

Apocalypse 1031

Chapter 1031

The space vortex.

An enormous tentacle suddenly appeared from the stifled darkness, attempting to grab a certain flickering sprite of light.

When the tentacle had blocked the sprite of light's path and was about to reach for it, the sprite of light directly punched a hole through the tentacle.

The sprite of light swiftly continued on its way.

The enormous tentacle was burnt, withered away, and was soon turned to ashes.

From the deep darkness below, a certain monster uttered a pained roar that shook the void—— an intense void storm was created from this roar alone.

Despite suffering pain, the monster didn't try to chase after that sprite of light.

——it had noticed that it was the power of the Abyss.

If it continued to try and mess with it, that power would rip it into shreds.

The monster turned away without hesitation and hurriedly fled in panic.

On the other side.

The small sprite of light was streaking across the void at an unbelievable speed, traversing vast distances in the blink of an eye, seemingly unfazed by what had just happened.

Gu Qing Shan was right inside the light.

He rubbed the spider ring in his hand and silently contemplated.

——*so Lin's Abyssal form this time is a spider again?*

Gu Qing Shan's gaze focused on the darkness in front of him.

There were only two lines of text on the War God UI:

[This is a highly advanced Abyssal form. You must obtain the appropriate authority in order to comprehend the specifics of this Abyssal form]

[The owner of this Abyssal form is: Lin, a human martial artist]

Gu Qing Shan scowled.

Can a single ring like this really turn Lin into an Abyssal monster?

Boss was the same, he seemed completely normal at a glance and even emanated a faint presence of a Demi, and yet he turned out to be the Abyssal King.

Then, what exactly is the Eternal Abyss?

Gu Qing Shan temporarily turned his thoughts away from this issue and contemplated a more pressing matter.

The parallel world Apocalypse is about to destroy the God of Death's site of inheritance.

The Void Deity is also quickly approaching them.

And I need to deliver this ring to Lin's hand before either of these events occur without wasting a single second.

Otherwise, I along with Anna and Lin would all end up dead.

Right now, my only hope is for Lin to obtain enough power from the ring to resolve this desperate situation.

What an unpleasant feeling.

Gu Qing Shan laughed at himself, then held tightly onto the ring.

He continued to fly forward.

All of a sudden, a strange sensation appeared in his heart before quickly vanishing.

As if something had just glanced at him.

Strange...

Not even the monster's probing gave me such a strange sensation, so what's actually watching me?

Gu Qing Shan doubtfully thought.

And then, that sensation appeared again.

A foreign yet familiar sensation appeared, faintly triggering his reflexes.

Inner sight.

Right, this is the sensation of being scanned by inner sight.

Gu Qing Shan became cautious.

How could there be a cultivator in a place like this?

Are they friend or foe?

Gu Qing Shan quickly released his inner sight to observe his surroundings.

A familiar voice abruptly appeared in his Thought Sea:

"I can only contact you in this range"

"Please immediately respond to the summoning"

"I repeat, please immediately respond to the summoning, otherwise it'll all be too late!"

Gu Qing Shan felt shocked.

This voice is—

Without time to think about it, he sensed himself being summoned.

This was a kind of summon that surpassed all else, one that was being conducted by the essential Laws of every world.

This was the summoning from a cultivator's breakthrough!

"Wind Tribulation... no, if it was that voice, it should be Water Tribulation"

"Very well— I've always been a person of moderation, so if they're summoning me at this crucial point in time, there must be something of considerable importance"

With that thought in mind, Gu Qing Shan responded to the summoning.

After a brief moment, time seemed to have paused infinitely.

Gu Qing Shan vanished from inside the light.

...

Faint lights.

Gu Qing Shan found himself flying through countless faint lights.

Time gradually resumed.

Intense light erupted and filled his vision.

Gu Qing Shan found himself standing on top of a borderless surface of the water.

The water surface was as polished as a mirror, reflecting Gu Qing Shan's visage as well as the endless silver sky above.

The world was silent, there seemed no life, no movement.

Except for a single person who stood in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Himself.

Indeed, this was a Water Tribulation.

—while facing the Water Tribulation, one must compete and win against themselves from a parallel world in order to pass this Tribulation.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight passed through the other party and commented: "It seems you're about to break through to Void Revolution realm, but I really can't imagine how you managed to lock onto my reality and found me specifically"

The other 'Gu Qing Shan' smiled and explained: [Actually, someone entrusted me to do this]

"Entrusted by someone?" Gu Qing Shan was doubtful.

[Right, the one who entrusted me was actually us as well, but a relatively younger 'us'] the other 'Gu Qing Shan' said.

Gu Qing Shan scowled: "Please explain that carefully. You should know, I'm currently facing an extremely tough situation in my own reality, so I definitely must know why you and him summoned me here"

The other 'Gu Qing Shan' replied: [When you faced your Tribulation, I participated in your Water Tribulation and received your mega-sized jade tag. That's how I was able to reach Void Revolution realm so quickly]

Gu Qing Shan paused.

"Which one of you was it?" he asked.

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[I'm the one who had Worlds Apocalypse Online: Single-player mode] the other 'Gu Qing Shan' replied.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Indeed, I did run into this parallel world version of 'me' within my Water Tribulation.

[The one who asked me to do this had also met you before. It was 'us' in our younger years. He also met you within your Water Tribulation and received a mega-sized jade tag]

[But he's still too young and hasn't achieved Void Revolution realm yet, so he's unable to summon you]

[That's why he asked me to summon you instead]

Gu Qing Shan quickly reminiscenced and recalled this.

I did meet a younger 'me' during my Water Tribulation.

That young 'Gu Qing Shan' didn't even have a single sword style scripture to his name.

—-which was familiar to how I was in my past life.

I also had him memorize all the scriptures within a mega-sized jade tag.

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a bit, then asked in surprise: "Could it be, he's able to cross parallel worlds now?"

The other 'Gu Qing Shan' replied: [No, he can't. However, perhaps due to receiving your mega-sized jade tag, or because of some other unknown reasons, he has awoken a very unique Thaumaturgy]

"What kind of Thaumaturgy?"

[Talking to oneself]

"How is that a Thaumaturgy... wait, do you mean...?"

[Exactly, by paying a certain price, he's able to use inner sight to find 'himself' in parallel worlds and communicate with his parallel world selves— although not for very long]

“So you’ve remained in constant contact?”

[That’s right. Due to a restriction from his own reality, he’s not able to inform you anything, so he told me a lot of things]

Gu Qing Shan was a bit confused.

“He can’t tell me, but he can tell you?” he asked.

The other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ nodded and asked in return: [Can you guess why this is?]

Gu Qing Shan’s thought moved around a bit and muttered in realization: “His reality had sealed off all information, forbidding anyone from that reality to divulge any information to people of my reality—— in other words, his reality is the parallel world that has fallen into the Eternal Abyss of my reality!”

[Exactly correct, as expected of myself] the other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ praised.

He continued: [He used a completely unimaginable method to help me lock onto you, and had me give you a bit of information]

Gu Qing Shan slowly nodded.

——*he couldn’t tell me due to restrictions.*

But he’s not restricted when communicating with other parallel worlds.

That’s why the young ‘Gu Qing Shan’ had the [Single-player Mode] ‘Gu Qing Shan’ relay the information.

This is truly unimaginable.

I couldn’t even imagine that the parallel world that fell into the Eternal Abyss was actually the parallel world of my younger self.

“Then, what exactly is that information?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The other ‘Gu Qing Shan’ put one hand up and said: [In 5 breaths’ worth of time, you’ll be transported to the God of Death’s site of inheritance]

[As soon as you arrive, you will face an advanced Causality weapon that was specifically arranged for you]

[You have to quickly come up with something, otherwise, you will be killed immediately!]

Gu Qing Shan was completely shocked as countless thoughts appeared in his mind.

If this information is correct, as soon as I arrive at the God of Death’s site of inheritance, I’ll have to face an advanced Causality weapon.

Causality is a high-class Mystic-type power, and using that against me is like using a particle beam cannon to blast an ant.

No wonder the young Gu Qing Shan is in so much hurry to inform me.

However, Causality has a restriction——

Regardless of what kind of Causality it is, both the Cause and Effect still need to obey the Laws of Reality.

During a Causality attack, if two Laws of the same level contradict one another, the Causality would be broken.

For example, the Causality lifeform Star Firefly can choose another lifeform to lose their life as it dies.

But if the target it selected was a wandering soul, the Causality would be broken.

Because a wandering soul isn't a lifeform, it's a soul that is currently in a dead state.

Since this doesn't fulfill the Cause necessary for the Star Firefly's Causality, the Effect of killing the wandering soul wouldn't occur.

Then, how should I face this attack?

While pondering this, Gu Qing Shan asked: "The people who attacked don't know who I am?"

[No, they only know that you are the reinforcement that is being sent by the Abyss, but not who you actually are]

The other 'Gu Qing Shan' continued: [The young 'us' will also participate in the deployment of the Causality weapon at the God of Death's site of inheritance— -- but remember, he can't tell you anything, and you need to make sure that you aren't exposed]

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "Thank you for relaying this information, I understand now"

The other 'Gu Qing Shan' smiled and asked: [Did you come up with something?]

"Yes"

[Alright, give me a test]

"Receive one strike from me"

Gu Qing Shan wielded his sword and slowly swung towards the other party.

"Well done, I believe that you've passed my test" he declared.

The Law of Reality was triggered.

Since he had admitted that the other party passed the test, his job was over and he could soon return.

The other 'Gu Qing Shan' nodded and said: [Do your best, survive]

Gu Qing Shan also replied: "Hm, you also need to grow stronger, the spread of the Apocalypse is unstoppable— perhaps one day, we'll be fighting alongside one another"

The two of them exchanged glances and nodded.

Gu Qing Shan vanished from the Water Tribulation.

After a brief moment, he had returned to the space vortex.

— — — seemingly no time had passed at all, he was still inside the light, rapidly heading towards the God of Death's site of inheritance.

Five breaths' worth of time left!

What's waiting for me ahead is a Causality weapon!

Gu Qing Shan didn't waste any time to draw the Six Paths Great Mountain sword and communicated with Shannu.

Three breaths' worth of time left!

A gate of light appeared in the void in front of him.

Shannu used [Mystery of All Beings Equal] to take on Gu Qing Shan's appearance.

Gu Qing Shan's body shook a bit and turned into a small worm that rested on Shannu's shoulder.

The final breath!

Shannu wielded the Chao Yin sword and charged into the gate of light!

...

The God of Death's site of inheritance.

A screen of light appeared at the bottom of the mountain.

Gu Qing Shan appeared in this world.

At the same time, a voice ordered: "Activate!"

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"Activate!"

Someone ordered with a silent shout.

In this split second, three things occurred simultaneously.

Firstly, a black snake and a white snake abruptly manifested out of nowhere, coiled around Gu Qing Shan from his left side and quickly restrained his entire body.

Secondly, Gu Qing Shan raised his sword and thrust it from below, towards his shoulder.

Thirdly, a small worm on his shoulder disappeared.

— — — this was [Shadow Shift]!

A split second later.

An old man abruptly appeared on Gu Qing Shan's shoulder.

The sword went into the old man's body, twisted, then slashed again, slicing the old man in half.

"Ah— hel— — —"

Only after he had died did the old man's cry for help was heard.

From his voice, it was clear that he was the one who had ordered the attack.

Unfortunately, he could no longer utter another sound.

It was simply that fast of an attack!

Gu Qing Shan looked around only to see that there were cultivators all around him.

Gu Qing Shan raised his hand to act once again.

But he had already been fully restrained by the black and white snakes.

The two snakes then turned into a white-robed girl and a black-robed girl that both slowly entered his body.

This caused Gu Qing Shan an intense sense of discomfort that caused him to completely stop.

One other person stepped out from the crowd of cultivators and laughed: "[Twin Snakes of Impermanence], this is the 5th rank Divine Skill in reality, we will use his death to revive Elder Chang!"

Being restrained by the two girls, Gu Qing Shan stood completely still.

It was impossible for anyone to escape after being struck by [Twin Snakes of Impermanence].

The cultivators around him paused for a bit, slowly calmed down, and carefully observed his appearance.

A round of discussion sounded out.

"Take a look at this person, doesn't he look a lot like Gu Qing Shan?"

"Hm, his eyes seemed to have been damaged"

"A bit older"

"But his overall appearance is very similar"

Everyone quickly realized this.

They shifted their eyes towards one of their comrades.

— the younger Gu Qing Shan.

At this point, the Gu Qing Shan who was struck by [Twin Snakes of Impermanence] suddenly vanished.

He turned into a sword.

The blade of the sword was clear and cold like the waters of autumn.

The hilt of the sword was just enough to fit in the hand.

The sword's length was a few inches longer than a normal sword, but it didn't exude any elegance, instead filled with an unknown sense of sharpness.

The black and white girls tried to circle swiftly around the sword, only to utter a pained scream before returning to their snake forms and disappearing into the sky.

——the Six Paths Great Mountain sword.

Thaumaturgy, [Invincible]!

Thaumaturgy, [Law Breaker]!

“That’s impossible!” someone exclaimed in shock.

Immediately after that, a certain person wielded that sword.

Gu Qing Shan.

This time, it was the real Gu Qing Shan—— with a black piece of cloth in front of his eyes.

“Gongzi, I’m a sword of Huang Quan, their Causality Divine Skill didn’t fulfill the Cause for its Effect”

“Hm, you’ve worked hard”

Gu Qing Shan replied while he put the sword behind his back and looked at a certain person.

Before he appeared, the wind had already started to pick up around the mountain.

Sensing the wind around him, the younger ‘Gu Qing Shan’ looked around and understood.

——beside himself, the others completely froze in place.

These people were simply staring at Gu Qing Shan like silent statues that didn’t make a single sound.

Gu Qing Shan looked to his younger self and said: “Thank you”

The younger ‘Gu Qing Shan’ took a step back, pointed at himself with a finger, and said: “I can’t say”

He then made a throat-slitting gesture.

The meaning of this was clear——

I have a lock seal placed on me, can’t communicate or I’ll die.

Gu Qing Shan naturally understood this.

If this wasn’t the case, there wouldn’t be a need for him to have the parallel world Gu Qing Shan summon me, is there?

In reality, the other side only informed him a single thing through inner sight.

——that he had to respond to the summon.

This matter was unrelated to his reality being the parallel world that had fallen into the Eternal Abyss, but a completely different parallel world entirely.

Most likely, this was the reason why he was able to talk to me without issues.

Gu Qing Shan mused for a bit: “So, it’s so strict that you can’t even reveal any information at all?”

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' simply looked at him and said nothing.

Gu Qing Shan pondered a bit, then asked: "Just now you said 'I can't say', so you can only say these words?"

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' opened his mouth and said again, emphasizing: "I can't say"

Although he claimed that he couldn't say, he still said it.

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This form of response and tone represented a different layer of meaning.

—affirmation.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit glad, then asked again:

"Other than 'I can't say', I guess that you definitely can't utter the words 'I don't know' either"

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' froze briefly, then seemed joyful.

"Your words, I don't know how to answer"

He said that in order to express that Gu Qing Shan guessed incorrectly.

Gu Qing Shan clapped his hands and said: "Very well, we'll talk like this"

'I can't say' expressed that he couldn't answer, but it had an affirmative tone, which can be used to express confirmation.

'I don't know' usually expressed unclarity and lack of knowledge, but during their conversation, it had gained a new layer of meaning.

—denial.

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' didn't trigger the seals on his body by answering 'I can't say' and 'I don't know'.

But these two phrases could now represent affirmation and denial.

With affirmation and denial, communication could be established.

Gu Qing Shan put up one finger: "First question, you can exchange information with people from our world, correct?"

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' replied: "I can't say"

—this was affirmation.

"Is that so, then the rules should be: You can talk to us normally, but can't expose your identity and matters regarding your world, correct?"

"I can't say"

"Is the fighting power in your reality at the same level as these people?"

“I don’t know”

——this was denial.

In other words, they also have those with very high levels of fighting power.

“If there are stronger people, why aren’t any of them here? Is it because they’re busy fighting against the Apocalypse, or because they’ve surrendered to it?”

“I can’t say, I don’t know”

“...Understood, half of them have surrendered to the Apocalypse, the other half are still fighting against it, is that right?”

“I can’t say”

“Does your reality hold nothing but hostility towards us?”

“I can’t say, I don’t know, I can’t say, I don’t know”

“...It’s very complicated and can’t be explained in a few words, correct?”

“I can’t say”

“Got it. Now I want to know, other than killing me who was sent by the Abyss, you have other orders as well, correct?”

“I can’t say”

“This place is the site of inheritance, there are only three things that could be done here. Firstly, to obtain the God of Death’s inheritance; secondly, to destroy the God of Death’s inheritance; and thirdly, to destroy the portion of the Abyss that’s here—— did you come here to destroy the portion of the Abyss?”

“I don’t know”

“Did you come to destroy the God of Death’s inheritance?”

“I don’t know”

“So, you wanted to obtain the God of Death’s inheritance in this place. In other words, your side had also sent people up that mountain, correct?”

“I can’t say”

“The people that were sent out have to be stronger than the two who were originally here to receive the inheritance, correct?”

The younger ‘Gu Qing Shan’ pondered for a bit, then replied: “I can’t say”

“What’s the battle situation? Have they already engaged in combat?”

“I can’t say”

Gu Qing Shan’s heart turned heavy.

They've already engaged in combat.

Lin is heavily injured while Anna is exhausted, if they had to fight enemies from a parallel world, wouldn't that be sure-death?

Gu Qing Shan didn't ask anything else and just said: "Go—— run for your life, leave the rest to me"

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' looked at him, then took out a formation plate and activated it.

The two of them clasped their fists towards each other.

The younger 'Gu Qing Shan' was enveloped by the light of the formation and vanished from Gu Qing Shan's sight.

Right after he disappeared, Gu Qing Shan's killing intent boiled.

The slow breeze around the mountain suddenly turned into an intense sword-infused wind that swept across the ground.

Every cultivator within the sword-infused wind, exploded into masses of blood then were slowly erased by the rampaging storm.

——it turns out that right after he used [Shadow Shift], Gu Qing Shan had turned back into human form and silently activated a Taiyi sword array.

These cultivators weren't very strong at all, the only notable person was the leading Elder, at Paragon realm like he was.

That was why Gu Qing Shan had asked his younger self where their reality's truly strong people had gone.

Gu Qing Shan turned around and scanned the black mountain with his inner sight.

——that place was the God of Death's mountain of inheritance. It was towering, faraway, and vast.

Scaling the mountain would surely require him to spend a lot of effort, face a lot of danger, and cost a lot of time in order to reach Anna and Lin.

But there was no time for that.

Anna and Lin were already engaged in battle with enemies that were stronger than they were.

Gu Qing Shan didn't waste time to hesitate and drew the Earth sword from the void of space.

The Earth sword's heavy mountainous voice resounded, asking him: 「 There isn't enough time to slowly search for them, what do you want to do? 」

"[Sanctuary]" Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 How many times? 」 the Earth sword asked.

[Sanctuary] was the Earth sword's Thaumaturgy that allowed the Earth sword to adjust the weight of its strike when attacking an enemy, the weight can be adjusted to be anywhere from 2-fold to 1001-fold the enemy's weight.

“1001 times” Gu Qing Shan triggered his sword seal and muttered: “If the mountain doesn’t come to me, I’ll just level the mountain”

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Plish.

Blood was dripping.

Lin was bloodied all over with a corpse in her hand, she then curtly tossed it away.

The corpse drew a tall arc before falling into a pile of corpses.

Another one was dead.

Lin wiped the blood off her mouth and took a stance.

Like a solid unmoving mountain, she stayed silent without a single word but still helped Anna hold these cultivators back.

— they were considerably powerful cultivators.

Out of fear of Lin’s strength, they were attacking in waves, using the wheel tactic to grind Lin’s strength down.

And Lin couldn’t pursue them too far.

Because she needed to stay near Anna and made sure that Anna wasn’t injured.

This battle was turning out to be extremely frustrating.

But she was left with no other choice.

On top of this mountain of inheritance from the God of Death, the battle was slowly drawing to a close.

— Lin didn’t have much strength left to prevent these cultivators from approaching closer.

Meanwhile, Anna was standing in the middle of the altar behind her back, silently hovering in mid-air while wielding her long black scythe. Her eyes were closed as she constantly chanted something, apparently going through a unique ritual.

— her inheritance wasn’t complete yet.

An old man slowly approached the two girls from the group of cultivators.

“What impressive martial arts prowess and skills, after observing you for so long, this old man had benefited greatly. Once this old man returns to seclusion, my cultivation will surely advance one more”

Lin’s lip curved slightly and said sarcastically: “Benefited greatly? You don’t even have the courage to face a fight, only sending your subordinates to their deaths. Any understanding you obtain would be fake”

The old man’s expression turned grim.

Indeed, as the leader, the strongest cultivator in this group, he didn't have the courage to personally act as he knew how powerful the other party was.

This would harm his reputation.

The old man silently cursed her in his mind, but displayed no change in his expression and simply clapped his hand.

A cultivator stepped forward: "Elder sir, according to my senses, she only has 5% of her stamina left and her injuries are severe. She can no longer fight at her peak"

The old man flashed a triumphant smile.

"Female martial artist, although you will die very soon, you should still learn a few things from this matter. If I were to put it into words—"

"A brave won't beat a crowd"

Listening to him, Lin calmly replied: "Death in battle is a warrior's end, I'm not surprised about this at all"

She raised both hands, forming one hand into a fist, one hand into a palm as her presence rose to a peak.

"Absolute!"

She uttered a loud shout as intense bright light erupted from her body.

Underneath her feet, the entire mountain seemed to be gripped by a particularly powerful force that caused it to shake intensely.

Such a clear supernatural phenomenon caused the cultivators on the other side to hesitantly take a few steps back.

Lin maintained this presence and silently sneaked a glance behind herself.

Unfortunately, Anna still had her eyes tightly closed, apparently still communicating with the altar.

Silently sighing, Lin refocused her attention on the cultivators facing her.

There was no other way.

Within the upper half of the mountain in her perception, there was no one else.

She was the only one that could face these enemies.

She shouted again: "Come and receive your death!"

The cultivators exchanged glances, unsure of what to do.

—this woman was like a vicious beast with layers upon layers of means, no one dared to underestimate her.

The cultivator from before shouted: "Elder sir, she's risking it— this is her true, one final lashing out!"

Without hesitation, the old man retreated behind his subordinates.

—-don't be ridiculous, who would be willing to risk their own life against someone at the brink of death?

The old man shouted his order: "All troops move forward, distribute the power of her attack equally among everyone, there won't be any issues"

"Understood!"

The cultivators responded.

They charged forward.

The distance between the two sides shortened—- Lin's presence once again peaked as she was ready to throw her life away.

All of a sudden, the ground shook.

Everyone cautiously regained their balance, even Lin had to raise her guard.

Because this wasn't any small tremble.

The entire mountain was rumbling!

"What happened!? What is she doing!?" the old man shouted his question.

"I don't know, sir, it isn't her doing!" the other cultivator hurriedly reported.

While they were talking, the ground intensely shook again.

Everyone's body first abruptly dropped, then abruptly halted.

This time, every cultivator here had realized a certain truth.

—-this entire black mountain was falling down.

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"That's impossible. We've already tested, every single rock on this entire gigantic mountain is tough enough to be used as a weapon" the old man muttered.

The black mountain continued to descend.

—-it was descending in a rapid, visible, and a clearly recognizable manner, causing everyone to panic.

The mountain can't possibly vanish by itself.

Then, what exactly is going on?

Lin retreated a few steps to better protect Anna.

Seeing that, the cultivators didn't try to inch forward.

Because the main issue right now was to confirm the situation.

Soon enough, everyone felt a change——

The mountain no longer shook intensely.

As if the mountain had grasped the trick after sinking a few times, it was now skillfully and gradually lowering itself without any sound.

A few moments later.

As the mountain quickly descended, the ground slowly came into everyone's vision.

"Elder, look!"

The cultivator shouted out loud.

The old man hurriedly turned to where he was pointing.

At that moment, everyone turned to look at the exact same point on the ground.

A cultivator with a black piece of cloth over his eyes was standing there, wielding a sword and unleashing slash after slash.

That didn't seem to take him any effort, every swing was light and casual, yet they were all accompanied by roaring afterimages.

The afterimages of his slash consecutively struck the black mountain, removing it layer by layer.

The mountain didn't tilt due to being struck by the slashes, and there wasn't a case where only a portion collapsed while another portion remained intact.

The slashes were rapidly attacking the mountain, due to how fast they were, all they could see were faint afterimages.

Being cut by this storm of slashes, the entire mountain was silently and smoothly lowered bit by bit.

——what an incredible feat of swordsmanship!

Under everyone's watchful eyes, aside from the altar where Anna was hovering, the entire mountain had been removed.

Everyone was now standing on the ground.

It was now that the man with the black piece of cloth finally stopped his sword.

He cracked his neck, propped his sword on his shoulder, then took out a bottle of liquor and started to pour it down his throat.

After a long gulp, the man put the bottle away and said apologetically: "My apologies, because it took a bit longer to shave that away, I felt a bit thirsty—— good thing too since I'm finally done"

He spoke as if what he shaved away just now was a piece of fruit and not a mountain that contained the inheritance of a Deity.

Seeing how casual he was being about it; the cultivators were completely speechless.

“Elder——” the reporting cultivator wanted to say something.

The old man raised his hand to stop him.

He said with a very solemn tone: “That level of swordsmanship has reached the level of converging every strike into a single strike. He had most likely surpassed the realm of Sword Saint; we need to pay respect”

Standing out from the crowd, he clasped his fist against the other party: “This humble one is the Elder of Cang Wu sect, Yao Wu Qi. Pray tell, from where do you hail?”

The man clasped his fist as well and answered: “Bai Hua sect, Gu Qing Shan”

“Then, for what reason are you here?”

“To simply ask yourselves to do this one a favor”

“Ah? I am quite sure we had never been acquainted, care to explain what you mean?”

“It isn’t easy to cultivate, this one wishes that you would value your lives and immediately leave this place”

The old man scowled and turned to the other side.

Lin stood motionless where she was, still silent without saying a word.

But the corner of her mouth seemed to be unable to contain a smirk.

—so *he’s on their side.*

The old man scoffed.

Damn it.

It took so many lives on our side to drain that female martial artist’s strength, how can I give up just because of a single sword cultivator?

Although this sword cultivator’s swordsmanship is incredible, his cultivation itself isn’t very high, he won’t be able to stop all of us.

Kill him...

Even if that female martial artist attacked together with him, the most we’d lose is the lives of 7-8 more people.

After a bit of consideration, the old man made up his mind.

The coldly questioned: “What if we refuse to leave, what do you intend to do?”

At this point, his subordinates naturally understood what was being suggested and readied themselves to attack.

Standing across from them, Gu Qing Shan simply smiled.

He lightly stated: “Then, excuse me, but please go to hell”

“Hah? You want to kill me?” after repeating behind his subordinates, the old man chuckled mockingly.

Something unexpected occurred!

A black snake and a white snake suddenly manifested out of nowhere, they coiled around the old man starting from his feet, quickly circling his body.

The two snakes then transformed into a white-robed girl and a black-robed girl that slowly entered the old man’s body.

“No, [Twin Snakes of Impermanence]! This is our Divine Skill—— that’s impossible!”

Chapter 1034

“[Twin Snakes of Impermanence]!”

The old man’s fearful shout was abruptly cut off.

As the leader of his operation, he intended to continue hiding behind everyone and give orders like before, never did he expect to be struck by a Divine Skill!

——the 5th strongest known Divine Skill!

Once struck by this ability, no defenses would be able to save him from dying.

In front of everyone, the black-robed girl flew out of the old man’s body while carrying a jade-green fishing rod.

At the end of the fishing rod was a black hook that easily fished the old man’s soul out of his body.

Lightly twirling in the air, the black-robed girl flew up towards the faraway sky.

The old man’s soul desperately struggled, but couldn’t escape from the hook nor utter a single sound and was pulled away helplessly.

Right as the black-robed girl left, the white-robed girl went out of the old man’s body.

The white-robed girl held an azure glaze lamp in her hands, silently made her way in front of Gu Qing Shan, and offered it to him.

Inside the azure glazed lamp was a mass of animated light of vitality that shined brightly as it gave off immense power.

Having seen Adorable’s description of this skill, Gu Qing Shan knew what was happening.

He reached one finger out to touch the light inside the lamp, then pointed it towards Lin.

——The one in black pulls the soul, the one in white returns life.

The white-robed girl would steal the vitality from the target’s body, after their soul had been taken away, for the caster of the technique to use as they pleased.

Just like what the cultivators from before said when they ambushed Gu Qing Shan, they intended to use [Twin Snakes of Impermanence] to take Gu Qing Shan's life, then revive Elder Chang who Gu Qing Shan killed.

Unfortunately, they didn't know that during Gu Qing Shan's arduous journey into the past, he obtained the natural treasure of heaven and earth—— the jade gourd pendant Adorable.

Furthermore, they didn't know that Gu Qing Shan infiltrated Huang Quan by himself while he was still alive, recognized by the sword of Huang Quan, and had obtained the power of [Invincible] and [Law Breaker].

No one would be able to replicate what he had achieved.

For these reasons, not only was the [Twin Snakes of Impermanence] technique they prepared unable to take his life, but it also became a tool for him to use instead.

As Gu Qing Shan pointed his finger, the light of vitality inside the glaze lamp scattered into tiny sprites of light, bypassed the limits of distance, and was directly absorbed into Lin's body.

After Lin closed her eyes and checked herself, she smiled at Gu Qing Shan and told him: "I've recovered a bit"

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

That's great, the old man's cultivation was decent so his vitality managed to help Lin heal some of her injuries.

——in fact, Gu Qing Shan had already realized very early on.

Lin had stayed by Anna without moving too far away out of fear that these cultivators would try to ambush and hurt her.

Even if she gained the advantage, they would simply attempt to attack Anna and force Lin back into a passive position.

If that wasn't the case, with Lin's strength, there was no need for her to limit herself to stay within Anna's vicinity and passively endure their attacks.

At this point, the white-robed girl had finished her role in the technique, so she curiously circled around Gu Qing Shan.

She then showed a sudden expression of understanding and muttered:

"No wonder, you were the king of ghosts"

Saying so, the white-robed girl bowed slightly towards Gu Qing Shan and flew back into the air.

As she left, the old man's body collapsed to the ground, now thoroughly a corpse.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly bowed back.

But the girl left so quickly that she went completely out of sight in the blink of an eye.

Gu Qing Shan sneaked a glance at the group of remaining cultivators.

Only to see that they had completely frozen up as they saw those two girls, staying completely still without moving a muscle.

Gu Qing Shan didn't hesitate any longer and used [Shadow Shift] to change places with Lin.

"What's this about?" Lin asked.

"You look like you were greatly frustrated, so I'll protect Anna, you can go wild" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Looking at him, Lin's eyes contained a hint of a smile.

—-without the need to watch over Anna, how can any of these guys even land a hit on her?

She exhaled, stood with a straightened posture without any defensive stances, and indifferently looked at the cultivators.

"All of you, at once" Lin stated.

The cultivators simply stared cautiously at her without making any moves.

"Retreat!"

Someone shouted.

—-it was the same cultivator who was responsible for monitoring Lin's state earlier.

With this shout, all the cultivators turned around without any hesitation and scattered in every direction.

Lin smirked.

"You flee quite quickly, but don't think you'll be able to escape this time"

She muttered and vanished.

She had caught up to and killed one of them.

Then another one was also killed.

Then another one was killed too.

Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill!

After about 20 breaths' worth of time, every cultivator around her was dead.

Lin slowly returned without a drop of blood on her body.

"Why did you come here?" she curtly asked.

Gu Qing Shan tossed something to her.

Lin's eyes flickered a bit and caught that item.

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Only to see that it was a spider ring.

“This is... a higher-level ring of vow”

Lin muttered blankly.

“Indeed, the Apocalypse of the parallel world will soon arrive to destroy this place, the Eternal Abyss had me bring this ring to you and resolve this threat” Gu Qing Shan explained.

Lin didn't say a word and silently put the ring on her finger.

A swift moment with her eyes closed.

“In one minute, the truly powerful forces of the parallel world will arrive” Lin stated, “I'll have to deal with them, then return to the Abyss to participate in the war”

“Will it be dangerous?”

“Very dangerous”

“I've always wondered what kind of thing the Apocalypse of the parallel world is, we'll face them together when they come”

Lin lightly chuckled, then shook her head: “You're not strong enough”

“Are you looking down on me? Although I—”

Halfway through his sentence, Gu Qing Shan suddenly stopped.

He found himself unable to move.

Numerous strands of white thread had appeared from the void, completely restraining him.

These threads were several times stronger compared to when Lin was still the Abyssal Fate Weaver, Gu Qing Shan found himself unable to even release his spirit energy.

Lin had restrained him.

“Why?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Lin looked intently at her threads, answering him while sensing its strength:

“It seems the war really had gotten to a crucial point, and my actions have garnered a higher evaluation from the Abyss, that's why the Eternal Abyss had provided me a peerless Abyssal form of this level”

“—for the upcoming battle, you really cannot participate?”

“Why not?” Gu Qing Shan questioned.

“Because this will be a Deity-level war, one that far surpasses what you are capable of” Lin replied.

“It's only Deity-level, you look down on me too much, I truly need to fight— you should know as well, how much I crave to gain Soul Points” Gu Qing Shan refuted.

Lin silently listened and watched him with a gentle gaze.

“After I regain my Abyssal form... you should know as well, what my Fate Weaver name entails”

Gu Qing Shan was startled.

Right, having obtained a new ring of vow, she has once again obtained her mind-reading ability, as well as her ridiculous Causality Skill: [Existence].

She knows everything that goes on in my mind.

“...Gu Qing Shan, I really appreciate your worry of me”

“But this battle will be much too dangerous, and through this ring, the Abyss has also provided you a fixed warp point— exactly two minutes after you give me this ring, you will be warped back to the location called Calming Soul Country”

She reached out with her hand that wore the ring, gently stroking Gu Qing Shan’s eyes, ears, and face.

“Your elder sister is going, take care of yourself”

Right after she said so.

She kissed him.

One breath.

Two breaths.

Three breaths.

Lin suddenly took a step backward and begrudgingly muttered: “I forgot, even though your body is restrained by the threads, your tongue...”

Her face started to flush a golden-red color of the sunset, unable to look Gu Qing Shan straight in the eye any longer, she twisted her body and leapt to the sky.

In the air, her ring started to give off a mass of gloomy fog that fully enveloped her.

Her body started to morph.

She no longer had the appearance of a spider, but a different, more beautiful entity that struck awe and inspiration in the minds of all— — —

Unfortunately, as Gu Qing Shan was restrained by the snow-white spider threads, he couldn’t move, even his spirit energy and inner sight had been greatly hindered, thus he couldn’t sense Lin’s change.

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

[You’ve performed Reality’s Greatest Kiss (passive skill)]

[Combat synopsis: In combination with your actions from before, you’ve successfully conquered her heart]

[After 45 seconds, you will be transported to Calming Soul Country]

[After 45 seconds, the Abyssal spider threads that restrain you will automatically disappear]

Gu Qing Shan sighed— then froze again.

Anna.

At some unknown point, Anna had regained her consciousness.

Her long crimson hair had turned jet-black, her body covered in a gloomy wind that exuded a heavy sense of mysticism.

Putting her long scythe away, she swiftly walked towards Gu Qing Shan.

“Hmph, even if she helped me complete the inheritance process and I’m grateful for it, she’s not getting away with snatching my man!”

Anna loudly shouted.

She walked right up to Gu Qing Shan and begrudgingly told him: “That elder sister of yours is too vicious about killing people, she’s not an ideal lover at all. Not to mention, she openly expressed her affection in public!”

In public...?

Gu Qing Shan glanced around them.

Nothing but corpses.

Hm... right, I guess you could say this is public.

Chapter 1035

While Anna was talking, the notification on the War God UI was constantly blinking:

[Attention, attention!]

[You will be transported away in: 35 seconds]

Gu Qing Shan glanced over it and quickly said: “Anna, I’m going to be transported away soon, this is the Eternal Abyss—”

Anna cut him off in a seemingly tough tone: “I heard your conversation, you’ll be transported away in a few dozen seconds, I know that”

She tried to make herself seem calm but failed to do so.

Sensing the tenacious expression on her face, Gu Qing Shan’s gaze turned gentle.

This was a relationship that had continued from the previous life, a girl that promised to see him again, only to lose her life within the Apocalypse.

Although he was never actually in a relationship with her, how could Gu Qing Shan retreat at this point in time?

Gu Qing Shan gently told her: “That’s right, I’ll most likely have to participate in battle as well. It’s a very crucial battle, one that might affect all of our lives”

Anna lowered her head and said nothing.

He continued.

“Anna, when the time comes, you’ll have to quickly leave as well”

“Remember, your life is more important than anything else, you absolutely cannot die”

“When I’m done with everything, I’ll come to look for you, alright?”

Hearing that final sentence, Anna abruptly looked up and stared closely at him, as if to confirm something.

Gu Qing Shan muttered: “That’s right, you need to stay alive and wait for me to return”

Anna went silent for a split second, then suddenly asked: “How much time left?”

Gu Qing Shan glanced over the War God UI and answered: “6 seconds”

Right as he answered, another second passed.

5 seconds left.

Anna stepped forward without any hesitation, held Gu Qing Shan’s chin with her hands, then muttered: “Remember, I haven’t kissed another man before”

4 seconds.

She pressed her lips against Gu Qing Shan’s lips.

3 seconds.

—-as the princess of the Holy Kingdom, the gem of the Medici family, the girl that had drawn everyone’s eyes in all of those high society occasions, ever since she was young, Anna had slowly learnt the ways of high society and witnessed many affairs over the years.

After her mother passed away, even though her father had never appointed another person as queen, he did have a lover.

Anna had met and was actually quite close with her father’s lover.

For Anna, having learnt a lot more than she had ever experienced, the fact that she treasured her first kiss more than other girls was a natural thing.

—-2 seconds left.

One second.

Time was up.

Gu Qing Shan was pulled away by a powerful force, disappearing in front of Anna with a flash.

Anna stood blankly in place with her hand on her chest, completely speechless for a short while.

Her kiss wasn’t finished.

She could still feel his warmth.

The so-called feeling of unwillingness to part, the so-called endlessly lingering passion, it couldn't be any different than this.

"So that is how it feels... truly..."

Anna muttered but didn't finish her words.

Everything about her seemed completely the same, except for the deep blush on her face that completely ruined the sense of dignity she held as the heir of the Death God.

After a long while.

Anna abruptly spoke up: "Gu Qing Shan, I'm not going to wait for you"

"I've received the inheritance, from this moment onwards, I am the God of Death!"

She chanted an incantation and vanished from where she stood.

Only her determined voice was left resounding among the wind:

"I will never let any other woman approach you!"

"...Except Su Xue Er!"

...

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan was being pulled away by an intense force of unimaginable speed through the infinite space towards Calming Soul Country.

In front of his eyes, lines of glowing text swiftly appeared:

[You've performed the Reality's Greatest Kiss, but due to the constraints of time, only 1/10th of this technique had been performed]

[Combat synopsis: All things have predetermined affinity; you have thoroughly captured her heart through this]

[Combat note: The unfinished kiss, on the contrary, produced outstanding results, making for an even more unforgettable kiss]

Gu Qing Shan felt a headache.

"Oy, this is a romantic affair between us two, there's no need for you to make a combat synopsis for it" he complained.

[Ting]!

The War God UI responded.

[This UI was prepared for the sake of the War God. As a man who obtained this UI, you cannot let your guard down regardless of the war]

“Then isn’t it enough that you take note of normal combat? What’s the use of reporting my romance?”
Gu Qing Shan questioned in confusion.

The War God System responded in a very serious tone:

[You are incorrect. For a single individual, romance and the Apocalypse are equally serious wars, albeit on different fronts]

Gu Qing Shan’s words got completely stuck in his throat, unable to say anything in response.

“Fine, have it your way”

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He begrudgingly relented.

At this point, a few more lines of text appeared on the War God UI:

[The results of this confrontation between the Abyss and the Apocalypse had come out, please pay attention to the information below:]

[The God of Death’s inheritance wasn’t stolen away]

[Lin defeated the enemy forces from the parallel world Apocalypse]

[Under Lin’s guidance, the God of Death’s site of inheritance has been recalled by the Eternal Abyss and had become a part of itself]

[In summary of all information above, you’ve successfully accomplished the mission given by the Eternal Abyss]

[You’ve obtained the praise of the Eternal Abyss]

Reading the last line, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask: “Praise of the Eternal Abyss? What can that do?”

The War God UI replied: [Useless for now, no need to pay attention to it]

[Attention, you’re about to arrive in Calming Soul Country, for the sake of your safety, the Eternal Abyss will perform a warping technique on you]

Instantly, Gu Qing Shan found his flight speed slowing down.

Spatial fluctuations began to drift around his body.

Sha—

He vanished.

Calming Soul Country.

An empty main square.

A certain house.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly appeared.

“You’ve returned!” Ye Fei Li happily greeted him.

“Seems like you’re still in one piece” Zhang Ying Hao commented.

“Hm, I’m still perfectly fine” Gu Qing Shan replied and released his inner sight to check the surroundings.

Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao both seemed a bit roughed-up with a few light injuries, but their spirits are high, so it doesn’t seem like there were any big problems.

Laura is sleeping.

Boss is currently gulping down a Soul Points drink.

“What’s wrong with Laura?” Gu Qing Shan asked right away.

“Don’t worry, we were just in too much of a hurry towards the end of the journey so she was exhausted, she’s now sleeping” Ye Fei Li replied.

“Was it close?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Zhang Ying Hao replied: “Hm. We were a hair away from being struck by the forces of the parallel world Apocalypse, fortunately, we managed to arrive at the deepest chamber of the God of Life’s ruin where Boss returned the entire ruin to the Eternal Abyss”

“And we got transported away” Ye Fei Li added.

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

He suddenly noticed something and evaluated Boss: “Hey, you seem to have grown stronger”

Boss put the can on his hand down and replied: “Of course, the Abyss obtained enough power to replenish itself and catch a breath, it’s finally able to resume its war with the parallel world Apocalypse”

“And I—”

Boss put his hand forward.

Immense power gathered in his hand and slowly manifested into solid form.

At the very last moment, Boss scatters it away on his own accord.

Gu Qing Shan seemed a bit confused and asked: “Strange... you’ve truly gotten stronger, but why do I feel like your Abyssal form hasn’t really gotten too powerful?”

Boss sighed: “Naturally”

He hesitated for a brief moment before going silent as if communicating with some faraway entity.

A few moments later.

Boss told them: “Now that you’ve participated in this war, there’s no harm in telling you”

“In the beginning, when the parallel world Apocalypse started its invasion, as the strongest creature within the Abyss, I participated in that battle”

“WHAT!?” Gu Qing Shan’s entire group exclaimed in shock.

“That’s right” Boss showed an emotional expression: “After that decisive battle, I was defeated by the parallel world Apocalypse, my Abyssal form had also been completely crushed, leaving only this body behind”

“In reality, the entire Eternal Abyss had already lost to the parallel world Apocalypse”

The entire room was plunged into silence.

No one would have guessed that this would be the truth.

Boss continued:

“This is the real reason why the Eternal Abyss started to flow back into the 900 million World Layers——
— for the sake of survival after defeat, nothing more”

“Fortunately, I allowed the Abyss to regain the portions of its body that were hidden by the 7 Deities, replenishing it with newfound power”

“Right now, a new war shall begin, one that will decide all of our futures”

“All of you must fight against the Apocalypse together with me!”

Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao couldn’t help but glance at Gu Qing Shan.

——from their previous experience, one thing had been confirmed very clearly, they had an expert against the Apocalypse here.

Gu Qing Shan hesitated, then said: “But with our current situation, the first thing we need to deal with is [Chaos], because the Soul Shrieker is growing increasingly stronger, and it considers me to be a mortal enemy—— due to the [Demon King Order] being with me”

“It will surely come to kill me”

“What do you want to do?” Boss asked.

“I need the Card fragments in the four Deities’ hands, I want to resurrect an [Order] to fight against it”

Boss thought briefly, then said: “Then, I’ll help you with this matter. After that, you will help me fight against the Apocalypse”

“That’s fine” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“So, we have a deal?”

“We have a deal”

Chapter 1036

Xuan Ya’s home.

Laura rubbed her eyes as she sat up, stretched, and immediately noticed Gu Qing Shan.

“Gu Qing Shan, you’re back safely?” she asked, still a bit sleepy.

Gu Qing Shan smiled, walked up to her and lightly stroked her head: “As you can see, I’m perfectly fine. You, on the other hand, must have been exhausted after that trip through the ruins”

Laura emotionally replied: “Yes, I got to see many treasures from the ancient past, although I couldn’t take any of them with me, it certainly was an eye-opening experience”

Saying so, she put her hand into the void of space, grabbing something from it.

Everyone couldn’t help but look over.

Only to see that it was a clear blue staff with a flying bird adorned at its tip.

As soon as this staff appeared, the entire room was submerged in a faint misty fog.

Breathing in this fog made everyone feel refreshed and considerably more spirited.

Boss was surprised: “Ah, the style of this artifact, it feels like it came from the same era as those treasures in the God of Life’s ruin”

Laura replied: “That’s right, my ability has a certain characteristic. I need to experience and observe treasures of a certain level before I can actually grab treasures of similar level”

Hearing that, everyone couldn’t help but think of the same thing.

No wonder, during the exploration of the ruin when we couldn’t obtain any treasures within because of the covenant with the king, Laura said that it would still be a good thing to take a look.

It turns out that after she saw them...

She would be able to grab others...

Zhang Ying Hao suddenly took out his light-weight rifle and presented it for Laura to observe, asking: “Your majesty, please take a look at this gun, do you find any issue with it?”

Laura received it, a bit confused, but still took a glance: “This gun is quite good, however, it’s still hibernating”

Boss suddenly spoke up: “Your majesty, don’t look at that gun. If you have some free time, come to my part of the Abyss, there are a few strange Soul Artifacts with an unknown background that I’d like you to look at”

Laura was immediately interested and said: “Ah? Soul Artifacts with an unknown background? I’m really curious now, I’ll take that offer!”

“Wait a minute Boss”

Gu Qing Shan shoved Boss to one side and took out the twin swords Heaven and Earth: “Laura, it’s still a long while until we can arrive at the Abyss, take a look at these two swords of mine first”

“...” Laura.

Seeing everyone's burning gazes, she slowly understood.

"Hah, Gu Qing Shan, you dummy. The twin swords Heaven and Earth are one-of-a-kind artifacts, I've already snuck glances at them numerous times. Also think about it carefully, even in the infinite void of space, how rare would Soul Artifacts of this level be? Of course, they would become source of fierce competition between countless unknown entities, there's no way they would ever be without an owner"

Gu Qing Shan begrudgingly put his swords away.

That was indeed the truth.

If artifacts like the twin swords Heaven and Earth could be obtained so easily, the countless years of scheming and planning that the Soul Shrieker did would be nothing but a joke.

Thinking about that, the group put away such thoughts.

Laura continued: "That's why, there's an exceptionally low chance for me to grab a weapon or treasure of this level"

Exceptionally low chance...

Wait a minute!

Gu Qing Shan asked: "In other words, there's still a chance that you might be able to grab one?"

"Hm, when I'm exceptionally lucky, of course. That's really hard" Laura replied.

Everyone felt like laughing out loud.

Ye Fei Li sighed and said: "As the Duke of the Bramble Bird Kingdom, I feel like I don't want to try anymore"

Laura waved his hands dismissively: "Don't put too much hope in such unclear and illusory matters. You should know, treasures and such are still only external, the most important factor in obtaining what you want is still your own efforts!"

Your own efforts.

Why do those words sound so uncomfortable to hear?

Everyone tacitly agreed to avoid the subject.

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a colorful rooster.

—it's already been a day, let's see if I can obtain any new information.

It might just be his imagination, but Gu Qing Shan felt that the colorful rooster was about one size larger compared to when they last met.

He pulled on the rooster's comb.

The colorful rooster came to life.

“Hic!”

It immediately hiccupped.

“Yo, youngster, what’d you find me for?”

As the rooster spoke, it seemed to be a bit dispirited, Gu Qing Shan also noticed it was a bit tired.

“For information, of course— although, did something happen to you?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The rooster shook its wings and replied: “Nothing much, I’ve just been visiting an old friend, ate too much and got a bit fatter is all”

Gu Qing Shan nodded in understanding: “Ah, that makes sense. Then, please give me a piece of information related to myself”

“Same as before” the rooster formed a heart with its wings .

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out and transferred a bit over 10,000 Soul Points.

Receiving the Soul Points, the rooster finally appeared a bit refreshed.

It peered its head up, carefully and cautiously peered into the void of space, as if looking for something.

After a while, the rooster pulled his neck back down, once again dejected.

“I made a loss this time... such important news... cost me so much Soul Points”

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It muttered as it snuck a glance at Gu Qing Shan.

Knowing that this rooster fused with [War God Information], Gu Qing Shan understood that it was as much of a miser as War God UI, so he transferred another 90,000 Soul Points without hesitation.

—-after killing the Occultism spirit in that garden, he obtained 5,000,000 Soul Points, so now was the time to be generous .

The rooster raised its thumb and praised: “Very meaningful! You are just as generous as I knew you are”

“Listen well, as the Era of [Chaos] continues to descend, the 900 million World Layers is slowly but surely being enveloped by [Chaos]”

“One hour earlier, the Soul Shrieker successfully underwent apotheosis”

“A True Deity surpasses the normal concept of level and could never be defeated through regular fighting prowess”

“The Soul Shrieker is currently the only True Deity within the 900 million World Layers, currently spreading [Chaos] throughout every existing civilized world”

“The Seven Holy Churches of the Strife Zones have officially split up, a portion of the Holy Churches have chosen to surrender to the Soul Shrieker, while the others were faced with an ultimatum. If they do not choose to surrender, the Soul Shrieker shall personally destroy them”

“If you have any means to, you must quickly stop the Soul Shrieker, or it will all be too late”

After relaying that information, the colorful rooster turned back into a statue and couldn't move any longer.

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

Zhang Ying Hao patted his shoulder: “It seems we'll have to quickly resolve the issue here and awaken the [Order]”

Ye Fei Li said: “The four fake Deities all hold a portion of the Card, so they should all be able to utilize the power of [Order] to a certain degree— not only are they individually powerful, but they also have the power of [Order], how are we supposed to kill them?”

Boss sighed: “ In reality, their strength isn't the issue, the main issue is the monster behind them”

Everyone went silent and couldn't help but recall that scene.

—several thousand giant black tentacles broke through the palace and reached into the air.

And that was only a small portion of the monster's body.

Even the Deities only managed to defeat this monster without killing it.

Zhang Ying Hao spoke with a serious expression: “Other than the royal family, that monster can sense the death of every living being within Calming Soul Country, so if we kill any of the fake Deities, it'll discover us right away”

Everyone went silent.

There were a total of four fake Deities, and if any of them were killed, they would attract the attention of that unbeatable monster.

What should they do now?

Gu Qing Shan silently listened without saying anything.

Laura silently watched him and noticed his train of thought.

She thought briefly and pulled on Gu Qing Shan's sleeve: “Gu Qing Shan, last time you said that you wanted a Card from me in order to increase your strength?”

“Yeah, I did” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

At the time, I asked Laura for the [Elemental Wind Chaser Strike] Card in order to return to and comprehend the mystery converging the power of a thousand strikes into one.

As the Envoy of Condemnation, he has the ability to utilize Inner Plane Cards in order to advance his strength, but Gu Qing Shan's power hadn't reached the lowest threshold required for that yet.

And so for now, he could only consume normal Cards in order to improve his own swordsmanship skills.

—similar to how the black cat evolved.

Laura asked: "Can you still use Cards to increase your strength?"

"I can"

"Then why didn't you ask me for more ? Are you looking down on me?" Laura angrily questioned him.

"It's not that... the Soul Shrieker took that chance to ambush me at the time so that matter was interrupted. One thing just kept happening after another after that, so there wasn't any time to continue" Gu Qing Shan explained.

"A battle is approaching, so what other Cards do you still need? Hurry up and tell me" Laura asked.

That's right, after my comprehension was interrupted by the Soul Shrieker last time, it's been a long time since I contemplated my swordsmanship.

My control of sword phantoms had already reached a near-perfect degree, so I should only be one final step away from achieving the realm of converging a thousand strikes into one.

Gu Qing Shan immediately listed a few Cards.

Laura searched through her personal collection and quickly found the Cards that Gu Qing Shan needed.

Receiving them, Gu Qing Shan didn't begin breaking through right away and instead told everyone: "If it's only to kill those four Deities, I have a solution , but there are two problems that must be resolved first"

"The first?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

"Firstly, we need to understand the extent of what everyone on our side is able to achieve in battle"

"The second?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"The four Deities do not appear without a reason, so we need to create an opportunity where they show up on their own accord and take that chance to kill them"

Boss said: "The first problem is easy to solve, we only need to display our strength in a secluded location in order to understand the extent of each other's abilities"

Zhang Ying Hao mused: "As for the second problem, that's relatively hard. Most likely, something extremely serious for Calming Soul Country as whole must occur for all four fake Deities to show themselves"

"Hm, the second problem really is tough"

"Unless another group of outsiders like us show up in Calming Soul Country"

Ye Fei Li and Laura both chimed in.

While they were discussing that, the light in the room suddenly flickered.

Radiant light began to shine behind them.

Everyone turned around.

Only to see endless golden light gathering on the body of the sleeping child.

Xuan Ya's wandering soul was standing next to her child, completely shocked as she watched this.

She couldn't help but mutter something.

"What did she say?" Gu Qing Shan asked in a whisper.

Ye Fei Li replied: "She said — the new king has been born"

Chapter 1037

"The king died within the ruin, devoured by the Occultism spirit"

"The prince... died in this room, he lost his life due to the recoil of the covenant"

"In other words, this child is the last Demi who carries the God of Life's bloodline?"

Gu Qing Shan looked over the sleeping child and asked

Xuan Ya nodded.

She hurriedly said something.

Ye Fei Li relayed her words: "The throne changing hands will surely shock the entirety of Calming Soul Country, summoning all of the royal family's guardians"

"We need to quickly avoid them"

"Furthermore, although the four Deities won't immediately arrive, they will surely show themselves at the coronation ceremony"

Gu Qing Shan immediately said: "There's not enough time to leave— hurry, Laura!"

"Got it"

Laura opened her umbrella.

Everyone caught the handle of the umbrella and vanished.

A few seconds later.

Bam—

The door swung open.

Several Demis in full armor entered the house.

The presence they exuded was easily the most powerful within Calming Soul Country, clearly, they wielded relatively powerful Divine Skills and held a lot more power compared to a normal Demi.

These people silently surrounded the child's bed and stood still.

They were silently observing the golden light that the child exuded.

「Is this the final bloodline of the royal family?」

One guardian muttered.

「Indeed, he's the child of the prince and guardian Xuan Ya, regretfully, Xuan Ya was never acknowledged」 another guardian sighed.

「Regardless of how she wasn't acknowledged, they have no choice but to admit it now, she is the mother of our new king and according to our information, her soul wasn't devoured by the monster...」

Everyone exchanged glances and reached a tacit understanding.

Another guardian spoke up: 「Let's go, take him back to the palace—— -not only is this matter related to our oath, but it is also directly related to the safety of this entire world」

「You're right, we need to make sure that he is absolutely safe, otherwise, if the bloodline of our Deity is cut off, Calming Soul Country would also be destroyed」

“Hmph, no matter how arrogant the fake Gods and that monster act, even they couldn't bear to see this world destroyed; that would only heavily injure, or even kill them”

The guardians discussed among one another.

They brought the child away and left the room.

A few moments later.

As Laura was about to put her umbrella away, Gu Qing Shan and Boss both stopped her.

Time slowly passed.

Out of nowhere, four gloomy presences appeared at the same time.

A voice resounded from the void of space: “Is that the final child with the God of Life's bloodline?”

Another voice answered: “It's unclear, master is undergoing the final confirmation”

A third voice spoke up: 「This isn't a bad thing. The new king is a child that isn't even 3 years old. For a relatively long period, he would not be able to lead those Demis」

One final voice spoke : “That isn't necessarily the case, we need to check if he has any direct blood relatives as well...”

“Hm, let us return and receive the master's verdict”

“We need to appear at the coronation ceremony, it would also be a good time to show off the power of Gods, let's go」

The voices slowly disappeared.

A long while later.

Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Ying Hao, Ye Fei Li, Boss, and Laura reappeared.

“It was a good thing that you were able to react in time, it was so dangerous just now” Laura was still a bit frightened.

Everyone else had a pondering expression on their faces.

“Did you hear that? At the coronation ceremony, they’ll appear together” Zhang Ying Hao commented.

“We don’t have much time, let’s prepare ourselves now as well” Gu Qing Shan declared.

...

An empty mountain cliff without people.

Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao had just displayed their killing prowess.

Boss praised them: “Although your powers haven’t fully matured, both of you are exceptionally talented when it comes to killing, and your unique abilities are quite decent as well”

“What about you? Didn’t you say you’ve regained a bit of your power?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

Boss walked up to the cliff and started monologuing: “I have only regained a bit of my Abyssal powers, but it is still one of the most advanced powers within the Abyss. If you hadn’t gotten acquainted with me, you would never have witnessed such powers in your entire lives”

The Book of Prophesized Destiny appeared next to him and automatically flipped open.

Boss stood in front of the cliff, ripped out a page from the book, and muttered: “Burn!”

A grey mass of flames appeared on the page.

Boss flicked his hand slightly.

The burning page immediately vanished.

Boss turned around and told everyone: “I can’t use the Star Firefly now because I’ve already regained a part of my power, I’m no longer in a state where I’m constantly near-death and could throw my life away at will— doing so would only result in me losing everything once more”

“And so, witness it clearly—”

He spread his arms and muttered in a low voice: “Flames of Nihilicity”

Boom!!!

The tall cliffside that was half-hidden among the clouds was abruptly swallowed up by grey flames.

The cliff exploded, then quickly imploded into a small grey dot.

Soon enough, even the grey dot vanished from their sights.

Not even an atom remained.

Boss calmly stated:

“As you can see, this Flame of Nihilism is extremely powerful, even a fake God will be annihilated by this power”

Facing him, everyone was greatly impressed.

“What peerless power!” Zhang Ying Hao watched the cleanly-decimated cliffside and couldn’t help himself from praising.

“As expected of Boss, if he fights with his full strength, he could easily defeat those fake Gods” Ye Fei Li raised his thumb in praise while silently considering how he should deal with this attack.

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“The strongest of the Abyss, what towering presence”

Even Laura had to praise him highly.

She then became a bit distracted as she thought about the Abyssal Soul Artifacts that he mentioned before.

Boss chuckled and wiped some sweat off his forehead: “Of course, I am the Greatest Above the Crown Star, the strongest entity within the Abyss, you must never forget that”

The three of them regained their senses and hurriedly nodded.

— —but Gu Qing Shan said nothing.

Because among them, by using his Paragon realm inner sight, he was the only one who could observe the entire ordeal and noticed a certain problem.

Hm...

How do I say this...

It seems like Boss didn’t regain enough of his power so he couldn’t quite fully control the power of ‘Flames of Nihilism’.

When he unleashed that attack just now, in order to appear effortless, Boss specifically turned to face us with his back towards the cliffside that was struck by Flames of Nihilism.

And then— —

His back was horribly blasted by the explosion to the point of bleeding, half of his buttocks are also exposed.

How does he plan to wrap this situation up?

Gu Qing Shan silently thought to himself and couldn’t help but glanced at Boss.

Only to see Boss flipping his hair arrogantly with the Book of Prophesized Destiny in his hand: “I suddenly felt a flash of inspiration, go ahead and rest up first, don’t stand here and bother me comprehending my fighting skills”

“Ah, got it” Ye Fei Li replied.

They all turned around and made their way towards the camouflage formation that was set up on the side.

Gu Qing Shan hesitated only for a split second.

Oh well.

If Boss had decided to tough it out, then let's leave him to his devices.

Gu Qing Shan followed everyone back to the formation as well.

They all rested while waiting for Boss.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan drew one of the Cards Laura gave him and took a look at it.

The Card depicted a maelstrom-like swirl that floated above a person's head with both eyes closed.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Illusion: Dark Inviter]

[Using this Card will cause a target to fall into a unique world illusion, the danger levels of that world are determined by the one who constructs the illusion]

[Consuming this Card will allow you to increase your understanding of swordsmanship and evolve]

——this was the second out of the numerous Cards that Laura gave him, all of which could be consumed to help him improve his swordsmanship.

Before this, Gu Qing Shan had already consumed [Elemental Wind Chaser Strike], so there was no need to think too much when he consumed [Dark Inviter] this time around.

In fact, as he was about to head into battle against the four fake Gods, Gu Qing Shan only hoped that he'd be able to advance to the next step in his swordsmanship a bit faster.

Without hesitation, he declared: "Consume"

Right as he said so, the Card turned into sprites of light that were absorbed into his body.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes, prepared himself to comprehend the wonders of swordsmanship.

All of a sudden, lines of glowing text rapidly scrolled across the War God UI.

Gu Qing Shan glanced over it in surprise.

[Attention! Attention!]

[An extremely rare situation had occurred]

[Consuming that Card is treated the same as using Illusion: Dark Inviter on yourself, but as there are no enemies who are experts at illusory attacks, this poses no issue]

[An unexpected situation occurred during the consumption process: A unique spirit participated in the process of casting the technique]

[That spirit is inviting you into a world illusion]

[It is impossible to determine that spirit's intentions]

[Please guarantee your own safety]

The lines of glowing text swiftly vanished.

After a brief moment, Gu Qing Shan noticed that Zhang Ying Hao and the rest vanished, the grass field and formation around him also disappeared.

An old, tattered building appeared out of nowhere.

Gu Qing Shan found himself standing inside that building, in a certain hallway.

“How interesting. This shouldn't be that monster, if it was able to sense us outsiders it would have already gone to kill us”

“So who is this?”

Gu Qing Shan whispered and checked his surroundings.

The entire building was jet-black without any light, a single lamp hung on top of the ceiling, the lightbulb seemed to have broken a long time ago as it was covered in dust.

Due to there being too many buildings around it, the place didn't see the light of day at all.

Wait a minute, this place is---

The dusty memories resurfaced in his mind, causing Gu Qing Shan to feel a bit of a chill.

Gu Qing Shan quickly made his way through the hallway and arrived in front of a familiar door.

At some unknown point, he had a key in his hand.

He didn't say a single word, simply used the key to open the door, and walked in without hesitation.

Standing in the middle of the room, he looked around.

This place didn't have a clear separation between the bedroom and living room, the narrow, rectangular-shaped room only barely had enough room for a single bed and a cupboard; everything else must be piled on top, otherwise, there wouldn't be any place to put them at all.

There wasn't even a toilet here.

Even in the slums, such living conditions would be considered inferior.

Gu Qing Shan silently watched over the room.

Indeed, this place used to be his home.

What kind of world illusion made me return to my homeworld, to the slums of the Confederate?

Gu Qing Shan was full of questions.

He closed his eyes, silently focused himself on searching his surroundings.

All of a sudden.

Following a certain of Gu Qing Shan's thoughts, something manifested in this narrow and stifled dark room.

A long tongue slowly extended from above, silently descended behind Gu Qing Shan.

The long tongue softly licked Gu Qing Shan's back, slowly reaching towards his neck.

Chapter 1038

Plish.

Fresh blood was dripping nonstop.

A faint shadow was lying on the ceiling right above Gu Qing Shan.

It reached out with its long tongue, coiling around Gu Qing Shan's neck, and gradually squeezed.

However, Gu Qing Shan was indifferent, he instead displayed a contemplating expression.

An unknown spirit took advantage of the illusion Card to pull me into some sort of unique world illusion.

This might seem dangerous.

But in reality, [Illusion: Dark Inviter] isn't an Inner Plane Card, nor is it a World Technique created by fusing Cards together.

In other words, this Card has limited power.

This was the reason why Gu Qing Shan didn't retaliate right away.

——-he held in his repertoire two actual World Techniques.

[Parallel Dream].

And [Time Recollection].

At this point, Gu Qing Shan already had a certain understanding of creating unique worlds, so as soon as he entered an unknown world illusion, the first thing he attempted to do was to probe the characteristics of this World Technique.

From a certain perspective, this was a form of sparring and research between two technique users.

And so.

When that long tongue extended from the ceiling, he didn't move.

When the tongue licked his back, he didn't move.

Even when the tongue coiled around his neck, he remained motionless, still silently sensing the composition of this technique.

It was only after he had a certain idea in his mind that Gu Qing Shan put up one hand and formed a seal.
——the Clear Mind Seal.

This was one of the basic techniques of the cultivation world, capable of helping a cultivator expel excessive thoughts.

For a cultivator of Gu Qing Shan's level, this level of hand seal should already be useless.

However, what Gu Qing Shan wanted to expel this time wasn't his thoughts.

But his spirit sense.

“Scatter!”

He silently shouted.

Spirit energy poured from his Dantian and gathered into his hand, completing the seal.

Gu Qing Shan felt mind becoming blank, his inner sight completely clear of any excessive details.

Right away.

The tongue, the blood, the narrow room, the gloomy ceiling, even the building vanished from Gu Qing Shan's inner sight.

The scene around him changed.

Gu Qing Shan noticed that he was standing in the middle of a luxurious palace.

He turned around .

Behind him, at the other side of a long dining table sat a middle-aged man with a dignified presence.

「How did you notice? 」 the middle-aged man asked.

Gu Qing Shan answered curtly: “My spirit sense is filled with the exact same sensation of the upcoming battle, so I noticed”

「You are quite the sensitive person to magic techniques—— I welcome you, please have a seat 」

The middle-aged man gestured to Gu Qing Shan to sit down.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the dining table and stood motionlessly.

“My apologies, I don't have a habit of sharing a meal with strangers”

He looked at the other party and replied.

The middle-aged stood up, gracefully bowed to greet him, and spoke up again:

「I should be the one to apologize—— forgive my recklessness for using such a method to summon you here」

「Then, let me introduce myself, I am the Previous Kings of Calming Soul Country 」

Previous Kings?

How could a single person call themselves the 'Previous Kings'?

Perhaps noticing Gu Qing Shan's doubt, the middle-aged man thought briefly and replied: 「It should be fine to show you」

His body abruptly expanded into a transparent spirit that was over 5 meters tall.

Over a hundred faces appeared on the outside of the spirit.

Their appearances were all unique with different expressions, but they were all looking at Gu Qing Shan.

This scene would be a bit harsh for the faint-hearted.

Gu Qing Shan remained expressionless and clasped his fist: "Nice to meet you. Then, what exactly did the Previous Kings summon me here for?"

Instantly, the expanded spirit retracted and turned into that middle-aged man once again.

He replied: 「There is no need to be surprised—— I believe you already know this, but the monster is unable to find the souls of royal family members, so we were not devoured and instead existed for countless years following our deaths through this way」

「Please have a seat, we shall slowly explain it」 the middle-aged man offered again.

"Very well"

Gu Qing Shan sat down on his side of the dining table.

The middle-aged man swung his hand.

The table was immediately filled with steaming hot dishes of food.

「These are the most favorite foods of us kings, I think at least a few of them should fit your taste」 the middle-aged man smiled as he said.

Gu Qing Shan looked over at these dishes.

He understood both the art of cooking and the art of World Techniques, so he was naturally able to infer what had transpired.

These dishes were created from concentrated consciousness.

Simply put, they were literally created from memory.

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——once somebody tasted these dishes, recorded the taste in their minds, then manifested them once again through willpower.

This way, when other people ate these dishes, they would be able to experience the same wonderful tastes they originally had.

Gu Qing Shan praised: "What a grand feast, and such exceptional techniques as well, truly an eye-opening experience for me"

He chose a knife among the utensils provided on the table and thrust it towards a small dish.

Half-way through, the knife turned into a pair of chopsticks that squarely caught the dish.

Gu Qing Shan had a taste.

Hm...

This sensation is very genuine, enough for me to faintly detect how it was made from the taste alone.

He moved his chopsticks towards another dish.

The middle-aged man stared closely at Gu Qing Shan, his eyes displaying clear praise.

This young man used his own willpower to alter the knife, manifesting it as a pair of chopsticks, meaning that he understands this technique enough to slowly hold the initiative within this place.

— and it was also a silent warning.

With that in mind, the middle-aged man's expression turned serious:

"I have something that I simply must trouble you for"

"You're too formal, I've never been one to eat without repayment, please go ahead" Gu Qing Shan continued to taste the food and replied.

「As the Previous Kings, I really want to know what became of my unfilial descendent」

"Ah? Who is this unfilial descendent you are referring to?"

「The one that was bestowed the Divine Skills of all previous kings, was still defeated at your hands, only to enter the God of Life's ruin and never returned」

Gu Qing Shan was startled.

So that's what this was about.

The king's ancestors spared no efforts to activate this technique and pull me in, just to learn of the king's whereabouts, this makes perfect sense.

From a certain point of view, this is a case of the old seeing the young off.

But, how do I say this ... The king's death at the time was a little underserved.

At one point, Gu Qing Shan was truly considering taking him into his group.

But the Occultism spirit acted too quickly, and the king's leftover skin was also swept away by the space vortex vanishing without a trace.

So there truly was no longer any way to save him.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a while, then decided to recount the exact circumstances leading to the king's death without withholding anything.

The middle-aged man silently listened and became silent for a while.

Gu Qing Shan sincerely added: "Regarding this matter, I truly feel regretful as well, please do not grieve too much"

「Grieve? No, we are not grieving him」 the middle-aged man answered with a hold expression: 「Dying so meaninglessly without leaving even his soul behind, devoured by some monster. What a meaningless waste of our efforts」

Gu Qing Shan was startled.

That attitude is a bit different from what I expected.

If the other party's main goal isn't to learn about the king's death, then what is it?

Gu Qing Shan asked straight: "Forgive me for being frank, what is the reason that you summoned me into this technique?"

The middle-aged man shrugged: "Naturally, that is to form an agreement with you, we will cooperate with one another and run away from Calming Soul Country"

His gaze appeared unprecedentedly serious.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan understood the other party's goal.

"Even with your spirit form, your majesties aren't able to leave Calming Soul Country?" Gu Qing Shan pursued further.

The middle-aged man casually answered: 「If we could, we would have already left—— as you can see, other than those souls that are devoured, only we can use this form to prolong our existence, drifting within Calming Soul Country for almost a hundred million years」

「Although our strength continues to grow, the barrier of Calming Soul Country was created from the oath of Gods, other than those who fit the oath, no one can enter or leave」

「Including yourselves, who only gained entry through the oath of the Greatest Above the Star Crown」

Gu Qing Shan clearly expressed his attitude: "I want to make this transparently clear—— my companions and myself are more than willing to break through this world's barrier and flee from it"

Indeed, anyone else would only choose the same.

Both sides have no conflict of interest, no grudge, only a single common goal: to flee Calming Soul Country.

This was the most suitable basis to achieve cooperation.

The middle-aged man lightly nodded to express his agreement.

He spoke: 「Gu Qing Shan, you are a smart person, and one with ample abilities. Although your strength is a bit lacking, strength isn't necessarily the key within our plan 」

Gu Qing Shan asked right away: “Then, what do your majesties need me to do?”

The middle-aged man paused and fell into thought.

He seemed to be reminiscing about something, as if it was something hard to mention.

A long while later.

He finally opened his mouth and slowly explained: 「Before our cooperation, you need to understand a certain piece of information first, otherwise it would only ruin everything 」

“What information?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「Regarding the God of Life's death over a hundred million years ago 」 the Previous Kings replied.

“Ah, I know about this. The Seven Deities lost their lives one by one during their long fight against the monster of the void”

Gu Qing Shan continued: “For the sake of their descendants, the Demis, the Deities truly dedicated everything, only stopping after death. Truly respectable”

The middle-aged man's lip slightly curled to display a sarcastic smile.

「Only stopping after death? 」

The middle-aged man continued: 「I do not know of the other Deities, but what the God of Life understands best is the way to survive, how could such a great and noble Deity actually die?」

Gu Qing Shan froze, then exclaimed in shock: “You mean, the God of Life is still alive?”

The middle-aged man nodded and told him a certain secret.

「At their deathbed, in order to survive, the God of Life had come up with a way to take over that monster's body. They then hid within Calming Soul Country for the past countless years, feeding on the souls of Demis in order to heal themselves 」

「Deities are entities that are completely different from us from their very essence. In truth, after becoming a Deity, they were already an emotionless, indifferent monster 」

「For such a monster, using the souls of their descendants as food is a completely reasonable act」

Chapter 1039

Within the World Technique.

The middle-aged man was still discussing things with Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan watched his expression, then suddenly thought of something.

“After so many long years, the God of Life—— or rather, that monster, should have already consumed enough souls to heal its injuries, so why did it remain in Calming Soul Country for so long without showing any signs of leaving?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The middle-aged man replied: 「 At first, the monster’s intention was to consume enough souls in order to heal and leave, but as time passed, it noticed a certain benefit—— 」

The middle-aged man displayed a cold grin: 「 Calming Soul Country is under the protection of the oath between Inner Plane 7 Deities and the 4 Pillar Gods of the void, thus becoming one of the best safety shelters within the space vortex for hiding 」

「 However, if it returned to the space vortex... it might run into the monster’s original enemies and allies 」

「 How could the ‘noble’ God of Life know how to live among monsters? It would definitely expose itself in front of such terrifying monster 」

「 And so, rather than risking death that way, it decided to continue staying in Calming Soul Country and live a life free of worries 」

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “As the God of Life, it truly does live up to that name”

「 What do you mean? 」

“I’ve rarely seen someone fear death as much as it does”

「 ...You seem to hold an unusual disrespect towards Deities 」 the middle-aged man commented.

“That isn’t so, I do hold respect towards Deities—— as long as they aren’t fake Deities like the God of Life”

After saying so, Gu Qing Shan continued: “Then, how do you want me to cooperate with you in order to flee Calming Soul Country?”

When official matters were mentioned, the middle-aged man became clearly more serious.

He observed Gu Qing Shan from top to bottom and asked with a hint of probing: 「 First of all, we need to know what attitude you hold towards killing 」

Gu Qing Shan leaned back on his chair and casually replied: “I’ve killed more living beings than all of your majesties combined”

The middle-aged man stared closely at him and said with a displeased tone: 「 There is no need to mention such exaggerations in front of us. You should know, all of us were kings of an entire country, rulers of a world of Demis, the number of people we’ve killed aren’t comparable to a mortal such as yourself 」

Gu Qing Shan simply grinned without saying a word.

Seeing Gu Qing Shan’s attitude, the middle-aged man became hesitant.

He spoke to the void of space above himself: 「 9th king, I recall that you are able to see through a person's sin—— take a look at him 」

A face appeared from the void of space and stared closely at Gu Qing Shan for a while.

The face abruptly exclaimed in shock: 「 He is an evil entity worse than the Deities themselves, he had killed over a quadrillion dead people alone! He is a true Devil! 」

Gasps of shock resounded from the void of space, apparently, the Previous Kings were considerably shocked by this conclusion.

The middle-aged man watched over Gu Qing Shan carefully again and doubtfully questioned: 「 You have massacred over a quadrillion dead souls? Not even the God of Life would have been able to achieve such a feat, how did you do such a thing? 」

“They're nothing but a few villains”

Gu Qing Shan said indifferently: “Isn't that a very simple matter? If someone offended me, they won't find peace even in death”

The middle-aged man fell silent.

He lowered his head, seemingly participating in the kings' discussion.

Gu Qing Shan didn't urge him and simply waited.

A few moments later.

The middle-aged man spoke up: 「 The situation had changed; we have reached a new consensus 」

“Please go head” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The middle-aged man told him: 「 We originally wanted you to be responsible for a portion of this matter, taking a supportive role 」

“And then?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 After consideration, as you managed to win against the king and are a remorselessly sinful devil, we believe that it is fitting for you to fully participate in this matter 」

The middle-aged man cleared his throat and continued: 「 You must have an ability—— to control a person's life and induce their death at a certain point in time 」

“If it's only that, I can achieve such a thing” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 What do you intend to do? 」 the middle-aged man questioned.

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“Bloodletting, or even simpler, put a timebomb into their stomach” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The middle-aged man froze, then scowled: 「 So simple? 」

“Simple means practical” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The middle-aged man shook his head: 「 That won't do, we need a certain person to enter a state of extreme weakness, so weak that they would lose their life at a single touch—— thus making their cause of death to be that touch, rather than yourself 」

“Understood, so what exactly do you want to achieve with that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Listen well, this is the best possible opportunity for in our entire history 」 the middle-aged man explained, 「 There is only one last remaining direct descendant of the God of Life, a three years old child 」

「 Gu Qing Shan, we want you to cooperate with us and create a result of the God of Life taking the life of that child 」

「 As the child is its direct descendant, according to the ancient covenant between the Deities and Gods, it cannot kill this final member of the royal family, otherwise it would violate the oath 」

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then asked: “Is there a need for such complication? The God of Life had already fused with the Law of Death of this world. If that child died, Calming Soul Country would be destroyed and would cause the God of Life heavy injuries either way”

The middle-aged man shook his head: 「 It isn't quite as simple as you assume. Even while heavily injured, it would still have enough strength to chase after and kill us as we break through this world's barrier 」

“It can kill you?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Naturally, we are already dead, no longer under the protection of the oath. It's simply that our souls do not carry the God of Life's sigil so it couldn't find us 」 the middle-aged man replied.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

So, it's only because the royal family doesn't have the God of Life's sigil that the kings were able to avoid being consumed by the monster at the time of their deaths.

The middle-aged man continued: 「 Remember well, we need to meticulously control the state of that child's death, causing him to die not a single moment too early or too late, but exactly at the God of Life's touch. This way, the God of Life would receive the recoil of their oath and perish 」

「 Once the God of Life perishes, both you and us will achieve freedom 」

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and asked: “When exactly do you intend to put this plan into action? As you know, the God of Life would not easily show themselves”

The middle-aged man replied: 「 Tomorrow, at the time of the coronation ceremony, it will surely hide within the shadow to watch over the entire process 」

Gu Qing Shan added: “The four fake Gods will also show up”

「 There is no need to pay any attention to those four traitors. Once the God of Life perishes, they would also lose all of their powers 」 the middle-aged man replied.

Gu Qing Shan grinned, then said: “So that was the case, we have a deal”

The middle-aged man nodded, satisfied.

After the two sides discussed a bit more details, the technique was about to end.

At the end, Gu Qing Shan hesitantly said: “That child is your descendant, I’m worried that you might not be able to act in the final moments”

The middle-aged man spoke with a stern expression: 「 Do not worry about such things. We are kings, rulers of this world, when it comes to necessary sacrifices, we would not hesitate 」

“Then there is no worry—— right, this illusion Card is quite useful to me, you can’t completely expend it” Gu Qing Shan mentioned at the end.

The middle-aged man scowled: 「 It’s merely a Card, are you so concerned with it? 」

“Of course” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 Very well, we shall return an exact same Card to you 」 the middle-aged man replied.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan was pleased.

He nodded towards the other party and slowly faded from inside the World Technique.

A few moments later, Gu Qing Shan found himself back in their temporary camp.

Time——

Only a fraction of a second had passed.

Zhang Ying Hao and the rest glanced at him for a bit but didn’t say anything.

There were no other disturbances around them, so they instinctively assumed that the magic fluctuations just now came from Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan looked down at his hand.

An illusion Card appeared in his hand.

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief and muttered to himself: “Good, although their mouth was full of empty words, at least they returned the Card to me”

“Calming Soul Country... hah, what an ironic name for such a world”

Chapter 1040

Gu Qing Shan looked at the illusion Card in his hand again and muttered: “Consume”

As he declared so, the Card scattered into sprites of light which in return were absorbed into his body.

Gu Qing Shan once again closed his eyes, immersing himself in that moment where he used a single strike to eliminate the mythical [Chaos] monster.

He constantly re-lived that moment, experiencing the wonders of that desperate attack.

A few moments later.

The Card's effect faded.

Gu Qing Shan took out four more Cards, which were respectively [Border Knight of Radiance], [Frost Sealing Casket], [Demon Hunting Hatchet], and [Mechanical Magic Crystallization].

These four Cards, as well as the [Elemental Wind Chaser Strike] and [Illusion: Dark Inviter] that he consumed before, according to the descriptions from the Envoy of Condemnation, were the 6 Cards necessary to support his swordsmanship to the next level.

As he didn't have anything to do at the moment, Gu Qing Shan used up all four Cards at once.

He fell into an indescribably mystical state.

His every movement, gesture, scripture, experience... that was related to swordsmanship was being displayed in his mind following a certain wondrous order.

This arranged order seems to signify a higher realm of swordsmanship, allowing Gu Qing Shan to achieve new levels of understanding just by continuously viewing them.

Time slowly passed.

Boss had returned to the hidden temporary camp.

At this point, it was already night, and everyone had rested well enough.

Laura felt a bit hungry so she looked at Gu Qing Shan.

Only to find that Gu Qing Shan was staring blankly without moving.

As she was about to call out to him, Boss stopped her.

"Shh—"

Boss gestured to her to come over and whispered:

"Don't bother him"

Laura was surprised.

She looked to Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li.

They both nodded at her.

Ye Fei Li whispered to her: "Your Majesty, Laura, he's currently in a state of deep comprehension, a very rare and unique occurrence. It would be best not to interrupt him"

"Ah"

Laura understood.

She naturally understood the principles of this state, but since she wasn't a fighter, she wasn't as sensitive towards these matters compared to the others, so she didn't notice Gu Qing Shan's unusual state from the very beginning.

This time, Laura stayed silent as well.

The four of them remained silent and cautious as they silently watched over Gu Qing Shan.

Time slowly passed.

Darkness continued to fall.

The shroud of the night had fully enveloped the land.

The frigid wind had begun to pick up.

It wasn't until the very first rays of light broke through the shroud of darkness from the horizon did Gu Qing Shan finally regain his senses.

"Hoh—"

He exhaled deeply, then noticed that Laura, Boss, Zhang Ying Hao, and Ye Fei Li were all looking at him.

"Sorry about that, making you all wait for so long" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

While he was speaking, the void of space slowly broke apart around his body, forming long, horizontal cracks.

The void of space was constantly switching between a state of being broken and healing itself, which made for a terrifying sight.

Seriously, what kind of ridiculous level of mastery in swordsmanship has this guy reached?

How is he breaking through the void of space just by the sword will that he naturally gives off?

Everyone silently thought.

"Gu Qing Shan, what's going on with you? Can we actually get close?"

Laura fearfully asked.

Ye Fei Li also questioned: "Oi, you look really scary right now, are you going to keep staying like that from now on?"

Gu Qing Shan naturally noticed the strange phenomenon around his body and facepalmed: "It's nothing serious, wait a minute, let me fix it"

He closed his eyes, formed a sword seal with his hands, then finally opened his eyes again after a long while and muttered:

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"Gather!"

Everyone watched.

Sure enough, the cracks around Gu Qing Shan had all disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan smiled: “There, it’s no longer dangerous”

“That looked really awesome just now. Congratulations on your advancement in swordsmanship!”

Laura said, about to walk towards him.

When a giant jet-black crack in space abruptly shot from Gu Qing Shan’s body up to the sky.

Crick crack!

The crack gave off faint exploding noises for several breaths’ worth of time before vanishing.

Everyone: “...”

Laura couldn’t help but stop herself and retreated back together with everyone else.

Zhang Ying Hao stared straight at Gu Qing Shan and spoke with a stern expression: “There are over a thousand rules of combat, but safety is always number one; when killing skills aren’t up to par, both friends and family members will mourn—— this is a friendly reminder of my Assassin Guild, and now I sincerely present it to you”

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly explained: “That was an accident, just an accident, I had only just entered this realm so I haven’t fully gotten used to it yet”

He closed his eyes again, formed another sword seal, and began to deal with the constant intense sword will that he emanated.

A few moments later.

He opened his eyes and smiled: “Now it should be fine”

But everyone took more distance from him.

“Oi—— is that really just swordsmanship?” Boss shouted from far away.

“Yeah, a new realm of swordsmanship, I’m now able to exert twice the power of my current strength”
Gu Qing Shan explained.

“That sounds a bit like some sort of turbo booster” Zhang Ying Hao commented.

“Yeah” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Is that really possible?” Ye Fei Li clicked his tongue in doubt.

“Nothing is impossible” Boss praised: “This is due to his skills being so excessively overwhelming that it created a feedback loop that forced his strength to explosively exert itself, allowing them both to be on the same standard again”

Boss continued: “I really couldn’t imagine that your swordsmanship had reached such a level. Quite possibly, even among the 900 million World Layers, your swordsmanship has surpassed everyone else”

Gu Qing Shan sighed and replied: “My strength is still severely lacking”

Boss checked his expression, only to see that he was calm and collected without a hint of being arrogant, so he silently nodded.

Gu Qing Shan didn't mind any of that and glanced towards the void of space.

Lines of glowing text appeared on his Card UI:

[Condemnation Card: Sword cultivator Gu Qing Shan, you have completed your technique advancements]

[Your technique had reached the lowest threshold required of an Envoy of Condemnation]

[But your strength is still lacking]

[Please quickly find any Inner Plane Card to also bring your strength up to the lowest threshold required for an Envoy of Condemnation]

[When both your techniques and strength have reached the lowest required threshold, you may begin using special Inner Plane Cards for your advancement]

Gu Qing Shan quickly skimmed through.

— I've already used all of Laura's Inner Plane Cards to create my World Technique.

So I'll need to look for another Inner Plane Card somewhere else.

But this isn't a very urgent matter.

There's something more important that I have to resolve right now.

Gu Qing Shan looked to his companions and said:

“Boss, Ying Hao, Fei Li, Laura, and Xuan Ya as well, something happened earlier, I met the Previous Kings of Calming Soul Country”

Without waiting for everyone's reactions, Gu Qing Shan recounted the entire meeting to them.

“Killing that child to ensure that the God of Life would be killed as well?”

Laura repeated.

“Hm, that's what they said” Gu Qing Shan replied.

His gaze turned towards the figure standing behind the group, the transparent figure that was hovering in the air.

— Xuan Ya's wandering soul.

Xuan Ya's complexion had already turned pale from listening, so she hurriedly said something.

Ye Fei Li relayed the message: “She's begging you not to kill her son. She's willing to tell you a certain secret”

Chapter 1041

“You have a secret you’d be willing to tell me? To protect your son’s life?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Xuan Ya quickly nodded.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand dismissively and said: “For now, don’t tell me that secret yet. I actually want to tell you about my decision before anything else”

He looked at her and sincerely said: “I won’t kill your son, regardless of what the secret you’re going to tell me is, and this won’t change”

Xuan Ya froze, then realized what he implied.

—-if I told Gu Qing Shan the secret first, everything that he decides, later on, would feel like it was done because he obtained that secret.

But Gu Qing Shan had decided to make his decision first.

This way, it would no longer be us trading the secret for a life.

Me using the secret to trade for my son’s life was a kind of transaction, but to be frank, it would be more akin to a type of threat or force of hand.

—-this person had realized all of this as he saw this seemingly easy-to-obtain secret.

This is exceptional precisely because normal people wouldn’t consider things from this angle and instead choose to hear the secret first.

Xuan Ya looked at Gu Qing Shan with a complicated expression.

This person... isn’t willing to use threats or force to decide the fate of my child.

Then, for what reason did he recount his conversation with the Previous Kings in front of me?

Without leaving her time to think any further, Gu Qing Shan continued to explain:

“Xuan Ya, I hope you’ll understand something clearly first, we aren’t the type of people to kill just anybody”

He slowly continued:

“If we need to sacrifice the life of a 3-year-old child to solve our problem, that would only prove one thing: that we are a bunch of talentless garbage— Boss, what do you say?”

Boss scoffed and replied: “You were too long-winded, of course, it would be that way”

Gu Qing Shan’s gaze then turned to Zhang Ying Hao.

Zhang Ying Hao cleared his throat: “There are three kinds of people that my hitman firm won’t kill: pregnant women, young children, and the elderly”

Gu Qing Shan turned to Laura.

Laura smiled sweetly and said: “Whoever Gu Qing Shan says we should kill, that person would be the Bramble Bird Kingdom’s enemy”

Gu Qing Shan turned to Ye Fei Li.

Ye Fei Li manifested a canned drink for Boss and replied: “When doing ranked matches, I like to play as a support more than anything else, because these are characters that truly test the limit of skill— I don’t particularly like to kill people at the moment— unless I don the mask”

Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze back at Xuan Ya and slowly stated:

“As you can see, we don’t like to threaten others, or would we kill your son. We seek to gain another trustworthy long-term friend and not a stranger that can be discarded after taking advantage of one another”

Xuan Ya went silent briefly, then said something.

Ye Fei Li relayed her message: “She said, have you always been so dumb— pfft—”

As soon as he said that, he couldn’t contain his laughter.

Dumb?

Everyone turned their eyes to Gu Qing Shan with strange expressions on their faces.

Gu Qing Shan didn’t show any particular reaction and spoke seriously: “In reality, I’ve killed countless people— a lot more than all of your previous kings combined”

“I’m quite similar to Ying Hao, we’re both people who won’t hesitate to kill when necessary”

Gu Qing Shan drew the Earth sword from the void of space, his gaze focused on the blade of the sword.

A faint killing intent slowly exuded from between him and the sword.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “Simply put, those who truly use the sword aren’t very different from me”

Hearing that, Xuan Ya appeared confused.

— *those who truly use the sword?*

Gu Qing Shan continued: “A sword is forged with two edges, one edge to kill, one edge to save”

“Under my sword, not a single person among those who deserve to die can live, and not a single of those who deserve to live can die— even if they’re dead, I will return them to life”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan pulled his sword back and slightly bowed, as if to greet Xuan Ya:

“Very soon, I will revive you. Hopefully, during our later battles, you will stand on our side”

“If you happen to see how I kill people with remorse later on, please make a note to prepare yourself for such a sight”

Xuan Ya looked at him in surprise, then replied after a long while.

Ye Fei Li relayed her message: “In truth, she had already thought of you as being trustworthy when you helped her calm her son down, but she was worried that you were too kind so she had hesitated all this time”

Kind!?

Everyone looked at Gu Qing Shan with strange expressions again.

Gu Qing Shan glared at them.

Everyone regained their senses and glanced back at Xuan Ya.

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What kind of eyes does this woman have?

Everyone silently thought.

However, Laura lightly nodded, seemingly agreeing with her.

Seeing that Gu Qing Shan didn't intend to say anything, Xuan Ya continued.

Ye Fei Li relayed: “She asked if you have the golden ring that belonged to the king”

“Here” Laura cut them off.

She gave the ring back to Gu Qing Shan, then unnaturally became flushed.

——in the God of Life's ruin, when Gu Qing Shan needed to take a temporary leave, he gave her this ring so that she could use it.

And now, it was returned to him again.

Xuan Ya stared intently at the golden ring and seemingly sighed in relief.

She nodded and continued:

“She said that she had finally understood what kind of person you are, and had made her decision to face this battle together with you. This time, as a final gambit for the sake of all Demis of Calming Soul Country”

“How do we do that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“She said that there are a total of four rings in Calming Soul Country, one Ring of the Sovereign and three Rings of the guardians”

“Once these four rings are gathered, they would be able to command all Demis from their souls”

Ba-dump!

Gu Qing Shan was able to hear his heart beat faster.

This is truly a secret!

Gu Qing Shan quickly regained his senses and asked: “The four fake Gods were original Demis, so are they within the range of those that can be commanded as well?”

“That is exactly the case, she said that you currently have one Ring of the Sovereign and one Ring of the guardian in your hand, as long as you can find the other two rings, you’d be able to command them to hand over what you want”

“The four fake Gods would definitely not take this into consideration, because as soon as the royal family and guardians tried anything against them, the monster would surely come for revenge”

“Because of that, this method can only be used once”

Gu Qing Shan grinned and replied: “Once is quite enough”

If they can indeed command the four fake Gods, gathering the four pieces of Water God’s Card could be extremely simple!

Gu Qing Shan exchanged glances with the others, finally seeing a ray of hope.

Regaining his composure, Gu Qing Shan forced himself to calm down.

He asked Xuan Ya: “Today at the strike of noon, the king’s coronation will be conducted—— would the four fake Gods really show up at that time?”

Xuan Ya nodded and explained.

Ye Fei Li relayed the message: “She said that the four fake Gods would never gather, unless it is an extremely serious occasion”

“Due to the death of basically the entire royal family, the child is the only final member of their bloodline, the four fake Gods will surely show up in order to host the ceremony for the new king’s coronation”

“Because of that, this will be the only chance to see all four fake Gods”

While listening, Gu Qing Shan slowly nodded.

“Thank you for your information, your secret is extremely crucial to our plan” he sincerely told her.

Xuan Ya appeared hesitant, but still gritted her teeth and said something.

As sharp as Gu Qing Shan was, he didn’t wait for Ye Fei Li to relay the message and immediately replied: “Don’t worry, I will make sure to ensure your son’s safety”

“That’s not it, she hoped that you would be able to save all the Demis of Calming Soul Country”

Ye Fei Li continued: “Even though it is a highly unreasonable request, the Demis are all innocent, so she wishes for you to save them all as well”

Gu Qing Shan appeared troubled and replied: “It isn’t a simple task to save so many people, not to mention, most of the Demis are completely clueless of what had been happening—— they must at least have someone to lead them to be able to cooperate with me on the same goal”

Xuan Ya said something in reply.

Ye Fei Li said: "She asked if you can really revive her"

Gu Qing Shan used his inner sight to scan inside his Thought Sea and noticed that the Heaven sword was moving just a bit.

Luo Bing Li had only just awoken from her sleep, yawning.

Gu Qing Shan silently said sorry to Luo Bing Li and replied: "...That's right, I can revive her"

Xuan Ya nodded, then said something else.

Ye Fei Li appeared surprised and relayed what she said: "She said that the prince is only three years old and hasn't reached the age of maturity. According to the kingdom's laws, a direct blood-relative of his must temporarily be responsible for his authority in the meantime"

"She had kept up communication with the other two guardians, and maintained a relatively amiable relationship with them"

"She said that within this world of Calming Soul Country, the Demis have all known about the existence of the guardians as the true protectors of this kingdom, but they do not know who exactly is a guardian"

"Since she is both a guardian and the mother of the king, as long as she steps forward, she would surely receive their support"

"— — —and she is willing to take on the position of queen regent of Calming Soul Country"

"She will lead the Demis to fight alongside us!"

Chapter 1042

A sluggish female voice came out:

"I'm finally awak—"

"Wait!"

Gu Qing Shan immediately shouted.

"Hm? What is it? Is there an enemy?" Luo Bing Li asked.

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "Luo Bing Li, I have an earnest question I need to ask you, you need to give me a straight answer"

"Go ahead"

"Tell me, what is your biggest dream?"

Luo Bing Li answered without hesitation: "My dream? Of course, it would be that I don't need to sleep"

Gu Qing Shan paused.

He readjusted his expression to make his smile even more sincere.

Then started speaking in a very sincere and warm tone: "...Please think about it more carefully, with infinite worlds, there are so many places that are more interesting than the Primordial Heaven Realm. Surely, there are other things that you wish to do?"

Luo Bing Li ruminated about it before she replied: "That's true, with billions of worlds, there are surely countless interesting things to do. I want to go strolling around, to go window-shopping as much as I can"

Gu Qing Shan clapped his hands and asked in an enthusiastic manner: "Why do you want to go strolling?"

Luo Bing Li was swept by his enthusiasm and replied: "Of course, it's to go shopping—— for those beautiful clothes, interesting toys, as well as those yummy food"

Gu Qing Shan's expression turned a bit gloomy and put up one finger: "However, right at this moment, we've run into a very serious issue"

"What kind of issue? Do we need to fight?"

"No, quite simply, I don't have enough money"

"Ah... I still have a lot of spirit stones with me..."

"Spirit stones aren't usable, among the infinite worlds, they require a more common type of currency"

Luo Bing Li hesitated, then muttered: "Then..."

Gu Qing Shan continued: "To resolve this issue, I specifically took on a certain mission"

Luo Bing Li asked in surprise: "What kind of mission?"

"Look ahead, there's a wandering soul right in front of us. She's the queen regent of this world, holding peerlessly huge wealth in her possession. She is able to grant us an immeasurable amount of common currency that will ensure you will never run out of money whenever you go on your shopping trips from now on"

"That's so good? Gu Qing Shan, I can't believe you've managed to find such great backing!"

Gu Qing Shan followed up immediately: "I'm actually not interested at all in money, but considering that you need to use a lot of money, I didn't spare the efforts or long journey and specifically found this queen regent"

Luo Bing Li was a bit moved and commented: "You really shouldn't have"

"I've always taken good care of my companions, don't mention it" Gu Qing Shan replied while keeping up his thick skin.

Luo Bing Li then felt a bit doubtful and asked: "But then, why would she give us money? And also, I recall that wandering souls usually find it really tough to communicate with living people, how could she rule over a country?"

Gu Qing Shan smacked his thighs and enthusiastically told her: "Exactly, that's why this is our chance to get rich, Luo Bing Li"

"You mean that..."

"Yes, we need to revive her"

Hearing that, Luo Bing Li didn't say a single word and simply stared at him.

The enthusiastic expression on his face froze still as he continued staring at Luo Bing Li.

A long moment of silence.

Luo Bing Li asked: "You haven't prepared the next person to be revived as well, have you?"

"Absolutely not, this is only a coincidence" Gu Qing Shan guaranteed, "I swear that the next time you wake up, I won't force you to sleep again, I'll definitely let you go shopping as you wish for ten days straight"

Luo Bing Li causally questioned: "For ten days straight huh? And then what?"

Gu Qing Shan recognized a certain sense of danger in her words, so he swiftly changed his tone and spoke in a soothing manner: "We'll naturally change to another world for another ten days of shopping"

"And then what?"

"Another world, another ten more days!"

"And then, and then what?"

"We'll change to another world for ten more days! I vow that I won't ask you to sleep again for the next while!"

Hearing the word 'vow' come out of his mouth, Luo Bing Li's stern expression relaxed a bit.

Unlike other Professions, cultivators were automatically bound to their vows, with the lightest punishment of violating them being chased and beaten by the Laws of Heaven and Earth, so normally, they won't put out any vows casually.

The fact that Gu Qing Shan had actually used the word 'vow' meant that he was telling the truth.

"Hmph, sleep, sleep, sleep, all you want me to do is sleep. Don't forget your vow this time"

Gu Qing Shan pounded his chest in assurance: "Of course, after this one, I guarantee the next time you wake up, you'll get to enjoy yourselves to your heart's degree, both money and time won't be an issue, you won't need to sleep again!"

Luo Bing Li was no longer angry, but sighed: "...Hah, fine, I'll sleep for another 10 days"

...

The Heaven sword swung.

Xuan Ya opened her eyes and sat up from the ground.

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“I... really did revive...”

She carefully sensed her current state to confirm this to be true.

“To be able to revive the dead, could it be, you were a Deity?”

Xuan Ya doubtfully glanced at Gu Qing Shan.

“You think too much, it’s actually the power of this sword of mine” Gu Qing Shan replied and put the Heaven sword away.

The group began discussing the next step of their plan.

Gu Qing Shan said: “The first thing we need to do now is to gather the other two rings from the guardians”

“Do we need to fight?” Boss asked.

Xuan Ya replied: “No need—— I’ve always maintained very good relations with the other two guardians, and our stance is unified. We only need to look for them now, as long as they stand on our side, our chances of winning should be a lot greater”

Zhang Ying Hao asked: “What if they don’t stand on your side?”

Xuan Ya froze, then resolutely replied: “Then I won’t stop you. But you must keep in mind, their Divine Skills are considerably powerful, you must finish the battle as soon as possible”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Zhang Ying Hao glanced at the sky above and commented: “It would be mid-noon soon; we need we hurry up”

An hour later.

In a certain secluded smithery, Xuan Ya and Ye Fei Li found the guardian they were looking for.

The blacksmith stared at Xuan Ya and narrowed his eyes: “That’s impossible, you’re already dead”

This was the hidden guardian.

“Denu, it really is me”

Xuan Ya stepped forward and recited the codewords they had always used.

A few moments later, the blacksmith was still in disbelief as he muttered: “My god, I’ve never seen a person that could revive someone after death”

Xuan Ya replied: “I feel the same, but I’m not here today to discuss this matter. As you know, my son is about to be coronated”

The blacksmith said: “That’s right, the coronation ceremony is about to take place, I was just preparing to enter the palace to protect him”

“Wait a bit, I have something I need to tell you now”

Xuan Ya quickly explained the situation to him, then invited him to join their cause.

The blacksmith contemplated it briefly before happily agreeing.

“That’s fine, you’re a guardian, and now the king’s mother, so you naturally qualify as the queen regent— it’s a good thing that there is someone who can help the new king, I was actually contemplating over this matter earlier”

“Then let’s be on our way, we need to find Greyhound”

Greyhound was the other guardian.

“Very well, let’s go” the blacksmith called Denu agreed.

As the three of them were about to set out, Ye Fei Li who had remained silent all this time suddenly asked: “Your Excellency, would you pledge your allegiance to the queen regent from now on?”

“Naturally, Xuan Ya is our comrade, we hold the same beliefs, so she’s worth our protection” the guardian sincerely replied.

“Denu...” Xuan Ya was moved.

Ye Fei Li also halted his steps and raised a thumbs up to the blacksmith.

“I truly respect people like you” Ye Fei Li praised him

The guardian smiled and was about to say something else, but felt a hand on his shoulder.

——Lightning Thaumaturgy, [Dreamjolt]!

The guardian instantly froze.

A sword then appeared from the void of space and lightly tapped the guardian’s head.

He then fell unconscious.

From the void of space, Laura appeared as he put her umbrella away.

Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Ying Hao, and Boss showed up as well.

“Why did you suddenly give the signal?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“Because he lied when he answered my question” Ye Fei Li replied.

He continued to explain: “Whenever a person lies, their soul would experience a very faint sense of anxiety, whenever I hear these faint fluctuations, I would know that they were lying”

Everyone nodded.

——when they were showing each other their abilities earlier, Ye Fei Li had already displayed this power of his.

Laura curiously asked: “Would the soul of everyone appear anxious when they lie?”

“No, malicious souls would laugh happily” Ye Fei Li replied.

Gu Qing Shan spoke emotionally: “Ever since I entered the 900 million World Layers, it’s always been groups of other people surrounding me with bad intentions, all of them have specialists specifically checking if I’m telling the truth or not”

“This time, it’s finally my turn to have a specialist that helps me determine the truth and lie of others”

He crouched down and put his hand over the blacksmith’s forehead.

———Soul Reading, activate!

Chapter 1043

Gu Qing Shan pulled his hand back and muttered: “How troublesome”

“What’s the situation?” Ye Fei Li asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Three hours ago, he already swore his allegiance to the Previous Kings”

Everyone was shocked.

“If that’s the case, the Previous Kings don’t trust you at all” Zhang Ying Hao commented.

“If they actually did, I’d be a lot more surprised——— compared to an outsider like me, the kingdom’s guardians are naturally more trustworthy” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Oh no, then what about Greyhound!?” Xuan Ya muttered.

Indeed, if the Previous Kings have reached out to one guardian, they would naturally reach out to the other guardian as well.

The Previous Kings wanted to make sure that the child will die in the hands of the God of Life.

The situation had turned a lot more serious.

Gu Qing Shan spoke up: “We’re heading to the other guardian immediately”

Xuan Ya pointed at the blacksmith and asked: “What about him?”

Gu Qing Shan took the ring from the blacksmith’s finger and replied: “To ensure that we don’t alert them, first we need to ensure that he remains unconscious”

“That’s easy” Laura said.

She took out a 2-meter-long coffin and threw the man inside.

“Legendary Artifact: [Sleeping Beauty’s Sealed Coffin]——— after lying inside, as long as no one kisses you on the lips, you will never wake up” Laura patted the top of the coffin and boastfully explained.

Zhang Ying Hao looked at the blacksmith and muttered: “Then I guess he’s never going to wake up”

The group tidied everything up and quickly left.

They moved as fast as possible and soon reached a restaurant.

Laura opened her flower umbrella and vanished together with Gu Qing Shan's group.

Just as before, Xuan Ya brought Ye Fei Li inside.

After just a few sentences, Ye Fei Li noticed that he was lying, so he gave the signal.

This guardian was knocked unconscious as well.

After using Soul Reading on him, Gu Qing Shan turned to Laura.

"What is it?" Laura asked.

"Do you have another of that coffin from before?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"...It was a one-of-a-kind artifact" Laura replied.

"Then, we'll just have to put them in together— that won't decrease the effects of the coffin, will it?"

"It won't..." Laura hesitantly replied.

"That's good then"

Gu Qing Shan took off this guardian's ring and tossed him into the coffin as well.

—-although it was a bit cramped, as long as the two guardians were laid on their sides, they would still barely fit inside.

As Laura was about to activate the seal and close the coffin, Zhang Ying Hao suddenly spoke up: "Wait"

"What is it?" Laura was confused.

"If the two of them happen to kiss one another, wouldn't that mean both of them would wake up?"

Zhang Ying Hao asked.

After considering that situation for a bit, everyone agreed that would be the case.

So Zhang Ying Hao went up and changed how the two guardians laid down, making sure that the most they could do was kiss the other person's boot.

He then overlapped some parts of their bodies to make sure that the two of them would perfectly fit inside the coffin.

"There—- should be no issues now" Zhang Ying Hao declared in satisfaction as he carefully pulled down the lid of the coffin and sealed it tight.

"Very careful" Boss praised.

"Well done" Ye Fei Li praised.

"Meticulous" Laura praised.

"Well-considered" Gu Qing Shan praised.

Xuan Ya: "..."

She suddenly recalled how she thought that these people were just a rag-tag bunch the first time she saw them.

But right at this moment, the only impression she held of them was that of a terrifying group.

Xuan Ya calmed her emotions a bit, then spoke up: “Then... now that we’ve obtained all the rings, should we command all the kingdom officials, the military, as well as the civilians to go up against both the monster and the Previous Kings?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “No, during our secret meeting yesterday, the Previous Kings had arranged so that we’d meet up at the palace today, during the coronation”

“Are you actually planning on cooperating with him to act during the coronation ceremony?” Xuan Ya asked.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “Not at all, but there’s a very simple logic here—— over 100 million years ago, not even the Deities managed to kill that monster”

“Are the few of us here, even with every Demi in this world, going to be more powerful than the Deities used to be?”

Xuan Ya froze.

Everyone also fell into thought.

Zhang Ying Hao mused: “We would definitely not win against that monster—— let’s call her the God of Life for now”

Boss added: “Not only does she have the strength of the monster, but also the God of Life’s knowledge and experience, even in the infinite void, there shouldn’t be many who could be her match”

Ye Fei Li asked: “Then, are we going to surrender?”

Gu Qing Shan turned to Laura and asked: “That gift you gave to Lin last time, do you still have another similar item?”

“The gift I gave Lin? You mean the mirror world?” Laura thought for a bit and answered him: “There are, but none of them are quite as good”

When Laura first met Lin, she gave her a mirror world.

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That world wasn’t particularly large, it was only 5 million square kilometers in total, surrounded by golden beaches—— managed by top experts of the 900 million World Layers, including 5 top-class gourmet chefs, 7 hairstylists, 15 jewel designers, 24 scientists, and 36 modern fashion designers, all of which could be summoned if the owner required anything.

“It’s ok, as long as you have them” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“So now, there are two issues left—— Boss, back in the Bramble Bird Kingdom, you once demonstrated a reverse devil summoning technique”

Boss nodded.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "I want to know, does that summoning technique of yours have any limitations?"

Boss replied: "There are. At most I can only summon ten people at once"

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out and said: "Then, give me a reverse-summoning covenant"

Boss nodded: "Alright"

A dark crimson flame appeared on his hand, which he used to quickly draw a circle in the air, followed by flaming runes.

This was the Fiend Flame and the unique ruins for the summoning circle.

"Catch" Boss told Gu Qing Shan.

The dark crimson flame magic circle was pushed, lightly flying towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan received it with his hand.

The dark crimson flame magic circle abruptly vanished, while Boss' Book of Prophesized Destiny automatically flipped open to a certain page.

The page naturally depicted Gu Qing Shan's appearance.

"There" Boss nodded, "I can now summon you to where I am at any time"

Gu Qing Shan finally turned to Xuan Ya: "Then what about you? I remember you said your Divine Skill was [Fearless Transmission], right?"

"Yes, at the time, it was because of this Divine Skill that the king made me receive you in the secret passage" Xuan Ya replied.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "I remember you telling me that your Divine Skill will allow you to warp to any location you wished"

"Yes" Xuan Ya confirmed.

"Are there any limitations?" Gu Qing Shan pursued.

"There's also a limit of 10 people, and the place of transport would be the location where I focus my mind" Xuan Ya replied.

"Good, then we can begin our battle right now"

Gu Qing Shan clapped his hand and circulated the spirit energy around his body.

Laura hurriedly exclaimed: "Wait a minute, Gu Qing Shan, you just said that we can't defeat that monster— and you still haven't explained how we're going to fight!"

Gu Qing Shan prepared his sword seals.

The Earth sword appeared next to him from the void of space.

“Don’t worry, I’ll explain it right away”

The Earth sword flashed and shot straight to the sky.

Everyone watched as the flying sword entered the deep blue sky above and slowly travelled even further away, completely out of sight.

Gu Qing Shan patted Ye Fei Li’s shoulder and told him: “Distribute the drinks”

“Got it”

Ye Fei Li gave a canned drink to everyone.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan quickly began to delegate the roles of battle:

“Fei Li will be responsible for lookout, I’ll leave the mirror world and our ship to you, also remember to pay attention and help us if necessary”

“Sure” Ye Fei Li replied.

“Ying Hao, are you able to utilize your gun yet?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“As much as I possibly can, it had only just awoken, so we’re still training”

“At a crucial moment, you’ll be responsible for sniping”

“That’s simple enough” Zhang Ying Hao nodded.

“Xuan Ya, in a few minutes, I’ll leave the rings to you. You need to rally the strength of the Demis; Laura, you’ll come with us and be on standby to provide help at any time”

“Got it” Xuan Ya replied.

“Yes” Laura replied.

Gu Qing Shan then turned to Boss.

“Boss, you and I will kill the four fake Gods—— I’ll create a chance for you”

“Don’t worry, my Flames of Nihility will be more than enough to kill them” Boss replied.

“Wait a minute” Zhang Ying Hao couldn’t help but cut Gu Qing Shan off and asked: “The Previous Kings are still plotting to kill the God of Life in the royal palace, the four fake Gods are waiting for the coronation ceremony to begin, the God of Life should also be hiding in the vicinity of the royal palace—— how do you intend to break this situation?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Quite simple, that place is where all of their plans and schemes intertwine, if we continue forward like this, we’d surely be the passive side and would lose our initiative, so——”

We’ll let keep their plans and arrangements where they are, while we create an entirely new situation and take back the initiative”

As soon as he said so, everyone couldn’t help but look up.

Far above in the sky.

A streak of light was ripping through the void of space with a high-pitched screech as it shot towards the ground.

The Earth sword.

——the Earth sword was about to descend while carrying its unrivaled destructive power!

Zhang Ying Hao couldn't help but ask again: "Brother, I know your swordsmanship is great, but what are you trying to do?"

"Nothing much, just creating a bit of chaos"

Gu Qing Shan calmly replied.

Far away from where they stood, the Earth sword struck the ground like a meteorite.

Chapter 1044

From the clear blue sky, a streak of light descended and silently fell on the edge of the horizon.

The world turned silent in that split second.

All of a sudden.

Countless birds took flight in fright, hurriedly fleeing from the horizon.

Wild beasts were similarly doing everything they could to escape from the direction of the horizon.

They were panicking and were desperately trying to escape, forming a torrential wave made of moving creatures that swept across the surface of the world.

Quite a few Demis were heading against the flow, trying to reach the horizon to observe what was happening.

——*what exactly happened?*

An indescribable sensation began to envelop the world.

Numerous miniature booms resounded from far below the earth.

The sounds were getting more rapid, more resounding, and more pressing.

The ground was trembling.

From afar, the rumbling of the earth finally reached where they were.

——it was the end of the world for Calming Soul Country.

Boss glanced afar and asked:

"You want to destroy this world?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Only this level of destruction—— just enough so that the Demis can't resolve it with their powers. Having thought about it, only that monster who had manifested itself as the essence of this world would have the ability to stop this situation"

Zhang Ying Hao understood and continued: "Since that monster had fused with a part of this world's Laws, it would definitely not sit still and allow this world to collapse"

Laura also realized: "Once this world is destroyed, that monster would be severely injured, or possibly even die, so it would surely try to save this world"

Ye Fei Li concluded: "In that case, as soon as it notices the situation, it would surely leave the royal palace"

Everyone went quiet.

Zhang Ying Hao sighed and said: "So that's what you were after. To lure the monster away from the palace, that would be our only chance"

Rumble rumble!

The immense sound of the earth collapsing in on itself practically exploded from deep underground.

The world began to break apart.

The entire world was trembling, shaking, and it was becoming increasingly worse.

At this point, a streak of light hurriedly returned from the horizon and hovered in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The Earth sword.

It spoke with its mountainous heavy voice: 「 As you told me to, I've placed 'that' underground 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Very good, Laura, now we can conceal ourselves"

Laura opened her flower umbrella.

The group vanished.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan carefully explained his arrangements.

Laura was surprised: "What? You feel that the Soul Shrieker couldn't locate us, but would still remain outside in the void to wait for us to appear?"

Gu Qing Shan nodded without hesitation.

Zhang Ying Hao scowled: "If the Soul Shrieker truly is outside, that would be very troublesome... are you sure?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I can guarantee it"

"Why are you so sure about that?" Boss questioned.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "The Soul Shrieker once spent an untold amount of efforts and made numerous preparations, just to force the Age of Old humanity to forge the twin swords Heaven and Earth for it"

"It hid itself within God Institute in the 900 million World Layers, faking its death to obscure its movements and silently arranged everything from the shadows"

“It perfectly grasped the opportunity of when the parallel world invaded to have the Era of [Chaos] descend upon the 900 million World Layers”

“From the Soul Shrieker’s actions up to now, it could clearly be seen as a fellow who wouldn’t give up until it achieved its goals”

“And since I carry the [Demon King Order], it would definitely pursue and kill me”

“There is no room for wishful thinking”

Boss silently listened to him, then sighed: “We currently can’t win against it”

“Yes” Gu Qing Shan agreed, “We can’t win against the monster with the soul of God of Life either———over a hundred million years ago, not even the seven Deities combined managed to kill it”

“But we’re about to kill the four servants of the God of Life” Zhang Ying Hao muttered.

Ye Fei Li continued: “Which means, we’re now caught between two Deities, both of which are after our lives”

The group fell silent.

This was truly a despair-inducing situation.

“That’s why——”

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: “Why don’t we just introduce them to each other?”

At that exact moment.

The vast expanse of ground broke apart.

Black flames and magma that were hidden below the surface erupted all the way to the sky.

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The mountains of forests of this world had already begun to collapse.

The world’s destruction was rapidly spreading!

Roar———

A furious roar resounded from far below the earth.

Countless black tentacles shot into the sky.

At the place where all the tentacles originated from, an upper half humanoid figure was visible.

It was a dried-up husk of an old lady.

『 Who was it, who dared to try and destroy Calming Soul Country!? 』

She spoke in a high-pitched female voice filled with rage as she scanned across the entire world.

But no one responded to her query.

The world was still undergoing its destruction.

The old lady had no choice but to head back into the ground, releasing all of her tentacles.

The black tentacles went through every bit and piece of the world, acting like threads that connected the broken fragments of this world, and attempted to once again 'sew' this world back in one piece.

This was a grand feat, even as the Godmother of the four fake Gods and the true ruler of this world, she still couldn't complete it all at once.

Suddenly— — —

Several tentacles discovered something in the ground.

The black tentacles coiled around the item and brought it in front of the old lady.

It was a small black box made of some unknown material, it was extremely sturdy, as not even the destructive earthquake just now managed to damage it in the slightest.

The old lady pointed a finger at it.

The box silently crumbled into nothingness, leaving not even a speck of dust behind.

A single glittering, transparent piece of jade remained in front of her, completely intact.

As soon as the box was destroyed, this piece of jade immediately started to glow.

And it activated on its own.

The glow of the jade piece expanded, forming into a life-like image in the void of space using one of the most common holographic images technique from the cultivation world.

— — — one half was a man's face, the other half was a woman's face, both displaying a malicious grin.

A voice came from inside the jade piece:

[The legendary Deity of Chaos, the great Soul Shrieker hereby declare: Following this great one's will, this world shall be destroyed]

[Surrender, kneel before the Deity of Chaos and swear to be this god's slave]

[Only then, would you have a single chance at survival]

The old lady glared at the jade piece and gritted her teeth: 『 Deity of Chaos? What the hell is that? 』

The voice from the jade piece continued: [As the master of Chaos, this great one had achieved apotheosis three days ago, now the only True Deity within the 900 million World Layers, you must now— — —]

The jade piece was abruptly destroyed.

The old lady's bright emerald eyes started to display a look of insanity.

So, it was only a young'un who had only just become a Deity.

*So, the current 900 million World Layers doesn't even have an entity that can be considered a Deity.
If I hadn't been fearful of this body attracting even more terrifying monsters...*

『 A greenhorn new Deity dares to try and show me up? When I find you, your only outcome will be to become my food 』 she muttered in a low voice.

Boom!!!!

During that short pause, the collapse of the world had continued, in fact, it even accelerated!

The old lady gritted her teeth and couldn't help but become occupied with filling in the world's injuries.

...

At another location.

As time passed, the ground no longer shook as intensely as it did before.

If you paid attention, they would notice that the collapse of the world was slowing down.

"We succeeded, the God of Life is currently trying to save this world—— Xuan Ya, take us to the royal palace" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Yes!"

Xuan Ya replied and began activating her [Fearless Transmission]

"Gu Qing Shan" Laura suddenly thought of a certain loophole and couldn't help but ask, "What happens if we couldn't kill those four fake Gods before the God of Life finished repairing the world?"

Stars began to manifest around them.

[Fearless Transmission] had been activated.

Everyone would soon be taken to the royal palace.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "If that happens, I'll just hit this world with the Earth sword again"

Bright light erupted.

With a curt 'pop', everyone vanished.

Chapter 1045

1 hour before the beginning of the coronation ceremony.

The earth abruptly trembled.

Without any signs of warning, the world began to collapse.

As powerful Combatants realized that it was the end of the world, they hurriedly made their way to check the situation of this world.

The royal palace.

The attention of every Combatant was drawn by the earthquake, leaving the royal palace to appear very lonely.

—-the situation this time was quite unique, the old king was already dead, while the new king was only three years old and still hadn't received the throne, so the kingdom's officials were in a hurry to enter the palace.

Because of this, as well as the coming of the end of the world, there weren't too many people left in the entire palace.

At this moment, in a relatively secluded area of the palace.

A certain tower-shaped structure.

A voice emerged from the void of space:

"Crown of light"

Following the command, the tower-shaped structure opened to allow Gu Qing Shan's group entry.

They followed a stairway up to the top of the building.

This was a library, one that stored the most precious books of the royal family.

Everyone stood among the dusty books and looked around themselves.

"Where?" Laura asked.

"I'll look for it—- here" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He walked up to a certain bookshelf and pointed at an extremely dusty thick book.

"The Previous Kings didn't trust me, but the two guardians had already sworn allegiance to the royal family, so they knew about where the Previous Kings were hiding" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Won't they know that we're here?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

Gu Qing Shan grinned: "They were also afraid of being discovered by the monster and the four fake Gods, so they've temporarily retracted all of their presence to hide inside this book—- only after coronation ceremony had begun would they awaken and meet up with me"

"Is that so? No wonder I felt this book to be a tool for nurturing a dead soul's soul power" Ye Fei Li stared closely at the book.

Laura opened her backpack and took something out.

—- a small and intricately made hourglass that contained glittering pink sand.

"Let me"

Gu Qing Shan received the hourglass and placed it on the book.

Laura chanted the incantation:

"[Short moment of affectionate time], activate!"

A faint mist of sand abruptly manifested from the hourglass and went into the book.

“There, this is an extremely rare temporal sealing Soul Artifact. It’ll slow down the time flow within a 3-meter area around itself” Laura explained.

“How long will the delay be?” Boss asked.

“One hour in reality will become two hours within its range” Laura replied.

“Two hours? That’s enough” Gu Qing Shan said.

A time of two hours should be long enough, by the time the Previous Kings awaken to activate all of their arrangements and kill the God of Life, the entire party would be over and every dish would’ve already gone cold.

“Why do we need to get rid of these kings like this? Can’t we borrow their powers instead?” Laura curiously asked.

Gu Qing Shan sincerely taught her: “Laura, try to think about it——— these are several hundred men of great wits, for the past countless years, they would have spent an untold amount of effort to arrange an uncountable amount of means within this world”

“Allowing these guys to get involved would be wasting our efforts without any returns”

“Furthermore, our only goal from the beginning had been to claim the Card, then successfully escape from this world”

Laura hesitated: “But then, wouldn’t it be enough just to avoid these issues?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “We aren’t afraid of fighting, but if we can make things simpler for ourselves, we should”

——having dealt with this, Gu Qing Shan also felt things to be a lot easier.

The Previous Kings were the biggest variables within this entire matter, as long as they could be excluded from the battle, a lot of unsure factors could be gotten rid of entirely.

Zhang Ying Hao praised: “Indeed, this is how it should be. We don’t have any grudge with them, killing them won’t give us any benefits, helping them won’t earn us any money, so it’s best to stay as detached from them as much as possible”

Laura slowly nodded.

“What do we do now?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“The life of Xuan Ya’s son is directly related to the God of Life’s survival, but since the God of Life is busy saving the world, the only individuals she can truly trust are most likely the four fake Gods” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Then, let’s go” Boss declared.

Laura opened her flower umbrella.

The group vanished.

The tower-shaped building returned to silence.

Both the hourglass and the book were buried deep within the library; unless one specifically went to look for them, they wouldn't be able to locate either of these items.

—-and this place was one of the most secluded locations in the royal palace where very few people frequented.

Not to mention, today was the day of the new king's coronation.

In other words—-

For the sake of this day, the Previous Kings had prepared for countless years.

But when the day actually arrived, the kings were forcefully removed from the equation through a simple and direct method by Gu Qing Shan.

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They collectively missed their chance.

...

Gu Qing Shan's group quickly made their way through the royal palace.

Until a certain point.

They stopped.

30 meters ahead of them was the coronation ceremonial platform.

The door leading to the platform from the palace was already opened, showing the 3-year-old king sitting neatly inside the palace, a crown on his head as he let the maids arrange his ceremonial clothing without moving.

It seems like he had been through a lot, these past few days.

Seeing that, Xuan Ya felt extremely sorrowful, almost unable to contain her tears.

"Don't worry, it's all going to be over soon" Gu Qing Shan lightly told her.

He exchanged glances with Boss.

The two of them released their hands from the umbrella at once and revealed themselves.

"Who are you!?"

"Drop your weapons, surrender yourselves!"

As soon as they appeared, several royal guards appeared and blocked their paths.

The guards were clearly anxious as they shouted.

“We... I think we came to assassinate the king?” Boss replied.

“Right, assassinate the king” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

He drew the Earth sword from the void of space and lightly swung.

Convergence realm! ¹

[Sanctuary]!

Taiyi sword array!

This strike arrived without any warning, all they saw was a slight warp in the void of space before intense gusts of wind abruptly swept them away.

The intense wind didn't relent.

Before the knights managed to react, they had already been blown away.

In the air, their weapons and armors were completely destroyed by the tiny blades of wind that swept them away, leaving them naked.

“Aaaa—”

“What kind of swordsmanship is this!?”

“That's impossible!”

With various panicked shouts, they were taken away by the great wind.

Gu Qing Shan put his sword away.

This strike was so finely controlled that it didn't leave even a single scratch on any of the knights.

This strike was so powerful that it didn't leave them any room to resist.

This single strike was more powerful than all of his strikes in the past, combined!

Seeing this, Boss had no choice but begrudgingly let go of his black trident.

—-this trident was a powerful Divine Armament that belonged to the Occultism spirit that was supposed to display its brilliance during the skirmish just now.

Unfortunately, a single strike from Gu Qing Shan easily dealt with the situation.

The two of them continued to walk towards the king.

All of a sudden, they both stopped.

Four figures had surrounded them.

「 Foolish mortals 」 Wind God appeared.

「 You dared to cause a commotion in Calming Soul Country 」 Earth God appeared.

「 Even if Godmother isn't here, it isn't an issue for us to take your lives 」 Fire God declared.

「 You shall lay your lives down right here! 」 Water God added.

The four fake Gods had appeared at once!

Boss nodded: “Sure enough, they were protecting the royal family, but then...”

“Then what?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Why do I get the feeling that we’re actually the villains?” Boss doubtfully questioned.

“We’ve always been the villains” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He raised his other hand that was hiding inside his robe.

One golden.

Three silver.

He was wearing the Ring of Sovereign as well as the three Rings of guardians at once.

The four rings resonated with one another.

Gu Qing Shan shouted: “I wield the absolute authority of the kingdom, the king of all Demis. Within all of your souls hide obedience towards the power of royalty, as it is the Law decided by your Deity!”

“I command you all, kneel!”

The four rings emanated brilliant light.

Chapter 1046

Under the power of the four rings, the holy presence of the four fake Gods completely vanished.

They regained their original appearances.

Demis.

——they were nothing but normal Demis.

“The lost Ring of Sovereign, and the three Rings of Guardians—— that’s impossible!”

“Who exactly are you!?”

The four fake Gods couldn’t help themselves prostrating to the ground.

Their minds desperately worked, trying to come up with a way to fight against the four rings.

Unfortunately, this was an order issued from an oath with their Deity that had been carved into their souls.

Furthermore, Gu Qing Shan didn’t give them any chance.

——this was a crucial part of their plan, in order to prevent any mishaps, Gu Qing Shan had completely given up on taking this chance to attack them and focused himself on controlling the rings.

The four fake Gods prostrated to the ground.

But they didn't stop attempting to resist and began to chant a phrase in unison:

“”””Great Godmother, I call upon you——“”””

Gu Qing Shan was startled and shouted: “Don't let them summon that monster!”

He fully utilized the power of the rings to seize control of the fake four Gods, forcing them to lay flat to the ground, but he couldn't prevent them from chanting with their mouths.

Boss acted.

“Dream on!”

He wielded the black trident and threw it towards Wind God.

As the black trident stabbed through Wind God's chest, it turned into a black tide that quickly washed over his body.

“No, hurry and save——”

Wind God gave up on his chant and loudly called out for help.

But the black tide had completely swallowed him up and stifled his voice.

The other three fake Gods' expressions changed.

They could sense that Wind God's flesh and blood were being devoured by this weapon.

A split second later.

Wind God had completely vanished, leaving only a black trident stabbed into the ground.

Jet-black tides still swirled around the black trident, gradually flowing down the weapon before ending up as black pulp on the ground.

That was the Wind God's corpse.

The other three fake Gods hurriedly sped up their chant with frightful looks on their faces:

“”””Godmother, you are the Inner eternal, and we are your subjects. We hereby report to you, our lives are being threat——”

Boss didn't say anything and sped up his attacks as well.

Right as he tossed the black trident, he had already taken the Book of Prophesized Destiny and finished his preparations as fast as possible.

A burning page of the book was clutched between his fingers as he threw it towards two of the fake Gods.

Flames of Nihilicity!

The grey flames erupted and swallowed the two fake Gods.

They were unable to even scream in despair before they were burnt to ashes.

The grey flames swiftly imploded into a small grey dot.

Soon enough, even the small grey dot vanished without a trace.

Two more fake Gods died!

In a single breath's worth of time, three out of four fake Gods had been killed!

The only one who managed to avoid being burnt by the Flames of Nihility was Fire God, who stood the furthest away from the battlefield.

He desperately chanted the song of praise, finally reaching the last verse.

"Godmother, please descend upon this place, for me—#@%"

Fire God's jaw shifted and suddenly messed up the final words of his chant.

At the same time, from the distant void of space, an abrupt sound of a gunshot was heard.

Pah!

A bullet squarely hit Fire God's chin and crushed his lower jaw.

That was why his chant was interrupted.

Taking this chance, Boss leapt forward and caught the black trident on the ground.

"Die!"

Boss shouted.

The black trident carried the howling black tides as it was thrust towards Fire God.

The trident was just a bit away from taking Fire God's life, when suddenly——

Kih!

A loud metallic clash.

The black trident was stopped by a sword.

Gu Qing Shan had blocked Boss' attack.

"Why stop me?" Boss questioned.

"Something isn't right" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He scowled and looked towards where the other three fake Gods died.

——no Cards.

The Water God Card fragments did not appear.

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Boss also realized this and pulled the trident black, muttering in surprise: “It truly isn’t right, a Card manifested by an [Order] would definitely not vanish because of their deaths, but we haven’t found any of them”

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

—-they lured the God of Life away, trapped the Previous Kings, and even used the four rings to restrain the four fake Gods and almost defeated all four of them in a mere breath’s worth of time.

But the Card was nowhere to be seen.

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fist tightly.

But it isn’t time to be thinking about that right now.

The God of Life can detect the death of anyone and everyone in this world!

She must have noticed the deaths of the three fake Gods just now.

We need to flee right now!

But the Card is still missing.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly told everyone: “Xuan Ya, take your son; Fei Li, flay their souls, don’t allow those three souls to reveal anything about us!”

As he was speaking, Xuan Ya appeared out of nowhere and carried her son away.

A khopesh appeared and flew around the battle zone once, taking three wandering souls with it before vanishing into the void of space.

“Boss, take this guy”

“Got it”

Boss tilted the head of the trident a bit and stabbed it into Fire God’s chest.

All of Fire God’s powers were instantly sealed away.

This sealing power was one of the black trident’s hidden powers.

“Umbrella, transport!”

Gu Qing Shan said again.

—-he wasn’t standing idly either, as he put a jade tag into a black box and threw it on the ground.

Laura came closer to him with her umbrella fully opened.

Xuan Ya activated her [Fearless Transmission].

Sha!

The group vanished from the royal palace.

Although it seemed long, from the moment that Gu Qing Shan and Boss appeared, the four fake Gods showed themselves, got themselves captured, killed, and the entire group transported away, it only took a measly seven breaths' worth of time.

Seven breaths.

Everything was already over.

The eighth breath——

Boom!

The solid foundation of the royal palace broke apart.

Countless black tentacles erupted from the crack.

A half-figure could be seen where all the tentacles originated from.

It was an old lady.

——the God of Life.

She managed to discover the deaths of her subordinates and swiftly returned.

『 Despicable! Who was it! Who dared to kill my ser—— 』

Her words were cut short.

Because she noticed that the final bloodline of the royal family had vanished.

In front of her, a single black box silently sat there.

The old lady immediately realized the identity of this black box.

It was broken with a single point of her finger.

A white piece of jade laid inside activated with the destruction of the box.

The white jade piece hovered in the air, giving off an array of light that manifested into the Soul Shrieker's appearance.

A threatening voice sounded:

[Surrender, or die]

[You do not have much more time to consider, come, kneel in front of me——-]

Crack!

The white jade piece was crushed.

The old lady displayed a mad expression on her face as she muttered with a malicious, harrowing voice:

『 You are nothing but a new Deity, truly... do you wish to be devoured so desperately? 』

...

At another location.

A secluded corner of the city.

Xuan Ya's original home.

After a slight fluctuation, space returned to normal.

Everyone reappeared.

Boss raised his black trident and pinned Fire God on the wall.

Gu Qing Shan walked forward: "Let's make this short, we're going to have a transaction. I'll let you live; you tell me where you hid the Water God Card"

Fire God breathed heavily as he glared at Gu Qing Shan.

He then broke out into insane laughter.

"So your aim was to obtain the [Order] Card"

"Ahahaha, give up on that dream, the [Order] Card has already fused with Godmother, no one will be able to take that Card from her!"

Chapter 1047

"What do you mean by fused?" Gu Qing Shan questioned.

"I won't answer that much— you have to agree to my conditions before I reveal anything else" the fake God slowly said.

"What conditions?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"If you truly want to, give me some time to think of what I want" the fake God displayed a contemplating expression as if he was actually considering what benefits to ask for.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at him and declared: "Something's wrong with you"

"What do you mea—"

Before the fake God could finish his words, a cold gleam flashed.

The fake God's limbs were sliced off, leaving his head in Gu Qing Shan's grasp.

The Chao Yin sword hovered in mid-air, closely propped next to the fake God's neck.

"Laura, seal him" Gu Qing Shan told her.

"Got it"

Laura hopped over and put a total of 179 necklaces onto his neck.

"I feel like he's trying to stall for time" Gu Qing Shan scowled and quickly explained to the rest: "Even when his life had fallen into someone else's hand, he didn't try to beg for his life and insisted on refusing

a transaction with words—— I think that monster might be able to sense his location—— I'm going to lead him away and search for information”

Zhang Ying Hao spoke up: “Wait a minute! If the monster truly can——”

Gu Qing Shan cut him off: “This guy's soul is very strong; I'll need 30 seconds to finish Soul Reading”

Before he finished, Gu Qing Shan had already vanished in front of everyone together with the fake God.

A second later.

Boom!

A black tentacle shot up from the ground, then swiftly left.

Countless black tentacles appeared after that to crush the entire house before chasing after Gu Qing Shan.

Everyone was silently hovering in mid-air.

Laura had opened her umbrella, allowing the group to be undetected by the monster.

“That monster can truly sense the fake God's location”

Boss mused.

“How dangerous, we were so close to being captured” Zhang Ying Hao sighed in relief.

Before the very last second, Gu Qing Shan managed to react in time and left with the fake God.

When that monster's tentacle thrashed the room, it didn't discover anything and found that the fake God was in motion, so it naturally gave chase.

The group, fortunately, managed to escape its pursuit.

Laura watched the tidal wave of tentacles below and called out in worry: “How could that be!? What about Gu Qing Shan?”

“Don't be impatient” Boss calmly told her, “He said, Soul Reading will take a total of 30 seconds”

Boss flipped open the Book of Prophesized Destiny to Gu Qing Shan's page.

“30 seconds later, I'll summon him”

Ye Fei Li inhaled and said worriedly: “Now we can only hope that he'll be able to keep it up for 30 seconds”

Zhang Ying Hao turned to Xuan Ya: “We can't remain here. Transport us to a relatively secluded place and prepare to receive Gu Qing Shan”

“Yes” Xuan Ya nodded.

She began to prepare her [Fearless Transmission] again.

...

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan flew out of city limits, quickly making his way through the countryside.

He grabbed the fake God's head tightly in one hand while wielding the Earth sword in the other.

Soul Reading, begin!

Memories hidden inside the fake God's mind slowly appeared in his mind.

All of a sudden, the tidal-wave like black tentacles was about to catch up to him!

Gu Qing Shan's figure flashed and vanished.

He reappeared 1,000km away.

——[Ground Shrink]!

However, right as he appeared, 7-8 black tentacles had already sprouted around him from the ground.

Gu Qing Shan swung his sword.

A wide arc sliced through and cut off all the black tentacles.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You expended 70,000 Soul Points to activate Earth's Choice and slayed the Void Avatars: God of Life's tentacles]

[Attention!]

[As you didn't actually kill the other party, you are unable to obtain any Soul Points from this battle]

Tch, spending 70,000 Soul Points just to kill a bunch of tentacles, that's a huge loss.

Gu Qing Shan could only pull his sword back, holding the fake God tightly as he fled in another direction.

More black tentacles were sprouting from below.

A loud and furious voice resounded from the faraway direction of the royal palace.

『 DIIIIII——IIIIIEEEEE——』

Gu Qing Shan didn't react to it at all, totally concentrating on avoiding the tentacles on the ground while trying to finish his Soul Reading.

Sha sha sha sha sha!

The tentacles swung like long whips, yet were as sharp and tough as spears, shooting towards him in bunches.

Gu Qing Shan's figure weaved and moved between the countless tentacles like an arc of lightning.

He was wandering on the verge of death at every step of the way.

Time was moving extremely slowly.

After avoiding over a hundred attacks, only 2 seconds had passed.

What an intense pursuit this was!

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan found himself surrounded by black tentacles.

—-he was completely enclosed!

The black tentacles moved to attack him—-—

Gu Qing Shan's figure shifted and shot up to the sky.

He could clearly tell that the entire country side was filled with tentacles, so regardless of where he ran, he would only end up surrounded.

Fly!

Fly as fast as you can!

Like a big bird, Gu Qing Shan soared towards the vast blue sky above at lightning-fast speeds!

From the ground below, countless black tentacles writhed and twisted as they shot up to the sky.

While Gu Qing Shan was fast, these tentacles were faster!

They turned into afterimages that coiled and whipped around Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan continued to hold tightly onto the fake God's forehead as he flew in a chaotic, irregular pattern between the tentacles.

His figure almost couldn't be seen at all.

Using his countless combat experiences, his spirit sense, as well as [Ground Shrink], he managed to barely escape from the black tentacles every step of the way.

Again and again.

Only when he really couldn't avoid them would he swing his sword to cut the tentacles off.

His Soul Points were rapidly being expended!

Four seconds passed.

The fifth second!

—-there were a long 25 seconds left until he finished searching the fake God's memories.

Gu Qing Shan hid within the clouds.

Black tidal waves washed in from every direction like a gigantic maw that completely devoured the clouds.

The cloud was completely empty except for a single tree branch.

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The black tentacles weren't interested in this tree branch so they quickly retreated.

They noticed that they had been fooled!

——Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift]!

Gu Qing Shan appeared at the shore of the ocean where that tree branch originally was.

The ocean ahead of him was as deep as the abyss.

Just as he was about to wield the Chao Yin sword to hide in the ocean, he abruptly stopped.

An old lady was standing on top of the ocean.

Her lower half was made up of countless writhing tentacles.

She stood in his way.

『 Little insect, tell me, how do you want to die? 』

The old lady narrowed her eyes.

Gu Qing Shan put his sword away and bowed, then asked: "Your Excellency, it is a great pleasure to finally meet you"

The old lady froze for a brief moment.

Gu Qing Shan continued rambling on: "This humble one is the servant of the Deity of Chaos, here at this treasured land for the sake of a transaction"

『 The Deity of Chaos? Do you not know what your God has done? 』

The old lady muttered in a threatening low voice, as if ready to kill him.

Gu Qing Shan relaxed his arms: "Your Excellency, I brought countless Soul Artifacts to this world, all for the sake of a transaction"

The old lady's clenched fists froze.

Soul Artifacts!

That's right, in order to advance any further, I need a large number of Soul Artifacts.

In the secret passage, this was the one who took out a real Soul Artifact to try and trade for that girl's soul from me.

『 What exactly does your Deity want!?! 』

The old lady suppressed her killing intent and questioned.

If it was something insignificant, she wouldn't mind exchanging them for Soul Artifacts.

After all, in an all-out clash against a Deity, regardless of the results, the aftermath would be unimaginably harsh.

For example, the perfect place of concealment, Calming Soul Country, would surely be destroyed in a battle between Gods.

And she didn't want to see that happen.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts were desperately moving.

Lines of glowing text were constantly scrolling across his eyes:

[You've run into a unique void monster—— Card: Soul Stealer's body, the God of Life's current soul vessel]

[This is a unique monster created from the fusion of an ancient void monster, an Inner Plane Deity, and the Water God Card]

[Card grade: Golden]

[To slay this monster with Earth's Choice, you will require 50 million Soul Points as well as the Earth sword to be in your hand]

A Golden Card!

Gu Qing Shan was startled.

According to known Card grade, above Lapis is Azure, above Azure is Violet, and above Violet is Golden.

By utilizing a single Golden Card: [Earthen Dual Body], Gu Qing Shan managed to completely overturn a desperate situation in the Age of Old and triumphant against Lin who still had her Abyssal Fate Weaver form.

Who would've thought, he would once again run into another Golden Card in Calming Soul Country!

And he needed 50 million Soul Points in order to win against this Card!

This was an unacceptable astronomical amount.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized something

Perhaps——

This monster is significantly stronger compared to the Soul Shrieker.

The Soul Shrieker had only just achieved apotheosis 3 days ago.

While this monster managed to fight against the seven Deities by itself countless eons ago.

Right now, it has turned into a vessel for the God of Life who had obtained the [Human Regiment] Card.

How strong would it actually be?

Gu Qing Shan's thought made a turn and continued his conjecture.

——after taking over the monster's body, the God of Life didn't stop there and even turned herself into a Card.

Why did she have to do such a thing?

Was she wary of something? Or simply afraid?

If she was afraid, what was she afraid of?

Gu Qing Shan lightly cleared his throat and explained: “The Deity of Chaos—— the great Soul Shrieker wants to destroy [Order]”

『 Destroy [Order]? 』 the old lady repeated after him.

Gu Qing Shan gradually explained to her: “Indeed, the final remaining [Order] of every world is hiding within Calming Soul Country, as long as you give that [Order] up, the Deity of Chaos will grant you a great number of Soul Artifacts as both a reward and a fair exchange”

This was the truth.

The Soul Shrieker did indeed come for the sake of going after the [Demon King Order].

But in the old lady’s ears, that meant something completely different.

——she took the [Human Regiment] Card, turned herself into a Golden Card, and obtained boundless power.

How should she give that up?

How could she possibly give that up?

Destroy... [Order]...

The old lady’s killing intent rose again as she coldly scoffed: 『 That [Order] no longer exists, your master will have to be disappointed 』

Gu Qing Shan glanced at her from top to bottom, then spoke hesitantly: “How regretful, our master can sense with certainty that the carrier of [Order] is indeed in this world”

He then continued: “However, since you insist that they do not exist—— forget it, the transaction is called off, goodbye”

Gu Qing Shan turned around to leave.

The old lady was stunned.

Gu Qing Shan abruptly stopped, turned around and tossed the fake God to her.

“Right, this person seems to be your subordinate. I’ll return him to you, let’s all us even”

“Farewell”

The old lady extended her black tentacles, caught the fake God, and searched him.

The fake God was no longer alive.

Not even his soul remained.

Which meant, she would be completely clueless about what actually happened.

The old lady gritted her teeth: 『Bastard! Stop right there! 』

Gu Qing Shan actually stopped.

But right at the next second, he vanished without a trace.

30 seconds had passed.

Gu Qing Shan had been transported away through Boss' summoning technique.

At the same time.

Far in the sky, the tree branch whose place was swapped with Gu Qing Shan was quickly falling down.

All of a sudden.

A cold gleam appeared from inside the branch.

The Earth sword had shown itself.

It turned into a streak of light that once again pounded the earth.

Rumble rumble rumble———

The wind swirled and clouds boiled.

The heavens had fallen into darkness.

The world that the God of Life had just repaired once again fell to the verge of ruin.

Chapter 1048

On top of a mountain range.

There were no structures or people here, a completely desolate place.

“How can we break through Calming Soul Country's protective barrier?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“It can only be done either by destroying the Ring of Sovereign as well as the three Rings of Guardians, or the Deities themselves arrive to dispel it” Xuan Ya told him.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and said nothing else.

He stood on top of a slightly protruding rock and looked down at the ground below.

The trembling and collapse of the earth didn't continue for too long.

Far beneath the earth, countless black tentacles had weaved to form a net that connected the entire world, neutralizing the destructive impact from before.

That old lady is truly powerful.

She even managed to fix and prevent the collapse of an entire world in such a short period of time.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

After reading the fake God's memories, he now had a deeper understanding of how immeasurable the God of Life's power was.

Not only does that old lady have the knowledge and divine power of a Deity, but she also has the great vitality and physical prowess of a void monster, not to mention she was also exploring the power of Laws from the Card.

She could already delegate a portion of [Human Regiment]'s power for the four fake Gods to use.

—it was supposed to be nearly impossible to achieve such a thing because Water God herself wasn't present on the Card.

Which means that the old lady slowly studied and extracted the power of [Order] herself.

Without mentioning anything else, being able to achieve that much was already quite an impressive feat.

Gu Qing Shan deeply sighed.

Who can actually win against such an entity?

The Deities have all basically died off at this point in time.

Only a single Deity remained.

The Deity of Chaos, Soul Shrieker.

—will it be able to do anything...?

Behind Gu Qing Shan, the group also felt a deep sense of helplessness.

Ye Fei Li lightly cleared his throat and said: "Then, it looks like we only have one last solution to kill this monster"

"What kind of solution?" Laura asked.

Ye Fei Li turned his gaze to Xuan Ya, then at the child in her embrace.

"Kill this child and make it so that the God of Life perishes from the recoil of the oath between Deities"

Xuan Ya cautiously looked at him and took a few steps back.

Ye Fei Li saw her reaction and sighed helplessly: "Hey, this is already the last resort— and didn't you already die once? After killing that monster, we'll just have Gu Qing Shan revive your son, isn't that simple?"

Xuan Ya froze.

That's true.

As long as we can kill the God of Life, every other threat would naturally resolve itself.

Not to mention, I've personally experienced the miracle of being revived from death.

With Gu Qing Shan here, life and death doesn't matter.

A short period of suffering in exchange for the true revival of the entire kingdom of Demis, that much would be no sacrifice at all.

Not to mention, all the Demis will be grateful to my child.

As their new king, his position would be immovable.

Xuan Ya hesitated.

But a voice spoke up from afar.

“Not possible”

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the slowly mending earth and said without turning around.

“Why not?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“...For the next long while, I don't intend to use that revival ability again” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Seeing the look of confusion on everyone's faces, he explained: “This is a limit imposed by a vow of Heaven and Earth. If I go against it, I'll be under the pursuit of the Laws of Heaven and Earth until I'm struck dead”

Laura immediately asked: “Who imposed such a limiting oath on you?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Myself”

Ye Fei Li couldn't help asking: “But why?”

“Because this ability places too much of a burden on my sword, she needs to rest for a while”

This time, no one questioned it further.

Gu Qing Shan was a sword cultivator, and they had all witnessed his sword spirits, so they understood that Gu Qing Shan had his own reasons for this.

—-*perhaps the sword spirit couldn't handle the burden?*

Everyone tried to guess.

But since Gu Qing Shan didn't answer specifically, no one tried asking further.

After all, no one other than the person themselves would best understand the extent of their own abilities, weapons, and secret.

If he doesn't inform us then he must have his own reasons.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “Furthermore, I doubt that killing Xuan Ya's child would actually cause the God of Life to lose her life”

“—The God of Life would definitely not sit still and watch as something threatens her life, I believe that she had already escaped from the limitation of this oath as she converted herself into a Card”

Boss asked: "You mean, she's no longer restrained by the oath of Deities?"

"Perhaps she's still affected somewhat, but not to the point of endangering her life" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"How did you come up with that?"

"—this Deity's fear of death had already seeped into her very essence, having been afraid of leaving Calming Soul Country for so many years, how could she allow her own life to be under constant threat by the death of another?"

"Makes sense" Boss nodded in agreement.

Everyone fell silent again.

Not even this solution would be usable, so what should we do now?

Gu Qing Shan took off the four rings and gave them to Xuan Ya.

"The monster is busy repairing the world, so it won't place its attention on normal Demis for now"

"You should use the power of the ring and rally all the Demis"

Xuan Ya couldn't help but ask: "You want to evacuate them?"

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Gu Qing Shan nodded, then turned to Laura: "The monster can't sense us, but Xuan Ya's safety needs to be protected"

"We'll need a few mirror worlds, secretly spread them to various towns with Xuan Ya, have all the Demis prepare to enter your mirror worlds, that'll make it convenient for us to carry them away"

"No problem"

"Fei Li, Ying Hao, you two proceed with them as well" Gu Qing Shan continued.

"Got it" the two of them replied.

"Boss, give them your reverse summoning circles as well, that'll make it convenient for recalling them when necessary"

"Very well"

All the preparations were complete.

Gu Qing Shan told Xuan Ya one last time: "We don't have much time, so there's no need to convince any of them— simply display the final bloodline of the royal family and the power of the rings to them, that'll be most efficient"

"I understand, but when should we let everyone enter the mirror worlds?"

"Not yet, wait for me to contact you" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"...Very well"

Xuan Ya, Laura, Zhang Ying Hao, and Ye Fei Li went on their way to rally the Demis.

The only people left on the desolate mountain were Gu Qing Shan and Boss.

“You have something to ask me?” Boss asked.

“Yes. You’re the Abyssal King, your knowledge far surpasses any of us. I want to know if you have any ways to get rid of that monster” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Boss shook his head: “It wasn’t possible when the Deities still existed, and it would also not be possible now”

“Boss, if the Soul Shrieker and the God of Life fought, who do you think will win?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Boss answered right away: “I know very little about the God of Life, so I’m not sure who would win, but the battle will go on for a very long time—— just like how the Soul Shrieker fought against the Demon King’s corpse in the Fallen Zones of the 900 million World Layers”

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

The Soul Shrieker and the corpse that the [Demon King Order] summoned fought one another for a very long time until a victor was decided.

——it was a decisive victory that cemented the Soul Shrieker’s position of being unbeatable within the 900 million World Layers.

Boss sighed, his expression turned heavy and solemn:

“If considering individual strength alone, the Soul Shrieker is vastly inferior to the God of Life”

“But it is the only True Deity of [Chaos], supported by the power of the entire Era of [Chaos], it should be able to resist for a very long time”

Boss continued: “I have a feeling that the God of Life might be just a bit stronger than the Soul Shrieker”

Gu Qing Shan agreed: “Your feeling is very important. After all, you used to be a Combatant that stood at the very peak, so it should be quite accurate”

——and if that’s the case, there would truly be no one capable of winning against the God of Life.

She is simply that powerful.

Does she have any weaknesses?

Gu Qing Shan stood on top of the mountain, completely motionless for a very long time, almost like a statue.

Time quickly went by.

Xuan Ya and the rest had returned.

The mirror worlds had all been secretly distributed to the Demis.

The four rings returned to Gu Qing Shan’s hand.

At his order, the Demis would enter the mirror worlds to seek refuge.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze swept through everyone.

"I'll be frank, I don't like to gamble"

He reluctantly displayed a bitter smile.

"But this matter had far surpassed my initial expectations. Facing two Deities at once, I don't have any guarantees, only a conjecture"

"What sort of conjecture?" Laura asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "The God of Life converted itself into a monster, then into a Card, holding itself up inside this tiny, secluded world and refusing to leave—— I believe that she is wary of something"

"She has turned into a unique amalgamation of monster and Deity, while the Soul Shrieker had also become a Deity"

"We need to think of a way to force them to fight one another, and in reality, we've been working to push matters towards this direction"

"Of course, I've never witnessed a battle between Deities, so I don't know what the outcome might be"

"That's why, we can only resort to one last solution"

"——we're going to gamble"

He put the four rings on the palm of his hand.

Everyone stared closely at it.

Gu Qing Shan drew the Earth sword.

Everyone held their breaths.

——Gu Qing Shan was about to destroy the four rings and force Calming Soul Country to once again reveal itself within the space vortex.

The Soul Shrieker would directly clash against the God of Life.

What exactly the outcome of this meeting between Deities would be, no one could guarantee.

"Wait a minute!"

Laura stepped forward, put her hand on her hair, and pulled out something.

Her ponytail was undone to display her long straight hair that went past her shoulders, emphasizing Laura's mature beauty that was unlike that of a child.

"I actually still have one other Occultism artifact"

"This was an Occultism artifact passed down through generations in the Bramble Bird royal family, the Twine of Cloud Atlas"

Laura tied the purple string that she had always used to tie her hair onto Gu Qing Shan's wrist, telling him in a low voice:

"Its ability is to provide a unique kind of luck"

"Gu Qing Shan, you can no longer see with your eyes, using only inner sight to observe your surroundings, but I still need to inform you"

"Keep in mind, the only thing you absolutely cannot do while wearing this artifact is to turn your head around"

"Once you turn your head, that good luck will turn into bad luck instead"

Gu Qing Shan seriously listened to her, then was startled.

Good luck... bad luck...

—-right, how could I have forgotten.

I'm the Earth God.

I have the truest kind of luck!

Chapter 1049

A sword slashed through the void of space.

The four rings slowly fell from the air, colliding with the sharp blade of the sword one by one.

Like weak soap bubbles, each of the rings shattered on contact and were completely consumed by the sword phantom produced by the sword.

The Ring of Sovereign and the Rings of guardians were then thoroughly destroyed, turning into names that only once existed in Demi history.

A brief moment of silence.

The Invisible fluctuation of power spread from the void of space across the entire world.

The oath of Deities had been dispelled!

Calming Soul Country had manifested itself in the 900 million World Layers once more!

『 No! 』

The God of Life's desperate and furious voice resounded throughout the entire world.

But it was useless, as this process was irreversible.

...

—-within the dark space vortex, a certain monster slowly unraveled its body.

Six arms, two faces, a body several stories tall with a faint gloomy, yet solemn flame that drifted around its body.

The Soul Shrieker.

It had waited a long time for its prey to appear.

And just now, it finally recognized the faint and tiny fluctuation from the void.

What was that?

It slowly turned towards the direction of Calming Soul Country.

『 「 Hiding... there? 」 』

The Soul Shrieker muttered in a low voice as its body shifted and flew towards Calming Soul Country.

...

At the same time.

Gu Qing Shan put the Earth sword away as he focused his thoughts on something else.

A small light escaped from his body and swiftly landed on his palm, manifesting as a pattern of a coin mixed from gold and silver.

This was the Coin of the Earth, the symbol of the Earth Pillar God.

At the same time, lines of notifications appeared on the War God UI:

[Wielder of the Earth Pillar, please select the power you would like to activate]

[Possible powers: True Luck, Absolute Forbidden, Shelter]

Gu Qing Shan quickly skimmed through it and silently muttered in his mind: "Activate [True Luck]"

New lines of notifications appeared on the War God UI:

[You've chosen True Luck]

[That ability has been activated and will persist for 12 hours]

[After this activation is over, you must wait for 30 days before you can utilize the power of the Earth Pillar again]

The glowing text shrunk and disappeared from Gu Qing Shan's vision.

Just as Gu Qing Shan was about to talk to the rest, another line of glowing text appeared in the void of space:

[—Attention:]

[You've obtained Occultism artifact: Twine of Cloud Atlas]

[You've obtained the lost identity: Awakened from the distant Dusty World. In consideration of this lost identity, you're being sheltered by the soon-to-disappear Dusty World from the Immemorial Era]

[You have been bestowed the Mystic-type power: Shelter of Past Occultism]

[Special attention:]

[As you have both the power of True Luck and unique luck, both powers have overlapped and formed the Fate Divine Skill: Words of Determined Destiny (Rare)(Unique)(Undetectable)(Unchangeable)]

[This Divine Skill can be activated a total of: 3 times]

[After 3 uses, your True Luck will run out and will only be usable again in 30 days]

Gu Qing Shan's heart was beating wildly.

——*I've never heard of the existence of Fate-type Divine Skills in this Reality.*

Not even once!

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly asked: "War God UI, how do I use the ability called [Words of Determined Destiny]?"

[Ting]!

The War God UI replied: [This is an extremely rare Divine Skill, to know of its content, you must give me 500—— no, 1000 Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan: "..."

The War God UI's demand changed mid-sentence, causing Gu Qing Shan to feel a bit annoyed.

But there was no choice, the two Deities were about to clash, he needed to clearly understand this ability as soon as possible!

"I'll pay, answer me quickly!"

Gu Qing Shan replied.

He was instantly deducted 1000 Soul Points.

The War God UI began to explain:

[Words of Determined Destiny gives you the ability to determine the true course of events for a certain future occurrence through a single statement]

[Using Words of Determined Destiny on a specific entity will not only determine their fate but also cause that entity to follow your stated course of action very closely]

[This is a significantly grand power, and you have obtained the right to utilize it three times]

[Keep in mind, you must combine your statement with situational facts while using this ability. Do not state impossible occurrences that violate the basic Laws of Reality and Fate, otherwise, the consequences will be harsh]

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Can you give an example?"

The War God UI replied: [For example, if you state that the God of Life will immediately swear allegiance to you—— considering the difference in power between yourselves, as well as your mutual relations,

this will be an impossible occurrence that cannot happen following the natural Law of Reality, and you will receive recoil from the power of Fate]

“Do you have anything else to tell me?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[One final thing, the closer you are to your target, the more powerful the effect of your luck shall be]

“Got it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He then abruptly looked to the sky——

Everyone else was the same, all of them tilting to look up.

Bam!

An immense sound of impact resounded from the sky above.

A malicious male voice resounded from afar:

「 So, you were hiding here? Final carrier of [Order], I've finally caught you 」

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——this was the Soul Shrieker's male voice.

From the ground, countless of the God of Life's black tentacles shot up to the sky.

Without waiting for Gu Qing Shan's orders, Laura had already opened her umbrella.

Everyone vanished.

Zhang Ying Hao's voice suddenly sounded:

“How sure are you about this gamble?”

Gu Qing Shan's lips slightly curled and replied: “The cards I am with dealt are quite decent, enough to not fold”

“Come, we're going as well”

The void slightly moved, as if something had just left, but at the same time, nothing seemed to have happened at all.

In the sky, golden divine runes were being crushed one after another.

Bam!

The world barrier had already been extremely weakened but hadn't fully given out.

The Soul Shrieker was impatient so it had already begun its attack.

『 Stop! 』

The God of Life's ear-piercing scream resounded around the entire world.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The Soul Shrieker completely ignored her words.

—don't be ridiculous, I've waited for so long just to crush the final [Order], how could I give up right now?

The world barriers were being destroyed by the Soul Shrieker one by one.

The Soul Shrieker had descended.

It entered this world, landed in front of the God of Life, and evaluated the other party.

These two gigantic monsters had finally met face-to-face.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan's group also closely approached them.

Around 30 feet away from the two Deities, Laura hesitated.

Gu Qing Shan sent his voice: "Don't worry, come a bit closer"

Laura heard him, gritted her teeth, and moved 10 feet closer.

"More" Gu Qing Shan insisted.

Laura continued.

Everyone moved forward together.

—until the flower umbrella was right above the God of Life's shoulder.

If someone could see them right now, they'd notice that they were practically glued to the God of Life's ear.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the two Deities.

They remained still, trying to figure each other's strength out from the presence that the other party gave off.

"What now, Gu Qing Shan? I feel scared here"

Laura was practically sobbing.

"Give me a minute" Gu Qing Shan replied.

—before the two Deities spoke their first words, he focused his mind and activated the first use of [Words of Determined Destiny].

He stood right next to the God of Life's ear and softly muttered to it: "You know the most crucial point: It came to this world for the sake of that [Order]— you cannot allow it to return alive!"

After he finished, Gu Qing Shan immediately sent his voice to Laura: "We're leaving!"

Feeling like she had just been pardoned of some great crime, Laura hurriedly brought everyone away under her umbrella.

At this point, just as expected, the God of Life questioned: 『 You invaded my world, in order to obtain an [Order]? 』

The Soul Shrieker froze, but grinned: 『 「 Indeed, I want to kill the carrier of that [Order]—— thoroughly kill them! The [Order] they carry shall not escape from my hand! 』 」

The God of Life froze.

It had been confirmed without a doubt.

This thing's goal was actually the [Order] Card that I obtained.

But it had already been altered.

— — — and it belongs to me!

The God of Life turned its pupil and asked again: 『 If I can help you accomplish your goal, how many Soul Artifacts can you give me? 』

『 「 Soul Artifacts? You wish for Soul Artifacts? 』 」

『 That's right, I need Soul Artifacts 』

The Soul Shrieker displayed a mocking smirk, then opened all 6 of its arms wide and scoffed: 『 「 The entire 900 million World Layers is about to fall into my hands, as long as you give up the carrier of that [Order], you can have as many Soul Artifacts as you want 』 」

The God of Life glanced at the other party's slightly mocking expression, then lowered its gaze.

『 Is that so... you have the 900 million World Layers... and countless Soul Artifacts...』

Its thoughts wandered.

A split second later.

Not even the blink of an eye, several dozen black tentacles had fully coiled around the Soul Shrieker's arms and legs.

The Soul Shrieker remained motionless, simply staring at the other party trying to find out their true intention.

It curtly shouted in a low voice: 「 『 So you want to shelter that carrier of [Order]? 」 』

The God of Life abruptly broke out in hysterical laughter:

『 Since you're already here, why don't you perish here as well! 』

『 「 For what reason? 』 」 the Soul Shrieker questioned.

The God of Life glanced at it with a cruel look in its eyes:

『 Because as long as I kill you, both that [Order], and all of your Soul Artifacts shall become mine! 』

The black tentacles that filled this world shot into the sky, encasing the Soul Shrieker within to form a completely sealed black sphere.

All of a sudden, a furious chant-like voice resounded from within the black sphere:

『 「 The souls of all living beings in this Reality are but my food, yet you dared show no respect towards myself as a Deity, your soul shall also become my nourishment 』 』

Just over a hundred feet from where they were, Gu Qing Shan stood within the void of space, silently watching this.

“They aren’t holding back, seems like we need to retreat even further”

He muttered.

Hearing that, Laura hurriedly retreated together with everyone under her umbrella.

A short moment later.

The battle between two Deities had officially begun!

Chapter 1050

The earth continuously collapsed. Rocks, rivers, buildings, and roads scattered, flung into the space vortex, disappearing completely out of sight.

The wind slowly turned violent, sweeping everything inside the world away.

Gu Qing Shan closely watched the collapsing world, then turned his gaze towards the two Deities who were clashing against one another a bit further away.

This location was outside of the two Deities’ battle zone, so they were temporarily safe.

The Soul Shrieker unleashed its soul absorbing shriek without any signs of stopping.

The God of Life tried to use its countless black tentacles as a shield against the Soul Shrieker’s attack.

The black tentacles were turned into detached souls and whisked into the Soul Shrieker’s mouth.

At this moment, the Soul Shrieker was overpowering the God of Life.

—*—it seems the God of Life finally doesn’t have the leisure to worry about Calming Soul Country.*

This place had turned into the battlefield between two Deities, and their battle would only become even more intense from this point onwards.

A single world couldn’t possibly handle this level of destruction.

In other words—

Calming Soul Country was about to be destroyed.

Gu Qing Shan said right away: “This is a good chance. Xuan Ya, order the Demis who had gathered at the capital city to evacuate into the mirror worlds”

“Understood” Xuan Ya replied.

“Laura, maintain your umbrella, we’re going to take this chance to retrieve all the mirror worlds”

“Yes!”

Xuan Ya immediately used her [Fearless Transmission]

Soon enough, the group warped away from the battlefield of the two Deities.

...

At another location.

Dead Sea, Fog Isle world.

The gate of the Holy Church of Fate.

“Have you already decided?”

Ning Yue Chan asked.

“I have” Su Xue Er replied.

She tossed two items to the other party, then turned around to head back into the Holy Church.

Ning Yue Chan received them to see that they were indeed that Card and the corresponding coin.

She carefully put them away before asking again: “Hey, didn’t you say you liked Gu Qing Shan a lot? Why aren’t you going to meet him right now?”

Su Xue Er didn’t turn around and just replied: “I’m not going”

Ning Yue Chan tried asking: “Giving up?”

“...None of your business”

Su Xue Er’s figure disappeared into the Holy Church.

Ning Yue Chan shook her head, before leaping into the air, and flying off this world.

Su Xue Er stood in the shadow of the Holy Church and carefully observed, making sure only to sigh after the other party had truly gone far away.

Several knights of the church hurriedly approached her.

“Your Excellency, lady Su Xue Er, the Pope issued an order for you to lead the troops against the other Holy Churches”

“Understood, I’ll be on my way immediately”

Su Xue Er replied.

The knights respectfully bowed and left.

Su Xue Er shook her head and smiled bitterly.

If I lose Gu Qing Shan, these wars, these competitions, even the end of the world, what does it all have to do with me?

She took off the surcoat that symbolized her status as a Cardinal of the Holy Church and arbitrarily tossed it to the ground.

Everything is meaningless now.

Su Xue Er took out a scroll and ripped it.

A split second later, the light on the scroll enveloped her and took her away from this world.

...

Gu Qing Shan's homeworld.

Su Xue Er appeared.

She found herself hovering in the air.

The Confederate capital was below.

A city filled with light.

The darkness of the night was waning.

The Holo-brain she carried in her personal pouch started vibrating almost immediately.

Su Xue Er didn't care and simply looked down on the city nightscape.

—-Anna once said that Gu Qing Shan once made all the lights in the capital lit up at once for a split second.

Regretfully.

I really didn't have a lot of time to be with him.

When I had the chance at Triste's collection world, I foolishly pushed him away.

Hah...

Su Xue Er's gaze fell onto a certain place in the capital.

—-Rainbow bar.

I once went here with Gu Qing Shan.

Su Xue Er couldn't help herself from flying down.

She came into the bar, ordered a cocktail, silently watched the mixologist do his work, and placed it in front of her.

"Thank you"

Su Xue Er raised the glass and took a light sip.

She quickly scowled.

This liquor was extremely strong, not even the ice and fruits mixed with it could obscure its pungent taste.

—-and this was a kind of liquor that Gu Qing Shan liked to drink.

Why would he like such a hard thing to swallow?

Anna seemed to like such liquor as well.

I heard that those who liked strong liquor usually had a lot on their minds and had gone through many hardships.

Anna's father is no longer of this world, her country fell to ruin. Even after she reclaimed it, everything was still in turmoil.

She must've gone through a lot of hardship and suffering.

...and most likely Gu Qing Shan also had similar experiences that couldn't be described in words.

But I don't know about any of it.

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—-so what if I do know?

I can't even win against Ning Yue Chan.

During our first meeting, she saved my life with a single strike.

Her beauty, her talents, even her combat experience isn't something I can catch up with.

I know I've already put in a lot of effort and tried my best.

But standing next to Ning Yue Chan, compared to her, I'm still an ugly duckling.

How am I supposed to compete with her?

Su Xue Er wiped her tears.

She drank the entire glass at once, letting that burning alcohol sensation wash over her throat and chest.

"Ning Yue Chan..."

She couldn't help herself muttering.

If I were to be the strongest...

I will—

I will beat Ning Yue Chan and all those other girls until they're scared and won't come back!

Su Xue Er begrudgingly thought.

The Holo-brain in her pouch had been vibrating for the past while.

Su Xue Er felt annoyed so she shut it off entirely.

A short moment later.

The Holo-brains of everyone in the bar vibrated at once.

Everyone was surprised and checked what happened.

A solemn, dignified female voice resounded:

[According to the Law of worldwide safety, your personal Holo-brain has been conscripted for public use, your citizenship IDs have been recorded by the world allied government. Please leave the bar and receive your new Holo-brain]

[Special attention: This is an order of the Highest Priority, please carry it out immediately!]

Everyone stopped drinking, said nothing, swiftly put their Holo-brains down, and left the bar in haste.

—don't be ridiculous, this was a Highest Priority order from the World Allied government, it wasn't something you would see every day, but it would always represent the greatest authority in this world.

No one had the courage to go against such an order.

A few moments later.

The entire bar was empty.

Only Su Xue Er remained.

Outside the bar, hundreds and thousands of mobile Mechs completely surrounded this street block, forbidding all entry.

The capital was put under temporary military law.

Interstellar airships made their way into the sky, patrolling the airspace of the capital.

None of this escaped Su Xue Er's observation.

She reluctantly raised an eyebrow, swirling the ice that remained in her cup.

— — — who's so blind as to try and bother me at this point in time?

I just want a moment of silence.

Is that too much to ask for?

As Su Xue Er's thin fingers slightly moved, every shot glass in the bar hovered into the air, melted into a mass of transparent liquid, and disappeared into the void of space.

At this point, every Holo-brain broadcasted a voice in unison:

[Confederate aristocrat, last retainer of the 9 Lords status, lady Su Xue Er, I am Impartial Goddess]

“Last retainer of the 9 Lords status? What do you mean?” Su Xue Er questioned in a cold voice.

[The 9 Lords have become history. This is a decision made in accordance with Gu Qing Shan’s previous will] Impartial Goddess replied.

Su Xue Er’s fighting spirit deflated and hurriedly asked: “I-I see— has Gu Qing Shan returned?”

[My apologies, he has not]

[Su Xue Er, I am here for a more important matter]

[The 6 worlds of the Samsara had fused together as one and are currently facing the danger of the Abyss’ backflow waves, with a not inconsiderable chance of being destroyed]

[In accordance with the Guardian’s last will, you are the only inheritor of the 9 Lords of Starlight]

[As the current situation is highly uncertain, I must transfer the last inheritance of the 9 Lords to you]

The door of the bar opened.

A miniature Mech arrived in front of Su Xue Er with a box in its hand.

Impartial Goddess’s voice resounded again:

[The 9 Lords have become history, and I have retrieved the 9 Starlight Cloaks that contain a unique power, the most precious inheritance of the 9 Lords]

[From this moment forward, they shall be yours]

The box was opened.

The 9 Starlight Cloaks silently laid inside.

Su Xue Er was stunned.

That can’t be right.

How could these cloaks be considered the most precious inheritance?

What exactly happened?

Su Xue Er lightly stroked one of the cloaks with her hand.

These were the heirlooms of each of the 9 Lords, only the heads of each generation was ever allowed to wear it. Although they had certain magical properties like never becoming dirty, elemental resistance, and inducing longevity, those effects weren’t exactly great, only at the level of being decent.

For the 9 Lords, the most precious thing about these cloaks was the authority that they represented.

—*it was to obtain this cloak that Mother and Father cut ties with me.*

For such a ridiculous thing...

Su Xue Er let the tear flow down her face while clutching one of the cloaks tightly, trying to suppress the sorrow in her heart.

Unbeknownst to her, from the moment that her hand came into contact with the jet-black cloak, it had begun to give off a faint fluctuation.

The fluctuation continued to spread until it enveloped the faint stars on the cloak.

All of a sudden.

The 9 cloaks hovered by themselves, attached to one another, and spread themselves out in mid-air.

The darkness from the cloaks had been completely removed to reveal a sea of glittering stars.

A vast and grand star chart had appeared in front of Su Xue Er.

At the same time, a cold, mechanical voice resounded from the star chart:

[Detected Starlight Empire's bloodline]

[Ever since the secret destruction of the Starlight Empire, this is the first time an aristocrat with the empire's bloodline had been detected with the lowest required power threshold]

[Starlight secret: Dusty World Secret Passage had been revealed to you]

[This is the only shortcut to obtaining the great power of Occultism!]

Chapter 1051

The God of Life's tentacles spread throughout the sky like a tide of darkness.

The dark tides boiled, surged, and formed a sky-high tsunami that seemed like it would completely envelop everything in front of itself.

But the dark tides met their match.

The Soul Shrieker's sharp shrieking made the black tentacles melt and reveal themselves as faces of desperate souls.

The souls were completely helpless, unable to help themselves from being swallowed by the Soul Shrieker and turning into its food.

Tentacles were disappearing one after another.

Right at the beginning of their combat, the God of Life was already at a slight disadvantage, which caused her to feel even angrier.

『 A mere soul eater dares to show me up!? 』

Thousands of black tentacles returned in front of her face and manifested as souls of Demis.

Over the long period of over 100 million years, these souls used to hold the same Mystic-type Divine Skill, which was unleashed in unison through the God of Life's control——

Divine Skill, [Soul Cleaving Slash]!

A faint blade of light appeared in the hands of every soul.

『 Here, give me! 』 the God of Life viciously said.

The blades of light left the hands of the souls and fell into the God of Life's hand, manifesting as an extremely bright sprite of light.

After the souls were stripped of their Divine Skills, they returned to becoming black writhing tentacles.

The God of Life wielded that single sprite of light and firmly slashed it towards the Soul Shrieker.

Sha---

Hundred Thousand Divine Skills, [Demonic Soul Slashing Blade]!

A paper-thin blade of light manifested and drew an enormous arc through the void that flew endlessly forward.

Where the arc cut through, a bottomless gash was carved into the ground below.

Cr-crak crak---

The gashes swiftly spread throughout the earth like slithering snakes.

Soon enough, the entire world was filled with cracks.

---bah!

The earth had been thoroughly cut to pieces.

And it wasn't just the earth, even the empty sky had been cut open.

Both halves of the blue sky were gradually fading away from the cut, allowing the gloomy colors of the space vortex to manifest within the ruined world.

The Soul Shrieker's ear-piercing shriek abruptly came to a halt.

The arc had gone through its body, left this world, and followed the endlessly vast space vortex into oblivion

The Soul Shrieker had been bisected.

*---*but this didn't manage to take its life.

「 A combined Divine Skill? 」 the male half of its body spoke.

『 Such an obsolete soul technique, how uninteresting 』 the female half of its body continued.

Countless souls flew out from the two halves of the Soul Shrieker's body, screaming as they vanished into nothingness.

In just a split second.

Over a million souls perished.

And the Soul Shrieker's body halves had reattached and went back to normal.

『 『 AAAaaaaaeeee! Power of [Chaos], shelter me, aid me in the destruction of the Era's enemy! 』 』 the Soul Shrieker roared furiously.

A vast pillar of light appeared from the boundless void and descended on the Soul Shrieker.

Boom!

Light and wind both howled in unison, flickering on its body.

The Soul Shrieker breathed heavily, but spoke in a solemn and dignified holy tone: 『 『 Those who obstruct me from destroying [Order], shall— all— die! 』 』

Its six arms coiled around the sides of its body, morphing into a pair of fleshy wings filled with razor-sharp claws.

Meanwhile, its body madly writhed as it turned into a 2-headed giant beast that exuded a gloomy presence.

This was a mythical [Chaos] creature that would have only manifested near the later periods of the Era of [Chaos].

Time and Future Devourer!

Roar!!!

The giant beast uttered a thunderous roar, flapped its fleshy wings, and pounced on to the God of Life with lightning-fast speed.

—the impact was intense!

In the blink of an eye, the beast moved its wings to rip the God of Life's body apart.

It opened its gaping maw and blasted what remained of the God of Life's corpse with a grey flame.

Almost immediately, the God of Life's body was thoroughly destroyed.

But that wasn't the end, the beast turned its head upwards and blasted the countless black tentacles in the sky with that grey flame as well.

As soon as the first tentacle caught on fire, every tentacle was engulfed in the same kind of flame.

The desperate screams of souls resounded as the tentacles were literally being roasted alive.

The black tentacles that hadn't been thoroughly burnt through fell to the earth, spreading the flame onto it.

The earth started to burn as well.

—no, the entirety of Calming Soul Country was being burnt by this grey flame at once.

Everything was turned to ash.

The giant beast hovered in the air, spread its fleshy wings wide and roared to the sky above: 『 『 Those who obstruct [Chaos] will fall in this miserable way, and none shall ever escape! 』 』

Under its roar, the light that descended from above grew even more blinding.

The world was burning under its feet, the corpse of the old Deity burnt to a crisp.

At this moment, it was the invincible True Deity of the void!

...

Several thousand meters away from where the two Deities battled.

Gu Qing Shan's group had just finished gathering all the mirror worlds with the Demis evacuated inside and turned around to see this.

Under the flower umbrella, Laura muttered at a loss: "Is this what a battle between Deities looks like?"

"That's right, it's all over..." Zhang Ying Hao sighed.

Everyone fell silent.

In just a few exchanges of blows, an entire world had already been cut up and destroyed.

This was the terrifying power only seen in myths.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and asked: "Boss, I remember you saying that a battle between Deities does not end so quickly?"

"I did" Boss replied, "Unless the difference between them is too great, it would never end in a single day—— let's watch on——"

Everyone was surprised.

Watch on?

Didn't the Soul Shrieker already win?

Boss slowly chuckled and muttered: "It's still only a new Deity, noticing so late..."

Everyone followed his gaze.

Only to see that everything had already been destroyed on the ravaged lands, even the God of Life's black tentacles had already been burnt almost completely away.

Only one final black tentacle remained.

...

The grey flames continued to burn this tentacle, but it was completely unfazed.

Naturally, the Soul Shrieker also noticed this tentacle.

It gathered all the light from its body into its mouth and manifested another mass of burning grey flames.

『 「 DIE! 」 』

The Soul Shrieker spat out that grey flame.

The grey flame silently flew, burning the void as it advanced to form a long empty trail behind it.

Boom!

The grey flames struck the black tentacle!

The earth around the tentacle was immediately melted away.

The grey flame followed the black tentacle and continued to burn through the ground.

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And kept burning,

And kept burning,

Until...

The Soul Shrieker waited in the air, silently watching the grey flames burning through the ground.

All of a sudden, it seemed to have noticed something and spread its fleshy wings to take to the sky.

A grudgeful voice resounded from deep underground.

『 Running away? 』

A large black hand reached out from deep underground, swiftly caught up to the flying Soul Shrieker and caught it.

The Soul Shrieker's body was now that of a giant monster, but this hand was even bigger than its entire body.

Rumble rumble!

The earth completely broke apart, turning into dust that scattered into the space vortex.

The one behind the black hand— the monster that hid deep underground had finally shown itself to everyone.

At first glance, this monster seemed like a gigantic black snake.

But it wasn't a snake.

Because it had a pair of enormous human hands with a layer of tough carapace on its head with a bright purple glow.

No eyes.

No face.

The very end of its tail was the black tentacle that the grey flames couldn't burn away.

The black tentacle writhed and turned into the old lady's form.

The old lady glared intently at the Soul Shrieker and spoke full of hatred: 『 Even as the world was destroyed, I didn't awaken my true body. A measly new Deity like yourself dared to force me to awaken my real self!? 』

As she spoke, the giant black hand gradually squeezed tighter.

『 「 Aaaarggh! 』 』

The Soul Shrieker howled in pain.

It exerted all of its power, turning into grey flames, and escaped from being in the hand's hold.

The grey flames moved far away and manifested as the Soul Shrieker again.

——however, so what if it managed to escape?

The Soul Shrieker observed the other party in shock.

Too strong.

It was easy to tell just how powerful the other party was at a mere glance.

This monster had only just revealed her real body, there was no telling how many abilities that she hasn't utilized.

The Soul Shrieker muttered in shock: 『 「 So... you weren't a Deity...』 』

『 A deity? 』 the old lady smirked sarcastically.

Her gaze turned to her large body and chuckled hysterically:

『 Within this vast and endless void, what good is being a Deity? In the past, nothing they could come up with managed to kill this body 』

The Soul Shrieker shouted: 『 「 Despicable! Who exactly are you!? 』 』

From the boundless void of space, the light of [Chaos] fully converged on its body.

The old lady narrowed her eye and observed that pillar of light, muttering in a low voice: 『 [Chaos]...』

...

While they were staring one another down.

A bit further away.

Gu Qing Shan sensed what was happening and muttered: “Oh no, that monster is too strong—— this isn't the result we wanted”

Boss asked: “What kind of result did you want?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I wanted the Water God Card, in the worst case, I wanted the more powerful enemy to die and the weaker enemy to survive!”

Boss shook his head: “That monster couldn’t be killed even by the——”

“I know, not even the Deities managed to kill it”

Gu Qing Shan told Laura: “Come, we’re going over there”

“Huh? We are?”

Laura asked without moving.

She felt her body shivering just by looking at that monster.

This couldn’t be helped, aside from Boss, even Gu Qing Shan was trembling.

A mythical [Chaos] monster at its peak.

An amalgamation between Deity and void monster.

These entities were so terrifying that a mere look at them could cause the minds of many to crumble.

Gu Qing Shan controlled his trembling body and spoke in a calm voice: “Laura, listen to me. I’m also trembling right now, but both you and I understand that this is our only chance”

Laura’s tears were already rolling.

Gu Qing Shan shook the hair tie on his wrist and told her: “Don’t worry, we won’t die—— even if we do, I’ll make sure that you’re the last person to die”

While Laura was still frightful, she couldn’t help herself smiling at that statement.

She slowly closed her eyes: “I’m an adult now, I’m not afraid! I’m not afraid! Aaaah! That thing is too terrifying, I’m not afraid!”

She skillfully opened her small backpack, took out various artifacts, and equipped herself to the literal teeth.

She finally stopped trembling.

She took out numerous more treasures and distributed them to everyone.

“These are artifacts that can amplify your fighting spirit and courage—— everyone equip them, otherwise if you’re trembling so much that you let go of the umbrella, we’re all doomed”

The group hurriedly put on the various helmets, gloves, shoulder pads, masks, shoes, pants, even skirts.

After this was done, the umbrella started moving forward.

Closer.

And closer.

Until the group entered the battlefield.

This time, they were silently hovering above the Soul Shrieker’s shoulder.

Gu Qing Shan focused his mind and converged on the seemingly solid luck around his body.

——Fate Divine Skill: [Words of Determined Destiny]!

This was his second use of this Divine Skill.

The limit was that he could only say one statement at a time!

Gu Qing Shan silently reminded himself before taking a deep breath.

He then leaned into the Soul Shrieker's ear and spoke: "This monster just said that it didn't awaken its real body even when the world is destroyed which means that there must be some sort of huge issue whenever it uses its real body so you must stall until that issue it is afraid of surfaces"

He stated the entire thing in a single breath.

Not only was this statement spoken for the Soul Shrieker to hear, but it had also determined a certain destiny!

"Go!"

Gu Qing Shan shouted in his whisper.

The flower umbrella flashed and escaped from the Soul Shrieker's vicinity.

Right at this time, the old lady spoke:

『 Scram, Deity of the [Chaos] faction, you are too weak and too insignificant. Do not cross me again, or I shall devour both your body and soul! 』

The Soul Shrieker was surprised.

Who's going to let their opponent go when they hold the absolute advantage?

She must surely have some sort of issue!

What exactly is she afraid of?

The Soul Shrieker howled:

『 『 I am the only Deity of [Chaos] within the 900 million World Layers 』 』

『 『 Come, today, I shall see for myself what kind of entity that not even the ancient Deities managed to win against! 』 』

Boom!!!

The immense light of [Chaos] once again descended upon its body.

Chapter 1052

Calming Soul Country had completely collapsed, scattered into dust within the space vortex.

This world under the protection of the oath between Deities no longer existed.

In the battlefield between the two Deities.

The God of Life was trying to suppress her killing intent and declared:

『 Feeble new Deity, I shall give you one last chance, scam right now! 』

Immediately after, she clasped her hands together and quickly chanted an incantation.

Right away, a bright purple flame rose from her hand, illuminating the dark space vortex as bright as day.

Void summoning—

Divine Armament from the Age of Immemorial, Bestower of Flesh, and Spiritual Pain!

On the other side, the Soul Shrieker cautiously watched the purple flame and prepared its defenses.

『 「 You're telling me to scam? I think you're trying to avoid something unless you hand over the carrier of [Order], I will thoroughly stick to you without letting you escape! 』 』

The Soul Shrieker loudly threatened her.

—indeed, the other party is vastly stronger than I am.

The only way I would be able to obtain the [Order] from her is to make a gamble and find whether they are willing to compromise.

The God of Life was shaken.

She understood what her opponent was trying to achieve immediately.

It has discovered my secret!

Damn it, if I actually get stalled by a Deity, there really will be an issue.

The old lady immediately went berserk and viciously declared: 『 Since you refused to accept what little mercy I have left, then die! 』

She caught the purple light and firmly pulled.

The purple light manifested as a flickering whip of light.

The old lady swung the whip—

Pah!

It struck the Soul Shrieker's body head-on!

The Soul Shrieker spat up blood and was forced back.

That attack was far more powerful than it had expected.

The Soul Shrieker looked down only to find a deep gash on its body that reached as deep as the bones, from which blood continuously flowed out.

Endless pain.

This was an overlapping pain that came from both the body and soul.

This was an extreme level of pain that living beings couldn't possibly endure, capable of shattering their soul from the inside almost immediately.

— even Deities were frightful of this level of pain!

The Soul Shrieker tried to endure the pain and shouted: 『 『 It certainly is strong, but now it's my—
』 』

Pah!!!

Another purple light appeared, mercilessly struck its body, flayed even more flesh and blood away, causing it to be unable to finish its statement.

It couldn't help but glare back.

Only to see that the God of Life's other hand also held a whip made of purple light.

The God of Life coldly grinned: 『 Ignorant new Deity, your despair had only just begun! 』

『 『 That isn't a weapon from the 900 million World Layers, nor is it a Saint Armament from the Abyss...
』 』 the Soul Shrieker muttered as it stared at the whip.

The God of Life replied: 『 Naturally, your knowledge is too shallow— but I won't be telling you anything else, what I want now is your life! 』

The purple light greatly shone and turned into hundreds and thousands of pillars of light that crashed down on the Soul Shrieker.

This pain thoroughly invaded and overwhelmed every possible point of its senses, the Soul Shrieker wanted to forcefully endure, but couldn't help its body and soul from constantly retreating with every strike.

The old lady hysterically laughed: 『 It's already too late for you to escape! My whip has sowed a seed of suffering within your body, from now on, no matter where you escape to or hide, even if we are millions of worlds apart, you shall be powerless to avoid my attacks! 』

While saying so, she swung both purple light whips randomly into the void.

— she clearly struck the void, but two deep gashes immediately appeared on the Soul Shrieker's body.

The Soul Shrieker's body shook and uttered a howl of pain.

This was a pain that no entity could ever endure, in that split second of being hit, several ten thousand souls had perished inside its body.

『 How does it feel? Pitiable Deity? 』 the old lady grinned.

The Soul Shrieker glared at the other party and breathed heavily: 『 「 Despicable... if my weapon hasn't...』 』

If I still had the 7-colored spear, I can endure this pain to try and match blows with her.

Even if I can't kill her, I would at least be able to interfere and prevent her from swinging that damned whip!

Regretfully, when I fell into slumber several ten thousand years earlier, someone took the spear from me so it's still missing now.

Damn it!

While the Soul Shrieker was thinking that, it suddenly felt something and abruptly looked up.

Only to see something madly boiling within the endless void.

——at that very same time.

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Laura had already retreated faraway with her umbrella and everyone in tow.

“Was that a Fate-type power just now?” Boss asked him in a low voice.

Gu Qing Shan explained: “Yes, the artifact Laura gave me combined with an ability that I originally had to produce an unimaginable Fate-type ability”

Boss told him in a solemn tone: “We should keep our guard up, right after you stated that just now, I felt a sense of fear from the bottom of my heart”

Gu Qing Shan froze.

When they approached the two Deities closely just now, Boss didn't shiver even a little bit.

And yet he said he felt fear from that statement just now.

Gu Qing Shan silently checked his spirit sense, then he too noticed.

“You're right, I can feel a sensation that makes my heart beat faster... as if something serious is about to happen” Gu Qing Shan whispered.

In truth, that statement he uttered with [Words of Determined Destiny] just now determined a total of 2 things.

Firstly, the Soul Shrieker would remain to fight and stall the God of Life.

Secondly, the event that the God of Life was afraid of would definitely occur.

Although the Soul Shrieker was an entity whose mind was sharp enough to easily doubt the God of Life's actions, who could actually say that for sure?

What if it couldn't manage to notice the God of Life's issue?

Gu Qing Shan couldn't allow such an issue to occur, no matter how small the possibility was.

He specifically used up one [Words of Determined Destiny] just to make sure that the course of events would play out in the way that he wanted it to.

However, that statement caused both Boss and himself to feel a sense of unfounded fear.

That's a bit strange.

Ye Fei Li suddenly spoke up: "Hey, everyone, I'm suddenly having an intense feeling of unease"

Zhang Ying Hao anxiously looked around and said: "This feeling... as if death would consume us at any moment"

Gu Qing Shan and Boss exchanged glances.

If everyone felt the same thing, then whatever that was about to occur would be extremely dangerous.

"—the situation has changed, Laura, we're retreating again, as far as possible!" Gu Qing Shan told her.

"Got it!" Laura replied.

The flower umbrella and everyone below sped up, hurriedly escaping into the darkness of the void.

...

On the battlefield.

The old lady looked up at the void above and exclaimed: 『 Oh no! 』

She no longer cared about the Soul Shrieker's life and death, swiftly turning around to run away.

The Soul Shrieker had endured those attacks to wait for this exact moment, so how could it allow the other party to do as she pleased?

Not to mention, she said she sowed a seed of suffering inside my body, if she manages to escape from this predicament, she would be able to slowly torture me to death whenever she wanted.

「 『 You're not getting away! 』 」

The Soul Shrieker shouted and charged forward.

It crashed into the armored black snake's giant body, using its six arms to pound the monster's body with all its strength.

The old lady was struck so much that her body lost balance, unable to escape.

A second later——

Countless black coffins appeared like a tidal wave from above.

The Soul Shrieker was surprised.

Black coffins?

They don't seem to have any offensive capabilities.

The old lady's expression warped and twisted as she saw these coffins.

This time, she was truly panicking.

The God of Life's body shook and knocked the Soul Shrieker away, screaming in a frightful voice:

『 Hurry up and run! If you don't, we're both going to die here! 』

The Soul Shrieker had been waiting for this moment to turn the tables, so how could it listen to her?

This is my final chance to destroy [Order].

Once she escapes, I won't be able to win against her, and the [Order] will survive again.

If that's the case, the Era of [Chaos] will never truly be complete!

The Soul Shrieker furiously roared:

『 「 Unless you hand over the carrier of [Order], I will never let you escape! 』 』

It unrelentingly charged forward, once again wrestled with the God of Life to make sure that she couldn't go anywhere.

The God of Life really didn't want to fight, but couldn't escape as she kept being stopped by the other party.

Right at this point, the countless black coffins silently descended, with more of them appearing one after another to gradually fill the void.

The black coffins have completely surrounded the two Deities inside.

Chapter 1053

Within the space vortex, the black coffins were constantly raining down from above, surrounding the two Deities within.

The old lady curled her body inward and shrunk, turning into the giant snake's tail and no longer displayed her own body.

Around her, some of the black coffins had already opened.

Corpses flew out from inside the coffins.

The corpses were equipped with tattered, broken armor and weapons, seemingly originating from countless years ago.

The presence they gave off were all at the baseline of Demigods, fully maintaining their aura while they were still alive.

And they charged towards the two Deities.

The giant black snake started to strike a certain direction with the purple light whips.

Every corpse in that direction was wiped out.

The giant black snake wanted to escape using this opening but was once again stopped by the Soul Shrieker.

『 「 You want to flee? Leave that carrier of [Order] behind! 』 』

The Soul Shrieker roared and pounded the giant snake's body with all six of its arms at once.

The impact caused the giant black snake to lose balance again, losing its final chance at escape.

Seeing that, the Soul Shrieker also tried unleashing some grey flames to massacre a large number of corpses at once.

After these corpses were eliminated, the coffins that carried them closed up and returned above.

The Soul Shrieker loudly mocked: 『 「 And here I was wondering what kind of thing you were afraid of. Just a bunch of Demigod-level corpses managed to scare you this much? 』 』

While it spoke, more and more coffins opened up.

Numerous corpses appeared one after another.

All of a sudden, a particularly huge coffin opened.

A giant emerged from inside.

As soon as the Soul Shrieker saw this giant, it went quiet.

The aura this giant gave off was even more powerful than its own.

As the giant appeared, another coffin opened.

Half the body of a beautiful woman emerged.

—another Deity!

As if there was no end to them, the coffins continued to descend one after another from above.

Countless corpses emerged from the coffins without stopping.

Among them was a towering headless body that donned a suit of armor exuding an air of vicissitudes.

—yet another Deity!

In a short period of time, the corpse of three Deities had appeared!

This time, the Soul Shrieker was shocked as well.

—*—I can't possibly fight against this many Demigods and Deities by myself.*

If more corpses of Deities show up after this...

It didn't have time to think any further.

The giant and the woman had already engaged the God of Life in combat.

The armored headless corpse was slowly approaching it.

『 「 Tsk, you're courting death! 」 』

The Soul Shrieker charged forward and clashed against the armored Deity corpse with all its might.

Bam!

The void shook.

The Soul Shrieker was forced to retreat.

The armored Deity corpse only trembled a bit and received no visible wounds.

The Soul Shrieker muttered in a low voice: 『 「 Damn it, its power isn't any weaker than mine...」 』

It was constantly thinking, trying to come up with a way to resolve this situation when another mass of coffins descended not too far away from where it was.

The coffin lids were opened.

Several hundred corpses emerged from inside.

Most of them were Demigod-level Combatants, and yet there were still over a dozen of them that exuded Deity-level aura.

Over a dozen Deities.

They all approached the two Deities and whispered in unison: 『 Come forward, fall with us into eternal slumber 』

The Soul Shrieker's pupils contracted and couldn't help but retreat a few steps.

Even if I'm the only Deity of [Chaos], if I were to go against so many Deities, there is only one possible outcome— that would be death!

The Soul Shrieker couldn't help itself looking up into the deep space vortex.

Only to see the coffins continued raining down like an autumn shower, constant and without any end in sight.

A certain thought appeared in the Soul Shrieker's mind—

More Deity corpses will surely appear.

Demigods and Deities have already shown up, perhaps the ones depicted only in myths will also descend.

『 「 What exactly is going on...? 」 』

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The Soul Shrieker couldn't help but mutter to itself.

It was only now that it realized what the God of Life was afraid of.

But it seemed everything was too late.

...

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan's group silently watched this eerie sight.

"What do we do now?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

Even when they had retreated far enough, even when he was equipped full of artifacts that Laura provided, he could still feel cold sweat running down his forehead.

He was shivering again.

As if this couldn't be helped and couldn't be controlled, as this was the most instinctive sense of fear embedded within the soul of living beings.

"I suggest that we escape right away" Boss told them with an anxious expression.

"Do you know where these black coffins come from?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"A few of them are the soldiers and Deities who lost their lives during the destruction of the Inner Plane many years ago, but a large number of them, I don't recognize at all!" Boss told him.

This was the first time Gu Qing Shan sensed fear within Boss' voice.

"Oh no... I didn't think the situation would turn out like this, we need to change our strategy— and quickly!" Gu Qing Shan said.

He turned to everyone: "Listen, this is our best chance! We need to charge forward now!"

Everyone went silent.

Best chance?

Charge forward now?

Everyone felt like he was insane.

With the black coffins constantly raining down without end, a situation where two Deities were desperately struggling for a bleak chance at survival, you're calling that a chance?

"Qing Shan, what are you thinking?" Laura nervously asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I've checked just now, while these corpses are powerful and numerous, they only retain their perception from while they were still alive, unable to see through unique abilities"

—before he made his declaration, the jade gourd pendant Adorable had landed on top of a corpse, flying towards the two Deities with it.

"You're saying that they can't detect my [Shelter of Infinite Worlds]?" Laura asked.

"Exactly!"

Gu Qing Shan patted Zhang Ying Hao's shoulder: "Ying Hao, we need to split up and act right away. After getting that Card, we're leaving"

"..." Zhang Ying Hao really didn't know what to say.

At this point, Xuan Ya and the Demis had all entered the mirror worlds, leaving only Gu Qing Shan, Boss, Zhang Ying Hao, Ye Fei Li, and Laura here.

Gu Qing Shan quickly informed everyone of his plan.

Each person was assigned a task to do.

At this point, the God of Life's desperate screams could be heard from inside the encirclement.

『 Aaaaa— all of you— don't come any closer! 』

The old lady was displaying unprecedented distress.

Boom!

The Soul Shrieker was sent flying by two Deity corpses, crashing with a huge sound of impact.

"There's not much time, we need to act now!"

Gu Qing Shan said.

Everyone nodded and prepared to act.

—act my ass!!

Laura leapt forward and chomped Gu Qing Shan on his shoulder.

"Gu Qing Shan, if I die from this, I won't forgive you even as a ghost!"

The little girl begrudging told him.

Zhang Ying Hao blankly stared at the faraway scene of carnage and muttered: "...I feel like a stray dog wandering into a nuclear explosion"

Ye Fei Li thought briefly then commented: "If this is compared to a game, this is like creating a brand-new character, only to see the final BOSS of the entire game at newbie town, then finding out that your first mission is to kill it"

Boss wasn't quite as shaken as the others and asked Gu Qing Shan in confirmation: "How sure are you?"

"If we don't waste any time, 50%" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"That much? Good enough"

"That's right, so let's begin!"

Right as he said so, Gu Qing Shan reached his hand forward.

An umbrella appeared in his hand.

Unlike Laura's flower umbrella, the umbrella in his hand was black and was much larger.

[Shelter of Infinite Worlds]

This was his own [Shelter of Infinite Worlds]!

"I remembered that you once borrowed the Soul Shrieker's Holy Retribution, can you always borrow other people's abilities like this?" Boss asked with interest.

"No, this ability needs a downtime, otherwise there will be issues" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Chapter 1054

Gu Qing Shan held his black umbrella and flew towards the God of Life with Boss.

While Laura held her flower umbrella as she flew towards the Soul Shrieker together with Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li.

Both sides were moving as fast as possible, quickly entering the battlefield, and respectively made it to where the Deities were.

None of the Deity corpses noticed their presence.

Gu Qing Shan had Adorable follow and protect Laura, only calming down after she made it to the necessary spot.

At this point, the number of Deity corpses emerging from the black coffins had overpowered the two Deities, who couldn't do anything but get beaten up to the point of barely hanging on.

"Begin!"

Gu Qing Shan sent his voice.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li both released their hands from the flower umbrella.

——at this point, the Soul Shrieker had just exerted all its power to escape from the encirclement of the Deity corpses.

"Our peerless Deity, we came to save you!" Zhang Ying Hao shouted.

"My Deity! I discarded everything in order to give up my life and everything, swearing my allegiance to you!" Ye Fei Li declared.

The Soul Shrieker glanced at them.

It could sense the power of [Chaos] coming from them.

Indeed, they were carriers of [Chaos]

They were subjects from my faction.

——*I recall that they were allied with that carrier of [Order], why did they suddenly appear here?*

Just to fall into the embrace of [Chaos]?

But they are so weak, not only do they pose no threat to me, but they are also helpless to help me.

Perhaps, they are up to something?

I would have lost my life here, so how could they have appeared in this place?

And they said that they were going to save me?

Countless thoughts flashed through the Soul Shrieker's mind before it hesitantly spoke: 『 「 You...」 』

Ye Fei Li abruptly cut it off: "My Deity! We are powerless, but we can bring you safely away from here!"

He grabbed Laura's flower umbrella and let it touch the Soul Shrieker's body.

The Deity corpses that faced the Soul Shrieker abruptly stopped attacking.

They blankly stood still, seemingly trying to sense something.

But to no avail.

The Deity corpses slowly turned around and looked towards the God of Life.

Gradually, they moved.

The Soul Shrieker stared at the two tiny carriers of [Chaos] as well as the little girl that suddenly appeared, then at the moving Deity corpses.

—regardless, it had to admit a certain truth.

It had evaded everything and wasn't discovered at all.

These two carriers of [Chaos] had certainly used this strange ability to save me.

But what exactly is happening?

However, since the threat hadn't fully disappeared, the Soul Shrieker could only remain still and watch as it watched the Deity corpses fly past it.

At the same time.

On the other side.

The God of Life was desperately holding off the attacks of several Deity corpses while also maintaining attention on the Soul Shrieker's situation.

All of a sudden, the Soul Shrieker disappeared from her senses.

—thoroughly disappeared, not even the Deity corpses managed to detect the Soul Shrieker.

『 That's impossible! 』

The God of Life abruptly shouted.

But reality wouldn't change just because of its shout.

And the Deity corpses that originally surrounded the Soul Shrieker had now started making their way towards the God of Life.

『 Damn it! Damn it! 』

The God of Life was shouting half in desperation and half in insanity.

—-that one actually managed to escape!

Right at this point, a voice sounded in her ears.

“I am the servant of the great Soul Shrieker – the Deity of [Chaos]. As you can see, our Deity has a way of avoiding this calamity”

This voice was so familiar that the God of Life nearly froze as she heard it.

Indeed, this was the same person who appeared in Calming Soul Country.

—-he was the Soul Shrieker’s servant who came with numerous Soul Artifacts, looking to trade for the [Order] in my hand.

And I refused.

Afterwards, the Soul Shrieker truly did arrive!

The God of Life looked around and questioned: 『 What do you want? 』

—-she discovered something terrific.

Even the Soul Shrieker’s servant was completely concealed within the void of space, unable to be detected!

They really did have a way to avoid this sure-death situation!

A light of hope sparked in the God of Life’s heart.

Right at this point, Gu Qing Shan utilized the power of Fate he carried and stated the final [Words of Determined Destiny]:

“At this point, you can only use the [Order] Card to exchange for a chance to survive—- in fact, what treasure is worth more than, or even as much as your own life?”

This was a simple and true fact.

What the God of Life treasured most had always been her own life.

This was her nature.

Facing the threat of certain death, it truly didn’t care about any other treasure.

That was why Gu Qing Shan only stated this [Words of Determined Destiny] right at this crucial moment.

The God of Life abruptly raised both hands to send the Deity corpses in front of her flying, then solemnly raised her voice: 『 I can use the Card to exchange for that concealment method, but you must sign a covenant with me! 』

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly.

“Got it, no problem!” he replied.

The God of Life swiped her hand across the void of space to take out a withered leaf and wrote a covenant on it.

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『 How do I give it to you? 』 she questioned.

“You only need to put things into the void to give them to us” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The God of Life placed the leaf into the void.

Boss immediately flipped through the Book of Prophesized Destiny and activated a technique to retrieve the withered leaf.

It wrote:

[The God of Life shall hand the Order Card over to the Soul Shrieker. After this is accomplished, the Soul Shrieker must come up with a way to allow the God of Life to escape this deathly situation, otherwise, the Soul Shrieker will lose its life together with the God of Life]

—*tch, what a strict covenant.*

Boss shook his head, placed the leaf onto the Book of Prophesized Destiny, and lightly tapped it.

Black smoke came out from the leaf almost immediately.

“The covenant is real and does contain her soul signature, but there was a small trick” Boss muttered.

Gu Qing Shan loudly complained: “God of Life, your leaf contains a trick”

The God of Life coldly snorted and turned away.

—*I thought these servants would be shallow enough to not notice, but they actually did detect my trap.*

Gu Qing Shan sincerely continued: “There’s an issue with the term ‘[Order] Card’, because we don’t know exactly what form the [Order] in your hand takes, so you must change it to explicitly say [Order]”

This was a simple play of words, so the God of Life didn’t care too much.

While holding off the Deity corpses’ attacks, it angrily roared: 『 Fine! 』

Soon enough, the term ‘[Order] Card’ written on the withered leaf was changed to say [Order].

Gu Qing Shan didn’t waste any words and toss the withered leaf into the void of space.

The withered leaf drifted to the faraway void and abruptly vanished.

Zhang Ying Hao had received it.

“My Deity, please take a look. This was our plan, it had formed a covenant, willing to hand the [Order] over to you” Zhang Ying Hao replied.

He raised the withered leaf in both hands as he handed it to the Soul Shrieker.

The Soul Shrieker received the leaf, read through it several times, then used numerous means to check its authenticity and finally confirmed this to be true.

This was an extremely strict Divine covenant that could restrict even Deities!

In other words—

The [Order] will soon fall into my hands!

Who would've thought, these weak carriers of [Chaos] actually managed to accomplish such a great feat!

Countless of the Soul Shrieker's doubts up to this point temporarily vanished.

Everything else is unimportant, as long as I can obtain the [Order].

Once I destroy it, the Era of [Chaos] shall thoroughly and completely descend!

The Soul Shrieker took a deep breath, then left its own soul signature on the leaf.

The withered leaf gave off a faint glow and slowly faded.

The covenant had been formed!

The Soul Shrieker and God of Life both felt it at once.

The Soul Shrieker turned to Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li, nodding in satisfaction: 『 『 The two of you are quite decent 』 』

On the other side, Gu Qing Shan held his black umbrella and told the God of Life: “There, please hand over the [Order], your excellency”

The God of Life was extremely reluctant.

But with the constant descent of black coffins, one of them had begun to exude a presence that exceeded even Deities.

Every second wasted was a second closer to her death.

I can't hesitate any longer!

The God of Life gritted her teeth and took out a Card.

She glanced into the boundless void, not knowing where the Soul Shrieker was hiding, so she simply tossed it into the void like she did the withered leaf.

『 Take it and save me quickly! 』

The Card vanished into the void.

One breath.

Two breaths.

Three breaths.

Gu Qing Shan had retrieved the Card, then used [Ground Shrink] consecutively to bring both himself and Boss away.

Meanwhile, Boss was flipping through the Book of Prophesized Destiny while chanting the incantation.

—-*sha!*

Laura, Zhang Ying Hao, and Ye Fei Li were reversed-summoned by him.

The group held the two umbrellas in their hands and exchanged fearful glances.

“Go!”

Gu Qing Shan shouted.

Everyone caught onto his sleeve.

While he fully exerted himself to use [Ground Shrink] over and over.

“Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!” Boss urged him.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I’m using all my strength!”

—-very quickly, the group vanished into the boundless space vortex.

...

On the battlefield.

The God of Life glanced not too far away from where she was.

The Soul Shrieker had abruptly appeared from the void, standing there with confused expressions on both its male and female face.

They shouted to the other side at once:

『 Save me now! 』

「 『 Hand over the [Order]! 」 』

The voices resounded, then slowly faded into the darkness of the void.

Both Deities’ expressions warped.

Time continued to flow.

They seemed to have realized something.

Chapter 1055

[The God of Life shall hand the Order Card over to the Soul Shrieker. After this is accomplished, the Soul Shrieker must come up with a way to allow the God of Life to escape this deathly situation, otherwise, the Soul Shrieker will lose its life together with the God of Life]

— the God of Life didn't hand the [Order] to the Soul Shrieker, but to Gu Qing Shan.

Which meant that it was impossible for the second half of the Divine covenant to activate.

On the battlefield, both Deities roared in fury and despair.

They realized that they had been tricked!

— — — tricked by a few insignificant insects!

But it was now too late, within this situation of certain death, they no longer had the leisure to do anything but fight against the black coffins entities for their lives.

...

At another location.

A certain place within the space vortex.

A black umbrella and a flower umbrella rested next to one another.

This place was far enough from the battlefield that the group had room to catch their breaths.

Zhang Ying Hao lit a cigarette, took a deep drag, and muttered to himself:

"I've been through so many unimaginable situations of life and death that others can't even comprehend, but never have I thought the most dangerous one wouldn't be for a kill, but instead for a fraud"

Ye Fei Li took out a handkerchief to wipe his sweat and asked Gu Qing Shan: "Did you get it?"

"Got it"

Gu Qing Shan took out a Card for everyone to observe.

The Card was completely empty and depicted nothing, but the background was filled with countless stars.

"So, we succeeded?" Laura asked.

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan nodded, "This Card is the only hope of the 900 million World Layers, and we've finally obtained it"

Lines of glowing text had appeared and stayed on the UI in front of his eyes for a while.

Because he was in a rush to escape, he didn't have time to read. Now that they had taken a considerable distance from the battlefield, Gu Qing Shan turned to read these lines of text.

[You've obtained the Unique Card: Human Regiment (Order)]

[This Card has no grade]

[This Card was created with the 'Worlds Apocalypse Online: Human Regiment' Order as its foundation]

[Attention: The core of this Card had gone missing; you will need to find its core in order to reactivate it]

Gu Qing Shan felt moved.

Following this, I only need the Angel of Condemnation Card and her coin to have all three coins in my hands.

At that point, I'll travel back in time to the day of the Spire Association's fall to save lady Darksea.

That would also be the time for [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Human Regiment] to descend!

[Order] will reawaken and fight against [Chaos], pulling the 900 million World Layers back from the verge of destruction.

— I wonder how Su Xue Er and Ning Yue Chan are doing on their side and if they managed to retrieve the Card and coin.

While he was thinking, Boss suddenly tapped his shoulder.

"What is it?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Boss said: "Although we managed to con the [Order] Card from the hands of the two Deities—"

"Not 'conned', retrieved" Gu Qing Shan corrected him.

Xiu!

A loud cry of approval and agreement sounded from the void of space.

"Fine, retrieved the [Order] Card" Boss speechlessly corrected himself, "But did you notice that this situation was one that no one had ever seen before?"

Gu Qing Shan turned his eyes towards the faraway space vortex.

Everyone turned that direction as well.

The dark, eerie presence still remained in that place, where countless black coffins continued to descend.

Almost right away, everyone instinctively retreated a bit further.

— some sort of mystical power fluctuation was permeating through the space vortex.

This fluctuation had exceeded that of the God of Life.

They managed to calm down a bit from fleeing far enough, but as soon as they sensed this fluctuation, everyone shivered again.

Laura was almost unable to stand up straight.

Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao were also at their limits, only forcing themselves to remain still at this point.

Comparatively, Gu Qing Shan and Boss were a lot better.

“An entity a lot stronger than a Deity has awakened” Boss muttered.

“But what exactly are these black coffins?” Ye Fei Li couldn’t help but question.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I’m not sure, the God of Life seemed to have known about these black coffins even before this, so...”

He turned to Boss and slowly understood what he was trying to say.

“You want to go back and take a look?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“For countless years, there are very few things that even I do not recognize, but one of those secrets is right in front of us, we need to take a look and observe what it exactly is” Boss told him.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then said: “Laura, give me a mirror world”

Laura then took out a large mirror that was as tall as two people.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “There won’t be any combat from this point on, and scouting is dangerous with too many people. Laura, Ying Hao, and Fei Li, you should enter the mirror world and rest up, for now, I’ll be moving with Boss in close vicinity to take a look”

“Sure” Zhang Ying Hao answered immediately, “I’m shivering so much I can barely hold onto the umbrella, the two of you going alone would also make it convenient for retreating”

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Since he had already said so much, Ye Fei Li and Laura also had no objections.

The three of them entered the mirror.

Gu Qing Shan quickly put the mirror away, checked his own black umbrella, and told Boss: “Let’s go”

All of a sudden.

The silent [Demon King Order] abruptly lit up.

Lines of blood red text appeared on the [Demon King Order]’s UI.

[Discovered Order Card]

[This Card was constructed from Order: Human Regiment, but is missing the corresponding Order core]

[This Card can contribute ample material to summon the final Demon King]

[Preparing to consume Soul Points to complete this summoning]

[The Demon King will descend!]

Gu Qing Shan’s expression changed and shouted: “I forbid you from touching this Card!”

Blood-red text slowly appeared on the [Demon King Order]:

[Rejection nullified. this Order's task is to summon the Demon into this reality to reconstruct it into one of the Demon King Order]

[Preparations begin!]

Gu Qing Shan looked at the [Demon King Order]'s UI.

Countless symbols that he didn't understand were quickly scrolling across it.

—quite obviously, it was really attempting to summon the Demon King!

“You piece of shit, I saved your life” Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth.

The [Demon King Order] responded: [Apologies, only the descent of the Demon King can fight against Chaos]

Gu Qing Shan froze.

Damn it, this [Demon King Order] is actually trying to embezzle my Card and Soul Points!

“Good for you” Gu Qing Shan begrudgingly said: “War God UI—”

[I'm here]

The War God UI lit up.

Without waiting for Gu Qing Shan to say anything, a line of glowing text had appeared on the War God UI:

[Monopolizing Soul Points!]

After a brief moment, a small change occurred in the two UIs in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

The amount of remaining Soul Points displayed on the War God UI was still [4,013,796/600]

While all the Soul Points on the [Demon King Order] had vanished, displaying as [0/600]

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought briefly.

—after killing the Occultism spirit, I obtained 5 million Soul Points, after using some of it, I now have just a bit over 4 million left.

An [Order] required Soul Points to activate any functions or perform any actions.

Now that the War God UI had withdrawn all the Soul Points away, regardless of what the [Demon King Order] wanted to do, it would now be impossible.

The bunch of blood-red symbols on the [Demon King Order] slowly faded away one chunk at a time.

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

[Through monopolization, this amount of a bit over 4 million Soul Points will remain in Gu Qing Shan's personal ownership and usage, under no circumstances shall there be any exceptions]

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

Another line of text appeared below that:

[To accomplish monopolization, the War God UI had exerted considerable effort, thus deducting 1000 Soul Points as labor fees]

[Ding-ding]!

Gu Qing Shan watched as 1000 Soul Points were deducted from his monopolized Soul Points.

“Hey... didn’t you just say it was monopolized?” Gu Qing Shan asked in confusion.

The War God UI paused briefly before answering him: [The War God UI is Gu Qing Shan’s personal belonging; thus it is able to utilize these Soul Points]

[Question had been answered, thank you for 200 Soul Points]

Another 200 of Gu Qing Shan’s remaining Soul Points that were displayed on the War God UI disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

At this point, another line of blood-red text appeared on the [Demon King Order] as well:

[Emergency exercise completed]

[Please do not be alarmed, that was only an emergency exercise conducted in preparation for unique situations, it will not consume any of the host’s Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

He was completely speechless as he stared at the two UIs in front of him.

One stays completely silent, waiting for the first opportunity it had to take my [Order] Card and Soul Points for its own goal.

Another claims itself to be my personal belonging while openly chipping away at my Soul Points reserve day by day.

I feel so tired right now.

Boss appeared surprised: “Why did your complexion suddenly turn so bad?”

“It’s just a small issue, I resolved it, let’s go!” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Go!”

The two of them grabbed the black umbrella and once again flew towards the sphere of black coffins.

Chapter 1056

The center of the battlefield.

The God of Life and Soul Shrieker were roaring with all their might.

Having lived for countless years, both of them were naturally no stranger to battle.

That was why even as they desperately fought, they kept their eyes on any new descending coffins.

— —if they noticed any coffin that contained a presence that was too powerful, they would immediately lash out, sparing no efforts in destroying that coffin right away.

By doing that, the coffin would fade away and temporarily vanish.

However, as time went by, those coffins would reappear and descend together with the new wave of black coffins, like an ever-growing tidal wave, causing the two Deities to be unable to keep up.

The Deity corpses from the coffins had begun to encircle them.

The Soul Shrieker and God of Life couldn't help but stand back-to-back, helping one another to barely maintain the balance of the battle.

— —in a situation of life and death, any conflict could easily be temporarily disregarded.

Not to mention, they had both realized that they were deceived by a third party altogether.

Even so.

They didn't have much time left.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan and Boss arrived at the border of the battlefield under the black umbrella.

Boss scowled, staring closely at the Deity corpses, and muttered: "I wasn't mistaken, there are more than just Deities from the Inner Plane among these corpses, some of them I don't recognize at all..."

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Do you know many Inner Plane Deities?"

"I recognize all 80,000 True Deities" Boss confirmed it.

"What's above a Deity?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"A Deific King— — one of the coffins gave off the presence of a Deific King just now, but was destroyed by the reckless attacks of those two and temporarily disappeared. I'm guessing it'll show up again later" Boss answered him.

Gu Qing Shan commented: "Which means, the question is where did all the Deities you don't recognize come from"

He silently came closer, approached an opened coffin, and carefully observed it.

"These coffins seem to be manifested by a technique"

Gu Qing Shan commented.

As soon as he stated that, he froze.

A technique.

What kind of technique would be able to take control of hundreds of Deities and Demigods?

Not to mention a Deific King!

What a ridiculous thought.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and was about to dismiss his own thought, but Boss commented: "You're right, I also feel like this is a kind of technique. Take a look at those Deity corpses——"

Gu Qing Shan followed the direction that Boss pointed to and extended his inner sight.

The coffin closest to them had opened, where half the body of a Deity emerged.

"Take a closer look" Boss muttered.

"Hm"

Gu Qing Shan replied.

He sensed it with his inner sight.

There were several miniscule threads attached to this Deity corpse, through which the corpse's arms and legs were being made to move.

Through careful observation, one could see that these weren't true threads, but rather a strange series of runes that had manifested and solidified through some sort of dark light.

Indeed, this was a technique!

Gu Qing Shan and Boss exchanged glances, only to see the look of utter shock in each other's eyes.

One of them was an expert who had saved numerous worlds, the Devil King of Huang Quan, the Earth God of the Four Elemental Pillars; the other was the Greatest Above the Star Crown, the Abyssal King, the Lord of Infinite Origin; both of which were highly knowledgeable people who had witnessed many things.

And yet neither of them had ever heard of a technique that could manifest and control over a hundred Deity corpses and thousands of Demigod corpses.

Boss appeared confused: "What kind of technique can actually summon the Deities from their tomb? I really have no clue at all"

Gu Qing Shan was silent for a brief moment before asking: "Calming Soul Country... was this place really just a shelter for descendants of Deities?"

Boss asked: "What did you think of?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "The God of Life clearly knew about this beforehand, coupled with how it had insisted on remaining within Calming Soul Country, I think it might have something to do with this technique"

Boss appeared reminiscent and replied: "At the moment of the Inner Plane's destruction, it spat out countless corpses of those who fell in battle into the space vortex"

“The seven surviving Deities collected these corpses and formed a tomb within the space vortex, to which the God of Life was responsible for looking after”

“Later on, the God of Life decided to arrange her own descendants in the vicinity of the tomb, creating a world that later became known as Calming Soul Country”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

No wonder it was called Calming Soul Country, so this place was originally next to the resting place of Deities that fell in battle.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help just question: “Exactly what kind of world was the Inner Plane? And why was it destroyed?”

Seeing how seriously he was asking, Boss answered him: “The Inner Plane was a place that existed to ensure that parallel worlds would never meet, a unique location that allowed the void to separate parallel worlds from one another”

“During the countless nodes of history, different worlds might take drastically different historical turns, in turn becoming parallel worlds to one another”

“But there is only ever a single Inner Plane”

“Once the Inner Plane is destroyed, both the parallel worlds and the space vortex will slowly become chaotic, causing numerous issues”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Just like how a parallel world continued its retaliation against the Apocalypse and ended up falling into the Eternal Abyss?”

Boss sighed: “Exactly, since the Inner Plane has already been destroyed, the infinite parallel worlds have begun to fall into turmoil”

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought again.

“The Inner Plane shouldn't have been completely wiped out; I remember that Returnees exist...” Gu Qing Shan commented.

“Indeed, but it is highly dangerous for any soul to reincarnate within the space vortex, where danger exists at every corner. Only Deific Kings would have this kind of ability”

Boss continued: “There is only 1 Deific King for every 10,000 Deities, and since the Inner Plane had a total of 80,000 Deities, there are only a total of 8 Deific King. The one who rules above the 8 Deific Kings is the Grand Empress of the Pantheon who ruled the entirety of the Inner Plane”

“When the Inner Plane was destroyed, the Grand Empress was no match for the Apocalypse and vanished together with her injury. Among the 8 Deific Kings, 2 fell in battle while the remaining 6 knew that they were no match, so they reincarnated and fled”

Gu Qing Shan was completely taken aback by such a revelation, so he forced himself to regain his thoughts: “Right now, we should probably focus on what exactly this technique is”

Boss mused: “To cause the God of Life such fear, it would surely not just be a simple technique, it might be related to something that she personally did”

“For countless years, she had hidden herself within Calming Soul Country” Gu Qing Shan calmly analyzed: “So we can confirm one thing— first of all, to her, Calming Soul Country was safe, which means that whatever she did was unrelated to Calming Soul Country”

“Whatever caused her fear must have originated from outside Calming Soul Country”

“If she had hidden within Calming Soul Country all this time, what exactly did she do that was related to the outside world?”

The two of them thought for a brief moment.

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“It wasn’t the [Order] Card” Gu Qing Shan drew this conclusion, “There are no issues with the Card, I can prove this”

“Then, there’s only one other thing” Boss followed up.

The two of them turned to the God of Life.

Its current body was that of a black snake, the head of which was covered in hard purple scales, the body grew black arms, and the tail could split into countless tentacles.

—-indeed, the only possible issue was this monster.

The fact that the God of Life took his monster’s body as her own.

It was quite strange, if the 7 Deities combined couldn’t kill this monster, how exactly did the God of Life manage to take over its body?

The more they thought about it, the more they felt it inappropriate.

While they were coming up with conjectures, the situation on the battlefield gradually grew more dangerous.

The God of Life and Soul Shrieker were now both riddled with wounds.

Another series of coffins descended.

Five more Deity corpses emerged from inside.

The Soul Shrieker finally couldn’t restrain itself any longer and shouted: 『 『 Show yourself, Gu Qing Shan! 』 』

Gu Qing Shan and Boss were both surprised.

How did that guy know we’re here?

The Soul Shrieker continued to roar: 『 『 I know you are around here somewhere, take a look at this— —-! 』 』

Oom!!!

Endless light suddenly erupted from its body, gradually focusing on its knuckles to form a bright mass of light.

This was essentially all of its power.

Boss commented in a grim voice: “What intense power of Retribution”

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded in response.

This cluster of Retribution was completely incomparable to the Holy Retribution he faced before.

While evading the attacks of Deity corpses, the Soul Shrieker loudly continued:

「 I know of your deep connections with the Bramble Bird Kingdom 」

「 I give you until the count of three. If you won't use that concealment technique to save me, I will unleash this Deific Retribution and ground the Bramble Bird Kingdom to dust! 」

「 I know you can borrow my power, but I can unleash the same attack many times consecutively—— I refuse to believe that you can actually continue to borrow the power of my Retribution without limit! 」

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

This monster is truly treacherous, grasping a hold of my weakness like that.

Laura had done everything in her power to help me, so I can't simply watch as her country gets destroyed.

Boss worriedly glanced at him.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and expressed that there were no issues.

He calmly looked at the Soul Shrieker.

The Earth sword silently manifested in his hand.

「 Your Soul Points aren't enough to slay it 」 the Earth sword's mountainous heavy voice resounded.

“I know, we're just going to use [Sanctuary]” Gu Qing Shan casually replied.

He added: “Full power”

「 That's doable 」 the Earth sword stopped talking after confirming that.

At this point, the Soul Shrieker could no longer resist the Deity corpses' attack and loudly called out:

「 Three 」

「 Two 」

「 One 」

It angrily roared and swung its fist.

Gu Qing Shan moved.

Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift]!

In that split second, they switched places with the God of Life.

Holding the umbrella in one hand, he swung the Earth sword with the other.

Convergence Realm!

Boom———

The Earth sword heavily struck the Soul Shrieker's body, causing it to lose its balance and nearly faltered.

All of a sudden, countless images appeared from the void of space to keep the Soul Shrieker stationary.

It had actually made ample preparations!

However, a strike that was 1001 times its own weight combined with Gu Qing Shan's full might had caused the Deific Retribution in the Soul Shrieker's hand to veer off-course and move upwards in the space vortex.

After his swing, Gu Qing Shan activated [Shadow Shift] again without hesitation!

The God of Life was instantly switched back in place.

At the same time, the Soul Shrieker managed to react and swung towards its back with all its power.

Before the God of Life managed to understand what had happened, it had been struck and sent flying into a group of Demigods.

『 Aaaaaa! Despicable scum! 』 the God of Life furiously roared.

Suddenly, all sounds ceased.

Whether it was Gu Qing Shan, the God of Life, or the Soul Shrieker, none of them had the leisure to speak at all.

They all looked above.

The Deific Retribution shot to the void above and abruptly exploded, scattering the unfathomable darkness to reveal something inside.

An unimaginably huge green-furred face was looking down from above.

The face had its mouth opened wide.

The countless coffins were coming out from inside its mouth.

A short moment later.

The power of the Deific Retribution faded.

The darkness that obscured the sky above the battlefield had gathered once again, concealing the green-furred face.

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The green-furred face faded and is once again obscured by the darkness.

“What was that?”

Boss muttered in a low voice, seemingly shaken.

Gu Qing Shan was completely stunned, his hand holding the umbrella was soaked in a cold sweat.

Indeed, the 900 million World Layers had infinite worlds of all shapes and sizes, the space vortex was also filled with innumerable things that couldn't be explained.

But this green-furred face had already gone above and beyond the realm of what could be described simply as a lack of knowledge, not even Boss knew about it.

In the battlefield, the God of Life finally completely lost her composure and made a mad dash, trying to escape.

— but now that there were a lot more Deity corpses on the battlefield, they swiftly arrived to block her path.

Her actions drew the attention of most of the Deity corpses, relieving some pressure from the Soul Shrieker.

The Soul Shrieker once again focused its Divine powers and roared: 『 「 Gu Qing Shan! You can stop me once, but what about after that? 』 』

『 『 I'll give you till the count of three, if you won't rescue me, I will really destroy the Bramble Bird Kingdom! 』 』

『 「 Trust me, you can't stop me! 』 』

The mass of light that represented the gathered power of [Chaos] was now on two of its hands.

It was exuding an increasingly more intense light.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the Soul Shrieker and scowled.

This fellow is still trying to blackmail me.

During that Deific Retribution just now, it arranged numerous traps around itself within the void.

— the only place that didn't have any trap was where the God of Life stood since she was its temporary ally.

It was afraid of causing a misunderstanding with the God of Life.

Gu Qing Shan knew that it would be the safest around the God of Life, so he used [Shadow Shift] to switch places with her and interrupt the Soul Shrieker's attack.

—-but now, the God of Life lost her composure and rushed away from their previous formation.

Gu Qing Shan was sure that the Soul Shrieker had arranged numerous [Chaos] magic traps in the void of space around itself, no longer leaving any gaps.

It was waiting for him to take the bait.

Gu Qing Shan quickly asked Boss: “Can you stall it for a bit?”

Boss replied: “No problem, but not for very long”

“Help me buy some time, I’ll try to come up with a solution” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Boss kept his hand on the umbrella as he flipped through the Book of Prophesized Destiny and ripped two pages out.

Hoh—-—

The two pages started burning in his hand.

Even when Boss lost all of his power, he was still able to stop half of a Holy Retribution for Gu Qing Shan, so now that he regained some of his strength thanks to the Abyss’ help, he would naturally be able to stop a lot more.

While avoiding the Deity corpses’ attacks, the Soul Shrieker continued to shout:

『 「 Three 』 』

『 「 Two 』 』

『 「 One! 』 』

It raised both hands up and roared: 『 「 Gu Qing Shan, you’ll regret this until the end of time, the Bramble Bird Kingdom shall be wiped out from this reality! 』 』

Two streaks of light, filled with Divine power of [Chaos], were unleashed.

At the same time, Boss tossed the two burning pages into the void of space.

Flames of Nihilicity!

—-boom!!!

The two blasts of Deific Retribution were struck by something invisible, twisted, and vanished into an unknown direction in the void.

Boss displayed expert control over his power in order to change the directions of the [Chaos] Deific Retributions.

It would now be impossible for them to accurately strike the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

As for where those blasts were being directed to, that wasn’t under anybody’s control.

The Soul Shrieker immediately recognized that power.

It angrily roared: 『 『 Flames of the void, so it was you! 』 』

『 『 You've truly fallen so far, intermingling with insects within the 900 million World Layers, how pitiful! 』 』

At this point, the God of Life had managed to cross more than half the battlefield and was close to escaping.

More and more Deity corpses gathered where she was, as well as a new black coffin that exuded an unimaginable presence that descended right in front of the God of Life's path.

The Soul Shrieker's pressure was further alleviated.

The light surged forth from its body once again as he muttered in a low voice: 『 『 It's useless, Abyssal King, Gu Qing Shan, if the two of you want to save the Bramble Bird Kingdom, you can only rescue me from this place! 』 』

Now, three out of its six arms started to gather the power of Deific Retribution.

Boss didn't say a single thing, only wiping the sweat off his forehead.

Three more burning pages were hovering above the Book of Prophesized Destiny.

——at this point, he was already exerting all of his strength.

Meanwhile.

Gu Qing Shan summoned Adorable back from the battlefield.

"These Deity corpses are being controlled by a technique; can you borrow it?" he asked.

The jade gourd pendant Adorable shook its body, replying:

Xiu xiu xiu, xiu xiu wu wu.

(This is a combination Skill, it's impossible to borrow the entire thing)

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

He knew about combination Skills and how complicated they were.

For example, the God of Life's [Demonic Soul Slashing Blade] was the simplest kind of combination Skill, by simply overlapping the same ability over and over to surpass the uppermost limit of that ability.

Another type of combination Skill was one where multiple Skills with appropriate characteristics were used in tandem, thus creating an entirely new Skill with vastly increased strength compared to each individual skill.

And these were only the two simplest types.

"Here"

Gu Qing Shan put his hand on the jade gourd pendant Adorable and transferred 100,000 Soul Points over.

This jade pendant remained forgotten for countless years, only when it was almost starving to death did it meet Gu Qing Shan, receive Soul Points and return to its current jumpy state.

And Gu Qing Shan hadn't been treating it badly either.

The current situation was too dangerous, so Gu Qing Shan needed to carefully discuss with the gourd before they made any moves.

Wu wu, xiu xiu xiu!

(What the hell, you have so many Soul Points!?)

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Adorable was considerably surprised

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I do. Now, we can't borrow the entire combination Skill, but we might be able to borrow a particularly powerful Skill from within that combination— is that possible?"

The gourd immediately replied:

Xiu!

(Possible!)

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Do you have any suggestions on which Skill to borrow?"

The jade gourd pendant Adorable became spirited and rapidly ran a circle around the battlefield.

Gu Qing Shan took that chance to check Boss' situation.

Having unleashed Flames of Nihilty over and over to alter the course of the Soul Shrieker's Deific Retribution, Boss was reaching his limit.

"My power is about to run out, have you come up with a solution yet?" Boss gritted his teeth.

"Buy me just a bit more time" Gu Qing Shan replied.

At this point, Adorable returned and started to squeak 'xiu xiu xiu' over and over, seemingly troubled over something.

Hearing it, Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and replied: "I understand, I can do it if you can't, I'll make sure to grasp the opportunity"

"But, are you sure what you said is true? That Skill is truly the strongest within the entire combo Skill?"

The jade gourd pendant Adorable hovered up and down, expressing confirmation.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the Soul Shrieker briefly and made his decision: "Good, then let's do it now!"

— — *I can't give the Soul Shrieker any more opportunities.*

Because it had already known about what I care about and had shifted its strategy from direct confrontation to blackmailing.

I need to take this chance to get rid of it, once and for all!

Xiu!

(Go!)

The gourd squeaked and landed on Gu Qing Shan's shoulder.

Gu Qing Shan used [Ground Shrink] and vanished.

He brought both Boss and Adorable into the battlefield once again, this time above the sky, filled with black coffins.

While avoiding the black threads that were controlling the Deity corpses, Gu Qing Shan looked below.

"There!"

His gaze fell onto the coffin that contained the strongest presence.

Right now, the God of Life was in a hurry to escape with its own life, while the Soul Shrieker was busy threatening Gu Qing Shan to save it, while this coffin landed near the edge of the battlefield, surrounded by numerous other coffins, so neither of the Deities had the leisure to destroy it.

The coffin slowly opened.

A hand appeared from inside the coffin and lightly pushed.

Bam!

The black coffin was broken from the inside.

The dust scattered and faded.

A large figure appeared in front of everyone present.

He wore a yaksha mask, his torso was left naked while seven types of weapons were tied behind his back, which were respectively a Blade, a pike, an axe, a mace, a bow, a sword, and a staff.

Hoh---

Boundless divinity exuded from his body and swept across the entire battlefield!

『 AAeeeeeee! 』

The God of Life screeched as she mustered every bit of strength she had to dash away from the battlefield.

The Soul Shrieker also trembled as it tried to look for a way to escape.

---in truth, it understood quite clearly that the corpses' attacks were still relatively mild while it remained stationary, but as soon as it tried to escape, the Deity corpses would immediately rush over, and even more black coffins would manifest.

But there was no other way right now!

The Soul Shrieker gritted its teeth, once again unleashing four masses of Deific Retribution.

It shouted: 『 「 Gu Qing Shan, Abyssal King, this is your final warning! Save me, or I will use my everything to destroy the Bramble Bird Kingdom—— 』 』

Boss turned to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan ignored its words and pointed at the Deity corpse that exuded an overwhelming presence and asked: “Is that a Deific King?”

Boss quickly answered: “That is indeed Deific King power level, but I’ve never seen this person, he’s most likely not a Deific King of the Inner Plane”

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the figure and muttered: “Strange, why do I feel a familiar presence from him...”

While they were talking, he had brought Boss along and started to descend.

Boss asked in a panic: “What are you trying to do?”

“To look for some help” Gu Qing Shan replied.

With a single thought, the Earth sword moved.

Sword seal activated.

Secret Art, [Full Moon Consecutive Slashes]!

A blinding flash of light-blue sword phantom appeared in the dark void, then was extinguished just as quickly.

All the thin strands of black rune strings that connected to this Deity corpse from the darkness above were severed at once.

At the same time, over 780,000 Soul Points were deducted from the amount displayed on the War God UI.

——Gu Qing Shan had to expend so much Soul Points just to sever these rune threads!

What an unimaginable technique this was!

The half-naked man that wielded 7 weapons instantly became motionless.

Immediately, Gu Qing Shan shouted: “Adorable!”

The gourd’s sound came from the void:

Xiu xiu xiu, xiu xiu xiu wu wu!

(Your Divine Skill is awesome, I shall borrow and spread it far!)

Pah pah pah pah pah!

Dozens of black rune strings emerged from Gu Qing Shan’s body and connected to the half-naked man.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly felt a mystical sensation.

He found that he had another body.

——an undefeatable body with vast Divine power!

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

[You've performed the Samsara Huang Quan Divine Skill: Lead The People]

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Lines of glowing text kept appearing on the War God UI:

[You've performed the Samsara Huang Quan Divine Skill: Lead The People]

[You've taken control of the corpse—— Samsara Asura Deific King]

[Due to the great difference in power between yourself and the Asura Deific King's corpse, you can only maintain control over it for one minute]

Reading the words 'Asura Deific Kings', Gu Qing Shan instantly realized.

No wonder I felt a familiar vibe.

During my time in Huang Quan, as well as the various Wind Tribulations, I've gotten thoroughly acquainted with the Asura tribe, so I have a deep impression of the Asura's dress code, aura, and appearance.

And this Deific King gave off a very clear aura of an Asura.

The Asura Deific King kept his yaksha mask on together with the 7 weapons on his back and gradually stood in front of Gu Qing Shan.

There's only one minute.

Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze towards the Soul Shrieker.

It was still gathering the power of [Chaos], preparing to unleash the next Deific Retribution.

——it didn't know that the Asura Deific King was under Gu Qing Shan's control.

The appearance of a Deific King made the Soul Shrieker fearful, thus resorting to increasingly desperate measures.

It clasped all six of its arms together, channeling endless light from the void of space to form a Retribution that far surpassed the previous ones.

『 「 Gu Qing Shan, this is your last chance. Three seconds, give me your answer! 」 』

『 「 I'm going to begin counting—— 」 』

『 「 Three 」 』

『 「 Two 」 』

『 「 One! 」 』

Without waiting for it to act, the Asura Deific King had already moved.

Neither the God of Life nor the Soul Shrieker managed to sense how the Asura Deific King moved.

But all six of the Soul Shrieker's arms had been severed at once.

The light of Retribution it had gathered uselessly faded away.

At some unknown point, the Asura Deific King already wielded an axe.

Blood was still dripping from that axe.

“So strong! Without wasting any efforts at all—— he is much stronger than a normal Deific King!”

Boss couldn't help but exclaim out loud.

“The Asura are a race of warriors” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He was also silently shocked.

According to his conversation with Adorable, he knew that this entire technique that continuously rained down black coffins consisted of a total of 23 Divine Skills.

He didn't think that he would be able to curb-stomp the Soul Shrieker just by borrowing a single one of them.

Meanwhile.

Another black coffin had descended from above to block the God of Life's path.

This black coffin was being protected by many Deity corpses, preventing the God of Life from destroying it.

Power fluctuations as deep as the bottomless ocean emerged from inside the coffin, striking the God of Life with despair.

——*another Deific King.*

This is hopeless

『 Ah, damn it! DAMN IT!! 』

The old lady screamed in her frenzy.

She had finally lost all hope.

All of a sudden, a voice resounded in her mind:

『 「 Hurry and return, I have a way—— the only way to escape! 」 』

This was the Soul Shrieker's voice.

The old lady regained her senses and retreated to the center of the battlefield once again.

While retreating, she was observing the Soul Shrieker.

All six of its arms had been broken, but it could still channel its Divine power to form a sturdy defense around its body.

The Soul Shrieker appeared incredibly desperate as well.

Its gaze met with the God of Life.

Its voice resounded in the God of Life's mind again:

『 「 Listen...」 』

The God of Life quickly heard what it had to say.

The solution it offered was unbelievable, but the God of Life didn't care!

At this point of desperation, she no longer cared about judging how true its words were.

As long as she could survive, everything else didn't matter!

...

On the other side.

Hiding in the void, Gu Qing Shan once again ordered the Asura Deific King to act.

The Asura Deific King put his axe back on his back and drew his bow.

The bow was pulled back to form a full moon.

From the void of space, an ivory white arrow manifested, then——

The Deific King let loose.

Without anyone recognizing what happened, the Soul Shrieker's lower body was completely erased!

『 「 AAAEEEEEE! DESPICABLE, THAT MUST HAVE BEEN YOU, GU QING SHAN! 」 』

『 「 SHOW YOUR DAMN SELF! 」 』

The Soul Shrieker howled in pain.

Gu Qing Shan's expression remained emotionless.

It's still not dead?

How impressive.

He focused his mind again.

The Asura Deific King returned the bow to his back and drew his Asura Blade.

After two tries, Gu Qing Shan had gotten used to this style of battling through controlling others.

There were around 20 seconds left.

That is enough.

Right here, right now, I'm going to kill the Soul Shrieker!

Following Gu Qing Shan's thought, the Asura Deific King's body slightly crouched down.

The Deific King began his full-on assault on the battlefield!

As soon as the Soul Shrieker noticed him drawing his Blade, the Soul Shrieker shouted in a panic: 『 「 There's no time, abandon that monster's body, quickly! 』 』

The God of Life gritted her teeth and cut at her own tail.

The black snake's long tail was severed, turning into the God of Life which continued to fly towards the Soul Shrieker.

Certainly, the monster's body was impressive, able to handle being attacked by so many Deity corpses without any signs of destruction, but the Soul Shrieker had informed her explicitly.

Only her Deity body could escape.

At this point, in order to survive, she endured the loss and gave up on the monster's body.

The God of Life approached the Soul Shrieker closer and closer.

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While the Asura Deific King arrived immediately.

Both he and the God of Life arrived in front of the Soul Shrieker at the same time.

The Deific King raised his Blade.

『 WE'RE TOO LATE! 』 the God of Life screamed in despair.

『 「 NO, THERE'S JUST ENOUGH TIME! 』 』

The Soul Shrieker roared.

A bright flash of light emerged from the Soul Shrieker's body and enveloped the God of Life.

——this was the power of a Deity.

Within the light, the God of Life gave up on defending herself as her body slowly faded.

While the Soul Shrieker continued to howl in pain.

The very next split second.

The Asura Deific King's Blade slashed through the Soul Shrieker's neck and severed its head.

“Hm?”

Gu Qing Shan was about to sigh in relief but instead raised his eyebrows.

The Soul Shrieker's head was covered in a layer of dark-colored sparkling dust, silently hovering in the air.

Something unimaginable occurred!

The half-man-half-woman face of the Soul Shrieker abruptly changed, as another face grew on its forehead.

It was an old face filled with wrinkles.

——the God of Life!

The God of Life actually fused together with the Soul Shrieker.

Gu Qing Shan instinctively recognized something amiss and ordered the Asura Deific King to slash again.

The Blade went through the Soul Shrieker's head, but couldn't touch it at all.

『 Ahahahaha, so what if you are a Deific King? 』

The Soul Shrieker's female voice uttered a resounding laugh.

“What's going on?” Gu Qing Shan muttered in a low voice.

Boss sighed: “I remember. While the fusion between Deities is a strictly forbidden technique with heavy consequences, there is a certain benefit to it—— during the fusion, this technique will channel every Origin Law of Reality to protect it and ensure that this fusion process would not be interrupted”

“All it has left is a head, can it survive through fusion?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Hard to say, the God of Life will most likely have a few solutions up her sleeves, they will probably go through a lot of hardship before thoroughly finishing their fusion” Boss explained.

At this point, in the battlefield, the Soul Shrieker's head looked up at the void above and loudly declared:

「 『 Gu Qing Shan, you managed to heavily injure me, but my lifespan is infinite. Now that I've fused with the God of Life, once I regain my strength, I will surely take your life and torture your soul for all eternity! 』 」

Its body abruptly burst into flames, enveloped its head, and vanished into the void.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

It ran?

It actually was hiding a trump card and found a way to escape with its life.

Gu Qing Shan wanted the Deific King to give chase, but the Deific King's corpse needed to stay within the range of another Divine Skill in order to unleash the various Skills he had when he was alive.

The Deific King literally couldn't leave the range of these black coffins——

The numerous descending Deity corpses here were actually produced through the power of 23 separate Divine Skills all acting in unison.

The situation in the battlefield changed once again.

The Deity corpses that emerged from the black coffins had now gathered around the giant black snake that was left behind.

“Seems like their goal had always been that monster’s body” Boss muttered.

Gu Qing Shan also nodded.

So that’s the reason, no wonder the God of Life had hidden herself within Calming Soul Country without leaving.

But why did she insist on taking over this monster’s body?

Was it simply to escape from the recoil of the Deities’ covenant, allowing herself to no longer be under the restraints of the oath while devouring the souls of Demis to continue growing her strength?

—if we hadn’t arrived in this place, she would have been able to rest easy.

She would have been able to continue what she had been doing for the past hundred million years!

What a disgusting Deity.

Wait a minute!

Gu Qing Shan turned to Boss, and Boss also turned to him.

The two of them both realized a certain fact.

If this monster’s corpse had anything to do with these Deity corpses, that would have been a matter of countless eons ago.

In other words—

This technique which resulted from a combination of Divine Skills had existed ever since the Deities fell.

Through the ravages of time, even after hundreds of millions of years, this technique was still in effect.

What unimaginable power!

The two of them were completely stunned.

From the darkness above the void, countless clusters of black fog descended from above, crashing into the black snake’s body.

The black snake began to move ever so slightly.

Gu Qing Shan could no longer remain calm and wanted to lead Boss away from this place as soon as possible.

—who knows what could occur next!

Just in time for my control over the Asura Deific King to end as well.

Seemingly remembering something, Gu Qing Shan hurriedly used [Ground Shrink] to appear behind the Asura Deific King and put his hand on a certain weapon.

This technique was too terrifying, so he naturally didn't have the gall to steal one of the Deific King's weapons for himself.

He merely placed his hand on the Asura Deific King's sword, used up almost all of his Soul Points, then wielded the black umbrella and hurriedly brought Boss as far away as possible from the technique.

A second later.

Samsara Divine Skill, [Lead The People] wore off.

The Asura Deific King's stopped moving and remained still.

A few moments later, the other Deity corpses gradually realized something wrong with it.

The black rune strings once again came down to take control of the Asura Deific King.

— at a place within the void that was far from the technique, Boss and Gu Qing Shan silently watched as the technique underwent change.

The darkness above the technique obscured a green-furred face.

It rained down countless black coffins.

The Deity corpses had surrounded the black snake.

It seems that the combination Divine Skill was about to come to an end.

Recalling just how long this Divine Skill had managed to last, Gu Qing Shan and Boss both felt goosebumps and couldn't help themselves from retreating even further.

It was now that Boss asked: "Why did you touch the Deific King's sword earlier?"

"It was nothing, I thought about taking the sword, but was afraid that there might be some unknown issues, so I gave up on that idea" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Boss agreed: "You did the right thing, this technique managed to last for such a long time without fading away; it had surpassed the range of our understanding, so it's best to be cautious"

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

A notification was still blinking in the void of space right in front of his eyes on the War God UI.

[War God Skills].

Lines of glowing text had appeared from [War God Skills] and remained on the UI:

[You've touched the Asura Divine Sword]

[You've expended 3,000,000 Soul Points to comprehend the Skills that you can perform from the sword]

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Gu Qing Shan and Boss stood at a distant location from the battlefield, silently observing the situation of the entire combination Skill.

Boss was seriously observing it, while Gu Qing Shan was simply staring at the void of space in front of his eyes.

Lines of glowing text continued to appear on the War God UI:

[In consideration that you've studied the Asura's combat techniques prior, you only expended 3,000,000 Soul Points in order to comprehend the Skills that you are able to perform from the sword]

The first line of notification left Gu Qing Shan a bit speechless.

Fortunately, I've gotten into contact with the Asura race and obtained the memories of an Asura King, as well as learning and using Asura's swordsmanship for reference.

Otherwise, the Soul Points I had with me might not have been enough at all.

Various comprehension of swordsmanship appeared in his mind while notifications popped up one after another on the War God UI:

[Asura Royal clan's foundation swordsmanship (primary)]

[You've comprehended this swordsmanship]

[Asura King's swordsmanship experience (intermediate)]

[You've comprehended his swordsmanship; it is currently being integrated into your own swordsmanship]

[Asura Deific King's swordsmanship (advanced)]

[You will require a bit of time to digest and comprehend this swordsmanship step-by-step]

[Note: These are the most advanced foundation-level swordsmanship of the Asura race, including the stances and applicable experience under various combat situations]

[Learning the above swordsmanship expended a total of 50,000 Soul Points]

This swordsmanship contained the unique combat style and philosophy of the Asura race.

As a human cultivator, Gu Qing Shan had never come across swordsmanship equivalent of an Asura Deific King, so there was a slight comprehension barrier.

But with his level of swordsmanship cultivation, once he studied them in-depth, he would quickly grasp this foundation-level swordsmanship.

That was why 50,000 Soul Points seemed actually a bit steep.

Standing in the void, Gu Qing Shan carefully studied the Asura Deific King's foundation swordsmanship and cross-referenced it with his own, quickly recognizing new knowledge.

— the Asura Deific King had fought countless battles in his life, even stumbling across the swordsmanship from the Human realm and Heaven realm in this process, his understanding of swordsmanship had reached an unbelievable level, so he was able to observe them all from a broader perspective, thus arriving at a relatively objective division for the levels of swordsmanship.

The Asura Deific King recognized the human sword cultivator realm of Sword Saint, as the ones who had reached this level could be considered a swordsmanship expert within all three realms of Heaven, Human, and Asura.

He believed that once swordsmanship was cultivated to this degree, it would have truly broken through the shackles of mortals and truly become an initiated.

As for Gu Qing Shan's current 'Convergence Realm', to be frank, it was essentially just the convergence of the full power of the Sword Saint realm into a single strike.

Being able to reach this point suggested that one was a grand expert at swordsmanship, but it was still only at the peak of the Sword Saint realm.

At the same time, if one was able to reach Convergence Realm, that would signify that they were ready to break through to the next realm of swordsmanship.

A sword user in the next realm would be able to utilize the sword just like how a Deity would use their power, as such the realm was called Sword Deity.

The Asura Deific King believed that once a sword user broke through Convergence Realm, they would be able to once again divide their power into hundreds and thousands of swords, each strike capable of exerting power that far surpassed what a full-power strike of a Sword Saint was capable of. Only then, would it signify that they had broken through the realm of Sword Saint to reach the realm of Sword Deity.

— Sword Deity!

Reading up to this point, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but look forward to it.

The human sword cultivator Xie Gu Hong had converged thousands of his swords into a single sword, then once again split his single sword into seven swords, meaning that he was already treading the path of the Sword Deity.

Such overwhelming talent had to regretfully give up their life due to the corrosion from the Eternal monsters into humanity.

And right now, Gu Qing Shan had reached the peak of Sword Saint, one day he would surpass his predecessors and become a true Sword Deity.

Gu Qing Shan deeply sighed.

But the comprehension he obtained from the Asura Deific King wasn't limited to only this knowledge.

— besides the foundation-level swordsmanship of each realm, there was also one Asura sword technique, the more he studied and comprehended it, the more impressive he felt it to be.

Could it be a Secret Art?

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the War God UI and couldn't help holding his breath.

— the description of that sword technique had just appeared on the War God UI:

[Asura Sword Divine Skill: Rahu's Eclipse Of Sun and Moon]

[This Divine Skill is separated into three strikes, one Parting Fire, one Frosting Peaks; with Fire and Frost, Sun Moon Eclipsed]

[Parting Fire: Sword of Extinguishing Flames, cutting through all techniques]

[Frosting Peaks: Sword of Destroying Frost, locking all forms]

[Sun Moon Eclipsed: Sword of Traceless Heaven and Earth, a strike that always hits]

[Legends had it that this was the ancient Sword Divine Skill that the Asura Deific King once performed as he fought the Heavenly Emperor]

[Comprehending this technique expended a total of 2,950,000 Soul Points]

[This Divine Skill requires Soul Points to be performed: Parting Fire requires 20,000 Soul Points; Frosting Peaks requires 30,000 Soul Points; Sun Moon Eclipsed requires 100,000 Soul Points]

[Special note: As you grow stronger, the Divine Skill's power will also grow accordingly, and so would the Soul Points cost]

Reading up to this point, Gu Qing Shan felt the blood freeze all over his body.

The legend of the Asura tribe spoke of an Asura God-King capable of eclipsing the sun and moon with their bare hands in a war against the Heaven realm.

Who knew, I'd actually see the Divine Skill corresponding to that legend with my own eyes.

Gu Qing Shan recognized that the sword technique he comprehended to be powerful, but never did he think that it would be a Divine Skill!

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This is a Divine Skill!

Indeed, I have several powerful Secret Arts like [Torrent], [Life Seeker], [Seven Swords Flowing Dragon].

And I can perform the powerful Taiyi sword array.

But I've never seen a sword-type Divine Skill, let alone grasp it.

— this was also the first time he had ever heard that above a Secret Art and sword array, there were also Divine Skill sword techniques.

Although this Divine Skill costs a total of 150,000 Soul Points to perform, and would only increase over time, one cannot simply use cost to consider these things.

If I use this Divine Skill to defeat a powerful opponent, the number of Soul Points I'll obtain in return can level the cost, perhaps even let me earn a profit!

However, the Skill description is a bit vague, I'll need to try it myself in order to see what exactly these Skills can do.

Gu Qing Shan excitedly glanced at his remaining Soul Points value.

[Remaining Soul Points: 19998/600]

He used up a bit of Soul Points during the battle earlier, severing those black strings cost a total of 780,000 Soul Points, then another 3,000,000 to comprehend the Asura sword techniques, which left him with this much.

...It's good enough, I'm just 2 Soul Points away from being able to perform [Parting Fire].

Gu Qing Shan consoled himself.

For some reason, his thoughts jumped to another topic.

[Rahu's Eclipse of Sun and Moon] is definitely an unprecedentedly powerful Divine Skill, one that originated from the Asura tribe.

While the Asura race was a part of the Samsara.

—--Shifu also knows an Asura Divine Skill!

During her tribulation on Shen Wu world, Shifu performed the Asura Divine Skill [Vijaydhra] in order to scare the monsters within the Wind Tribulation away.

And then later on, in Bai Hua hall, facing the threat of the cultivation alliance's Elders, she had prepared to perform this Divine Skill again.

Other than that, she could also use the Huang Quan Divine Skill: [Forgetting River].

Talking about Huang Quan Divine Skills, I just used one earlier, [Lead The People] in order to take direct control of the Asura Deific King's corpse.

—--why are Divine Skills of the Samsara so much more powerful compared to the Divine Skills of the 900 million World Layers?

Where exactly did the true Samsara come from?

Gu Qing Shan was full of questions.

That's it, I'm going to spare some time and return to talk with Shifu about the Samsara.

At this point, Boss poked him and muttered: "Hurry, look!"

Gu Qing Shan focused his mind and released his inner sight to take a look in the middle of the field.

The black coffins had stopped descending.

Numerous Deity corpses surrounded the purple-scaled black snake, not leaving a single gap.

The darkness above the void had faded away, so the terrifying green-furred face had shown up once again.

The green-furred face blew a breath towards the black snake.

Through his inner sight, Gu Qing Shan saw a gigantic faint figure moving from the breath into the black snake's body.

The purple scales above the black snake's head started to give off brilliant light.

At this point, a muttering resounded.

"Who would've thought, the arrangement from eons ago would actually be completed here"

Following that voice, the two of them noticed that a man had been standing on top of the black snake at some unknown point.

The man wore a bright green mask with fiendish features over his face, one hand holding a turtle shell while the other hand quickly counted along with his fingers.

"What is he doing?" Boss doubtfully asked.

"Divination, he's calculating something" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit strange, never expecting to run into a cultivator in this place.

Furthermore, this man was wearing a mask just like how the Asura Deific King was.

A mask...

A person who likes to conceal themselves?

As he was thinking, two more figures descended from above and landed on the black snake's back.

One of them wore a pale-white mask, while the other had a jet-black mask.

They knelt behind the man and spoke in a low voice: "Sir"

"Hm, the arrangements that we prepared countless years ago actually managed to complete its task before thoroughly dissipating" the man with the yellow tusks green mask commented.

"What do you mean sir?" the white mask person asked.

"It is said that the infinite worlds' operating center lies deep within this void, although it had been destroyed, it is still valuable enough to search"

"Then..." the black mask man cautiously asked.

The green mask yellow tusks man looked up at the green-furred face in the sky and said:

"This technique had lasted for so many years. After existing for so long, it's no longer able to summon some of the most crucial coffins—-- prepare to complement the technique"

"Understood"

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The men with black mask and white mask immediately responded and quickly formed various hand seals to complement the technique.

The green mask yellow tusks man said nothing and simply stood there, muttering emotionally: "Many years ago when the technique had just been completed, the Heavenly Dragon's corpse abruptly manifested in this void and was instantly discovered by the Void Deities, after several great battles, those Deities managed to sever the Soul Controllers and led to this technique being crippled"

He looked down at the purple-scaled black snake and continued:

"It's a good thing that the Heavenly Dragon's body somehow managed to consume a few souls and finally triggered the spell that we arranged"

Gu Qing Shan and Boss were both shocked.

It turns out that the purple-scaled snake had been a manipulated corpse from the very beginning.

No wonder the Deities couldn't kill it no matter what they did.

It was only after the strings that controlled its body were severed that the God of Life took the chance to take the corpse for herself.

The God of Life's eyes were certainly top-notch, since this corpse was called the 'Heavenly Dragon', it would surely have countless wondrous uses.

Unfortunately, even after eons, this corpse still retained its connection to the combination Divine Skill.

Most likely, the God of Life had also considered this, that's why she hid herself within Calming Soul Country, painfully waiting out the time until the technique thoroughly disappeared.

While the green mask yellow tusks man muttered to himself, the technique of the two behind him had begun taking effect.

The green-furred face opened its gaping maw again and dropped another coffin down.

Unlike the other black coffins, this one was pure white and gave off the impression of boundless divinity.

The hand seals of the white mask and black mask man became more rapid and more complicated.

They were sweating bullets, trying to control the technique with all their strength as they slowly lowered the white coffin in the middle of the other coffins.

Suddenly, the black mask man shouted: "Open!"

The pure white coffin immediately opened.

Some bright red blood flowed from inside the coffin.

Other than that, the coffin was completely empty.

"How is that possible!?"

The black mask man exclaimed in shock.

The green mask yellow tusks man apparently also felt surprised as he muttered: "That can't be right, I'm sure that they were actually dead..."

He leapt up and walked forward, touching the insides of the coffin.

His hand was red from blood.

The green mask yellow tusks man observed the blood on his hand for a long time before muttering: "So, it was this technique..."

The white mask man chased after him and asked: "Sir, what do we do now?"

The green mask yellow tusks man replied: "This is that person's blood. Collect it, that should be just enough for you to perform [Memory of Three Lives] and obtain some inheritance from it"

The white mask man quickly formed a hand seal.

The blood that was flowing randomly through the void immediately gathered in his hand to form a sphere of blood that began to glow in red.

The black mask man asked: "Sir, if this is the case, would our men be not enough?"

The green mask yellow tusks man took out a handkerchief, wiped all the blood from his hand and replied: "We can't borrow any more people, because the war had gotten to the most crucial point, good men are lacking everywhere— it truly is tough to thoroughly suppress that Eternal Abyss"

The black mask man complained: "It's so strange, we were clearly about to win, how did the Abyss obtain the power to replenish itself enough to mount a retaliation?"

The green mask yellow tusks man sighed: "Apparently it regained parts of its body... in truth, wars between realities are always this way. Until the very last moment, you can never really tell what would happen next"

He raised the turtle shell in his hand and continued:

"But there's no problem, these Deity corpses should be enough"

"The infinite worlds' operating center isn't that far from where we are. Using the Heavenly Dragon, we can destroy the seal, with so many Deity corpses to scout for us, we'd soon be able to find the truth"

""Understood, sir""

The white mask and black mask men replied in unison.

The green mask yellow tusks man flipped his hand over to put the turtle shell away before slowly forming a hand seal.

Almost right away, all the Deity corpses flew on top of the black snake.

The green-furred face above them gradually faded away.

"Move out!"

The green mask yellow tusks man ordered.

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The purple-scaled black snake swiftly moved, broke through the void of space, and vanished in merely the blink of an eye.

Gu Qing Shan and Boss stayed silent within the dark void, not saying a single word.

What just occurred was too shocking.

Only after a long while did the two of them finally thought everything through from the beginning.

“Did you hear that? They were people from the parallel world that fell into the Eternal Abyss” Gu Qing Shan spoke up first.

Boss solemnly replied: “I heard them—— but I didn’t think that they had already planned for this countless years ago”

If that was the case, it wasn’t a coincidence that the parallel world fell into the Eternal Abyss at all.

They must surely be after something.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “The place they called the ‘infinite worlds’ operating center’, did they mean the Inner Plane?”

“If there is a place worthy of being called the infinite worlds’ operating center, then it must be the Inner Plane without any doubt” Boss replied.

Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but question: “The Inner Plane had over 80,000 Deities, as well as the Deific Kings and the Grand Empress. How exactly did such a powerful world get destroyed in the first place?”

Boss shook his head: “That is a complete mystery, nobody knows”

Gu Qing Shan tried asking further: “You don’t know as well?”

Boss appeared reminiscent and replied: “At the time, I was the strongest person below the Grand Empress, responsible for protecting the Eternal Abyss. But by the time I received news and returned, it was already too late, and the entire Inner Plane had already been destroyed”

“Then, the seven Deities surely must know about the specifics”

“What the hell do they know? They weren’t supposed to have been able to escape in the first place, it was the Grand Empress’ power that tossed them out”

Boss waved his hand in irritation and continued: “I originally thought that the Grand Empress might have tossed them out for some deep reasons, but nothing turned up even after thousands of years of investigation, and they also lost their lives fighting against the monsters of the void”

Gu Qing Shan added: “Besides the God of Life”

Boss agreed: “Besides that piece of garbage”

Gu Qing Shan mused a bit, then regretfully said: “What exactly did those people earlier wanted to find within the Inner Plane? How regretful, we currently have our hands full so we can’t even go with them to take a look”

Boss coldly chuckled and told him: “Don’t worry, before they can even reach the Inner Plane, they will die”

“They will die?” Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

Boss explained: “After the Inner Plane was destroyed, many powerful parallel worlds noticed this and wanted to look for the truth inside, but any of them who entered would end up dead”

“But why?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Boss replied: “Because there is a vast space between the Inner Plane and the space vortex. As the Inner Plane was destroyed, that space was occupied with numerous creatures that can’t be defeated with strength alone—— those are true demonic creatures that I couldn’t try to probe even at my peak. They were more unimaginable compared to the monsters within the space vortex, and even more impossible to deal with. The only outcome of facing them is death!”

Gu Qing Shan muttered: “That’s why you said those people just now would have ended up the same?”

Boss nodded: “With that big snake and the numerous Deity corpses, they are capable of a lot of things, but if they want to defeat those demonic creatures and enter the Inner Plane, they are still far from enough!”

Gu Qing Shan silently thought for a while before sighing: “How exactly was the Inner Plane destroyed, I truly want to know such a secret”

Boss patted him on the shoulder and said: “Don’t think too much. When the day that I regain my power arrives and you become strong enough, I’ll lead you to the place from which you can truly enter the Inner Plane to search for the truth”

“What do you...”

Boss went silent and sent his voice: “The Abyss has found a secret passage that leads into the Inner Plane, which is being hidden at the bottom of the Abyss”

“There is only a single demonic creature guarding that place. Although it is unimaginably powerful, after countless years, the Abyss had finally found the method to get rid of it”

“However, the method that the Abyss came up with was stolen by the Soul Shrieker not too long after it was conceived, even I didn’t know about this—— fortunately, the Soul Shrieker didn’t end up obtaining that secret method”

“You mean, the Soul Shrieker lost the method?” Gu Qing Shan uttered in disbelief.

——*the Soul Shrieker was such a sly and treacherous monster, I truly can’t imagine it losing such a precious thing at all.*

“Indeed, that secret method had only recently reappeared within the 900 million World Layers”

Boss looked at Gu Qing Shan full of implications.

“Gu Qing Shan, it’s right in your possession”

Gu Qing Shan froze.

From the Abyss, was stolen by the Soul Shrieker... and finally ended up with me...

Watching the expression on Boss’ face, Gu Qing Shan slowly realized.

He took out the twin swords Heaven and Earth, wielding them in his hands.

Boss’ gaze, as he looked at these weapons, turned complicated, muttering:

“Indeed, the method was the Abyssal Soul Artifact, the Evil-warding weapon of the Bottomless Abyss, the legendary twin swords, Heaven and Earth”