps through the world, everything would collapse, countless people would be killed one after another, just like the [Demon King Order]" Gu Qing Shan said.

[That is true] the War God UI agreed.

But it didn't say anything else.

Even after he waited for a while, the War God UI still remained silent.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but think back.

Even when the [Demon King Order] had been in existence for countless years, the War God UI hadn't said a word about it.

So, when its equivalent, [Chaos], comes into the picture, the War God UI would naturally not have anything to say about it either.

"Listen, now that every world is under the influence of [Chaos], countless living beings will lose their lives" Gu Qing Shan said in a low voice.

The War God UI responded: [Chaos has descended, it has embraced every living being and brought them considerable power—— but it has always been the living beings themselves that truly used Chaos to kill]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

The War God UI continued: [Regardless if they are Chaos or Order, they do not have control over everything, the ones truly in control are the hearts of living beings]

[Even a God in the truest meaning of the word would not be able to prevent the hearts from giving birth to good or evil with respect to living beings, this is the power and terror of a living being's obsession]

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

Indeed.

[Chaos] is like a weapon.

And so is [Order].

The ones truly in control have always been the ones wielding them.

The carriers of [Chaos] below, as they kill and spread [Chaos]; all they are doing is following the desires within their hearts.

No wonder the War God UI is maintaining a neutral stance on this.

"You're right, but I can't just ignore it all" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

The War God UI replied: [You can simply act as you see fit. Because you are also a part of these 'living beings']

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded.

He was about to summon his flying swords but heard an annoyed scoff from next to him.

"How irritating to see" Zhang Ying Hao said.

"Calm yourself. This is simply how [Chaos] is, the meaning of its existence is to thoroughly release the deepest desires within the people's hearts" Boss casually told him.

"How convenient, I just happened to feel the need to release my own"

Zhang Ying Hao took out two Cards, turned them into daggers, and wielded them.

But someone stopped him.

“Let me do it, ever since I’ve arrived at the 900 million World Layers, I still haven’t seen such a thing before” Ye Fei Li said.

“You’re currently the Duke of the Bramble Bird Kingdom, you can’t let your face be seen” Zhang Ying Hao argued.

“Then what about you?” Ye Fei Li didn’t relent.

“I’m a hitman, I have many ways to obscure my visage” Zhang Ying Hao replied.

“So do I” Ye Fei Li said.

Following that declaration, an intense crimson glow descended on the airship.

Ye Fei Li didn’t wait for Zhang Ying Hao to say anything else. He had spread his crimson wings and leapt out towards the sky to descend upon the masses of people below.

A deep crater was created from the impact of his descent.

Ye Fei Li was kneeling on one knee inside the crater. Taking out a mask from his chest, he wore it.

This was an extremely realistic metal mask.

Its eyes were blank, its face was drooping, it had a long beak-like nose, along with a stiff smile on its face.

The face depicted on the mask seemed to be displaying a flattering smile.

But as one took a closer look, they would find that it was actually smirking in disdain towards something instead.

——the Murder Clown mask.

As Ye Fei Li donned his mask, he hummed a catchy folk song while staggering out from the crater.

“Ah? Why do I get the feeling he’s no longer the same person from before?” as Boss observed this from the deck of the ship, he asked with considerable interest.

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao exchanged glances.

“He’s a very talented impromptu method actor” Zhang Ying Hao replied.

As the clown took light steps on the streets, he suddenly pulled a corpse from the ground and carefully looked at it.

[Hm, a very handsome uncle you are]

While saying that, a khopesh had already appeared in his hand.

One of the three Divine Armaments of Huang Quan, the Forgetting River Soul Flaying Hook.

As he hung the corpse onto the hook, the hook stood upright and completely still.

The clown then bowed to the corpse and sincerely asked: [You’ll help me, and I’ll help you. We’re going to be good friends, what do you say?]

The corpse didn't answer.

The clown reached his hand out to hold onto the corpse's head and made it nod towards him.

The clown changed his tone and replied: [Very good! We're going to be very good friends!]

After he was done, the clown happily clapped his hand in joy.

The clown then clumsily climbed onto the corpse.

Standing on top of the corpse's head, he cupped his hand and looked around.

[Ding Ding Ding! You filthy scums who hurt people as you please, I truly love you all]

[Just look, to make things more comfortable, I even wore a mask for you]

While the clown mumbled nonsense, he suddenly shouted out loud:

[What an exhilarating wave of murder!!!]

The clown crouched down, flipped his khopesh around to put it down at the corpse's feet, and spoke with a hysterical voice: [Since you're my good friend, I'll grant you one wish before anyone else's]

The khopesh was slightly pulled upwards.

An invisible, warped mass of air emerged from the corpse, then was released by the khopesh to form the visage of a man.

The man looked exactly like the man below the clown's feet.

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His eyes were bleeding, his expression filled with nothing but anger, constantly informing the clown about something.

The clown put his hand up to his ear and appeared to be sincerely listening.

Something unimaginable happened!

As if he could actually hear what the man had to say, the clown nodded over and over.

[Ah, so you were killed, your wife and daughters were taken away by other people? Tsk tsk tsk, what an exciting show we have tonight]

Still sitting crouched on the corpse's head, the clown put the khopesh on his shoulder.

[Ready?]

The khopesh vibrated slightly.

The clown put up two fingers against his mouth, took a deep breath, then blew.

FWEET— — — — —!

The shockwaves spread.

The mass of people around him suddenly froze and turned completely still.

The shrill sound of the whistle continued spreading and encompassed the entire city.

In no time at all, every person in the entire city was frozen completely still, unable to move a muscle.

Gu Qing Shan was impressed: "How excellent"

Zhang Ying Hao covered his ears and scowled: "What happened? Why did all those people fall unconscious?"

Gu Qing Shan explained: "The God's Chosen Skill that Ye Fei Li first awakened was [Harken], I assume this ability has now evolved to a very high degree where he's able to borrow the Forgetting River Soul Flaying Hook to perform a Sound-based attack that forced the souls of these people out from their bodies"

Zhang Ying Hao was surprised: "So that's what happened. Seems like he's gotten quite a bit of inspiration from being around dead souls every day"

Boss also chuckled and commented: "That was an excellent performance indeed, seemingly derived on the basis of a Time-based technique—— although the nature is completely different, the results turned out to be very similar, what an interesting idea"

In the city below the airship.

The Murder Clown climbed down from the corpse's head and informed the soul of the man: [Go, lead me to where it happened]

The soul nodded and brought the clown towards a back alley.

Here, a man had backed several women into the corner with a dagger in his hand, his mouth wide opened as if shouting something.

The man's eyes were clouded over with a vicious light of lust, but he was completely frozen in place.

The clown walked forward and waved his hand in front of the man.

[Ehahaha, how cute, he can't see me at all]

The clown joked with the soul of the man next to him.

The man's soul hurriedly said something to the clown, constantly making a gesture as if prostrating himself.

The clown shook his head and sighed: [I can save your wife and daughters, but I won't be doing something so boring like murder]

The clown continued humming his folk song, took the dagger from the stationary man's hand, and offered it to the soul.

The soul was in complete disbelief.

After he died, he was supposed to be unable to touch anything from the living world.

But now he seemed fully capable of wielding the dagger.

The clown approached the soul's ear and muttered in a low voice: [A debt of blood will be paid in blood]

The soul looked down at the dagger in his hand, then again at the frozen man, uttering a silent scream, he madly dashed forward.

Blood spilled.

The clown turned around.

He looked at the multitudes of souls that followed him from behind and put a finger up against his mouth.

Originally, those souls were trying to beg him, but as they saw this gesture, they all went completely silent.

All of a sudden, the clown shouted:

[The park is closing, only three more minutes to enjoy yourselves to your heart's content!]

The souls immediately scattered.

This would be their only chance at revenge after their deaths.

The souls madly charged towards the carriers of [Chaos].

Another wave of killing began.

However, this time it wasn't due to the influence of [Chaos], but revenge.

A debt of blood must be paid by blood!

All of a sudden, a thunderous painful roar resounded: "Damn it, whose illusory technique is this— you garbage dare to touch this great one, die!"

The Murder Clown turned his head and was about to dash towards where the sound was coming from.

This technique of his was powerful, but his own strength was lacking.

Some particularly powerful entities as well as those who were naturally born immune to his technique had already begun to wake up in this world.

However, before the Murder Clown even moved, several sword phantoms appeared in the sky.

The thunderous roar vanished.

The Murder Clown looked up at the sky and waved.

[What fun it is to have support!]

The clown laughed.

He simply ignored the ones who were too powerful for him, happily clapped his hand with the beat while humming a catchy folk song, dancing around the scattered corpses and flowing blood.

Occasionally, he would run into carriers of [Chaos] that the souls simply couldn't kill, so he walked up and carefully shaved their heads off their bodies with his khopesh.

Three minutes.

It was over very fast.

Those who were still alive returned to normal.

The mother and children who were forced into the corner of the back alley yelled out in despair, but suddenly found their assailant collapsed on the ground in front of them.

The assailant was bloodied all over, his body slashed up to an almost unrecognizable degree, sprawling on the ground, completely dead.

A single soul stood in front of the assailant's corpse.

He smiled at his wife and daughters, then slowly faded away.

The dagger fell with a clang to the ground.

Thanks to the clown's ability, he managed to protect them one last time.

Chapter 993

That bout of chaos ended in such a fashion.

Ye Fei Li jumped towards the sky, returning to [The Empress].

Only after his return did he take off his mask as Zhang Ying Hao greeted him: "Well done"

"It's been a long time since I got my hands dirty, got quite a few [Chaos] out there"

Ye Fei Li grinned with an honest smile.

——he didn't seem like the soul flaying clown just now at all.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight swept through the entire city.

Over half of the carriers of [Chaos] had lost their lives.

But there were some carriers of [Chaos] who didn't act against normal people and got away with their lives.

This meant that these people all had their own standard, so a scene of mass slaughter like earlier shouldn't occur again.

"What kind of [Chaos] did you obtain?"

Gu Qing Shan asked with interest.

Ye Fei Li stared at the void of space in front of him and replied: "They're still fusing together—- wait, it's done"

"Soul Flaying Clown, tch, what a lazy name"

Ye Fei Li complained.

But the glitter of excitement in his eyes had already exposed his inner thoughts.

Ignoring everyone else, Ye Fei Li began experimenting with his personal UI.

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao exchanged glances and saw the looks of helplessness in each other's eyes.

This guy.

He's definitely thinking of [Chaos] as a kind of virtual game.

Gu Qing Shan was about to inform Ye Fei Li a few things in order to change his perception of [Chaos], but after a bit of thought——

If Ye Fei Li is able to play around with this [Chaos] game to its peak...

Alright fine, let him.

Gu Qing Shan looked at and told everyone: "Alright, wait here for a while, I'll go find that thing"

He used [Ground Shrink] and vanished from the deck of the ship.

It hadn't been very long since [Chaos] had started its corruption, but the entire city was already in ruins.

Gu Qing Shan walked up to Sunset bridge and carefully looked around.

This place was originally supposed to be a peaceful land with a beautiful sky and water, at sunset, one would even be able to witness the golden twilight and the red setting sun.

But now, the world was already in ruins.

For the past countless years, none of the Combatants or big organizations of this world had paid any attention to this bridge.

As powerful as they were, they would either fly or teleport whenever they needed to go somewhere.

Sunset bridge was too ordinary, it was designed for weaker normal people's usage, thus it couldn't rouse the interest of the people on top.

That's why no one had ever noticed that there weren't too many rocks and pebbles within the murky water below the bridge.

The bigger boulder-like rocks were so few that they could be counted on one hand.

Gu Qing Shan stood still.

A sword flew out from behind him and pointed at the water.

The Chao Yin sword.

The water began to part on both sides with the mud and surging tides.

The scene at the bottom of the river was revealed to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight circled around a certain boulder at the bottom of the river without moving away.

He could feel power from it.

This power was very well hidden, if he wasn't the new Earth Pillar God, he wouldn't even have noticed it at all.

At this time, the Earth Creator's long sigh resounded:

「 The Apocalypse is spreading, the Abyss had invaded the 900 million World Layers, more and more unexpected occurrences are silently happening one after another 」

「 This was as far as my vision allowed me to see regarding your journey, from this point forward, the future turned into a blurry, obscured fog 」

「 I originally planned to leave you a few more means within the star chart—— this has always been the method I am most proficient with, but regretfully...」

「 The confrontation between [Order] and [Chaos] made it so that the future now has become full of uncertainties, this would be as far as I am able to help you 」

「 Go, take that object 」

In Gu Qing Shan's mind, the star chart suddenly vanished.

It turns out that even the Earth Creator could only accomplish so much.

In the future where [Order] and [Chaos] would confront each other, it had no way to foresee what would arrive next.

It could only leave a certain item that it found useful to Gu Qing Shan.

——what could that be?

Gu Qing Shan flew down.

Wielding the Chao Yin sword, he lightly cut the boulder apart.

The boulder broke and revealed something to Gu Qing Shan.

It was a small fragment about the size of a finger that glowed in 7 colors.

The Earth Creator's voice sounded again:

「 Gu Qing Shan, you must have seen the Soul Shrieker's spear. This was a small fragment broken from that spear 」

「 While you have this fragment, you will be able to sense where the spear is 」

「 Take it, it will lead you towards the location of the spear—— I do not know why, but I can sense that this spear might be a crucial turning point in fighting against the Soul Shrieker 」

「 In truth, I did not discover this at the beginning, I had only left this fragment here in order to send you to that spear's location」

「 All hope shall begin there 」

「 Time... is of the essence 」

The Earth Creator's voice slowly faded.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the glowing 7-colored fragment.

He then picked it up.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've obtained a broken fragment of one of the seven Grand Weapons of the Abyss, Abaddon]

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[During a certain battle of an unimaginable scale, Abaddon was struck and broke off with this small fragment]

[So long as you hold it in your hand, you would be able to sense the location of the spear]

[Return this fragment to Abaddon, its impression of you will change]

Staring at the 7-colored fragment, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but laugh bitterly.

To save the Samsara, I threw this spear out from the Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

Who would've thought, I'd have to be the one who goes looking for it again?

Gu Qing Shan held the fragment and silently connected to it.

A few moments later.

A faint signal could be felt from a location far unknown.

Images began to scroll through in Gu Qing Shan's mind.

He noticed that he was moving forward.

Hundreds, thousands of worlds were approaching him, then quickly moved to either side.

The space vortex was also left behind him.

Before he knew it, he had arrived at the border of the Eternal Abyss.

And he continued moving forward.

Through the destructive winds of chaotic tribulation.

He was flying tirelessly towards a direction that no living being would ever be able to approach.

In this state of destruction of all things, time and space could no longer be used to measure anything.

It felt like over ten thousand years had passed, but also felt like it had only been a blink of an eye.

At that direction, there seems to be something—

Wait—

As Gu Qing Shan wanted to see what was there, he noticed that he had suddenly been pulled back.

He found himself still standing at the same place.

“...That’s too far away, and I have no way to get there at this point in time” Gu Qing Shan sighed helplessly.

He shook his head, his body flashed as he used [Ground Shrink] to return to the ship.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li were sitting together, both staring blankly at the void of space in front of themselves discussing the power of [Chaos].

Boss was originally playing one of Ye Fei Li’s games, but couldn’t pass a certain stage so he was looking up a guide.

Laura’s voice quickly asked him: “Gu Qing Shan, where do we go now?”

“Wait a minute, I need some time to think”

Gu Qing Shan was feeling a bit of a headache.

His original plan was to check the Earth Creator’s preparations, then go and meet up with Su Xue Er and Ning Yue Chan.

He was only missing the Envoy of Condemnation coin among the three coins.

He could easily summon the Bramble Great Tree at any time.

The [Demon King Order] was right here.

And he was still missing Little Dusk.

Once he met up with Su Xue Er and Ning Yue Chan, he would have all three coins and the ability to go back in time.

He would then save Lady Darksea!

Which in turn would save the Lord-class Combatants.

Unfortunately.

Now that the Era of [Chaos] has descended, the Soul Shrieker is still chasing after me.

At some point, it might suddenly become stronger and throw another terrifying monster across countless worlds at me.

How could I approach the Holy Church of Fate like this?

If I went there, wouldn’t I be leading that monster to that place as well?

Damn it!

The difference in our strength is just too great.

With my current strength, there's just no way for me to fight against the Soul Shrieker.

But the 7-colored spear is too far away for me to obtain.

Never mind how I could cross the winds of chaotic tribulation, the Eternal Abyss itself is an enormous natural barrier that I would never be able to cross.

The Abyss doesn't treat lifeforms from the 900 million World Layers too amiably, a clear example of this was how Lin's comrades were all killed.

Not to mention, the Apocalypse of a parallel world is still rampaging in that place.

As well as the terrifying Fate Corrosion!

If this was any other occasion, I would have ample time to think and come up with plans to head there.

But with the Soul Shrieker on my pursuit, I don't have time to dawdle around.

Gu Qing Shan was facing a tough obstacle.

He took a deep breath to force himself to calm down.

Do I not have any solutions at all?

As Gu Qing Shan silently contemplated this, he suddenly recalled something.

If I had to fight against the Soul Shrieker, there was actually a certain [Order] from long ago that managed to stop its advance with only two primary-level soldiers.

"War God UI, do you still remember Water God?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Ting]!

With a clear chime, the War God UI replied: [I do, I once activated a large-scale war system in a fragment of the parallel world during the Age of Old, evolving her into Human Regiment, she was called Water God]

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "That was a large-scale human war system from the Bygone Era, only activated during the Age of Old and evolved into an [Order]—-- unfortunately, when I returned to the future, the Earth Creator had kept it in the Age of Old"

While the Water God of this reality had most likely been destroyed by the Soul Shrieker during that war without his help.

[Do you want to awaken Water God again?] the War God UI asked.

"Yes, her powers left quite a deep impression, I'm sure she would be able to benefit me greatly" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The War God UI answered: [In order to travel back in time to the final moment of your previous life, the Soul Points that I've accumulated for countless years have been used up during the Age of Old, there is not enough to activate Water God again]

Gu Qing Shan was shocked, then hurriedly said: "I can collect more Soul Points"

The War God UI replied: [There is no time. If you want to awaken other Orders, the only method right now would be to use the Demon King Order]

[It originally had this function]

Chapter 994

[The Empress] ship.

Gu Qing Shan was still conversing with the War God UI.

"Water God evolved from the human large-scale war system, [Chaos] becomes stronger the more it spreads"

"Then, where exactly did they come from?"

Gu Qing Shan questioned.

The War God UI remained silent.

Obviously, it had no intention of answering.

Gu Qing Shan could only give up.

He scanned his Thought Sea with his inner sight only to find that the star chart that the Earth Creator left him had already vanished.

——the Earth Creator didn't leave him any information regarding where Water God was kept.

After considering what he knew and various possibilities, he sighed: "There's too little information"

At the moment, the [Demon King Order] was like a bird that became afraid of a slingshot, completely unreliable.

It would be great if I can use it to awaken Water God.

The power of [Human Regiment] couldn't be ignored, and as long as it's given time to mature and grow, the Soul Shrieker would not necessarily be its match.

This way, the Soul Shrieker would no longer have the leisure to pursue me.

Furthermore.

When [Chaos] needs to clash against a new [Order], it would also not be able to thoroughly mess the 900 million World Layers up.

Gu Qing Shan went over his thoughts a few times before confirming what he needed to do.

He asked: "War God UI, I have one last question"

[Say it]

“If an Apocalypse approaches too closely, would [Order] and [Chaos] cooperate to fight against it?”

The War God UI replied: [They will respectively fight against the Apocalypse]

This answer was perfectly woven, allowing him to imagine the relationship between these forces.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and said nothing else to the War God UI.

He directed his inner sight towards the other UI in his vision.

——the blood-red UI, [Demon King Order].

Gu Qing Shan called out to it: “Hey, we need to talk”

A line of bright red text appeared and started to flicker on the [Demon King Order]:

[Please quickly run for your life, the Envoy of Chaos is coming]

Reading this line of text, Gu Qing Shan cleared his throat.

“About that—— I actually wanted to tell you that other than running away, we still have other things to do”

Another line of bright red text appeared on the War God UI:

[This Order has already been defeated, please quickly run for your life, the Envoy of Chaos is coming]

Gu Qing Shan clicked his tongue.

So this [Order] has already lost its fighting spirit?

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit to find the words and encouraged it: “You don’t have to feel dejected like that, I’ve already dealt with the Soul Shrieker once during the Age of Old. You should remember that quite well, so what we should do now is to carefully make a course of actions, use our heads, and consider ways to kill it again”

“No need to fear, as long as we try our best together, we can definitely accomplish that!”

After Gu Qing Shan finished, a few more lines of bright red text appeared on the [Demon King Order]:

[The Era of Chaos has descended, the Soul Shrieker will only get increasingly more powerful, to a point where you are unable to follow]

[Because of that, the only thing we can do now is——]

[Quickly run for our lives!]

Reading this last line of text, Gu Qing Shan was stunned for a bit.

It’s hopeless to talk to this [Order].

And it still calls itself the [Demon King Order].

Yes, the situation is urgent.

But what the heck can you do in that state?

Gu Qing Shan lost his patience.

He told the [Demon King Order]:

“Alright, then let me rephrase that— quite simply, if you insist on acting this pathetically I’m going to find someone near-death to throw you onto and toss him to the Envoy of [Chaos]”

“I don’t need to wait for my death together with you piece of trash of an [Order]” Gu Qing Shan said with an indifferent and emotionless tone: “I’m sure you know about this, I was able to kick you out at the Age of Old, and right now, I can do it again”

Hearing those words, all the text on the War God UI vanished.

A moment of silence.

Two moments.

Three moments—

A line of text swiftly appeared:

[What would you like to do sir? This Order is sincerely listening]

Gu Qing Shan clapped his hand and said with open enthusiasm: “Now that’s more like it. It wasn’t hard to talk with his attitude now, was it?”

Another line of text appeared on the blood-red UI: [Venerable Demon King of Condemnation, please state your wish as you’d like]

Gu Qing Shan nodded: “If you’re already awake, I have something to ask— why didn’t you awaken the other [Orders] to help you fight against [Chaos]?”

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The blood-red UI stopped briefly before displaying new text:

[I only have a single mission, that is to have the Demon King descend upon this world]

Gu Qing Shan asked: “So did you accomplish it?”

[Only half]

“Half? What do you mean?” Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

The [Demon King Order] explained: “Because the Soul Shrieker entered the Fallen Zones at a crucial time of the summoning, causing me to be unable to fully finish and only end up with a corpse]

“Where’s the corpse now?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Destroyed by the Soul Shrieker] the [Demon King Order] answered.

Gu Qing Shan recalled the information he heard before and nodded: “I remember now, the Soul Shrieker seemed to have fought against that corpse for quite a while— if that corpse was that strong, why didn’t you continue the summoning?”

The [Demon King Order] replied: [All resources have been exhausted. The Soul Shrieker did not allow me enough time to conduct a second summoning]

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “So it was exactly as I thought. Your only solution now is to awaken more [Orders] to help you fight against the Soul Shrieker together”

[Incorrect, my only mission is only one thing, that is to have the Demon King descend upon this world]

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: “But the current situation isn’t one where you can summon the Demon King again, you will need other [Orders] to at least show up in order to draw the Soul Shrieker’s attention”

The [Demon King Order] insisted: [Negative, my only mission is one thing, that is to have the Demon King descend upon this world]

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

He muttered in contemplation: “Seems like I really have to find a near-death person to shove you into before throwing him to the Envoy of [Chaos]”

The Soul Shrieker immediately said: [Please do not. If you do that, countless worlds within the void will be taken over by Chaos]

“I don’t care!” Gu Qing Shan impatiently shouted: “I’m going to find someone— no, better yet, let’s find an animal and shove you into that instead”

He exaggeratedly turned around and shouted towards Zhang Ying Hao: “Hey, Zhang Ying Hao, you’ve been to Riddle world before, what’s the most common animal in this world?”

Zhang Ying Hao was currently discussing [Chaos] with Ye Fei Li, so he was startled when he was called out.

“The most common animal???”

Although he didn’t understand what Gu Qing Shan was thinking, Zhang Ying Hao still seriously thought about it before answering: “The most common animal in Riddle world would be pigs”

“Pigs?”

“That’s right, pigs. Pigs run rampant around the wilderness of this place”

Gu Qing Shan then stood up and walked towards the railings of the ship.

He muttered in his mouth: “I’m going to catch a pig, shove the [Order] inside, then give it to the Soul Shrieker— this way, I’ll be safe”

Boss was lying on the deck right next to him, so as he heard those muttering, he couldn’t help but open his eyes ever so slightly to glance at Gu Qing Shan.

A person of his caliber and knowledge instantly understood what was going on with just one sentence.

The way Gu Qing Shan said that, he seemed to be purposely informing someone of his intention.

But there seems to be no one else here.

Which meant that Gu Qing Shan is actually talking to the final [Order].

Is he using this method to threaten the [Order]?

...how unheard of

Boss closed his eyes again.

Gu Qing Shan walked step by step towards the railing of the ship and was about to leap down——

When a hurried line of blood-red text appeared to stop him:

[Your Excellency, I was wrong, please do not put me onto a pig]

“Hm? Why shouldn’t I?” Gu Qing Shan asked curiously.

[I still have a holy mission]

“Didn’t you say you only had a single mission, that is to have the Demon King descend upon this world?”

[No, I still have another mission, that is to help you awaken other Orders] the [Demon King Order] replied.

Gu Qing Shan raised his thumb and praised: “As expected of something named the [Demon King Order]”

The [Demon King Order] then swiftly continued: [But before that, you will need to first find an Order before I can awaken it]

This time, it was Gu Qing Shan’s turn to freeze.

Find an [Order]?

That’s true.

If I can’t even find an [Order], how am I supposed to awaken it?

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

“Find an [Order]... hm, how should I go about looking for an [Order]?”

Gu Qing Shan muttered to himself.

He couldn’t help but glance towards Boss.

In the Bramble Bird Kingdom, Boss sent Anna, Su Xue Er, Ning Yue Chan, and Lin away to their respective places in order to prepare for the fight against [Chaos]

Boss has a mysterious background, and he is my mutual saviour.

Perhaps he might know where to find the [Orders]?

Gu Qing Shan asked Boss right away.

Boss slowly kept his eyes closed and casually replied: “Don’t look at me, my previous place was very desolate, I didn’t have much contact with the [Orders], so I naturally don’t know where they’re hiding”

Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to contemplate this himself.

In the Age of Old, to help me safely return, Water God was taken by the Earth Creator and went thoroughly missing.

Where would the Earth Creator put this slumbering Card?

Chapter 995

Gu Qing Shan considered every single piece of information he had obtained, contemplated them up over and over again, reflecting upon them and carefully considering each and every bit of this information.

After finally contemplating for a while, he still sighed.

There’s too little information.

Water God is sleeping within a Card.

The Earth Creator took that Card and sent me directly into the river of time.

—-I truly have no idea where the Earth Creator would place Water God.

If I can’t find the Water God Card, what should I do?

Hmm, I’ve also come into contact with another [Order].

The [Angel Order].

But the [Angel Order] is a mutual enemy of the [Demon King Order], even if I can find it, the [Demon King Order] would only throw its life away to kill it as soon as they meet.

—-and I can only travel to the giant corpse’s place when I advance to the next realm.

I can’t even go there even if I wanted to right now.

Furthermore, since the [Angel Order] and the [Demon King Order] are mutual enemies, its power would most likely be weaker than Water God.

In the end, the best solution is still to find Water God.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and slowly sat down near the edge of the ship, seriously contemplating about how to find Water God.

[The Empress] continued to fly forward through the endless space vortex.

Time slowly passed.

Gu Qing Shan still hadn’t managed to come up with a solution.

Meanwhile, Laura had already asked him several times where should [The Empress] continue to head next.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't have a destination to provide her.

He could only continue to ask himself what to do and kept thinking.

Several hours later.

Laura emerged from the cabin of the ship and sat next to Gu Qing Shan.

She tilted her head and sneaked glances at him.

Gu Qing Shan's eyes were obscured by a piece of black cloth, his lips pursed tightly, his fingers holding up his palm in consideration.

He was still contemplating.

Seeing him like that, Laura silently stood up and left.

Another three hours later.

Laura returned.

This time, she didn't sneak a glance but looked directly at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan maintained his previous posture without any change.

He was still contemplating.

Laura silently sighed and poked Gu Qing Shan with her finger.

"Hm? Laura?" Gu Qing Shan was apparently snapped back to reality.

"Gu Qing Shan, what are you doing?" Laura asked.

Looking at the cute little girl in front of him, Gu Qing Shan suddenly recalled something.

"Ah, that's right, Laura, do you have any treasures that can help me search for items?" he asked.

"Of course I do, what do you need to find?" Laura happily replied.

"An [Order]"

"An [Order]? Isn't the [Demon King Order] with you right now?"

"I want to find another [Order]"

"...I've never heard of any treasures that can search for an [Order]"

"Hm, to be exact, it is actually a Card that contains an [Order]—— try and think carefully about it, since you're the person who has seen the most treasures in this Reality" Gu Qing Shan told her.

Laura sighed and explained: "Searcher-type treasures are extremely rare, and the best of which are all Mysticism creations that require harsh prerequisites before they can be activated"

Seeing how urgent Gu Qing Shan needed it, Laura carefully thought for a bit before adding: "The majority of these items can only search for physical items—— but what you're looking for is a Card, and

an [Order], both of which have gone beyond the concept of 'physical items', so the only solution I can think of is a kind of Mystic-type searcher ability that has its own intelligence— don't look at me, I can only grab treasures, not look for them"

Hearing Laura's explanation, Gu Qing Shan suddenly thought of the colorful rooster—

The colorful rooster is a function of the War God UI that was affixed to an item, and it fit Laura's description of having a certain level of intelligence.

Maybe it can find Water God?

But it hasn't been a full day since it was last activated so the colorful chicken can't be used again yet.

Gu Qing Shan decided to ask the War God UI:

"War God UI, I want to find the Water God Card, can the colorful rooster give me any clues?"

[Ting]!

A clear chime.

The War God UI replied: [Unfortunately, War God Intelligence can only collect information within the 900 million World Layers that is both the most recent and related to you, it does not have an item search function]

Gu Qing Shan sighed helplessly.

Seeing the dejected look on his face, Laura couldn't help but try to change the subject.

She shook his arm and said: "Let's forget about it for now, I'm hungry, I want to eat your cooking"

"Alright"

Gu Qing Shan could only accept.

Laura happily smiled.

She skipped over to Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li to have them help her carry about the table sets.

Meanwhile, Gu Qing Shan prepared his cooking implements and spices, arranging them all on his cooking station.

Ok.

Let's just eat first and get a change in perspective, maybe I'll come up with something later?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan shifted his focus to cooking dinner.

He brandished his cleaver and told everyone: "I'll be cooking today, consider it a celebration for our reunion. Tell me if you like to eat something in particular"

"I want noodles" Ye Fei Li raised his hand.

"Nope, today isn't a good occasion for noodles" Gu Qing Shan rejected right away.

“Alright, then I want some egg fried rice” Ye Fei Li chose something else.

“So simple? Sure” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

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Zhang Ying Hao looked at Ye Fei Li and complained: “Can’t your standards be a bit higher? It’s rare for him to cook for us and you only want egg fried rice?”

“Haha, I’m used to eating it back when I was still in school, if there’s a drink to go with it, that’ll be even better” Ye Fei Li happily replied.

“What about you?” Gu Qing Shan turned to Zhang Ying Hao.

“I want—you know what, give me egg fried rice too, and a side of smoked innards, some liquor as well” Zhang Ying Hao said.

Gu Qing Shan turned to Laura.

“I’ve never had egg fried rice before, that sounds kind of nice, give me that too” Laura told him.

Gu Qing Shan then turned to Boss.

“I’ve never had egg fried rice before as well, I’ll trouble you” Boss smiled.

“Alright, we’ll just have egg fried rice today I guess”

Gu Qing Shan concluded.

Zhang Ying Hao sighed: “At the advent of the Apocalypse, to be able to eat some egg fried rice in the middle of the void, that’s quite something indeed”

Laura pulled Ye Fei Li’s sleeves and whispered: “My Duke, what exactly is this ‘egg fried rice?’”

Ye Fei Li whispered to answer her as well: “Your Majesty, it is a very simple dish that many people can make, but I’ve only seen Gu Qing Shan cook it well enough that you can’t help but praise him”

Gu Qing Shan didn’t bother with useless words and swiftly prepared his ingredients. After nimbly and skillfully cooking for a short while, five plates of egg fried rice were served on the table.

One plate for each person.

Laura also received a bottle of juice, Ye Fei Li a bottle of champagne, Zhang Ying Hao a bottle of strong liquor—

“What would you like to drink?” Gu Qing Shan asked Boss.

Boss looked at the others: “Give me one of each, I’d like to try them out”

“Very well”

Gu Qing Shan gave him three bottles, and made a glass of cocktail for himself.

“Come, let us all have a toast to congratulate the fact that we aren’t dead” Ye Fei Li raised his cup.

Zhang Ying Hao also raised his cup, but glared at Ye Fei Li: “Oi, who the hell makes a toast like that? This is to commemorate this occasion where we unite and enjoy good food”

“But it’s currently the Apocalypse, as we talk, countless worlds are being destroyed by the Apocalypse of a parallel world, and even more are being consumed by [Chaos]” Ye Fei Li refuted.

“And you have a solution?” Zhang Ying Hao kept staring at him.

“I don’t” Ye Fei Li sighed dejectedly.

“That’s why we need to keep up our form, to make sure that if there is any chance to overturn the situation, we’d be ready to take it” Zhang Ying Hao told him.

“Fine” Ye Fei Li replied.

“Well said” Gu Qing Shan also agreed.

The group knocked their cups together and began to eat.

Gu Qing Shan’s cooking skills were naturally top-notch, the group ate and drank, sometimes having a chat, but it was overall a rare occasion to rest.

After the meal, Boss returned to lying down, Ye Fei Li continued to stir up with own [Chaos] UI, Laura went back into the cabin of the ship, while Zhang Ying Hao took out a small bag and gave it to Gu Qing Shan.

“Help me prepare this a bit, I need to feed the little guy”

Looking inside, Gu Qing Shan found that it was a fresh fish head about the size of two large fists that carried a faint presence of mana.

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but comment: “This is quite the good ingredient—— so he doesn’t like to eat egg yolks or strawberries anymore?”

Zhang Ying Hao replied: “Hm, those are all junk food, I’ve only just managed to fix his bad eating habits from before”

Gu Qing Shan asked again: “This is a fish from a magic world right? Humans can eat it without issues, but he probably can’t”

“He can—— after coming into the 900 million World Layers, he’s also slowly maturing. Eating food that contains energy like this can help him grow and develop faster” Zhang Ying Hao explained.

“Ah, then it’s fine”

“That’s right, and he has a bit of sweet tooth”

“Hm”

Gu Qing Shan took the fish head, added a bit of nutritious herbs to it and carefully began to cook.

After a while.

The fish head was cooked and served.

Boss who was laying on the floor had a sniff of the smell and called out from the other side of the deck:
“What is that? It smells good”

Zhang Ying Hao loudly replied: “My pet’s food”

Boss said nothing else.

Gu Qing Shan placed the dish on the floor, went up to the table to pour himself a glass of liquor and slowly sipped it.

Zhang Ying Hao carefully took out a Card and called out gently:

“Time to eat, come out”

He then tossed the Card onto the deck.

A hole opened up on the deck of the ship.

A small black cat climbed out from inside.

He first looked at Zhang Ying Hao and softly meowed, then was swiftly attracted by the fish head that gave off a deliciously sweet scent.

“Today it’s our old friend Gu Qing Shan who made you that fish head” Zhang Ying Hao said.

The black cat heard and turned to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and waved to greet it.

The black cat nodded at him, then softly walked up to the dish.

He began to eat.

Zhang Ying Hao stood on the side and was about to lit a cigarette, but then heard a ‘clunk’ from the other side.

Gu Qing Shan’s glass just dropped to the ground.

“What’s the matter?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

Gu Qing Shan seemed to not be able to hear him, his eyes completely focused as he went forward step by step.

He was exuding an indescribable feeling.

But Zhang Ying Hao could tell that something was amiss.

It was very rare for Gu Qing Shan’s emotions to fluctuate this much— although he was already trying to suppress it.

“What happened?”

Ye Fei Li also felt something was wrong with Gu Qing Shan and quickly ran over.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand to Ye Fei Li to signal that there were no issues.

He was approaching the black cat.

Chapter 996

The fish head smelled very nice.

The black cat happily dug in without any care.

As Gu Qing Shan watched the black cat, he suddenly asked: "Ying Hao, I remember that we once had this black cat lead us to find a space monster body part"

"Hm, yeah we did. At the time, you asked me if I wanted to be your business partner, then we arrived at a casino and wrecked it" Zhang Ying Hao replied.

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

At the time, I needed a space monster body part to activate my Thaumaturgy.

The black cat brought me and Zhang Ying Hao to an underground casino and found a space monster body part inside.

"...the only solution I can think of is a kind of Mystic-type searcher ability that has its own intelligence..."

This was what Laura informed me earlier.

Mystic-type.

A searcher ability.

Has its own intelligence.

The black cat fits the description perfectly!

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath, then stroked the cat's head.

Meow?

After being rubbed, the black cat felt very unprofessional and uncomfortable, so he looked up at him.

"Hey!" Gu Qing Shan smiled: "I lost a Card. Can you help me find it?"

The black cat looked at Gu Qing Shan, then at the fish head in front of himself.

This guy is a really good cook.

He reached his paw out to point at the fish head and complained:

Meow meow meow meow!

Zhang Ying Hao crouched down next to him and mediated: "He's saying not to touch him while he's eating, if there's anything you need, talk again after he's done"

Gu Qing Shan looked at the black cat.

The black cat was staring at him with a very serious expression.

Gu Qing Shan swiftly smiled again: “Ah, yes, yes, of course. I understand”

The cat’s whiskers moved slightly, then it returned to happily gnawing on the fish head.

—this is a fish head with mana inside, not only is it delicious, but it’s also beneficial.

So, don’t even think about interrupting my meal, meow!

Zhang Ying Hao then pulled Gu Qing Shan to one side and said worriedly: “My black cat does have the ability to find many things, but with how big the 900 million World Layers is, I’m afraid he might not be able to locate your Card”

“Has that ever happened before?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Zhang Ying Hao looked at the black cat and replied with a gentle voice: “He once tried to help me find an enemy, but after running through several worlds, he fainted from being too tired”

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly, then asked: “Is the black cat a Card now?”

“That’s right. After I finished my promotion into a Card user, my God’s Chosen Skill manifested as Cards” Zhang Ying Hao replied.

“Are there any ways to make a Card stronger?”

“There aren’t” Zhang Ying Hao sighed, “After promoting from a God’s Chosen to a Card user, I discovered that summoning-type abilities are among the hardest to improve”

“Have you tried asking those who truly know what they’re talking about?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I asked many Card users in the underground world, all of them told me that it’s always very slow to help a Card advance, and there was no way around it” Zhang Ying Hao replied.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

—wait.

That’s not how it is at all.

As the Angel of Condemnation, Little Dusk should be the highest authority within the 900 million World Layers when it comes to Cards.

And she already mentioned this issue once before.

—there were a total of three methods to promote a Card.

The first was natural advancement.

The second was to consume other Cards.

The third was to use leftover materials from ‘Old Gods’.

Natural advancement was the method that Zhang Ying Hao mentioned here, and also common knowledge among Card users of the 900 million World Layers who sang them as gospel.

There was a trick to consuming other Cards. Little Dusk said that they must be compatible Cards in order to be used.

Leftover materials from 'Old Gods'...

At this point, Gu Qing Shan understood that the 'Old Gods' referred here weren't the Divine race, but rather actual Gods within the void.

And the projection that unlocked my soul in Triste's collection world was most likely not a Divinity.

That was surely a projection left by actual Gods.

Which means this is still a possible solution.

—except for the fact that it's extremely tough to find any leftover materials by the Gods in this era.

Even an [Order] can use such a thing in order to evolve.

So, the only practical way to promote a Card would be to consume other Cards.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the War God UI and muttered: "Show me my Card"

All the notifications previously on the War God UI vanished as an Azure colored Card fell into the center of the UI.

The Card depicted Gu Qing Shan standing in the air while wielding two swords.

[Azure Card: Gu Qing Shan]

[Identity: Envoy of Condemnation]

[Azure Condemnation Card owned: True Crimson Demon Spear]

[Ability: Card fusion]

[Personal world: unknown]

[Special note: Your personal Iris world has fully manifested, it is currently accumulating power in its dormancy]

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit.

He used his thought to select the Azure Card: [True Crimson Demon Spear]

Information regarding the [True Crimson Demon Spear] appeared in his mind.

This was all the information that Gu Qing Shan already knew.

He then tried to use his mind to communicate with the Card and ask how he could promote [True Crimson Demon Spear] to the next level.

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Right away, the Card fluttered a bit before returning the corresponding information.

A total of 18 Cards of various shapes and sizes appeared around the [True Crimson Demon Spear]:

[Windward Burial Blade]

[Soul Slaying Dagger]

[Frost Dragon of Dormancy Fang]

[Purgatory Flame Shear Soul]

[Antiquity Gust of Wind Crystal]

...

They were all Cards that the [True Crimson Demon Spear] can consume in order to be promoted.

Two lines of glowing text appeared on the Card UI in front of the [True Crimson Demon Spear]:

[Attention please, you must follow the exact sequence of Card consumption to allow the steady growth of this Card's power, otherwise, there might be a danger of collapse]

[Special note: Only an Envoy of Condemnation has the power to allow one Card to consume another compatible Card to promote it]

Perfect!

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fist in excitement.

After considering countless methods, I still couldn't come up with a way to find Water God.

But now, there's finally a faint ray of hope.

"Ying Hao, I might have a way to help your black cat evolve" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Really?" Zhang Ying Hao happily asked.

If anyone else would have said this, he wouldn't believe them, but Gu Qing Shan had never been a person who liked to boast.

"That's right, let's wait until the black cat finished eating. You can tell him that we're going to try and help him evolve to the next level" Gu Qing Shan said.

He stood up and entered the ship's cabin.

A few moments later, Laura came up to the deck of the ship with him.

"Ah, what a cute kitty!" Laura's eyes practically glowed.

She crouched down and stroked the black cat.

The black cat turned his eyes a bit, but when he saw that Laura was a cute little girl, he let her keep petting him while he ate.

"What do you think?" Gu Qing Shan asked Laura.

“No problem, but Cards have always been rare commodities— especially when they’re combat Cards, most of them don’t even go into circulation— I have a small collection, but I’m not sure if they’re what the black cat needs” Laura told him.

After answering him, she couldn’t help herself asking: “Can you really help a Card evolve?”

“I’m sure that I probably can, but the ability needs to be tested first”

Gu Qing Shan was also a bit unsure.

Everyone patiently waited.

After he was finished with the fish head, Zhang Ying Hao picked the black cat up and patiently explained to him what they wanted to do.

While listening, the black cat occasionally glanced at Gu Qing Shan.

—-he was Zhang Ying Hao’s Card, so an appropriate level of communication was necessary before he was given to another person for use.

After Zhang Ying Hao finished explaining, the black cat looked curiously at Gu Qing Shan.

Meow, meow meow meow?

The black cat questioned.

“It still doesn’t believe you and is asking for your surety” Zhang Ying Hao acted as an interpreter.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the black cat and replied: “We need to try it together. Because first I have to determine which Cards you’re compatible with before we can begin the Card fusion”

The black cat shrunk and appeared a bit hesitant.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and continued: “Now that Zhang Ying Hao is with me, I’ll be responsible for your food from now on”

The black cat appeared a bit tempted, but still spoke while its ears twitched:

Meow meow meow meow, meow meow meow~

“He said he’ll do it, but you can’t use random cat food to gloss things over with” Zhang Ying Hao explained.

“Don’t worry, I’m not a person like that” Gu Qing Shan patted his chest in assurance.

Seeing his attitude, the black cat nodded comfortably.

Poof—

He turned into a Card and fell into Zhang Ying Hao’s hand.

Zhang Ying Hao handed the Card to Gu Qing Shan, but felt still a bit hesitant, and asked: “It won’t be dangerous, right?”

“Of course not” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He received the Card, only to see that it depicted a black cat yawning while laying on a large bed.

—this implies that it's full.

Will being full affect its consumption of other Cards?

At this point, even Gu Qing Shan felt a bit anxious.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Card: Marauding Cat (black fur)]

[If you can give the cat food that fulfills its needs, it will guide you to the item you seek]

[Note: This is a newborn baby cat, after traveling to the 900 million World Layers, its stamina is no longer enough for it to complete a long-distance search]

[Note: This little cat wishes to grow, please help it]

Gu Qing Shan put this [Marauding Cat] Card next to the [True Crimson Demon Spear] Card on the UI in front of him.

He used his mind to select this Card and muttered: “Evolve”

Right away, numerous Cards appeared around the [Marauding Cat] Card.

These were all Cards that he could consume.

And they must follow the exact order.

Gu Qing Shan looked through them, then turned to Laura.

Laura already had her backpack ready as she seriously asked: “What kind of combat Cards do you need; I’ll look for it right away”

“Ah, the first Card doesn’t seem to be combative...”

“Then what is it?”

“It’s a Card called [Catnip]”

Gu Qing Shan replied.

Chapter 997

Laura started searching through her backpack.

“[Catnip]? That is a peculiar name, but I think I’ve seen it before” she said.

“Have you ever raised a cat?” Zhang Ying Hao tried asking.

“Hm, I did raise one, for a while at least”

“Where’s the cat now?”

“It ate too well and accidentally evolved into human form. It’s currently the captain of my third royal guard squadron”

Zhang Ying Hao and Gu Qing Shan exchanged glances.

It’s a very real question of how well a cat could eat to the point that it evolved into human form.

“Found it!”

Laura pulled a Card out from her backpack and handed it to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan received the card then followed the Card UI’s instructions and placed it over the [Marauding Cat] Card.

A new notification appeared:

[Would you like to consume this Card and help the Marauding Cat evolve?]

“Yes” Gu Qing Shan replied.

[Please use 100 Soul Points to facilitate the evolution]

“Take it”

Following Gu Qing Shan’s declaration, the [Catnip] Card slowly shattered into countless sprites of light that were absorbed into the [Marauding Cat] Card.

A few moments later.

A new line of glowing text appeared below the [Marauding Cat] Card:

[The cat’s endurance has been greatly increased. It is about to reach puberty]

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

Seems like I really can help the black cat evolve.

Zhang Ying Hao also sensed the change and said in surprise: “The black cat really is evolving!”

“That’s right, let’s continue”

He looked at the second Card that the black cat could consume.

“Laura, the second Card is——”

“What is it?”

“Erm, it’s called [Touch of Love]”

“What a strange name, let me see”

Laura looked through her backpack a bit, then suddenly turned flushed.

She drew a pink Card from inside and handed it to Gu Qing Shan.

Seeing that strange reaction, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but take a look at it.

The face of the Card depicted an index finger waving at him.

This style...

Gu Qing Shan looked at the War God UI.

Lines of glowing text appeared to display this Card's properties:

[Control-type Card: Touch of Love]

[This is a mental control-type Card, if you use it to comfort your pets, you can achieve a lot with little efforts]

[This Card is mainly used to express and send your love, its effects are truly extraordinary, capable of...]

Gu Qing Shan didn't want to read any further and put it directly into the Card UI.

"Consume"

He declared.

200 Soul Points were deducted.

The Card shattered into numerous pink sprites of light that was absorbed by the [Marauding Cat] Card.

A new line of text then appeared below the [Marauding Cat] Card:

[The cat has felt your love, its mental power has grown considerably]

Gu Qing Shan looked at the next Card

— it was called [Indomitability]

Hmm, that is clearly the name of a combative Card.

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

After he informed Laura, she quickly found it as well.

The fusion was successful.

The fourth Card was [Cat's Agility]

The fifth Card was [Panther's Speed]

The sixth Card was [Graceful Waltz]

...

"Oh no, Gu Qing Shan, I don't have the seventh Card"

Laura closed her backpack and said.

"It's ok, after consecutively evolving so many times, I think he should be strong enough already" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He looked at the [Marauding Cat] Card in his hand.

[Card: Marauding Cat (black fur)]

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[If you can give the cat food that fulfills its needs, it will take you to the item you seek]

[Note: This is a cat in its puberty, after receiving ample power, it is steadily growing stronger]

[Note: It's very grateful to you]

Gu Qing Shan gave the card back to Zhang Ying Hao.

"Try again" Gu Qing Shan said.

Zhang Ying Hao was also very excited to try and tossed the Card out without hesitation.

The Card landed on the ground, turning into a hole.

A black cat climbed out from the hole.

He had grown about one size larger, was in excellent spirits, and had bright lively eyes.

Meow—

He meowed very happily.

"Precious, come" Zhang Ying Hao joyfully extended his hand, about to hug him.

But the black cat ignored his master and instead ran up to Gu Qing Shan, raised both paws, and bowed.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

This cat sure is polite.

Gu Qing Shan quickly said: "Ah, no need to be formal, after this—"

Before Gu Qing Shan even finished, the black cat had left him and ran up to Laura, hugging her leg with both paws while rubbing his head against her in a spoiled manner.

"Eeh, no need to be that friendly" Laura rubbed the cat's head and smiled.

Meow~

The black cat called out in a clearly flattering manner, still rubbing against her with his head for a while before he stopped.

Gu Qing Shan crouched down in front of the black cat and cleared his throat: "I have something I need to look for"

Meow

The black cat nodded and waited for him to continue.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "I lost a Card a long time, please help me find it again"

Meow meow meow?

Zhang Ying Hao translated for him: "He's asking what kind of Card was it, you need to describe it a bit more clearly"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "It's a large-scale human war system Card, the face of the Card depicts a woman in long white trousers, she's called Water God"

The black cat peered into the void of space around him.

He doubtfully meowed again:

Meow meow? Meow meow meow meow?

Zhang Ying Hao continued to translate: "He said that the sensation is a bit strange, the information seems a bit obscured and unclear. When did you lose that Card?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Ah, it was several ten thousand years ago"

Zhang Ying Hao: "..."

Laura: "..."

The black cat: "..."

The black cat gave Gu Qing Shan a sidelong glare and meowed with dissatisfaction:

Meow! Meow meow!

"He said that you should mention that first next time" Zhang Ying Hao said.

Gu Qing Shan replied apologetically: "Sorry, I forgot about that, please help me look for the Card"

The black cat nodded.

He crouched down, peering into the void of space with his round black irises.

A few moments later.

The black cat's pupils seem to have shrunken almost into two tiny thin vertical irises, then suddenly dilated to display a mass of jet-black fog.

Apparently, he has seen something.

Meow! Meow meow meow!

All of a sudden, the black cat raised his paw and pointed in a certain direction.

"He said that it was tough, but he still managed to find it. We need to change directions and fly that way" Zhang Ying Hao reached his hand out to point at the same place the black cat was pointing.

Gu Qing Shan was glad and said immediately: "Laura, turn the ship, we're heading in the direction that the black cat is pointing"

"Got it, I'll be in the cabin" Laura said.

She vanished from their sights.

A few moments later.

[The Empress] ship drew a long arc across the space vortex and headed towards a certain unique direction.

At this point, Zhang Ying Hao couldn't help but ask: "Qing Shan, I've never heard of a Card being able to consume another Card to evolve ever before, is this your unique ability?"

Gu Qing Shan was in an extremely good mood so he smiled: "That's right, there's only one other person in this Reality that has this ability"

"There's one person other than you?"

"That's right, she's a Card-type lifeform—-- although to be exact, it was her that gave this ability to me"

Ye Fei Li then came closer and asked in awe: "A Card-type lifeform? You mean, she can also use this method of consuming other Cards to evolve and grow?"

Recalling Little Dusk's explanation on how to become stronger, he nodded: "That's right, she was most likely also able to evolve this way—-- since she herself is a Card"

At this point, Gu Qing Shan suddenly turned silent.

Wait a minute...

I'm a Card as well.

Chapter 998

Gu Qing Shan stood still and crossed his arms in thought.

The black cat managed to enter puberty from a previously newborn state by consuming Cards.

And since I'm also a Card—--

What would happen if I also use this method to become stronger?

I'm currently a Paragon realm cultivator, would that affect anything if I use the Card promotion method to advance?

I've never considered that before.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but facepalm himself.

Because I've always been a cultivator, I've always been limited to a cultivator's mentality.

While a certain fact had already been silently laid bare to me ever since I found out about the existence of the infinite worlds.

—--even the Bygone Era humans managed to create their own worlds within the empty void.

— — — even Soul Artifacts that the Bygone Era humans randomly threw away were able to copy their abilities and create several billion world layers.

The Bygone Era humans were only visitors from a parallel world that was defeated by the Apocalypse.

There was still an unimaginably powerful parallel world that's stuck struggling against the Apocalypse.

Numerous boundless and rich parallel worlds.

The endlessly deep and unfathomable space vortex.

And the unimaginably terrifying endless Apocalypse!!!

— — — as someone in this era, how could I let myself be limited by the mentality of a cultivator?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt like a huge gate had just swung open in front of himself.

Regardless of what consequences there might be with advancing through consuming Cards, I still have to try it.

There are too many unknown variables, if I don't try anything and do not gain any new knowledge or ability, I would always be a toad sitting at the bottom of the well!

He put it into action as soon as he made up his mind.

Gu Qing Shan focused his attention on the Card UI at the Azure Card in the middle.

[Sword cultivator Gu Qing Shan]

This Card represented himself.

Gu Qing Shan tried using his mind to select this Card and muttered: "Evolve"

Unlike the [True Crimson Demon Spear] and the [Marauding Cat], there wasn't a list of Cards that appeared around his Card.

Instead, a few lines of notification appeared:

[To begin evolution as the Envoy of Condemnation, the prerequisites are different from normal Cards]

[The Cards you require must originate from the Inner Plane]

[An Envoy of Condemnation may exist in many parallel worlds, but its place of origin is the Inner Plane]

Gu Qing Shan froze.

Ah...

That's right...

Seems like I've run into something that's beyond my understanding of Reality.

Like the Inner Plane.

Both the Inner Plane and the Eternal Abyss weren't creations of the Bygone Era or their sentient Soul Artifacts.

They originally existed within the space vortex.

Then, what is it actually?

More lines of text appeared on the Card UI, drawing Gu Qing Shan's attention.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and continued reading:

[Your advancement will require Inner Plane Cards]

[However, as you are currently too weak and do not reach the lowest power threshold required for an Envoy of Condemnation...]

[You may use a few unique normal Cards to help you comprehend Power or Skill as your specialization, thus preparing the foundation for your advancement]

[Condemnation Card: Sword cultivator Gu Qing Shan, please choose either Power or Skill to comprehend as your preferred form of advancement]

[Attention, you may only choose one]

Gu Qing Shan looked at his Card again.

On top of the Azure blue card face, he was being depicted hovering in the air with dual swords in hand.

"I choose [Skill]"

[Sword cultivator Gu Qing Shan, a cold weapon user Card, available Skill oriented system: Swordsmanship]

[You will require the following Cards to help you advance your swordsmanship skills]

A few Cards then appeared on the UI, neatly lined up one after the other.

The first Card was [Elemental Wind Chaser Strike]

It was quite a common Card.

Gu Qing Shan called out: "Laura!"

"I'm here, what is it?" Laura appeared next to him.

"Ah, erm, I'll probably need your help again" Gu Qing Shan was a bit embarrassed to say that.

How shameful, I've used so many of her Cards already.

Being as sharp as she was, Laura immediately noticed the change in Gu Qing Shan's expression.

"Gu Qing Shan, don't you frown like that with me" Laura angrily told him, "You saved both my life and my kingdom, and I'm the one who chose to fight alongside you"

She loudly declared: "If all it takes is a bit of wealth to help this team become more powerful and capable of going up against those monsters and Apocalypse, I would never hesitate for even a second"

Saying so, she randomly put her hand into the void of space.

A chest of glittering gold was taken out from the void of space and casually tossed onto the deck of the ship.

Bam!

The lid of the chest popped open to reveal all sorts of beautiful gems.

"How unlucky" Laura muttered, then took out a can of Ye Fei Li's energy drink and took a large sip.

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"Look, this is Ye Fei Li's manifested drink, I didn't hesitate at all to ask him for a lot of them!"

Laura raised the can for Gu Qing Shan to see.

Gu Qing Shan turned to look at Ye Fei Li.

Only to see that he was sitting next to Boss, providing him one can after another.

"This is the final one for the day" Ye Fei Li reminded Boss.

There were a bunch of empty cans right next to Boss, while he appeared extremely spirited.

He smiled: "I can feel a bit of my strength recovering, this is such a good feeling"

Saying so, he received Ye Fei Li's Soul Points drink and chugged it down.

Ye Fei Li was sweating bullets, seemingly drained.

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

Laura is a considerate child, and what she said earlier was indeed the real situation.

She is more than eager to do anything she can to help me.

Gu Qing Shan looked at Laura and softly told her: "Alright, then I won't be formal with you—— I need another Card"

"What do you want to do this time?" Laura asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I discovered a way to increase my strength, but it requires me to consume Cards as well"

Laura immediately replied: "No problem! Just tell me which Cards you need"

"The Card is called [Elemental Wind Chaser Strike]"

"Got it, wait a moment"

Saying so, Laura looked down and searched her small backpack.

A few moments later, she found the Card he needed.

This was an offensive Card that could unleash a wide-ranged storm of wind blades to attack an enemy.

Gu Qing Shan received the Card and put it onto his UI.

“Consume”

He gave the order right away.

After deducting 100 Soul Points from him, the Card shattered into countless sprites of light and was absorbed into the Condemnation Card: [Sword cultivator Gu Qing Shan].

He felt a strange sensation.

Gu Qing Shan felt like he had returned to that moment in the past.

——that moment when he risked his life to unleash that slash against the mythical [Chaos] creature.

It felt as if he himself was once again wielding the Earth sword, performing that attack with all he had.

It was an attack beyond what he could normally perform, only unleashed from the pressure of death.

An unprecedented strike.

“This sensation...”

“So that was what I did at the time...”

Gu Qing Shan muttered blankly.

It turns out, consuming that Card allowed him to return to that moment in the past and immerse himself in that sensation of exerting beyond what he could and thoroughly comprehend its wonder.

...

At another location.

Faraway in the endless space vortex.

The Soul Shrieker was floating in space.

Mass clusters of grey fog were drifting towards it from afar and entered its body.

「 『 Power! 」 』

「 『 Vast power! 」 』

The Soul Shrieker roared.

Its body continued to writhe and slowly gained another pair of arms.

At this point, it had a total of six arms.

A massive presence emanated from its body, manifesting as an unceasing typhoon that blew everything around it away.

Standing at the eye of the typhoon, the Soul Shrieker now gave off a true sense of solemnity and divinity.

It stared towards a certain direction in the void of space and focused its gaze there.

—just like how it peered through an unimaginably far distance before.

『 Look, a good chance! 』 its female voice said.

『 Indeed, the final carrier of [Order] is stuck in a deep reminiscing state 』 the male voice also couldn't contain its excitement.

『 And I have gotten a bit stronger 』 the female voice added.

While it spoke, the Soul Shrieker had clasped its 6 hands together and formed a seal.

Peering towards [The Empress], it swiftly chanted an incantation in a muttering voice:

『 『 Even across infinite space and worlds, no one can stop the divine presence of [Chaos] 』 』

『 『 All enemies shall bow down at [Chaos]'s will 』 』

『 『 The divine power of [Chaos] shall manifest as Holy Retribution! 』 』

『 『 It desires the death of its enemy to solidify the final foundation of the Era of [Chaos]! 』 』

Following the Soul Shrieker's chant, boundless surging grey fog manifested around its body.

The fog then gathered within the clasp of its six arms and formed a rumbling giant mass of light.

The Soul Shrieker raised its six arms and sent the mass of grey light that contained unimaginable power forward.

『 『 THIS IS THE WILL OF [CHAOS]! 』 』

『 『 HOLY RETRIBUTION, GO, KILL HIM! 』 』

Boom—

The giant mass of light howled as it went through the void of space and out of sight in just the blink of an eye.