

## **A Sword 681**

### Chapter 681: Welcome Ceremony

Deep inside, Shen Xue hoped to avoid enmity between the God Clan and Ye Guan. However, she wasn't the one making the God Clan's decisions. When the decision to eliminate Ye Guan was made, she swiftly abandoned any thoughts of reconciliation with him.

Once the decision to make him an enemy was made, they couldn't afford to give him any openings.

Shen Xue's words surprised the elites within the hall. An elder's voice echoed, "Shen Xue, must the clan leader intervene personally to eliminate a mere youth?"

"Third Elder, this youth is no ordinary individual. Firstly, he's the chosen inheritor of the First God..."

A sudden unease filled the air.

"You're all familiar with the First God. Do you truly believe he would select an average youth?"

Silence enveloped the room.

"Furthermore, this individual is accompanied by an Evil Beast and a Spirit Progenitor. You're all aware of the Grand Elder's strength, yet he couldn't even muster a defense against that Evil Beast and was swiftly killed."

Shen Xue's revelation stunned the God Clan's elite. Third Elder questioned, "No chance at all?"

Their anger upon the Grand Elder's demise was palpable, but the sudden realization of his instantaneous defeat left them shocked.

The Grand Elder was powerful, he was a top-tier elite with sixty percent divinity. What did his death imply?

It meant the foe possessed at least seventy percent divinity.

Shen Xue nodded knowingly. "Indeed, and to add, this individual emerged alive from the Black Death Realm..."

Silence gripped the elites once more. In that moment, they realized that matters were far from simple.

Shen Xue turned to the clan leader. "Clan Leader, my suggestion is this: if we wish to avoid conflict, we can reconcile with him. But if conflict is inevitable, you must personally act, denying him any chance of survival."

All eyes turned to Shen Qi, the clan leader of the God Clan.

Shen Qi's response was immediate. "We kill him."

Shen Xue closed her eyes briefly, saying no more.

However, Shen Qi added, "Let Shen Wu lead the charge."

From the pillar of light on the right, a middle-aged man clad in black armor emerged.

This man, Shen Wu, was second only to the clan leader in strength within the God Clan.

Shen Xue hesitated to interject further. She had considered persuading Shen Qi to take direct action, but speaking now would only offend Shen Wu.

That would be foolish.

So, she remained silent.

After Shen Wu's appearance, his expression remained impassive. "I alone will suffice."

Shen Qi instructed, "This young man is not to be underestimated. Take the God Clan's forces with you. If victory seems uncertain, retreat at once and await my return."

With that, he gradually faded away.

Shen Wu furrowed his brow but nodded in agreement nonetheless. He couldn't openly defy the clan leader's command in front of everyone.

Soon after, the meeting dispersed, and within the God Clan, dozens of powerful auras soared into the sky, disappearing into the depths of the starry sky.

Meanwhile, Shen Xue gazed into the distance, a hint of worry in her eyes.

She knew that the God Clan's decision this time could potentially influence the outcome of the clan. If the God Clan succeeded, they might leverage that journal to reach new heights. However, if they failed, the God Clan's power might suffer to some extent, but overall, the impact should be manageable...

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Dao Market.

Within a tavern, Ye Guan sat opposite Zhen Nanxue.

Zhen Nanxue was briefing Ye Guan on the progress of reopening the markets in Dao Market while Ye Guan listened attentively.

After a while, Zhen Nanxue rolled up the scroll in front of her and looked at Ye Guan. "Over a hundred markets have reopened, and the results are promising. Moreover, we've already started making profits."

As she said this, a smile couldn't help but appear on her face.

This was the first task she had handled on her own since leaving the Zhen Clan. She had put in her utmost effort and her hard work had paid off. By now, she had earned tens of thousands of Ancestor Origins.

And this was just the beginning.

Ye Guan was also pleased. He chuckled, "Let's not expand just yet. Let's wait until all the markets are completely stable before we continue expanding."

"I understand. Haste makes waste, after all."

"What's the attitude of your Zhen Clan towards me?"

Currently, among the three major powers, the Zhen Clan was in a cooperative state with him, while the other two had already begun targeting him. Therefore, he wanted to know the true thoughts of the Zhen Clan.

Upon hearing Ye Guan's question, the smile gradually faded from Zhen Nanxue's face. "There's another matter I came to discuss. Our clan leader wishes to invite you to the Zhen Clan."

"To the Zhen Clan?"

"Yes, perhaps for a face-to-face conversation."

"Alright."

He knew that Zhen Nanxue couldn't represent the entire Zhen Clan, so he needed to speak with those who truly held authority in the clan.

He needed to confirm whether they would be friends or enemies first.

Zhen Nanxue was also somewhat worried because she feared that the conversation between Ye Guan and the Zhen Clan might not go well.

At this moment, Ye Guan said, "Let's head to the Zhen Clan now."

"Alright."

After that, the two of them got up and left.

An hour later, under Zhen Nanxue's guidance, Ye Guan arrived at the boundary of the Zhen Clan.

Similar to the God Clan, the Zhen Clan also had its own independent universe. Its power was extremely vast and it appeared no weaker than the God Clan.

As soon as they arrived at the entrance to the Zhen World, a group of gorgeously dressed women slowly emerged. At the same time, a red carpet unfurled from within the Zhen World. At first glance, it was quite impressive.

On both sides, beautiful women bowed respectfully to Ye Guan. Then, they gracefully danced, and as they danced, countless flowers slowly emerged from the surrounding space. At the same time, the sound of singing suddenly resounded throughout the surrounding heaven and earth. It was like a fairyland and Ye Guan was mesmerized.

At that moment, Zhen Nanxue on the sidelines suddenly chimed in, "This is our way of welcoming esteemed guests. It is reserved only for special occasions..."

"Well, this... It's quite the... spectacle."

"It's not your run-of-the-mill welcome ceremony. Take a moment to soak it in."

Upon hearing her, Ye Guan felt something peculiar happening around him. Soon, he felt a bit surprised as he sensed something seemingly entering his body from all directions.

Zhen Nanxue explained with a smile, "This is our clan's special spiritual energy, called the Starlight Spiritual Energy. It can aid in cultivation. Of course, for someone like you, Young Master Ye, it's probably negligible, but it's a token of our appreciation nonetheless."

"That is thoughtful of you."

Zhen Nanxue smiled back, "Young Master Ye, please."

With a slight nod, Ye Guan followed Zhen Nanxue towards the entrance of the Zhen Clan.

As they stepped into the Zhen World, Ye Guan was surprised to find that the red carpet wasn't just long. It stretched for tens of thousands of meters, all the way to the hall of the Zhen Clan.

Ye Guan couldn't help but find it amusing. The Zhen Clan sure knew how to make an entrance.

When Ye Guan and Zhen Nanxue arrived at the hall, they were greeted by a middle-aged man accompanied by a group of elites from the Zhen Clan.

Beside Ye Guan, Zhen Nanxue introduced, "This is our clan leader, Zhen Tian."

Before Ye Guan could utter a word, Zhen Tian warmly approached them, saying, "Welcome, Young Master Ye."

Behind Zhen Tian, the other members of the Zhen Clan were eyeing Ye Guan with curiosity. After all, he was the most talked-about young figure in their era.

"Clan Leader Zhen, Your welcome caught me off guard!"

Zhen Tian chuckled, "Let's continue our discussion inside."

"Sure."

Guided by Zhen Tian, they entered the grand hall. It was sparsely furnished, with only a long table. Ye Guan sat on one side, Zhen Tian on the other, while the elders of the Zhen Clan stood behind him.

However, Zhen Nanxue stood beside Ye Guan.

Zhen Tian began, "Young Master Ye, let's get straight to the point. If I make any missteps, I hope you'll forgive me."

"Please, go ahead."

"To be frank, our clan is also interested in that journal. However, we understand it belongs to you, and we don't wish to become your adversaries. On the contrary, we'd like to be allies. So, we'd like to ask under what circumstances you'd be willing to lend it to us. You can name any conditions."

"Actually, just taking a look is fine."

Perplexed, Zhen Tian blinked, not quite grasping Ye Guan's intentions.

Suddenly, Ye Guan turned to Zhen Nanxue and said, "Lady Nanxue and I are friends, and we've been working together smoothly. If she asks, I won't refuse."

The entire room fell silent, stunned by Ye Guan's declaration.

Zhen Nanxue, too, was taken aback, but then she realized Ye Guan's gesture was to help elevate her status within the Zhen Clan.

Feeling touched, she exchanged a glance with Zhen Tian, who subtly nodded.

He wanted to gauge whether Ye Guan was sincere or not.

Zhen Nanxue hesitated momentarily. She wasn't sure if Ye Guan was being serious or if he was jesting. If she made the request and Ye Guan refused...

Suddenly, Ye Guan opened his palm and the black ancient book floated out, landing gently in front of Zhen Tian.

Everyone present was speechless at this sight.

Did he really just give it away?

Zhen Tian stared at the book for a long time before looking up at Ye Guan, asking earnestly, "Young Master Ye, are you sure you don't have any other conditions?"

"None."

"But why?"

"Just for a look. What's the harm?"

Zhen Tian fell silent. Is he really this easy to deal with?

At that moment, Zhen Tian felt a pang of shame. He had contemplated seizing the book before this...

Chapter 682: Delving into the Depths?

Silence fell over the room as everyone stared at the ancient black book on the table. All the elites present were taken aback. They didn't expect Ye Guan to readily agree to the request.

For a moment, they found themselves at a loss, unaccustomed to such an easy negotiation.



Zhen Nanxue, especially, had a whirlwind of emotions. She never imagined that Ye Guan would be so amenable, which was quite ironic, considering the lengths that the God Clan and the Ancient Wilderness had gone to obtain that very journal. It amused her.

If they learned how easy he was to negotiate with, their reactions would surely be priceless.

Turning to Zhen Tian, Ye Guan chuckled. "Don't you want to take a look?"

Zhen Tian met Ye Guan's gaze, a hint of complexity flashing in his eyes. "Young Master Ye, I must admit, you've caught me off guard."

Ye Guan smiled knowingly, opting to remain silent.

Zhen Tian's gaze shifted to the book on the table, yet he made no move to claim it.

Ye Guan couldn't help but feel puzzled by his reluctance.

After a period of silence, Zhen Tian shook his head and pushed the book back toward Ye Guan, which only further deepened Ye Guan's confusion.

It wasn't just Ye Guan; the clan elders were just as perplexed.

Zhen Tian looked at Ye Guan, a smile playing on his lips. "Young Master Ye, my clan does not seek handouts. We recognize your gesture and intent. How about we instead join forces against the Ancient Wilderness and the God Clan? Should we emerge victorious, we can borrow the journal for a look then. Do we have a deal?"

The sudden proposal sent ripples of shock through the elders.

We'll oppose the Ancient Wilderness and the God Clan together?

This is akin to gambling everything!

How can our leader suddenly become so impulsive?

"Clan Leader, this..."

Zhen Tian glanced at the elder who tried to speak, instantly silencing him.

None of the elders dared speak further. However, their discontent became evidently etched on their expressions instead.

This was more than just a gamble—this was a leap into the unknown.

The God Clan and the Ancient Wilderness were quite powerful. This move could obliterate their clan.

Ye Guan had already agreed to lend them the book for free.

Nevertheless, their leader persisted.

Some among the clan were unhappy, but Zhen Tian remained composed, acknowledging the curiosity and dissent among his people without offering an explanation.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan expressed his surprise. "Are you sure about this?"

"Absolutely."

"Why?"

"Do we really need a reason?"

"Not necessarily, but this is no small matter. I hope you've thought this through, Clan Leader Zhen Tian."

"As far as I know, Shen Wu from the God Clan is already on their way with their troops to find Young Master Ye. And, within half an hour at most, they'll reach the outskirts of our clan. If Young Master Ye agrees to our cooperation, we can first test our strength by dealing with the God Clan's forces."

Ye Guan fixed his gaze on Zhen Tian, remaining silent.

After a moment, Ye Guan smiled, "I see no reason to refuse."

"Then let's have a fruitful cooperation."

With that said, he turned to Zhen Nanxue at the side, "Take Young Master Ye to the side hall for a brief rest, and prepare for the battle."

Zhen Nanxue nodded slightly and looked at Ye Guan, "Young Master Ye, please."

"Alright."

With that, he stood up and followed Zhen Nanxue out.

As soon as Ye Guan and Zhen Nanxue left, an elder with white hair suddenly spoke up, "Clan Leader, why is this?"

The other elites of the clan turned to Zhen Tian, their expressions filled with confusion and puzzlement.

"Just because something's free doesn't mean we can truly have it."

"Why not?"

"Of course, we can have it, but what about the reputation of our clan?"

Silence fell among the crowd.

Indeed, it was taking advantage of Ye Guan. Although it was a bit shameless, but everyone felt it was harmless.

Zhen Tian continued, "For an ordinary person, if we seize such an advantage, it's just that. But this Young Master Ye is not an ordinary person. If our clan chooses to be shameless and seize this advantage, our standing in his eyes will greatly diminish..."

The white-haired elder spoke with a deep voice, "Clan Leader, you say he's not an ordinary person, how do you know?"

"Doesn't he know the value of that journal? Yet, he's willing to lend it to us for a look..."

The white-haired elder became even more puzzled, "What's the problem with that?"

The other elders were equally perplexed.

Zhen Tian sighed softly, "The core of the problem lies in his attitude towards that journal. From start to finish, he never regarded it as anything significant... There are only two reasons for this: either ignorance, not knowing its value and hence not attaching importance to it; or knowing its value, but its value to him is insignificant... Add to that his past behavior, and I conclude that the force behind him is definitely very, very terrifying."

The white-haired elder and the others fell silent.

Hearing Zhen Tian's words, they suddenly realized that indeed, from start to finish, Ye Guan never considered the journal to be of much importance.

What kind of person and family could achieve this?

"And have you not noticed? This person is so young, yet when he arrived at our clan, he showed no signs of fear when facing us... Such a person has seen the world. In other words, he must have encountered forces stronger than our clan... Or perhaps, that force is his own family."

The white-haired elder spoke with a deep voice, "Clan Leader, what you say makes sense, but there's a question: apart from our three families and the Primordial Spirit Land, are there even more powerful forces in this universe? He obviously doesn't come from the God Clan, the Primordial Spirit Land, or the Ancient Wilderness..."

The others also looked at Zhen Tian one after another.

Are there even more powerful forces in this universe than their few families?

If there were, they couldn't possibly be unaware.

Zhen Tian suddenly asked, "Does the universe have boundaries?"

The crowd was taken aback.

"There are no boundaries. Since the time of our ancestors, our Zhen Clan has been exploring the universe, discovering new worlds... But despite all these years, after conquering so many galaxies, have we truly reached the universe's end?"

A heavy silence filled the air.

"When our ancestors departed, they left behind a saying. Do you all remember?"

The white-haired elder spoke in a deep voice, "There are those beyond you, and those beyond the heavens."

"Their message was clear. It is to remind our Zhen Clan never to grow complacent and to always be vigilant against arrogance and overconfidence..."

In truth, over the years, apart from the God Clan and the Ancient Wilderness, the Zhen Clan had never considered any other forces significant. They recognized Ye Guan's uniqueness, but deep down, they hadn't elevated him to their own clan's level. They also couldn't fathom any force stronger than their three families and the Primordial Spirit Land.

How could there be?

Hence, many still found Zhen Tian's decision somewhat reckless.

At that moment, Zhen Tian pressed on, "I know it's risky, but I've decided to give it a try."

The white-haired elder questioned, "Why?"

"What's your impression of this Young Master Ye?"

The white-haired elder and others seemed puzzled.

Zhen Tian elaborated, "Just consider him as a person."

The white-haired elder spoke thoughtfully, "He seems fine. If his actions are genuine..."

Suddenly, a realization dawned upon him, and his expression turned serious.

No hidden agenda! If Ye Guan's actions held no ulterior motives, what did that imply? As Zhen Tian suggested, perhaps the journal held little value to him, or maybe his family didn't regard it highly. And it seemed certain that Ye Guan hadn't even thought about relying on the Zhen Clan.

In essence, to Ye Guan, the Zhen Clan might be... inconsequential.

This realization swept through the room, leaving many in disbelief.

Could the Zhen Clan truly be seen that way?

If this young man truly thought so, wouldn't it be sheer arrogance?

Zhen Tian scanned the room, his expression complex. "He's unafraid of the Ancient Wilderness, dares to confront the God Clan, and doesn't shy away from us... If we don't extend goodwill but try to seize... I doubt he'd be intimidated..."

"As I contemplate this, it's quite remarkable. I hope I'm overanalyzing, but reality suggests otherwise. This young man is even more formidable than we imagined. Perhaps, that's why the First God chose him – because from the outset, they knew the journal would be safe in his hands."

The white-haired elder interjected, "But such a gamble... What if his backing isn't as formidable..."

"What's your assessment of this young man? Ignoring his background..."

"He's a prodigy, surpassing even our brightest talents."

Zhen Tian nodded. "If Nanxue and he could unite..."

His words stunned everyone in the hall.

Goodness gracious?

Clan Leader, are you thinking that far ahead?

Chapter 683: The God Clan Is Determined to Kill You

The powerful clan elders in the hall were stunned. They didn't expect that the clan leader had already considered such a possibility.

Ye Guan and Zhen Nanxue?

Everyone suddenly thought that perhaps it wasn't such a bad idea. After all, Young Master Ye was indeed exceptional. Even without a powerful family background, he was still worthy of Zhen Nanxue, but the fact that he had an extraordinary background meant that he was more than qualified for Zhen Nanxue. If the two were to unite, then their two families would effectively become one.

Everyone became less resistant to the idea of an alliance with Ye Guan.

Just then, an elder walked into the hall. He respectfully saluted everyone before saying, "Shen Wu from the God Clan will soon arrive at our clan. What should we do, Clan Leader?"

Zhen Tian stood up and said, "Get ready to welcome them."

Zhen Tian's succinct response told everyone that he had made up his mind, so everyone simply decided to remain silent.

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Zhen Nanxue and Ye Guan were sitting facing each other in a side hall.

Zhen Nanxue stared wordlessly at Ye Guan.

"Miss Nanxue... if you keep staring at me like that, I'm going to get a bit embarrassed."

Zhen Nanxue smiled and asked, "Young Master Ye, I'm very curious about your background."

Ye Guan merely smiled.



"If the God Clan and the Ancient Wilderness want to borrow this diary, would you lend it to them?"

"What do you think would I do?"

Zhen Nanxue shook her head and said, "I don't think you're going to let them borrow it."

"That's right," Ye Guan said, nodding, "People should reciprocate kindness with kindness. I wouldn't mind letting them take a look at it if our relationship were great. They can attempt to take it away by force, but it would be... rather impolite of them."

"I think they still haven't realized just how approachable you are," Zhen Nanxue said. A complicated light flickered in her eyes. The three superpowers had long gotten accustomed to being arrogant. They had become arrogant to the extent that coercion or stealing had become their favorite method when it came to obtaining something they coveted, and it was a tactic that seldom failed. After all, who was daring enough to defy them? Unfortunately, the Ancient Wilderness and the God Clan had stumbled upon a formidable opponent. Young Master Ye was someone who yielded to kindness but not to force.

Zhen Nanxue turned and looked outside the hall, and her expression darkened upon seeing something. "The God Clan has arrived."

Ye Guan also looked outside, and his expression remained calm.

Just then, an elder suddenly appeared before them. He bowed slightly toward Ye Guan before saying, "Young Master Ye, the Clan Leader has asked for your presence."

Ye Guan nodded slightly and stood up to leave. Zhen Nanxue followed closely behind him.

Under the elder's guidance, Ye Guan and Zhen Nanxue soon found themselves outside the Zhen boundary.

Zhen Tian was already there, along with the elders of the Zhen Clan.

Zhen Tian smiled upon seeing Ye Guan, and he turned to look at the distant horizon, where a myriad of powerful auras could be felt fast approaching.

The God Clan was coming.

After a while, a middle-aged man clad in a dark gold battle armor appeared. He was Shen Wu of the God Clan, and he was not alone. The God Clan's top cultivators were standing closely behind him.

Shen Xue had come as well; she wanted to witness the strength of Ye Guan's family; she wanted to know why Ye Guan was so confident against them.

Shen Wu's brows furrowed upon seeing Ye Guan standing next to Zhen Tian.

Zhen Tian smiled and said, "Shen Wu, it's been a long time."

Shen Wu nodded slightly. "You should know why we are here."

"Young Master Ye has become one of us... he's become a part of the Zhen Clan," Zhen Tian said.

He's become a member of the Zhen Clan? Shen Wu's brows furrowed even deeper.

Shen Xue was shocked by the revelation as well. She knew that the younger generation of the Zhen Clan had some business with Ye Guan, but she thought it was just an affair between juniors.

It turned out that she was mistaken, as Zhen Tian's words just now told everyone that the Zhen Clan was standing with Ye Guan.

How come the Zhen Clan had suddenly chosen to take a side?

Shen Xue's brows furrowed deeply, and a sense of unease rose in her heart.

Shen Wu stared deeply at Zhen Tian, saying, "He murdered our Grand Elder."

"So what? Is there a problem?" Zhen Tian replied calmly.

However, the atmosphere was nowhere near calm, as everyone instantly became wary.

This was the Zhen Clan's display of power!

Shen Wu and his entourage were both furious and surprised, as they hadn't expected the Zhen Clan would support Ye Guan. There was something fishy here.

Shen Wu glanced at Ye Guan and frowned. The Zhen Clan that he was familiar with was cautious and prudent, but they had actually decided to show unequivocal support for Ye Guan, which didn't make sense at all.

What's the reason behind the Zhen Clan's decision to support Ye Guan?

Shen Wu's heart was burning with rage, but he refrained from making a move. He merely nodded slightly and said, "Understood."

With that, Shen Wu turned around to leave with his entourage.

Naturally, he wouldn't make a move here—they were in the Zhen Clan's territory, and they were severely outnumbered. The priority was to leave as quickly as possible and regroup back at the God Clan to plan their next steps.

Just as they were about to depart, however, Zhen Tian suddenly said, "Wait."

Shen Wu turned to face Zhen Tian. "Is there something else, Clan Leader Zhen Tian?"

Zhen Tian nodded. "Shen Wu, let's not mince words. I'm going to kill you."

Everyone was stunned.

Before Shen Wu could respond, Zhen Tian waved his right hand and roared, "Kill!"

Boom!

A myriad of light columns erupted from the Zhen Clan, and they all made a beeline for Shen Wu and his entourage. The Zhen Clan had activated their formation!

"Everyone, retreat!" Shen Wu roared with a cold gaze. He stepped forward and waved his sleeve, unleashing a terrifying attack that surged out like a tidal wave to block the light columns.

Unfortunately, the Zhen Clan's attack didn't end there. Hundreds of top-tier supreme elites charged at them from all directions.

Shen Wu's pupils constricted at the sight. He opened his left hand and clenched it tightly.

Boom!

A terrifying force erupted from him, shattering every inch of spacetime around him. Almost at the same time, Shen Xue crushed a divine talisman, which transformed into a beam of divine light that shot up into the sky before disappearing into the void up above. Shen Xue had just crushed a life-saving talisman that the God Clan had given to her. Once crushed, the God Clan would immediately sense it. The God Clan and the Zhen Clan weren't that far from each other, so reinforcements would arrive in just ten minutes.

Ten minutes! Shen Xue's expression was solemn. She wasn't sure whether they could hold out for that long or not. After all, Zhen Tian himself was spearheading the attack.

Shen Wu's expression grew serious. He didn't expect that the Zhen Clan would be so ruthless. He dared not waste any time as he stepped forward and got ready to fight.

However, a terrifying aura locked onto him just then. The space around him distorted, and he was forcibly dragged into a mysterious independent space.

Zhen Tian stood not far away from him inside the independent space.

Zhen Tian had decided to whisk Shen Wu away to make sure that he wouldn't get to interfere in the skirmishes outside!

Shen Wu's face turned extremely grim. "Zhen Tian, do you really want to wage war on our clan?"

The God Clan would definitely wage war on the Zhen Clan if they ended up dying here.

"Would your God Clan spare Ye Guan?" Zhen Tian asked.

"We can talk about it," Shen Wu replied.

Zhen Tian calmly replied, "I don't believe you."

Shen Wu glared at Zhen Tian and asked, "Why are you even supporting him to this extent?"

"It's all because Young Master Ye is practically a member of our Zhen Clan," Zhen Tian said blandly.

Shen Wu's brows furrowed deeply, but then he realized something and froze. "A marriage alliance!"

Zhen Tian nodded. "You got it right."

With that, Zhen Tian no longer wasted any time and charged straight at Shen Wu.

Shen Wu's face darkened even further. He hadn't expected the Zhen Clan to form a marriage alliance with Ye Guan. He cursed the God Clan's intelligence network for failing so miserably. To think that even their intelligence network would fail to discover such a fact. Unbeknownst to Shen Wu, the so-called marriage alliance had just been decided by Zhen Tian, so no one knew that it was going to happen except for Zhen Tian himself.

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The God Clan had decided to send their top-tier supreme elites, as they were not willing to give Ye Guan any chance to live. However, they were inside the Zhen Clan's territory.

More importantly, the Zhen Clan was going all out. In addition to the formations, they had also deployed their top-tier supreme elites. Thus, the God Clan members were swiftly overwhelmed, and they fell one after another.

Shen Xue had decided not to fight, as she knew that it would be futile. She turned to Ye Guan in the distance and asked, "Young Master Ye, can we talk?"

Zhen Nanxue glanced at Shen Xue but remained silent. She was familiar with Shen Xue. The two of them were women from prominent clans, so their paths had crossed numerous times at this point.

Could it be that Shen Xue had some personal connection with Ye Guan?

Zhen Nanxue turned to look at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan looked at Shen Xue and smiled. "So, you brought all these people here just to talk to me, Miss Shen?"

Shen Xue sounded earnest as she urged, "Young Master Ye, is it really impossible for us to talk?"

"We could have talked last time," Ye Guan said, shaking his head. "But now... I don't see the need for a conversation."

Shen Xue stared quietly at Ye Guan as the God Clan cultivators around her were getting slaughtered one by one.

Escape was impossible!

They thought that they had brought enough people, but it turned out to be the opposite.

Shen Xue smiled bitterly, realizing that she could die here.

Rumble!

Just then, a spacetime rift manifested before her.

A terrifying energy burst out of the spacetime rift, sending the Zhen Clan cultivators flying.

Moments later, a black vortex appeared, engulfing Shen Xue and the surviving God Clan cultivators.

Ye Guan frowned at the sight.

A Zhen Clan elder standing next to Ye Guan revealed a solemn look as he said, "It's Shen Qi; the God Clan's Clan Leader has decided to intervene."

The Clan Leader of the God Clan!

Ye Guan looked up at the black vortex. A shadowy figure was manifesting inside the vortex, and it was emanating a might so overwhelming that the surroundings seemed to be boiling beneath its power.

"You..." Shen Qi looked down at Ye Guan. "My God Clan is determined to kill you, so even the First God will not be able to save you!"

## Chapter 684: Do You Know the Great Daoist Brush Master?

Ye Guan met Shen Qi's gaze without flinching and smiled. "You're welcome to do so anytime."

Shen Qi nodded slightly and said, "We will be watching."

With that, he turned and waved his sleeve.

Boom!

The independent space shattered, and the fight between Zhen Tian and Shen Wu abruptly came to a halt.

Shen Wu retreated to stand beside Shen Qi.

Shen Qi looked at Zhen Tian and declared, "My God Clan declares war on the Zhen Clan, and this war will not end until one side is annihilated."

Shen Qi, Shen Wu, and the supreme elites of the God Clan disappeared into the vortex.

A war of annihilation. The Zhen Clan cultivators were silent.

The three major powers had coexisted peacefully until today, and everyone still couldn't quite believe it

"Young Master Ye, please follow me!" Zhen Tian exclaimed and turned around to leave.

Ye Guan nodded slightly and followed closely behind him.

Everyone else followed suit.

A direct confrontation between two superpowers was no small matter.



In the council hall, Zhen Tian looked at Ye Guan and said, "Young Master Ye, you cannot leave the Zhen Clan's territory."

Ye Guan was about to speak, but Zhen Tian beat him to the chase, saying, "I know you have an unparalleled expert by your side, but I'm sure you know that even a top-tier supreme elite cannot fend off so many enemies by themselves. Once that fierce beast is restrained, you'll find yourself in danger."

Ye Guan nodded slightly and said, "I understand."

Ye Guan's swordsmanship could be considered a bit "divine," but he still couldn't contend with powerful opponents like Shen Qi and Shen Wu.

Zhen Tian added, "Our current priority is to stabilize the Ancient Wilderness."

Ye Guan shook his head with a smile, "I also have enmity with them."

Zhen Tian nodded. "I know, and I also know that you have enmity with the Northern Demon King."

"That's right."

Zhen Tian smiled and said, "However, the Ancient Wilderness has four demon kings."

Ye Guan was a bit astonished. "Are you saying that they're independent from each other?"

Zhen Tian nodded and explained, "Yes, those demon kings cannot represent the entire Ancient Wilderness, but it's a different story with the Demon God."

"Are you saying that we should make contact with the other demon kings, Senior?" Ye Guan asked.

Zhen Tian solemnly said, "The stance of the Ancient Wilderness is very important to us, especially since we've made an enemy out of the entire God Clan. If they were to support us, the God Clan would surely fall. If they ended up supporting the God Clan, we wouldn't be their match. Thus, we must secure the support of the Ancient Wilderness. At the very least, we need them to remain neutral."

Ye Guan said, "If I were the Demon God, I would choose to stand by and reap profits from both sides."

"Indeed, that's the best choice," Zhen Tian said, "But what if the God Clan approaches them with olive branches?"

Ye Guan fell silent.

Zhen Tian looked at Ye Guan and said, "Little friend, we need to visit the Ancient Wilderness and meet the Demon God."

"All right," Ye Guan said with a nod.

"We have to go there now," Zhen Tian said, "The three of us will go."

Ye Guan was a bit surprised. "Three?"

Zhen Tian smiled. "Nanxue will go with us."

Zhen Nanxue was astonished, and she cast a bewildered gaze at Zhen Tian.

Zhen Tian didn't explain and simply whisked the two away along with himself.

Soon, they found themselves standing in front of a teleportation array. The teleportation array whisked them away, sending them right in front of a vast mountain range.

Zhen Tian stared deeply at the seemingly endless mountain range and muttered, "The Ancient Wilderness Mountains..."

Ye Guan was curious, "Senior, are you familiar with the Demon God?"

"No," said Zhen Tian with a shake of his head.

Ye Guan was taken aback. "No?"

"Yes," Zhen Tian nodded once again, "but my ancestor is familiar with the Demon God."

Ye Guan's expression shifted. Just how old is this Demon God?

"The Demon Clan that I know will not get involved in this conflict, but I'm worried that the God Clan may entice them with rewards too tempting to refuse. And that is why we decided to come here and talk to them," Zhen Tian said. Then, he chuckled and added, "I must say, the Demon Clan must be enjoying this turn of events, as they have the right to demand the rewards they wish."

Ye Guan felt a bit guilty and said, "Senior, I implicated the Zhen Clan in—"

Zhen Tian shook his head, interrupting Ye Guan. "This is not your fault. It was our own decision to get involved."

Ye Guan fell silent. He knew that the Zhen Clan's actions weren't solely for the sake of the journal; there had to be something more to it. In addition, he had no familial ties with the Zhen Clan, so why would they help him out of sheer goodwill?

Swoosh!

Just then, a shadowy figure appeared in front of the three of them.

The shadowy figure stared at the three of them and asked, "Who are you people?"

Zhen Tian replied, "My name is Zhen Tian, and I'm the Clan Leader of the Zhen Clan. I've come here to seek an audience with the Demon God."

The Zhen Clan?! The shadowy figure solidified into an old man. The old man cupped his hands and said, "Clan Leader Zhen, the Demon God is not in this realm."

Zhen Tian's brows furrowed. "Not in this realm?"

The old man nodded. "Yes."

Zhen Tian solemnly asked, "Is it possible to contact the Demon God?"

"Unfortunately, only Lady Demon Moon can contact him."

Demon Moon... Zhen Tian asked, "Can you inform Lady Demon Moon of our presence?"

The old man hesitated briefly before nodding slightly and turning around to leave. If he weren't dealing with Zhen Tian, he wouldn't have agreed to pass on such a message. Lady Demon Moon was deputized by the Demon God to handle the affairs of the Ancient Wilderness in his absence. In other words, Lady Demon Moon had an extremely high status in the Demon Clan. Her status was so high that even the four demon kings would have to show her respect.

Zhen Tian suddenly asked, "Little friend, have you ever met the First God?"

Ye Guan nodded. "We met once."

Zhen Tian smiled and said, "Back then, his disciples and followers fought fiercely for his inheritance, even shattering the First God Universe. However, his inheritance actually ended up in your hands. I'm sure the pseudo-gods of the Temple of the Gods won't let you go so easily."

"I've fought them a few times, but they've been really quiet recently," Ye Guan remarked.

Zhen Tian shook his head and said, "It's not that they're quiet; they're waiting. Waiting for you to clash with the Ancient Wilderness and the God Clan."

"You're familiar with the Temple of the Gods, Senior?" Ye Guan asked.

"Of course. When The First God rose to power, the Daoist Temple that he had founded was incredibly strong, no less powerful than our major clans. Back then, the universe had four major superpowers. Unfortunately, when the First God fell, the universe he had established crumbled as well..." Zhen Tian shook his head and muttered, "It's like the saying—tea turns cold when people move away."

Ye Guan sighed inwardly. The First God had probably never even imagined that his death would make his followers betray him in a flash.

"Everyone wanted to become the next First God, declaring themselves gods. But none could match the First God, so they ended up fighting over his inheritance..." Zhen Tian trailed off. He then looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Has Xuanzong contacted you?"

Xuanzong...

Ye Guan shook his head. Mu Yuan had told him that Xuanzong was the most formidable god in the Temple of the Gods[1], second only to the First God.

"It's great that he hasn't contacted you yet. His strength is not to be underestimated," Zhen Tian said.

Ye Guan asked, "Senior, are you worried that the God Clan will contact the Temple of the Gods?"

"Yes," Zhen Tian said with a nod, "but they're definitely going to do that, so what's important here is the Temple of the Gods' decision."

Ye Guan glanced at Zhen Tian in astonishment. Zhen Tian was always looking at the bigger picture, and he had even taken into account his potential enemies.

What a judicious man!

Just then, the old man from earlier finally reappeared before the three of them.

"Please follow me," said the old man.

Zhen Tian nodded. "Lead the way, please."

Under the old man's lead, the three ventured deep into the Ancient Wilderness. After traversing countless mountains, they soon found themselves inside a dense forest.

The trees in the forest towered tens of thousands of meters high, blotting out the sky. The forest was dense, but the trees were arranged in a way that would allow ample sunlight to come through, making the forest appear bright rather than dim and gloomy.

Zhen Tian looked around with curious eyes.

Ye Guan noticed that and smiled. "Senior, is this your first time here?"

Zhen Tian nodded. "We have had little contact with the Ancient Wilderness, so I've never set foot here until now."

"Senior, how strong is the Demon God? Is he at ninety percent divinity?"

Zhen Tian shook his head. "I don't know."

"How powerful were your clan's ancestors?"

Zhen Tian spoke in a deep voice, "They almost reached ninety percent divinity."

"Almost ninety percent divinity?"

"Yes," Zhen Tian said, nodding. "Reaching ninety percent divinity is an incredibly difficult feat. From what I've heard, only the First God and a few extraordinary figures from the Primordial Spirit Land managed to reach that level of divinity."

"Senior, have you ever heard of the Past Clan's Clan Leader?"

Zhen Tian frowned slightly, "The Past Clan's Clan Leader?"

Ye Guan nodded, "Yes."

Zhen Tian shook his head and said, "I've never heard of them."

Ye Guan was puzzled. The Past Clan's Clan Leader was a peerless expert with ninety percent divinity, but to think that she was actually unknown to the world.

Just then, Zhen Nanxue standing nearby chimed in, "Young Master Ye, you're from the Time River, right? Is the so-called Clan Leader of the Past Clan from the Time River as well?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

Zhen Nanxue nodded slightly and said, "That makes sense. We don't know much about the forces within the Time River."

Zhen Tian glanced at Ye Guan and was about to ask something when the old man ahead of them stopped walking.

Ye Guan and the others looked ahead and saw a woman sitting by a divine tree and in front of a small pond.

The woman was wearing a light green dress, and her feet stirred the water gently.

Lady Demon Moon!

Ye Guan stared deeply at the woman. She appeared very much like a human, and she was an otherworldly beauty. There was no sign of her being a demonic beast, which puzzled Ye Guan.

Even the fierce Erya, who often interacted with humans, had features that spoke volumes about her true identity.

Zhen Tian said, "Greetings, Lady Demon Moon."

Lady Demon Moon glanced at Zhen Tian and smiled, "Clan Leader Zhen, you sure are playing a grand game... to think you'd use your entire clan to make such a great move. Impressive."

Lady Demon Moon's voice sounded light and clear—pure and pristine.

Zhen Tian smiled. "I assume Lady Demon Moon knows why I am here."

"I do." Lady Demon Moon nodded and looked at Ye Guan. "Do you know the Great Daoist Brush Master?"

Ye Guan was immediately stunned.

Chapter 685: Lady In A Plain Skirt

Noticing Ye Guan's change in expression, Lady Demon Moon smiled and said, "It seems that you do know him."

Ye Guan nodded and asked, "I do know him. How do you know the Great Daoist Brush Master?"



"I met him once many years ago."

Ye Guan nodded and went silent, but he was inwardly shocked. The Great Daoist Brush Master has really been to just about anywhere... to think he even has acquaintances here. Truly worthy of being the universe's greatest wanderer.

Great Daoist Brush Master. "???"

Lady Demon Moon added, "Are you his chosen one?"

Ye Guan looked at Lady Demon Moon and asked, "What did he say to you?"

Lady Demon Moon smiled. "He mentioned a few things."

Ye Guan was curious. "What did he say?"

Lady Demon Moon withdrew her gaze, looking at the pond in front of her, before turning to Zhen Tian and asking, "You came here because of your issue with the God Clan, right?"

Zhen Tian nodded. "Indeed."

Lady Demon Moon calmly said, "Rest assured, the Ancient Wilderness will not get involved."

Zhen Tian immediately felt relieved, and he was a bit curious as well. He had heard of the Great Daoist Brush Master, and the rumors said that he was the closest to the Great Dao, but Zhen Tian had never met him even once.

Just then, Lady Demon Moon asked, "Young Master Ye, can we talk privately?"

Ye Guan was a bit surprised.

Zhen Tian and Zhen Nanxue exchanged glances before retreating.

The old man behind Lady Demon Moon retreated as well, leaving behind only Lady Demon Moon and Ye Guan.

Lady Demon Moon turned to Ye Guan and asked, "Do you have First God's journal?"

Ye Guan nodded.

Lady Demon Moon smiled. "So both he and the Great Daoist Brush Master have chosen you. Do you have any idea why?"

Ye Guan calmly replied, "Maybe it's because my family is very powerful."

Ye Guan was aware of his own abilities and limits.

The Great Daoist Brush Master and the First God had chosen him not because of his exceptional talent but because of his powerful relatives.

If it hadn't been for his relatives, those two wouldn't even spare him a glance, regardless of his talent.

After all, they had seen far too many geniuses and prodigies in their lifetime.

Lady Demon Moon stared quietly at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled, "What else would you like to ask?"

Lady Demon Moon asked, "Have you read that journal?"

Ye Guan shook his head.

Lady Demon Moon asked, "How about your family members?"

Ye Guan stared at Lady Demon Moon and said, "They don't need to do so."

Lady Demon Moon was quiet, but she understood the unmistakable meaning behind his words.

The two stared at each other for quite a while.

Then, Lady Demon Moon smiled and said, "Young Master Ye, you're really confident. However, just because you were chosen by the Great Daoist Brush Master and the First God doesn't mean that you can be so confident..."

Ye Guan shook his head slightly and said, "It seems that you don't know much."

Lady Demon Moon smiled, "Are you trying to tell me that you actually have powerful backers?"

Ye Guan corrected, "Yeah, I have quite a few."

Little Pagoda was speechless.

Lady Demon Moon's smile vanished.

Ye Guan sounded earnest as he said, "I understand what you're trying to say, Lady Demon Moon. You're saying that I don't have the right to be so confident in front of you. You think I should be a bit more humble and that I should show you a bit more respect, but I believe respect is mutual. Respect me, and I will respect you. However, I'm not going to humble myself before you because... I don't need anything from you."

"A person who asks for nothing is equal to everyone," Ye Guan added.

Lady Demon Moon smiled, "You don't need anything from me? Why are you here, then?"

Ye Guan replied, "I came here hoping to coexist peacefully with the Ancient Wilderness. I do not wish to make enemies with you. However, if the Ancient Wilderness insists on being my enemy, then so be it."

"Hm?" Lady Demon Moon stared at Ye Guan, and a terrifying demonic beast aura erupted, pressing down on Ye Guan like ten thousand mountains.

Ye Guan felt suffocated.

Boom!

A terrifying sword intent erupted from within Ye Guan, countering the demonic besat aura.

"Hm?" Lady Demon Moon was surprised to see Ye Guan's sword intent resisting her aura. The next moment, she stood up, and an even more powerful demonic beast aura erupted from her, suppressing Ye Guan.

The surroundings remained calm and peaceful, but Ye Guan felt like his fleshly body was about to implode.

Ye Guan clenched his fists, and the two of his bloodlines awakened simultaneously. The power of his sword intent fused with the two bloodlines' power, and they worked together to resist Lady Demon Moon's demonic beast aura.

Despite that, Ye Guan's face still looked a shade paler.

Lady Demon Moon stared at Ye Guan and muttered, "Truly extraordinary..."

She suddenly flipped her right hand and pressed down toward Ye Guan.

Boom!

As Ye Guan's bloodline power and Sword Intent were suppressed, the terrifying force from Lady Demon Moon pressed him down, bending his back and even forcing his knees to buckle. Demon Moon's face was now devoid of any smile, intending to teach the young man a lesson about his place.

Ye Guan clenched his fists tightly, and his sword intent surged crazily under the enhancement of his two bloodlines.

However, Lady Demon Moon's aura was too overwhelming for him to resist. He still couldn't withstand it, even with the combined might of his two bloodlines and his Invincible Sword Intent. His knees bent slightly, bending lower and lower until they looked like they were about to give way.

At the critical juncture, Ye Guan roared. The Invincible Sword Intent before him transformed into a sword, launching an attack. Switching from defense to offense—the attack was so strong that it took a toll on Ye Guan, shattering his fleshly body.

However, his Invincible Sword Intent reached Lady Demon Moon.

Boom!

A burst of sword light forced Lady Demon Moon to retreat several hundred meters away, shattering every inch of spacetime in the way. The disturbance attracted numerous demonic beasts, whose terrifying auras soon flooded the area.

Lady Demon Moon waved her hand, and those auras receded like a tide.

Swoosh!

Zhen Tian and Zhen Nanxue appeared, and their expressions changed drastically upon seeing Ye Guan's condition.

Ye Guan's fleshly body had been destroyed, and he was left in his soul form, which was extremely fragile.

Zhen Nanxue cast a furious gaze at Lady Demon Moon. "Lady Demon Moon, is this how you treat your guests?"

Lady Demon Moon stared indifferently at Zhen Nanxue. "Do I need you to teach me how to act?"

Zhen Nanxue was about to retort when Zhen Tian raised his hand, stopping her.

He looked at Lady Demon Moon and asked, "Lady Demon Moon, what is the meaning of this?"

Lady Demon Moon calmly replied, "I wanted to teach Young Master Ye some manners."

Zhen Tian frowned.

Lady Demon Moon added, "Zhen Tian, are you going to attack me? You better think twice. Attacking me is like declaring war on the Ancient Wilderness."

Declaring war on the Ancient Wilderness... Zhen Tian's face darkened. If it weren't for the fact that they were at war against the God Clan, Zhen Tian wouldn't tolerate Lady Demon Moon's behavior. After all, they were not afraid of the Ancient Wilderness. Unfortunately, making enemies out of the Ancient Wilderness would mean fighting on two fronts, which would be disastrous for the Zhen Clan.

Suppressing his anger, Zhen Tian walked over to Ye Guan and said apologetically, "Young Master Ye, I had no idea that she would attack you."

"It's not your fault," Ye Guan said, shaking his head. He then looked at Lady Demon Moon, who was staring at him.

Zhen Tian grabbed Ye Guan's arm and shook his head slightly, transmitting his voice through profound energy, "Young Master Ye, a true man knows when to yield and when to stand firm. Let's leave this place for the sake of the bigger picture."

Ao Qianqian suddenly interjected, "Don't start a fight here. If you do, you'll implicate Zhen Tian and his daughter."

Ye Guan fell silent. He knew he had the power to fight, given that Ao Qianqian, Erya, and Little White were all with him. However, fighting here would endanger Zhen Tian and Zhen Nanxue, potentially putting them in a perilous situation, as this was the territory of the Demon Clan. With this in mind, Ye Guan turned to Zhen Tian and said, "Senior, let's leave."

Zhen Tian sighed in relief. He was also afraid that Ye Guan might start a fight here, which would make their situation extremely difficult. After all, there were only three of them in Lady Demon Moon's territory.

If a fight were to break out here, they wouldn't be able to escape.

Without further thought, Zhen Tian grabbed Ye Guan and said, "Let's go."

With that, he took Ye Guan and Zhen Nanxue and disappeared into the horizon.

Lady Demon Moon's eyes flickered with a whirlwind of complicated thoughts as she stared at the three disappearing into the horizon.

Just then, a middle-aged man—the Northern Demon King—walked out from the side.

The Northern Demon King asked in a deep voice, "Lady Demon Moon, why did you not detain them?"

Lady Demon Moon shook her head and said, "What do you think would the Zhen Clan do if we had killed them here? They would undoubtedly retaliate against the Ancient Wilderness. So why not let them go back and fight the God Clan? This way, our Ancient Wilderness will be able to profit a ton once both sides are thoroughly exhausted."

The Northern Demon King remained silent. He understood that Lady Demon Moon's plan was the most beneficial for the Ancient Wilderness, but he personally wished to eliminate Ye Guan and the others right there and then, as it was their best opportunity to do so.

Lady Demon Moon turned to look at the silent Northern Demon King, who quickly collected his thoughts and said, "Lady Demon Moon, your strategy is impeccable. I am impressed."

Lady Demon Moon chuckled and remarked, "Northern Demon King, spare me the flattery. Now, go and keep an eye on the Zhen Clan and the God Clan."

The Northern Demon King nodded slightly and turned around to leave.

Lady Demon Moon looked at the distant horizon and sneered, "Quite a few powerful backers? Ridiculous..."

She was about to turn around and leave when she heard footsteps behind her. Frowning, she turned to see a lady in a plain skirt walking toward her.

Chapter 686: Kneel Down

As she watched the Plain Skirt Lady approach, Demon Moon's eyebrows furrowed in confusion. How did she enter?

It was puzzling but Demon Moon did not feel afraid, as this was the Ancient Wilderness, her territory.

Demon Moon fixed her gaze on the Plain Skirt Lady and asked, "Who are you?"

The Plain Skirt Lady slowly walked towards Demon Moon and said, "One of the backers the young man mentioned earlier."

Demon Moon was slightly taken aback and then laughed, "So, you're here to stand up for that young man."



The Plain Skirt Lady's right hand suddenly lifted, and with a gentle press, she softly commanded, "Kneel."

Bang!

In an instant, before Demon Moon could react, her legs gave way, and she knelt on the ground. At that moment, Demon Moon felt as if she had been struck by lightning and her mind went blank.

"How is this possible?" Demon Moon looked at the Plain Skirt Lady before her in disbelief. She was utterly stunned.

The Plain Skirt Lady looked down at the kneeling Demon Moon, her expression indifferent, as if she were observing an ant. "Does he need to bow and beg before you? Do you have the qualifications to make him kneel?"

Demon Moon's face turned ashen, and a wave of fear surged through her heart. At that moment, she finally realized that the young man's real backers were not the Great Daoist Brush Master and First God. She was the real clown here!

Demon Moon's eyes slowly closed. In that moment, all her confidence and belief crumbled. She was, after all, a seventy percent peak divinity elite, yet in front of this woman, she couldn't even muster any resistance!

The woman before her must be at least at eighty percent peak divinity! But what puzzled her was why she had never heard of this person before.

Demon Moon slowly raised her head to look at the Plain Skirt Lady, trying to suppress the fear in her heart, "The Ancient Wilderness wishes to negotiate with you."

Although her strength was far inferior to that of the woman in front of her, she still had some confidence because the Ancient Wilderness was behind her.

However, the Plain Skirt Lady responded directly, "He will talk with you. I won't."

With that, she waved her sleeve dismissively.

Demon Moon instantly got destroyed. Without a single sound.

Even the people from Demon Clan did not realize that their Lady Demon Moon was no longer around.

Plain Skirt Lady turned and left as if nothing happened.

Demon Moon. "..."

...

First God Universe, Temple of Gods.

One day, a middle-aged man and a woman arrived at the Temple of Gods. These visitors were Shen Wu and Shen Xue. Their purpose was to recruit the Temple of Gods as an ally.

If Ye Guan were alone, they wouldn't need to form alliances, but the issue was that the Zhen Clan had openly sided with Ye Guan. Therefore, they had to find more allies. Since the Temple of Gods held a grudge against Ye Guan, they were the ideal candidate for an alliance.

As the two approached the Temple of Gods, Shen Wu's eyes revealed a hint of complexity. "First God..." he murmured.

The Temple of Gods before them had been created by First God, who was the ancestor of the God Clan and the strongest one in their history, surpassing even the founding ancestor. Unfortunately, this extraordinarily talented individual had a falling out with the family and left in anger.

If the First God had never left the God Clan, they would have long surpassed the Primordial Spirit Land to become the most powerful force in the universe.

Shen Xue suddenly asked, "After First God left the God Clan, did he ever return?"

Shen Wu nodded, "He did."

Shen Xue looked at Shen Wu, who continued softly, "The time he returned, it was only to take certain things. During that visit, the strongest family head at the time couldn't even match up in a fight against him. Furthermore, he warned the God Clan that as long as he was alive, if any God Clan member dared to step into First God's universe, he would kill them one by one."

Shen Xue fell silent. It was undeniably ironic. First God had been driven away by the God Clan, yet now the God Clan was seeking to collaborate with the group founded by the First God. But there was no other choice, the matter concerned the rise and fall of the God Clan.

Soon, the two entered the grand hall. It was empty, and the elderly attendant quietly withdrew.

After a long while, a middle-aged man emerged from within the hall.

Shen Wu looked at the approaching man, who smiled faintly, "My name is Yuanshi."

Shen Wu nodded, "So you are God Yuanshi."

Yuanshi seemed very pleased with Shen Wu's address, his smile radiant. "Have you come here for the matter concerning Ye Guan?"

Shen Wu nodded, "Exactly."

Yuanshi nodded slightly, "To be honest, our Divine Lord has ordered us not to target Ye Guan."

Shen Wu was puzzled, "Why?"

Yuanshi shook his head, "I don't know."

Shen Wu's expression darkened. At that moment, Yuanshi continued, "However, although we cannot represent the Temple of Gods in targeting Ye Guan, we can do so personally."

Shen Wu was somewhat surprised, but he quickly understood. The individuals gathered within the Temple of Gods still considered themselves deities of the temple, but they could leave at any time. Essentially, after First God's departure, the Temple of Gods had become fragmented, with everyone acting independently. Although they were nominally still part of the Temple of Gods, the temple's Divine Lord no longer had any real control over them.

Realizing this, Shen Wu's face showed a hint of a smile.

Yuanshi went on, "We've investigated. Ye Guan comes from the Time River and is closely associated with the legendary Great Daoist Brush Master and the True God."

Shen Wu frowned, "The True God from the True Universe?"

Yuanshi nodded, "Yes."

Shen Wu fell silent, somewhat surprised. He had heard of the Great Daoist Brush Master, reputed to be the closest to the Great Dao, but he knew little about the True God.

Yuanshi added, "Besides, Ye Guan has a protector."

Shen Wu looked at Yuanshi, "A protector?"

Yuanshi nodded, "A lady in a plain skirt. Her strength is unknown, but she should be at least at the seventy percent divinity."

Seventy percent divinity! Shen Wu nodded slightly, finding this still acceptable.

Yuanshi continued, "As for whether the teacher left him any other means, I don't know."

This "teacher" naturally referred to First God.

Shen Wu said, "If we join forces, the biggest problem is not the Great Daoist Brush Master, nor First God, nor the protector in the plain skirt. It's the Zhen Clan. As long as we deal with the people from the Zhen Clan, killing Ye Guan will be a matter of moments."

Yuanshi shook his head, "I advise you not to underestimate him. He has developed rapidly in a short period, which is no small feat."

Shen Wu nodded, "I understand. That's why we must not give him time to continue developing."

Yuanshi nodded slightly, then said, "How about this. You deal with the Zhen Clan, and our Temple of Gods will take care of killing Ye Guan and his backers. After the deed is done, we'll share the journal."

Shen Wu smiled, "Isn't that a bit unfair?"

Yuanshi replied, "How about this then. We deal with the Zhen Clan, and you handle Ye Guan and his backers."

Shen Wu paused, sensing something off. Shen Xue glanced at Yuanshi but remained silent.

Yuanshi fixed his gaze on Shen Wu, "Well?"

Shen Wu was silent. Could Ye Guan's backers be even harder to deal with than the Zhen Clan? How could that be possible?

Shen Xue suddenly said, "Yuanshi, how about this? We don't need to divide the opponents. When we move to kill Ye Guan, both the Zhen Clan and his backers will surely intervene. At that point, we can face them together."

Yuanshi glanced at Shen Xue, then smiled, "You, young lady, are quite clever."

Shen Xue smiled slightly without speaking.

Yuanshi suddenly asked, "What is the stance of the Ancient Wilderness?"

Shen Wu replied solemnly, "The attitude of the Ancient Wilderness is ambiguous. We suspect they want to sit back and watch us fight, then swoop in to reap the benefits."

Yuanshi nodded slightly, "That makes sense."

Shen Wu said, "Yes, if it were my God Clan we would do the same."

Yuanshi looked at Shen Wu, "Then why does your God Clan insist on a death match with the Zhen Clan? Even if you win, the Ancient Wilderness will end up benefiting."

Shen Wu remained silent.

Yuanshi smiled, "The journal."

Shen Wu nodded. The God Clan was determined to obtain First God's journal, so even if there was a trap, they had to step into it.

Yuanshi suddenly said, "No, your God Clan must have another plan."

He knew very well that a large family like the God Clan wouldn't make such foolish decisions. They wouldn't fight just to benefit others.

Shen Wu replied earnestly, "Yuanshi, my family's intentions are clear. Kill Ye Guan, and we will share the journal."

Yuanshi fell silent.

Yuanshi continued, "The grievances between the Temple of Gods and Ye Guan run deeper than ours. Forgive me for being blunt, but if we allow Ye Guan to continue developing, once he reaches the Divine Dao Realm, it will cost us even more dearly to kill him."

Yuanshi remained silent for a long time before speaking, "What is your plan?"

Shen Wu asked, "How many powerful figures can the Temple of Gods muster?"

Yuanshi replied, "Including myself, we have five at seventy percent divinity."

Five at seventy percent divinity! That lineup was indeed formidable.

Shen Wu asked seriously, "Can you bring in more?"

Yuanshi shook his head, "The five of us were originally developing in the Time River, but Ye Guan and his family forces destroyed our temple and seized our territory. This created an irreconcilable conflict between us. However, the other gods within the Temple of Gods have no such grievances with him, so they are unwilling to get involved in this mess."

Shen Wu suddenly asked, "What about your Divine Lord?"

Yuanshi smiled, "She is even less likely to participate. She has always opposed our actions against Ye Guan because he is the inheritor of our teacher's legacy."

Shen Wu fell silent.

Yuanshi chuckled, then said, "We do have some subordinates, but I believe that apart from those at fifty percent divinity or higher, bringing others into this fight is meaningless, don't you agree?"

Shen Wu nodded, "Five will do. Combined with my God Clan, it will be enough."

At this moment, Shen Xue suddenly asked, "What kind of person is Ye Guan's protector?"

Yuanshi looked at Shen Xue and she added, "Just curious."

After a moment of silence, Yuanshi said, "We investigated her. It's said she never needs a second strike to kill."

Shen Xue was stunned.

Yuanshi smiled again. "Of course this must be slightly exaggerated. Moreover, it is comparing against Guanxuan Universe and True Universe's martial prowess. If I were there, I would not need more than a single strike as well."

Chapter 687: Chu Palace

No more than one strike is needed.

Shen Xue frowned. If the lady in the plain skirt came from a lower martial civilization, how could she reach the Divine Dao Realm? Her intuition told her that Ye Guan's protector was definitely extraordinary. However, she was only speculating at this point and couldn't voice her suspicions.

Yuanshi said, "I will continue to look for other gods to see if they are willing to participate. After all, it's our teacher's journal we're talking about. I think many gods won't refuse."

Shen Wu nodded, "That would be excellent."

For them, the more people they had, the better.

Yuanshi suddenly asked, "What is the attitude of the Primordial Spirit Land?"

The Primordial Spirit Land. Shen Wu was slightly taken aback before shaking his head, "I don't know."



The Primordial Spirit Land was a truly transcendent power. The world knew very little about the people from this place, including the God Clan. Shen Wu only knew that even the renowned First God had not been well-received when he went there.

He was genuinely not welcomed! It's worth noting that the First God was already the most outstanding figure of the Old Era at that time, yet even so, he didn't gain the favor of the Primordial Spirit Land. This showed just how proud and aloof that place was.

Furthermore, the people from this place seldom interacted with the outside world, making it quite mysterious to outsiders.

Yuanshi frowned, "Are they interested in the First God's journal...?"

Shen Wu immediately shook his head, "I don't think so. The people from that place are extremely proud and powerful. I believe they wouldn't covet First God's journal because it would be beneath them. Such a force is very concerned about their reputation."

Yuanshi remained silent, feeling somewhat displeased.

Although they had betrayed First God, they still held a deep respect for him. In fact, they didn't have a good impression of the God Clan either, considering that First God was driven out by them. But for the sake of their interests, Yuanshi could only set aside his displeasure for now. After all, their teacher had already fallen.

Suddenly, Shen Xue asked, "Why does the Zhen Clan stand firmly by Ye Guan's side?"

This wasn't normal at all.

At this moment, Yuanshi suddenly suggested, "Could it be that Ye Guan traded that journal..."

Shen Wu said in a deep voice, "That's possible. After all, the only thing that could tempt the Zhen Clan would be that journal."

Yuanshi nodded slightly, finding this explanation reasonable. Shen Xue, however, remained silent. Her intuition told her that things weren't that simple.

Yuanshi noticed Shen Xue's furrowed brow and smiled slightly, "Being cautious is good, but being overly cautious can be detrimental. We all know Ye Guan isn't simple, and neither are the forces behind him. But at this point, we have no other choice. We can only confront him. When the time comes, we'll see who's strong and who's weak."

Shen Xue nodded slightly, "Thank you for the advice, senior."

Indeed, at this point, overthinking was meaningless. They had to confront him.

Yuanshi looked at Shen Wu, "When do we make our move?"

Shen Wu replied in a deep voice, "We need to wait a bit longer."

"Hmm?" Yuanshi frowned.

Shen Wu explained, "We still need to visit two more places."

Yuanshi was curious, "Where?"

Shen Wu answered, "The Black Death Realm and the Chu Palace."

Yuanshi fell silent. He knew these two places well, as they were once very famous.

Soon, Shen Wu and Shen Xue left.

...

Not long after, Shen Wu and Shen Xue arrived at the Black Death Realm. Shen Wu looked at the ruins in the distance and asked, "Ye Guan came out of there?"

Shen Xue nodded, "Yes."

Shen Wu frowned deeply. Even he wouldn't easily enter the Black Death Realm. This place belonged to the Black Death Sovereign.

Today, they came to recruit the Black Death Sovereign, and Shen Wu was confident because he knew the Black Death Sovereign couldn't refuse the journal.

Shen Wu and Shen Xue entered the Black Death Realm. As soon as they stepped inside, a mysterious aura locked onto them.

Shen Wu cupped his fists slightly, "I am Shen Wu, representing the God Clan. I request an audience with the Sovereign."

As soon as he spoke, a woman in a black robe appeared before them. Shen Wu's expression turned serious. The woman in front of them was none other than the Black Death Sovereign, Ruo Ming.

Ruo Ming looked at Shen Wu expressionlessly, "What is it?"

Shen Wu said, "We want to invite you to join us in killing Ye Guan."

"Killing Ye Guan!"

Ruo Ming was slightly taken aback. That was her newly recognized brother. She blinked, "What do you mean?"

Shen Wu said in a deep voice, "This person possesses the First God's journal, which contains the method to break through after the eighty percent divinity. If you help us kill Ye Guan, the God Clan is willing to share it with you."

"Share the journal!"

Ruo Ming looked at Shen Wu without speaking, but in her heart, she already harbored killing intent. After all, when she had asked for that journal, Ye Guan had handed it over without hesitation.

Ruo Ming didn't make a move but instead asked, "Share the journal?"

Shen Wu nodded, "Yes, as long as you are willing to assist, the God Clan will share the journal with you once the deed is done."

Ruo Ming sneered inwardly but kept her expression neutral, "Really?"

Seeing Ruo Ming's interest, Shen Wu hurriedly said, "Of course, the God Clan is willing to swear an oath."

Ruo Ming nodded slightly, "I agree."

Shen Wu was momentarily stunned but then felt elated, "Really?"

Ruo Ming replied calmly, "What, do you think I would lie?"

Shen Wu quickly said, "Of course not..."

Ruo Ming nodded slightly, "Notify me when you plan to act. I will assist then."

Shen Wu nodded, "Alright."

Without further words, Ruo Ming turned and vanished from sight.

Shen Wu was overjoyed. With her joining them, their chances of success would greatly increase. After all, she was at the peak of eighty percent divinity. Having such a strong ally would be a significant advantage for their side.

After leaving the Black Death Realm, Shen Xue suddenly said, "She agreed too readily."

Shen Wu looked at Shen Xue, "Do you think something is off?"

Shen Xue nodded, "Yes."

Shen Wu frowned, "Shen Xue, you are usually very astute, but sometimes overly cautious. The reason the Black Death Sovereign agreed so quickly is obviously because of that journal. Besides, she has no reason to deceive us, does she?"

Shen Xue remained silent. She felt something was off but couldn't pinpoint what exactly.

Shen Wu continued, "Don't overthink it. The Black Death Sovereign is a well-known figure. She has no reason to lie. Even if she doesn't assist the God Clan, it's unlikely she would help Ye Guan, right?"

Shen Xue nodded slightly, saying nothing more.

Shen Wu said, "Let's head to the Chu Palace."

Shen Xue was curious, "The Chu Palace?"

Shen Wu replied softly, "A place completely forgotten by the world."

About an hour later, the two arrived at a vast mountain range. As soon as they stepped into this range, Shen Xue frowned because the entire area was filled with a corrosive stench.

Shen Xue, curious, asked, "What is this Chu Palace?"

Shen Wu replied, "A very, very ancient power, predating even our God Clan. Back then, the Chu Palace was incredibly formidable, rivaling the Primordial Spirit Land. However, over time, the Chu Palace gradually declined and was eventually destroyed by the Primordial Spirit Land."

Shen Xue said in a deep voice, "For such a powerful force to fall..."

Shen Wu nodded, "The quickest way for a force to decline is through internal strife..."

He stopped there, but Shen Xue understood.

Internal strife? The God Clan had experienced that too. If the First God had insisted on fighting the God Clan to the end, even if the family hadn't been destroyed, it would have certainly fallen to the status of a third-rate power. First God's strength back then...even if the God Clan had called upon their ancestors, they couldn't have defeated him.

Sensing her thoughts, Shen Wu nodded slightly, "Since that incident, our family has been especially cautious and diligent in nurturing talents, fearing a repeat of such events..."

He sighed, eyes filled with regret. Although First God had left the God Clan, the family's descendants still greatly respected this ancestor. If First God had stayed, the God Clan would have surely surpassed the Primordial Spirit Land, and they wouldn't now be seeking his journal.

Shen Wu shook his head slightly, then looked into the distance, "We are almost there."

Shen Xue suddenly asked, "Since they were destroyed by the Primordial Spirit Land, would the Primordial Spirit Land allow them to continue existing?"

Shen Wu said softly, "To the Primordial Spirit Land, they no longer pose a threat."

Shen Xue remained silent.

Soon, they arrived in front of an ancient desolate city. The entire city was extremely barren, like a ghost town, eerily desolate.

Shen Wu led Shen Xue into the city. Shen Xue glanced around. The houses were empty with no sign of life. She turned to look at Shen Wu, who said nothing and continued walking, prompting her to follow quickly.

After an indeterminate amount of time, an old woman suddenly appeared not far in front of them. The woman wore a wide, tattered robe, holding a black cane, her hair white with age, and her face covered in wrinkles.

Shen Wu slightly bowed, "Madam Chu."

The old woman stared at Shen Wu without saying a word.

Shen Wu got straight to the point, "We are here to seek Chu Palace's assistance in killing a young man."

Madam Chu's expression remained unchanged, "Your God Clan needs help to kill a young man?"

Shen Wu nodded, "This person has the support of the Zhen clan, and the forces behind him are not simple."

Madam Chu immediately said, "Not interested."

With that, she turned to leave.

At that moment, Shen Wu suddenly said, "That young man is the inheritor of the First God and possesses the First God's journal."

Upon hearing this, the old woman immediately stopped.

Chapter 688: Demonic Nature

The journal of the First God!

The elderly lady turned to fix her gaze upon Shen Wu. "You're Shen Wu, the one who left the God Clan?"

Shen Wu nodded in confirmation and a silent pause lingered between them.

Finally, the elderly lady spoke, "When do we strike?"

A faint smile graced Shen Wu's lips. "Madam Chu, wait for my signal."

"Very well."

Without further words, Shen Wu departed, accompanied by Shen Xue.

Shortly after their departure, a young man in white robes appeared beside Madam Chu. Casting a curious glance at Shen Wu and Shen Xue as they left in the distance, he inquired, "Grandmother, is the First God's journal truly invaluable?"

Madam Chu nodded knowingly. "Within those pages lie the secrets of transcending ninety percent divinity. But that's not all; it contains the methods of cultivation for each realm..."

Her eyes betrayed a hint of complexity as she continued, "In his time, the First God was hailed as the pinnacle of the Divine Dao Realm. His methods of divine cultivation differed from ours and those of the Primordial Spirit Land; they were a path unto themselves."

The young man in white robes furrowed his brow in concern. "The God Clan is formidable, yet they seek allies outside to eliminate this young man. He must be extraordinary."

Madam Chu nodded thoughtfully, a glimmer of approval in her eyes. "Not bad, you inferred that."

"Grandmother, then..."



"We will observe, but intervention may not be necessary, understood?"

"So, we'll assess the situation first. If the young man proves formidable and the God Clan stands no chance, we'll refrain from action. But if victory seems possible for the God Clan, we'll intervene, adding to their success?"

"Precisely."

The young man hesitated, contemplating his words.

Madam Chu said, "Do not concern yourself with matters of pride. Our Chu Palace has thrived for years under the watchful eye of the Primordial Spirit Land, not through pride, but through adaptability, humility, and strategic retreats. Understand?"

The young man fell silent, absorbing her words.

"Pride will come naturally when strength is attained."

"Understood."

Madam Chu cast her gaze skyward, a flicker of defiance in her eyes.

Once equals with the Primordial Spirit Land, Chu Palace now merely survived here, forced to play a subordinate role. Hence, she couldn't afford to let slip any opportunity for the Chu Palace's resurgence.

Seizing The First God's journal presented just such an opportunity for Chu Palace.

...

Upon returning to the Zhen Clan with Zhen Tian, Ye Guan retreated to the tiny pagoda. Within the hour, his fleshy body had fully recovered.

Ye Guan closed his eyes in contemplation.

Even though his Sword Dao had divinity, facing a Divine Dao Realm opponent with seventy percent divinity proved futile. Not even his bloodline could bridge the gap.

I am not strong enough. Shaking his head to clear away the frustration, Ye Guan tried to keep a cool headed mind. There was no point in dwelling on inadequacies.

With that realization, Ye Guan's mind gradually settled. Anger and frustration wouldn't empower him, acknowledging reality would.

"Master Pagoda, lend me your aid," he murmured. He wanted to study the special spacetime Plain Skirt Aunt left behind and use it to forge a unique sword technique.

Thankfully, the spacetime realm welcomed his exploration. Facilitated by Master Pagoda, his research efforts went well and soon, Ye Guan found himself seamlessly merging with the peculiar spacetime.

This spacetime realm offered a unique experience and Ye Guan could sense that the biggest contrast between this spacetime and the outside world was the difference in the speed of time passing.

An idea sprang to mind: What if my sword can integrate with this spacetime

Without hesitation, he tried to blend the two. However, his expression swiftly darkened as his body turned ethereal. His heart jumped and he quickly stopped the attempt.

"The gap between your strength and this spacetime is too big," Master Pagoda admitted.

Ye Guan fell silent, his expression betraying his disappointment. Indeed, the spacetime realm's power exceeded his current capabilities. Had its intentions been hostile, his actions just now might have proved fatal. If I accidentally killed myself, what would Plain Skirt Aunt and Father think...

"You may need to increase your strength before attempting to master this spacetime realm," Master Pagoda advised.

"No need."

"What do you mean?"

"While I may not be able to merge with it, I can absorb its unique spacetime energy," Ye Guan explained. Just now, he had carefully sensed the spacetime energy here.

Ye Guan sat down and healed himself and after that, he absorbed the realm's spacetime energy. But the moment the energy entered his body, a furrow formed on his brow. His body struggled to contain the influx of power. Left with no choice, he channeled the remaining spacetime energy into Invincible Sword Intent.

Success! Joy lit up Ye Guan's face, but it soon gave way to concern as his Invincible Sword Intent began to waver under the strain.

Ye Guan was somewhat shocked because he found that this special spacetime energy was so terrifying that even his Invincible Sword Intent couldn't bear too much. But after the shock, Ye Guan was ecstatic because he realized that the spacetime here was a huge treasure trove for him, endless and inexhaustible.

Ye Guan made an effort to calm his emotions. Though this spacetime realm held immense potential, his current strength couldn't handle too much. The special spacetime energy was overwhelming, perhaps only the Qingxuan Sword and the Path Sword could withstand its force.

After a brief moment, Ye Guan began to slowly absorb the spacetime energy. When the Sword Intent in his hand reached its limit, he abruptly ceased. Eyeing the sword in his hand cautiously, he wondered what its potential was.

Ye Guan left the tiny pagoda and arrived in the starry skies. With a tentative swing of his sword, nothing happened. He stood there, perplexed. Nothing happened whatsoever? Ye Guan's expression twisted with confusion as he scrutinized his sword and the silent surroundings.

His expression darkened. How could this be? Just as he prepared to try again –

Shwing!

The entire spacetime area around him was obliterated and he was left in a void.

"Spacetime suppression, a temporal delay," Little Pagoda explained.

Ye Guan's voice was heavy. "Are you saying... my strike is delayed due to the difference in temporal flow between the spacetime realm and the outside world?"

"Yes, precisely," Master Pagoda affirmed.

Ye Guan fell silent. Delayed strikes? How can I use this in combat? But then again, perhaps I can use this to catch opponents off guard.

Unlike his previous techniques, this strike's delayed effect left even him unaware of its timing, it was completely unpredictable.

Furthermore, its power was devastating. The entire spacetime around him was destroyed. It was powerful yet mysterious and it left no traces of its existence.

Grinning at the revelation, Ye Guan's excitement grew.

Little Pagoda's voice cut through his happiness, "This isn't innovation, it's transposition."

Ye Guan chuckled. Indeed, it was. He was moving the spacetime energy from within the tiny pagoda to the outside world. "Master Pagoda, progress must be gradual. I can't master this spacetime energy yet. I'll take it step by step."

"Indeed," the Little Pagoda agreed.

In the days that followed, Ye Guan continued his training. He sought to understand the extent of the temporal delay and master the timing to avoid awkward situations—like his death preceding his sword's strike or losing the element of surprise by striking too early. If he could manage it, the potential was boundless, and Ye Guan couldn't contain his excitement.

With each practice session, he delved deeper into the spacetime realm's intricacies. Moreover, he began to explore additional techniques like striking a second time with a another sword and then a third...

His sword intent could store the spacetime energy and he could store it beforehand. After all, there was no limit to how much sword intent he could muster and he could store plenty before hand.

A peculiar sight emerged during Ye Guan's practice sessions within this starry skies —a sword would occasionally fly out without any apparent action from him.

A new sword technique.

A new approach to combat.

Suddenly, Master Pagoda's voice broke the silence, "Your fighting style..."

He sighed softly, a hint of complexity in his voice "I can't help but feel... your path in Sword Dao is veering towards the sinister. It is not divinity nor mortality... more like demonic."

...

Chapter 689: Fear Not, Young Master Ye

Ye Guan found himself deeply intrigued by this new approach to battles. Driven by his curiosity, he practiced continuously and gradually refined the technique.

Each swing of the blade was unpredictable and even Ye Guan himself couldn't anticipate the timing of the next strike. He relied solely on the rhythm of his own attack to gauge its arrival. Simply put, if he was not the one to wield the sword, he would have no idea when it appeared.

The spacetime energy was mysterious and it completely suppressed spacetime at present. Nothing prevented this unique spacetime from striking. Furthermore, the potency of the strike was astounding.

Yet, Ye Guan could not fully harness the spacetime energy. Its boundless potential was out of his reach.

This day, Ye Guan abruptly ceased his practice. He left the tiny pagoda and met Zhen Tian outside.

Ever since Ye Guan's fleshy body was shattered in the Ancient Wilderness, Ye Guan had secluded himself and Zhen Tian was worried that Ye Guan's mental state would be affected.

"Senior," Ye Guan greeted with a smile. The jovial nature of Ye Guan dispelled Zhen Tian's concerns. Evidently, Ye Guan was fine.

"We've received word that the God Clan has met with the Temple of the Gods," Zhen Tian revealed with a grave tone.

"It seems the Temple of the Gods has sided with them."

Zhen Tian affirmed with a nod. After a while, Ye Guan took out an ancient scroll. "This is a copy of the journal from the First God. Senior, this is a matter between them and me. The Zhen Clan need not be involved. Whether it's the God Clan, the Ancient Wilderness, or the Temple of the Gods, I'll confront them alone."

With that declaration, Ye Guan left the ancient scroll behind, transforming into a streak of sword light that vanished into the depths of the starry skies. He did not want to drag the Zhen Clan into his troubles. After all, if a great battle broke out, the Zhen Clan would be implicated badly.

As Zhen Tian watched Ye Guan's departure, he grappled with a mix of emotions. Though taken aback by Ye Guan's sudden gesture, he ultimately understood Ye Guan's intentions. There was a lot of pressure on Zhen Tian because the Zhen Clan wasn't doing well. While Zhen Tian had confidence, his own clan members did not.

With the God Clan initiating a full-scale conflict and tensions escalating with the Ancient Wilderness, the Temple of the God's involvement only added fuel to the fire. Hence, a lot of his clan members' resolves were wavering.

All these factors were plunging the Zhen Clan into an increasingly dire situation. A full-blown war spelt death.

Zhen Tian gazed at the ancient scroll before him and fell silent for a moment. Then, abruptly, he spoke, "Elder."

With his words, an old man materialized by his side.

Zhen Tian's expression remained stoic. "Summon the elders."

The old man appeared taken aback but Zhen Tian commanded, "Go and fetch them."

He was ready to take a risk. His gamble was that the influence backing Ye Guan surpassed that of the three clans, possibly even rivaling the Primordial Spirit Land... Although he found it somewhat improbable, he was willing to take the chance.

What if I am right?

The Zhen Clan would ascend to a superpower, securing its positioning. Yet, he couldn't shake off a hint of unease, for if he lost the gamble, then the Zhen Clan... Zhen Tian slowly shut his eyes, "Someone who disregards even the journal of the First God... I refuse to believe the forces behind you are ordinary... Ninety percent divinity, Young Master Ye, there must be a ninety percent divinity elite behind you, am I right?"

As long as there was an elite with ninety percent divinity behind Ye Guan, the Zhen Clan would win the bet.

Regardless of the might of the God Clan or the Ancient Wilderness, as long as there's one ninety percent divinity elite behind Ye Guan, they could be brought down. Eighty percent divinity versus ninety percent divinity, there's simply no comparison!

Zhen Tian's hunch was that even if the forces behind Ye Guan weren't as formidable as the Primordial Spirit Land, there had to be at least a ninety percent divinity elite. Thus, he decided to take the risk.

...

After Ye Guan departed from the Zhen Clan, he returned to the First God Universe and contacted Mu Yuan.

Amidst a vast mountain range, Ye Guan stood before a serene pool. An old man, Mu Yuan, stood before him. Behind Mu Yuan stood sixty-two individuals. These individuals were all former God Generals of the Divine Temple.

A glance from Ye Guan revealed that some of these God Generals had reached the Divine Dao realm. At this moment, all eyes were fixed on Ye Guan for he was the inheritor of the First God.

Mu Yuan stated, "Young Master Ye, they're all willing to follow you."

Ye Guan cast a brief glance at the God Generals, then opened his palm, conjuring a hundred Ancestral Origins before them. Witnessing this, the God Generals erupted in joy and they promptly paid their respects to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan nodded subtly. He understood that now was not the time for discussing faith or painting grand visions. After all, he wasn't the First God, and these individuals didn't hold such reverence and faith towards him.

Practicality was key at this juncture and evidently, his intuition was correct. Aside from the two Divine Dao Realm God Generals, the others were genuinely pleased.



Since departing from the Temple of the Gods, they had lived as rouge cultivators, a lifestyle fraught with hardship.

Ye Guan didn't linger in conversation with them, instead he ushered all of them into the tiny pagoda. As they entered, the demeanor of all the God Generals turned grave, including the two God Generals in the Divine Dao realm.

At that moment, they realized that Ye Guan was unfathomable, and any trace of disdain vanished from their hearts.

Outside, Mu Yuan remarked, "With adequate resources, they won't find it difficult to reach the Divine Dao realm in the future."

"Stick with me, and resources won't be a problem."

"That's for sure."

Having accompanied Ye Guan for so long, he understood well that money was the least of Ye Guan's concerns.

Suddenly, Mu Yuan seemed to recall something. "Young Master Ye, about this God Clan..." Ye Guan smiled knowingly. "You know of it?"

"The God Clan, along with the Ancient Wilderness, and even the Temple of the Gods..."

"I'll handle it."

Mu Yuan glanced at Ye Guan, about to speak, but before he could, the space before Ye Guan rippled slightly.

Mu Yuan's demeanor shifted and he poised for combat but Ye Guan interrupted, "He's with us."

In the midst of Mu Yuan's confusion, a figure cloaked in black materialized before Ye Guan, bowing respectfully, "Young Master."

It was An You and he was finally here. Catching sight of An You, a small smile touched Ye Guan's lips. His arrival surely meant news from Qin Guan. Observing An You, Mu Yuan's curiosity piqued, he knew this man must be from Ye Guan's family. "

When is Mother coming to the Old Era?"

"Any moment now,"

"Is everything sorted along the Time River?"

"Yes, Young Master. Pavillion Master said: Just keep calm; she's on her way."

"Haha!" Ye Guan chuckled, a warm feeling enveloping him. An You's smile mirrored his own. Ye Guan's rapid growth both amazed and gave him mixed feelings. From a mere youngster with little strength to this... how time flies!

An You couldn't help but marvel inwardly. Suddenly, Ye Guan asked, "Does Mother know what's happening here?"

"Yes, the investigation is complete. Also, apart from the God Clan and the Ancient Wilderness, the Black Death Sovereign has agreed to aid the God Clan in dealing with you..."

Ye Guan's expression froze, "The Black Death Sovereign?"

"Indeed."

Ye Guan's demeanor turned perplexed, "Why?"

"It seems the God Clan offered the First God's journal as leverage..."

Ye Guan smiled knowingly, keeping silent. I handed it over to Sister Ruo before and she didn't want to glance at it. How could she now assist the God Clan? Clearly, something is amiss.

"Furthermore, the Chu Palace has also pledged support..."

"The Chu Palace?"

"They were once powerful and on par with the Primordial Spirit Land, but internal strife led to decline. Though weakened, they're not to be underestimated."

Ye Guan nodded in understanding, "Got it."

"Was this intel gathered by your people?"

"No, they lack the strength to establish here."

Ye Guan's curiosity peaked, "Then who?"

"Lady Ding's people."

"Aunt Ding?"

"Yes."

"I see."

"Young Master, our priority is finding a hiding place and wait for Pavilion Master to arrive. Keep your whereabouts concealed from the God Clan to avoid..."

Before he could finish, the distant horizon churned and ominous auras rushed forth. Witnessing this, An You's expression darkened, and Mu Yuan grew grave. Ye Guan's gaze turned to the horizon, his concern evident.

The God Clan was here.

"Fear not, Young Master Ye!"

At that moment, a voice broke through from the other side.

Chapter 690: How is This Possible?

Ye Guan turned his head and saw twelve powerful figures rapidly approaching. Each presence was incredibly daunting and the skies shook as they travelled. Leading them was none other than Zhen Tian.

Ye Guan was taken aback; he hadn't expected Zhen Tian to show up.

Soon, Zhen Tian arrived with the elite elites of the Zhen Clan.

Before Ye Guan could speak, Zhen Tian smiled slightly. "Young Master Ye, there's no need for words. The urgent matter at hand is to join forces against the enemy."

After a brief silence, Ye Guan nodded, "Alright."

Mu Yuan glanced at the powerful elites behind Zhen Tian, his expression serious. These elites were all at least seventy percent divine. Moreover, Zhen Tian and an elderly man in red leading them had reached eighty percent divine.

What a terrifying lineup!

It was clear the Zhen Clan had brought out their best.

Ye Guan was slightly surprised, not expecting Zhen Tian to bring such strong support. This time, he didn't refuse. Refusing now would be impolite.

He would remember this favor and repay it in the future.

Zhen Tian looked towards the distant horizon, his expression grave. "This time, Shen Qi is personally leading the team..."

Boom!

As he spoke, the space before them suddenly trembled and a middle-aged man appeared. It was Shen Qi, the clan leader of the God Clan.

Behind Shen Qi were Shen Wu and a group of elite God Clan.

Ye Guan glanced at the God Clan elites. Clearly, they too had brought their best. The lowest strength among them was at least seventy percent divine.

The God Clan was powerful, with fifteen elites at seventy percent divine and two at eighty percent divine.

There were likely many other divine elites, but in battles of this level, ordinary divine elites were insignificant.

After Shen Qi appeared, he glanced coldly at Ye Guan, then turned to Zhen Tian. "Is it worth it?"

"And is it worth it for your God Clan?"

"Of course it is. After this battle, there will be no more Zhen Clan in this world."

Zhen Tian laughed heartily, "Shen Qi, what arrogance."

“Is that so?”

Enough talk. Let’s get to it!”

With that, he stepped forward, a terrifying aura swept out from him, ready to strike. But at that moment, a dozen powerful auras suddenly emerged from the other side.

Zhen Tian turned to look. From the horizon on the right, a dozen figures were slowly approaching.

Leading the group was Yuan Shi from the Temple of the Gods. Behind him were numerous Gods from the temple. Yuan Shi himself had seventy percent divinity and most of the elites he brought were at a similar level, though many were below that. The Temple of the Gods was clearly not as powerful as the God Clan or the Zhen Clan.

Under normal circumstances, the Zhen Clan wouldn’t be concerned, but Yuan Shi’s arrival now was disastrous for them.

Yuan Shi looked at Ye Guan and smiled slightly. “So, you are the one my teacher chose.”

Ye Guan glanced at Yuan Shi, “Temple of the Gods?”

“Yes.”

Ye Guan nodded, not saying anything more. At this point, words were unnecessary—only action mattered.

“Technically, we are fellow disciples. You...”

Ye Guan interrupted, shaking his head, “If you want to fight, then fight. Spare me the talk.”

Yuan Shi's smile faded. But then, sensing something, his expression changed, and a moment later, a sword light shot out towards him.

Boom!

The area around Yuan Shi shattered instantly.

Everyone was stunned. Who had attacked?

Ye Guan stared at the shattered space. Soon, within the fragments of spacetime, golden sword light slowly dissipated, revealing Yuan Shi. His body was cracked, and blood flowed out.

Seeing this, Ye Guan's face darkened. That attack had come from him and he had struck as soon as Yuan Shi appeared. Unfortunately, it hadn't been enough to kill him, though it had inflicted serious damage.

Yuan Shi's expression was grave, he hadn't detected who had attacked. He turned to Shen Qi, who also looked troubled. Was there a hidden elite?

Seeing Shen Qi's expression, Yuan Shi's face grew darker. Even Shen Qi didn't know?

How strong was this hidden figure?

Shen Qi found the attack strange as well. It was a mysterious force and although the attack wasn't terribly strong, it would be a hindrance to them.

Shen Qi closed his eyes, his divine sense swept the entire area, but he found nothing. How was that possible?

Meanwhile, Zhen Tian and his clan members were excited. They realized that the one who had attacked was likely backing Ye Guan. If the Zhen Clan had to face the God Clan and the Temple of the Gods alone, they would have been wary.

Suddenly, Shen Qi looked at Ye Guan, whose face remained calm.

Shen Qi stared intently at Ye Guan. He had an intuition that the strike just now was related to Ye Guan, but he had no proof.

At that moment, another sword strike suddenly appeared in front of Yuan Shi and before all the other Temple of the Gods elites. The sudden appearance shocked the Temple of the Gods elites. Though they were on guard after the previous attack, the sudden swords still caught them off guard.

Then, Shen Qi suddenly rushed towards Ye Guan from a distance, locking down the entire area with a terrifying power. Almost simultaneously, Zhen Tian stepped forward, punching towards Shen Qi to intercept the attack.

Zhen Tian knew Ye Guan wasn't a match for Shen Qi. If he allowed Shen Qi to strike, Ye Guan wouldn't stand a chance.

Kaboom!

As Shen Qi and Zhen Tian clashed, their respective forces immediately engaged in fierce combat. In an instant, the entire area was shrouded in darkness. Ye Guan kept his focus on Yuan Shi and the Temple of the Gods elites. Though his earlier sword attacks hadn't killed the powerful elites of the Temple of Gods, they had certainly unsettled them. He even managed to eliminate two of the weaker ones.

Just as Ye Guan was about to strike again, he sensed something and turned to see an elder in a black robe from the God Clan staring intently at him. This elder was an elite at eighty percent strength. Under his gaze, Ye Guan felt an overwhelming pressure. It was almost suffocating him and it sent chills down his spine.

At that moment, an elder in a red robe walked up beside Ye Guan, and the oppressive feeling lightened considerably. The black-robed elder from the God Clan looked at the red-robed elder next to Ye Guan. "Zhen Ju, it's been many years."

The red-robed elder, Zhen Ju, responded coolly, "Shen Geng, you're still alive."



"After all these years, let's see if your strength has declined or improved."

As soon as he finished speaking, both elders vanished simultaneously.

Ye Guan turned his attention back to Yuan Shi and his group. Suddenly, Yuan Shi transformed into a streak of divine light.

Ye Guan remained calm. As Yuan Shi closed in, a terrifying sword light appeared in front of Ye Guan. Yuan Shi's expression changed drastically.

Boom!

As the divine light shattered, Yuan Shi was sent flying a few hundred meters away. As soon as he stopped, another mysterious sword light appeared, striking without warning.

Yuan Shi was horrified. He clenched his fists, and a divine light emerged from his body, forming a protective shield.

Boom!

Yuan Shi was sent flying again. Before he could recover, another sword struck him.

Bang!

Yuan Shi was thrown back once more, and this time, his protective shield was covered in cracks. When he stopped, a sword light appeared in front of him again but this time, it missed him by several feet.

Yuan Shi was momentarily stunned. What's this, trying to scare me?

Frustration coursed through Ye Guan's veins. Damn it! I miscalculated the attack.

The biggest flaw of this sword technique was its reliance on precise calculations. If executed correctly, it left the opponent helpless. Otherwise, it missed, as it just had.

Realizing something, Yuan Shi looked towards Ye Guan. "It's you!"

In that moment, Yuan Shi recognized that the sword intent in those mysterious attacks matched Ye Guan's. The realization left him in disbelief. "You... how is this possible..."

Yuan Shi was stunned. He hadn't expected those terrifying sword attacks to come from Ye Guan. When did Ye Guan become this powerful?

Ye Guan stared at Yuan Shi without a word, then suddenly swung his sword. But nothing happened—no sound, no sword energy.

Seeing this, Yuan Shi frowned. "What are you doing?"

Ye Guan sheathed his sword without answering.

Yuan Shi was about to speak when suddenly, a sword light appeared in front of him.

Yuan Shi's expression changed dramatically. "Your sword can delay its strike?"