Apocalypse 1061

Chapter 1061

The space vortex returned to silence.

The ancient Divine Skill headed by the black snake had been taken over and was being led towards the Inner Plane.

Calming Soul Country had been reduced to ashes.

The God of Life and Soul Shrieker escaped by fusing together.

——all they had left was a single head, having been extremely weakened, they would most likely be forced to stay still for the next while.

Everything was over.

Gu Qing Shan and Boss didn't remain here.

They continued traveling through a long distance before they found a relatively secluded location and released the mirror world.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li were still resting.

Only Laura appeared.

"Gu Qing Shan, I have something to inform you" Laura acted mysteriously.

Gu Qing Shan stretched and said: "What is it? I'm really tired right now, so I hope it's good news"

Laura told him: "It is good news. Ning Yue Chan had brought both the Angel of Condemnation Card and coin back to the Bramble Bird Kingdom"

Gu Qing Shan said without hesitation: "Then let's return immediately to get them into our hands"

"No need" Laura waved his hand dismissively: "I'm constantly maintaining a connection with the Bramble Bird Kingdom, so it's easy to transfer one or two items"

Laura took out an emerald green leaf and chanted the incantation.

The leaf quickly glowed luminously.

Laura appeared shocked, then started to laugh.

Gu Qing Shan heard her strange laugh and couldn't help asking: "What is it?"

"It's nothing, but I think it's best that you see for yourself"

Saying so, Laura put the leaf into Gu Qing Shan's hand and grabbed Boss.

"Boss, come with me into the mirror world, everyone is waiting for you to tell them about what happened just now"

Before Boss managed to say anything, he was pulled inside.

The surface of the mirror glimmered briefly before calming down.

The only person left in the space vortex was Gu Qing Shan.

He looked at the leaf, then into the mirror world.

Only to see that Boss, Ye Fei Li, Zhang Ying Hao, and the rest were laying on one of the world's golden beaches, enjoying the relaxing sea breeze and various Soul Points drinks, happily enjoying themselves.

Gu Qing Shan was very confused.

Oi Laura, why did you leave me here alone?

At this point, the emerald green leaf in his hand suddenly started to give off green light that manifested as a feminine figure.

——-the green light had turned into a hologram of Ning Yue Chan that stood in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The hologram managed to depict both her unique aura and her gentleness.

"Long time no see, Gu Qing Shan, I've gotten the Card and the coin" Ning Yue Chan told him.

She put a coin and a Card into the void of space.

They both fell from above, caught in Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Gu Qing Shan looked down.

Little Dusk was still deep asleep in the Card.

Gu Qing Shan looked up and smiled: "General Ning, you've had a rough journey"

"Are these two items important?" Ning Yue Chan asked.

"Extremely important" Gu Qing Shan emphasized.

Ning Yue Chan stared at him.

He stared back at her.

The two of them said nothing.

Ning Yue Chan suddenly smiled and said: "Thank you for leading me into the 900 million World Layers, teaching me the languages, and helping me into the Strife Zones—— it truly has been eye-opening, my cultivation has reached a level incomparable to the past"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "No need to be so formal, it's only natural. Also, didn't Su Xue Er return together with you?"

Ning Yue Chan replied: "I beat her up so she refused to return"

Gu Qing Shan exclaimed in shock: "You beat her up!?"

Ning Yue Chan nodded: "Hm, at the time, she was already exhausted, but still cried and insisted on fighting me, so I used the back of the Blade to teach her a lesson, then I checked her body——- quite a

nice girl, she is still a maiden—— and finally stepped on her, telling her to cultivate herself well, otherwise she's not going to be able to win against anyone"

"--don't worry, her face is intact"

"She's probably a bit dejected right now, but will readjust herself soon"

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan raised his eyebrows but soon lowered them again.

Blade cultivators were all like this.

A Blade user who could treat another person this way was already considered to be very gentle.

In the cultivation world, Blade users would only treat their own disciples this way, beating them up while scolding them.

In Blade philosophy, this was called 'removing the worldly'.

Blade users cannot stand a single grain of sand in their sight and do not hold too many extraneous thoughts in their minds.

That was why Gu Qing Shan wasn't worried about Su Xue Er's safety or mentality.

He was worried about something else entirely.

——-with how much of a fox he was, even if he hadn't gotten romantically acquainted with anyone, he could still understand implications.

These two girls just 'confronted' one another, didn't they!?

What the hell, I was in a hurry to retrieve the Card from the two Deities' hands so I didn't have time to continue training my love skills with Ye Fei Li yet.

That love teaching video whatever that I watched before was indeed eye-opening, but it was nothing but applied skills.

All of that was much further into a relationship, I still haven't even gotten into a proper relationship yet right now.

——if I knew about this beforehand, I would have brushed up on my knowledge before meeting Ning Yue Chan!

What should I say now?

Seeing how panicked he seemed, Ning Yue Chan couldn't help but chuckle.

"Don't worry, I properly held back"

"I know you would have held back, but why did you have to do that in the first place?"

Ning Yue Chan explained: "That girl called Su Xue Er, I can tell that she clearly isn't an ordinary person, but she insists on treating herself as one. For that reason, she had been trapping herself within her own mind, leaving no room to escape"

"I was waking her up"

Gu Qing Shan was stunned: "That is... thank you"

Ning Yue Chan's soft gaze focused on him, then muttered: "No need to thank me. Gu Qing Shan, after this Apocalypse is over, I want you to be my Dao companion"

Gu Qing Shan froze.

Huh, weren't there supposed to be a lot more steps?

Like dinner dates, going shopping, and such.

Then confirming the relationship.

Why are you so direct?

I haven't even prepared myself.

Seeing him like this, Ning Yue Chan chuckled again: "You're usually so calm and collected with all the wits about you, but when it comes to emotions, you're very similar to Su Xue Er"

"In what way?"

"Dummy"

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Ning Yue Chan reached her hand out and touched Gu Qing Shan's face.

"Are you willing?" she softly asked.

Gu Qing Shan froze up again.

As expected of Ning Yue Chan, I thought you were already done, but then you came forward with another slash just to make sure.

...right.

She's a Blade user, the path of the Blade is a straightforward one, that's why her personality is like that of a Blade, everything she says and does is passionate and direct.

I'm a sword user, the sword is good at being flexible and changing, then... should I use sword techniques to answer this?

The essence of both the sword and the Blade is nothing but the heart.

And the desire in my heart is...

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but recall Love Master Ye Fei Li's solemn teachings:

"A man who knows so many girls and yet doesn't understand romance is always in the middle of an Apocalypse"

This was the teaching of the Love Master!

Gu Qing Shan answered right away: "I truly want to experience a romantic relationship; because I don't understand anything about it at all"

Indeed, just like a battle, without any information, without understanding the overall situation, nothing can be done.

I first have to learn!

Learn about romance!

——although the word 'romance' doesn't exist in the cultivation world, having been in the Strife Zones for so long, Ning Yue Chan can most likely understand the meaning behind them.

She slightly lowered her head, the corners of her lips curled up a bit.

I'm still a bit embarrassed after all.

"I'll return to Shen Wu world first to report the recent events"

"Let's talk about us later"

Saying so, the green light hologram abruptly flashed and vanished.

She left.

Gu Qing Shan was left stunned.

This girl.

You were the one who brought up the subject.

Then you said to talk about it later.

Which one am I supposed to believe?

Gu Qing Shan sighed, feeling considerable fatigue.

Compared to women, the two Deities were much easier to deal with.

He looked down at the Card and coin in his hand, then tapped his Inventory Bag to take out the [Demon King Order] coin and the Great Bramble Tree coin as well, placing them all in his hand.

The three coins, the Angel of Condemnation, the Demon King of [Order], and the Great Bramble Tree, everything has been prepared.

——-I only need to ask Laura to help summon the great tree.

All of a sudden.

Below the War God UI, the icon that represented [War God Quest] suddenly started glowing.

[War God Quest has been re-established, once again announcing a Quest:]

[Possible Quest number 1: Pursue the Deity of Chaos, the Soul Shrieker]

[Quest reward: When you kill the Deity of Chaos with your own hands, you will replace them and become the new ruler of Chaos]

[Possible Quest number 2: Save Lady Darksea]

[Quest completion: Once you accomplish this Quest, Order shall once again establish a foothold, forming an equilibrium with Chaos]

At the same time, lines of glowing text appeared in the middle of the UI:

[Chaos or Order? This is a question since time immemorial]

[This is the point where the Era of Chaos is at its weakest, as well as the most important turning point in the war between Chaos and Order]

[Between Chaos and Order, which path should the 900 million World Layers take?]

[Owner of the War God UI, you shall be the one to decide this]

[Please make your choice now]

Gu Qing Shan quickly skimmed through.

If it was anyone else that faced this choice, they might have hesitated, but he had already gone through a similar test.

At the unending abyss of broken worlds, in order to complete his World Technique, Gu Qing Shan had once entered the corpse of a parallel world and simulated a war between [Order] and [Chaos].

Indeed.

In that world, he had received his answer.

——-[Chaos] cannot be thoroughly destroyed, but as the Professionists used the world [Order] to fight against [Chaos], they managed to reach an equilibrium, then further weakened [Chaos] enough to promote the prosperity and growth of the world.

The power of a single person was simply not enough to win against the Apocalypse.

This principle had been felt by Gu Qing Shan personally, to an incredibly in-depth degree.

Boss, Zhang Ying Hao, Ye Fei Li, and Laura helped him, allowing him to come up with a strategy to steal the [Order] Card from the God of Life's hand.

While under the pursuit of one Deity, he snatched the Card from the hands of another Deity, this seemingly impossible mission was accomplished under the unified will of everyone.

At this point.

Within the 900 million World Layers, there were Shifu, Xiao Lou, Xiu Xiu, and his two junior sisters; as well as Su Xue Er, Anna, Ning Yue Chan; not to mention Barry, Kitty, Yun Ji, and other Combatants.

Gu Qing Shan had personally witnessed the power of [Human Regiment].

If everyone obtained the protection of [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Human Regiment], they would surely grow at a rapid pace.

At that point, only with everyone's aid would the 900 million World Layers be able to truly grow strong.

The 900 million World Layers as a whole would obtain the strength that could rival the Apocalypse!

This was Gu Qing Shan's true goal.

Without hesitation, Gu Qing Shan declared: "I want to save Water God, issue the Quest"

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Where your sword points, the System's Quest shall follow]

[In accordance with real-time circumstances, the System will set up various Soul Points usage methods for every Quest, fully supporting you]

[During this War God Quest, you will obtain the following Soul Points usage method: Offering]

[Offering: The Soul Points cost of any ability you utilize will be halved]

Following that, a new line of glowing text appeared:

[Please name this War God Quest]

Gu Qing Shan replied: "The Return of [Order]"

Following his naming, the corresponding Quest detail appeared on the War God UI:

[Attention, the War God Quest had officially been issued]

[Quest name: The Return of Order]

[Quest description: Having obtained the three coins from the Age of Old, as well as gathering the Angel of Condemnation, the Great Bramble Tree, and the Demon King of Order, you may travel along the vast timeline and return to a time in the past of your choosing]

[You will need to rescue Lady Darksea in the final moments before her death, as well as returning to the present with her]

[Quest reward: There are no rewards, but the 900 million World Layers will obtain unprecedented power, allowing every person to grow strong]

[Attention! You have a full understanding of the rules of travel along the timeline and the corresponding erasure rules. Please make sure to avoid your past self, otherwise, the Law of Time will erase one of you]

[This time, you will not have any second chances]

Chapter 1062

The Holy Church of Fate.

The Pope's chambers

A muscular middle-aged man sat on the sofa, slowly drinking wine from a chalice.

The Pope stood waiting by his side like a servant.

This man was clad in a faint grey mist.

As he finished the entire bottle, he stood up and walked towards the balcony of the room. During his walk, a pale pair of horns could be seen between his hair, curving inward along with his head.

——-the Demon Dragon.

He had been revived.

"Lord God, you've only just revived, maybe it is better that you don't drink too much alcohol" the Pope softly suggested.

As she looked at this man in front of her, she had a gleam of fanaticism in her eyes.

She was the one who gathered his body and used the numerous precious regenerative materials as well as spells on it.

She didn't think that he would actually be able to revive.

What great power.

Noticing the fanaticism in her eyes, Demon Dragon smiled.

「It is fine, I need a bit of alcohol. Before this pivotal moment, it can help me calm myself 」

"Great one, you... seem to be a bit anxious?" the Pope hesitantly asked.

The Demon Dragon walked up to the Pope, gently lifting her chin with his hand.

I reawakened?]

"Lord God, I have done as you asked and drained all of the power from that Angel of Condemnation Card"

The Pope took out a Card and offered it to him.

"Lord God" she smiled flatteringly, "Even if those people had obtained the Angel of Condemnation Card, they would never be able to use it; after all, its power is now completely gone"

The Demon Dragon received the Card from her hand.

The Card depicted boundless light that constantly surged and boiled.

——this was a unique Card made specifically for the purpose of draining power.

The power of the Angel of Condemnation...]

The Demon Dragon muttered.

He turned his hand over and took out three coins.

They were the Angel of Condemnation, the Demon King of [Order], and the Great Bramble Tree.

The Demon Dragon looked forward.

From the void of space in front of his eyes, a healthy branch of the Bramble Tree and a male corpse that exuded endless dark aura also showed themselves.

It is enough... with the current state of the war, I will most likely be sent out...]

The Demon Dragon muttered.

He stood there with his eyebrows furrowed, then suddenly turned to the Pope.

What of the second matter? I he asked.

The Pope frightfully knelt down and reported: "Lord God, I've done as you asked and kept Su Xue Er with me at all times, always watching her while making sure she isn't alarmed. But for some reason, she abruptly went missing yesterday"

The Demon Dragon said nothing, but the grey mist that drifted around his body started boiling.

After a long while, he regained his senses and crouched down in front of the Pope.

It is fine, that woman's life or death no longer matters—— after all, Gu Qing Shan has the Heaven sword]

The Demon Dragon spoke with a calm voice, consoling her.

The mist around his body had also calmed down.

The Pope still didn't dare to breathe too heavily and kept her head lowered: "Lord God, I am willing to forever pledge my services to you"

The Demon Dragon silently smirked.

He opened his vertical eyes wide, gazed straight into her eyes, and said: \(\Gamma\) I can only retain my clarity for three minutes, after which I will once again enter a state of blankness. More importantly, I am about to lose my Eternal body as well as a certain type of power \(\Gamma\)

 Γ This is all the truth; a God does not tell any lies J

[I ask you, under such circumstances, are you still willing to follow me?]

The Pope froze.

He's about to lose his powers!

Noticing that her reaction was greatly unfitting, she tried to correct her mistake.

—-but she had no such chance.

The Demon Dragon reached his hand out, lightly tapping it on the Pope's forehead.

The razor-sharp nails abruptly grew long, piercing through the Pope's head.

The Pope's body twitched a few times before going completely limp.

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Time slowly passed.

The Demon Dragon remained crouched on the ground, muttering a mystical, unrecognizable chant.

The Pope's body was still being held up by his finger, motionless.

Finally, the Demon Dragon finished his chant.

He ended with a silent shout: \(\Gamma \) Come! \(\J \)

A black figure suddenly appeared from the void and entered the Pope's body.

The Demon Dragon hurriedly pulled his hand back.

The Pope slowly stood up.

As she did, a mask manifested on her face.

——-it was the face of a female yaksha.

The Pope crossed her arms behind her back as her aura abruptly changed.

Earlier, she was a sincere and devout servant of God, but now, she had become one who was used to standing over others, solemn and imposing.

The Demon Dragon knelt with both knees to the ground and respectfully spoke: \(\Gamma \) Sir \(\J \)

As soon as he uttered this word, all the grey mist around his body abruptly boiled.

「Aaaaaarrggh!」

The Demon Dragon howled in pain.

While the female yaksha mask silently stared down at him.

The Demon Dragon tossed and turned on the ground, moaning in pain and suffering for a long while before he finally uttered a heavy breath, lying motionless on the ground while soaked in sweat.

He swiftly tried to stand back up, then knelt down in front of the female with the yaksha mask again, still breathing heavily:

Sir, the Abyss had detached from my body and left J

A long while later.

A female voice sounded from behind the mask:

"Naturally, as you have appeared in front of me, the Abyss would easily understand the relationship between you and myself. It is reasonable for it to feel anger and discard you from its ranks"

Yes J the Demon Dragon respectfully replied.

The female voice continued: "In summary, your work has been decent. Over a million years ago, you managed to enter this Demon Dragon Soul Artifact and continued to summon our divine objects into this reality, finally managed to chase away the refugees that wished to take root in this location——their collective strength had always been a headache for us"

"Following that, you managed to infiltrate the Eternal Abyss, obtained plenty of data regarding it to mark the foundation before our great war"

"Unfortunately, you failed in the matter of the twin swords..."

The Demon Dragon responded in a low voice: Γ Sir, this is nothing but my own fault, please punish me J

His attitude seemed to please the female with the yaksha mask.

The female with the yaksha mask continued: "That is fine, I shall not blame you for that matter. In truth, one of the four Pillar Gods of the void was silently observing that matter at the time. Although I do not know which one they were, it was enough to prevent us from even showing ourselves. Under such circumstances, you were already quite decent for being able to achieve this much, however, that Void Pillar God was truly devious, your mind itself was tampered with..."

The female with the yaksha mask mused.

The Demon Dragon knew that he couldn't say anything at this point.

He simply kept his head down and knelt there.

This attitude made the female with the yaksha mask even more pleased.

She then took out another mask.

This was also a yaksha mask, one with a long pair of bloody horns and a half-crying-half-smiling expression.

"Here, you have been promoted" the female yaksha mask told him.

The Demon Dragon turned ecstatic.

He prostrated to the ground, thanking her over and over: Thank you, sir! Thank you, sir! J

"No need to thank me, you've put in the effort for over a million years, this is what you deserve"

The female yaksha mask slowly continued: "On the other hand, this soul mask has been equipped with the ability to heal the mind, it will make sure that your mental injury is quickly healed"

She abruptly shuddered.

Sir? J the Demon Dragon doubtfully asked.

"Hm, someone is calling me, I need to go deal with the war situation" the female yaksha mask helplessly replied.

"Demon Dragon, I will now assign another crucial mission to you"

「Please go ahead, sir」 the Demon Dragon immediately replied.

The female yaksha mask told him: "The Eternal Abyss hasn't been completely defeated... during a pivotal campaign, it suddenly obtained a new portion of its body that increased its strength"

"The current situation is a very strenuous one, even I had to arrive here in a hurry and quickly return as you can see"

"——I know that the era of [Chaos] is currently descending upon the 900 million World Layers that was built into this void"

"I want you to represent us and join hands with [Chaos]"

"As for the content of the allied contract... you will aid their Deity, in return, their Deity will send all carriers of [Chaos] within the 900 million World Layers to help us destroy the Eternal Abyss!"

「Understood! Sir!」

Chapter 1063

In the darkness of the void, an asteroid quickly drew an arc as it flew.

This asteroid was extremely fast, quickly traveling through over a million worlds before it swiftly reached a grey, barren, unremarkable world.

The asteroid landed on the ground of this world without a sound and caused no earthquake.

——-the Demon Dragon stood where the asteroid landed.

He released his overpowering presence and began talking to the world itself.

Deity of [Chaos], your excellency Soul Shrieker, I know you are hiding here J

No response.

The world remained silent.

The Demon Dragon continued without changing his expression: Γ You can stay silent, but when I destroy this world, you will have to come out to see me J

Another breath's worth of time later.

A malicious voice resounded throughout this world:

□ T Demon Dragon! What do you want? To benefit from the crippled? □ J

The Demon Dragon laughed and replied: \(\text{Not at all, you are the Deity who brought about the Era of [Chaos], the will of [Chaos] itself listens to your every order, I have no intention of killing you \(\text{J} \)

The voice paused briefly before asking again: Γ Then what are you here for? To laugh at my pathetic state? Γ

The Demon Dragon shook his head: Γ Let's stop the pointless probing and get to something more practical J

He opened his palm to show the three coins and said:

Gu Qing Shan is currently collecting the three coins, looking to return to the past and save an [Order]

Listen, I'm not afraid of you, but to express my sincerity, I shall continue J

The Demon Dragon laughed and continued to speak:

He asked me for the whereabouts of the coin himself. After that, while you're hastily chasing after him, I had arranged for people to drain the power of the Angel of Condemnation Card in order to briefly stall his progress——— however, as you know, he is one with numerous scheming thoughts, if you want to ally yourself with me and kill him, we most likely won't have much time to talk J

[Why should I believe you? You must show me more sincerity] [the Soul Shrieker doubtfully said.

The Demon Dragon indifferently answered: Γ I can tell you this: I know the point in time that Gu Qing Shan wanted to travel to—– the moment of the Spire Association's destruction J

The Soul Shrieker fell silent.

A few moments later.

The ground began trembling.

The world itself broke part.

As Demon Dragon looked down, he was a bit moved.

Underneath the surface of this world, from the shallowest spot to the deepest visibly spot, there was nothing but corpses here.

——corpses of Professionists.

This entire world had been emptied from the inside out, used to store an innumerable number of corpses.

Two figures flew out from inside.

A six-armed monster with a half-man-half-woman face.

As well as,

An old lady whose body was full of black tentacles.

The Demon Dragon looked at the Soul Shrieker and felt a bit surprised.

This monster wasn't heavily injured like his information suggested at all, in fact, it seemed to have nearly healed.

He turned to the old lady and asked: 「Who is this?」
The Soul Shrieker replied: 「The second Deity of the Era of [Chaos]」」
Demon Dragon fell into thought.
The Soul Shrieker continued: 「『Demon Dragon, what exactly do you want?」』
The Demon Dragon replied: 「This time, I'm here to help you 」
The Soul Shrieker coldly laughed: [
The Demon Dragon calmly replied: 「I will give you the coins, I can even prepare the three unique powers necessary to use the coins for you. I am willing to even come with you to kill Gu Qing Shan and prevent him from saving that [Order] 」
The cold smirk on the Soul Shrieker's face faded.
I've just failed to kill him
Gu Qing Shan stole the twin swords Heaven and Earth from me.
Gu Qing Shan played me.
Gu Qing Shan is carrying the [Demon King Order], the one last nail necessary to secure the foundation of the Era of [Chaos].
Anything else was meaningless to it, but when it came to Gu Qing Shan, the Soul Shrieker couldn't help but feel serious.
It stared closely at the Demon Dragon and questioned in its male voice: Γ What do you want from me? Γ
The Demon Dragon took out his yaksha mask for the other party to observe.
The Demon Dragon stated very solemnly: Γ I represent the will of the parallel world, here to ally mysel with the Era of [Chaos] \bot
For what reason are we allies? J
To triumph against the Eternal Abyss, to destroy all [Orders], and naturally, to kill Gu Qing Shan J
「 Very well, we have a deal! 」

At another location.
An airship with the Bramble Bird Kingdom insignia was flying through the space vortex.

Zhang Ying Hao recalled: "At the time, I had just been dumped by the President's daughter and drowned

myself in alcohol every day"

Glancing over the corpses inside this world, the Demon Dragon slowly understood.

Ye Fei Li recalled: "At the time, I did nothing but play games all day so my wife punished me by making me kneel on a washing board"

Laura recalled: "At the time, I was staying in the Bramble Bird Kingdom without going anywhere"

Boss recalled: "At the time, I was hibernating"

Gu Qing Shan clapped his hand and said: "Great, as long as you weren't at the scene when the Soul Shrieker attacked the Spire Association, there would be no worries of running into yourselves"

"You said that we would die if we met our past selves?" Ye Fei Li curiously asked.

"Hm, trust me, you will definitely die" Gu Qing Shan sincerely nodded.

Zhang Ying Hao looked at him and doubtfully asked: "...Why... do you seem so sure of that?"

"It's all in the past, there's no need to mention it"

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand dismissively.

Boss chuckled: "How interesting, when do we leave?"

Gu Qing Shan took out the Angel of Condemnation Card, looked at Little Dusk and replied: "She's still sleeping, so we would need to wait until she wakes up"

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Laura peeked her little head over to look at the girl depicted in the Card and curiously asked: "When will she wake up?"

"I'm not sure either, we just need to wait" Gu Qing Shan worriedly replied.

He looked at the Card again.

The Little Dusk in the Card was pale, sleeping on her side while using her arm as her pillow.

...wait a minute.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the War God UI, only to see a line of text being displayed here:

[Angel of Condemnation, Little Dusk. Lapis Card, drained of power, extremely weakened, unconscious]

Drained of power.

Extremely weakened.

What exactly did she go through?

It was the Demon Dragon that hid her within the Holy Church of Fate, so this must have something to do with the Demon Dragon.

Gu Qing Shan looked at Boss and asked: "How's the Demon Dragon?"

"The Demon Dragon's head had already vanished. Seems like its hibernation is already over——— how unexpectedly fast" Boss replied.

"Can we actually trust it?" Ye Fei Li chimed in and asked.

""Of course not!"" Gu Qing Shan and Boss replied in unison.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "At the time, it was fearful of Boss' power, and it only had a single head left, so it didn't resist, but there was no guarantee if it would do the same later on"

Boss also explained with a very solemn expression: "The Demon Dragon is a powerful Soul Artifact created by the Bygone Era humans, the only thing it respects is power. At the beginning, it brought numerous coins trying to pledge its allegiance to the Abyss, but the Abyss simply didn't care. It went through plenty of suffering and hardship before it obtained the power of the Abyss"

"Coins?" Gu Qing Shan sharply asked.

"Indeed, the Bygone Era humans obtained many coins, the power of which was capable of reversing time—— the three in your hands are only a portion of them" Boss explained.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly recalled his conversation with Lin before going into the final moments of the Age of Old.

...

At the time, I said: "I remember that in order to activate the three coins, you needed the power of three unique entities; and that humanity only passed three of them down"

Lin replied: \(\int \text{Back in the Bygone Era, you humans used a lot more than just three coins in the Abyss.} \)
What contradictory creatures you are. While you dread the Abyss, you also crave its Eternal power, how could there possibly be a great power that doesn't cost a similarly great price? \(\)

...

Recalling that, Gu Qing Shan abruptly exclaimed: "Oh no!"

The group was surprised.

"What's the matter?" Laura asked.

"I'll explain later——"

Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth, held the Angel of Condemnation Card in his hand, and carefully observed it.

In the Card, Little Dusk was depicted closing her eyes, lying motionlessly on her side while using her arm as a pillow.

What's unnatural here?

As Gu Qing Shan observed the Card, his gaze fell to Little Dusk's hand.

One finger on the hand of the arm that she was laying on naturally curled up, slightly pointing at the hairclip on her head.

Gu Qing Shan followed her finger to look at her hair clip.

The hair clip was made of metal, forged into the shape of two angels who stood with their backs to one another.

Two angels...

This looks so familiar, where did I see this before?

Gu Qing Shan pondered for a short while before finally recalling a certain thing.

He focused his mind and abruptly declared: "Envoy of Condemnation, Gu Qing Shan, requesting activation of [Duo Image] mode!"

As soon as he finished, a line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[To activate Duo Image mode, you will need to expend 1000 Soul Points, do you wish to do so?]

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Yes!"

The hair clip on Little Dusk's head abruptly turned into bright light and vanished without a trace.

So it really was the manifestation of the [Duo Image] Card!

This is a Card unique to Envoys of Condemnation, something that only Little Dusk and I know about.

More lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Unique Card: Duo Image, has been activated]

[Envoy of Condemnation – Gu Qing Shan attempting to synchronize]

[Angel of Condemnation – Little Dusk attempting to synchronize]

[Synchronization complete]

[Duo Image mode activated]

Lines of glowing text appeared to appear.

[Duo Image combat mode: During this combat mode, the two Envoys of Condemnation may instantly share all Cards and combat experience with using Cards with one another]

[You've obtained the authority to use the Card deck of the Lapis grade Card: Angel of Condemnation – Little Dusk]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through these lines of text and muttered: "Come, Little Dusk, what exactly did you want to tell me?"

He reached his hand into the void of space and pulled.

He drew a single Card.

The Card depicted an old phonograph.

——-this was Little Dusk's Card, drawn by Gu Qing Shan during the [Duo Image] combat mode!

Gu Qing Shan tossed the Card out.

Poof!

The phonograph manifested in front of everyone.

Little Dusk's voice sounded from phonograph:

[Gu Qing Shan, I don't know if this will be useful, but my power is continuously being drained away and I can't think of any other method. I just hope you will be able to hear this]

[The Demon Dragon knows that you wanted to save Lady Darksea]

[He had prepared another set of coins and had many of his subordinates to look out for the Soul Shrieker's location, most likely in order to ally himself with the Soul Shrieker]

[I think that he wants to return to that point in the past, waiting to kill you in an ambush as soon as you appear!]

[Gu Qing Shan, be very careful!]

Poof!

As soon as that message finished, the phonograph turned back into Card form and returned to Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Chapter 1064

The phonograph returned into Card form and went back to Gu Qing Shan's hand.

The Card then disappeared.

——this was Little Dusk's Card that Gu Qing Shan only managed to draw during the [Duo Image] combat mode.

After Gu Qing Shan used it once, it would return to Little Dusk's deck.

Boss narrowed his eyes, saying: "I had thought of it as a house dog, who knew it would turn out to be a wolf"

Ye Fei Li asked: "What now? We've only just planned to return to that point in time, but someone else is already prepared to ambush us"

Gu Qing Shan lowered his head and said nothing.

Zhang Ying Hao followed up: "In truth, that's also good news, it's much better than us running into a trap without knowing anything"

Laura worriedly glanced at Gu Qing Shan.

Only to see that he was gazing into the void of space, seemingly pondering on something.

Gu Qing Shan's attention was actually focused on the War God UI.

"War God UI, are there any ways for Little Dusk to regain her power?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[There are only two methods for her to recover, the first is to use 10 Inner Plane Cards to instantly replenish her powers; the second is to wait for her to gradually accumulate power again, it will be a relatively long process, but there will be no danger]

After answering, Gu Qing Shan's remaining Soul Points were deducted by 200.

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded.

—-indeed, Inner Plane Cards.

I also need an Inner Plane Card to advance.

Little Dusk needs 10.

Where am I supposed to find Inner Plane Cards?

At this point, everyone was shocked.

A mystical fluctuation of a spell was sweeping through every world.

"This is the Soul Shrieker's aura!" Laura was startled.

Boss calmly told her: "No need to worry, this technique was cast over the entire 900 million World Layers, most likely a Deity-level ability, but it would not be a killing technique"

A second later.

The Soul Shrieker's voice resounded.

The final war will soon begin!]

Its voice echoed across every nook, every cranny, every secluded corner of the 900 million World	ı Layers.
--	-----------

$\lceil \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \$
「『I require your power! 」 』
${ { \mathbb f } }$ Come, contribute your strength to the growth of the Era, and you shall obtain immeasurable benefits! ${ \mathbb J }$
\lceil \rceil The 30,000 strongest carriers of [Chaos], as you hear my call, you must respond to the summon and arrive at my side \rfloor \rfloor
$\lceil \ \ $
「『The full descent of [Chaos] is only one final step away! 」』

「All of those who participate in this war shall receive ample rewards as feedback from [Chaos] 』」

The Soul Shrieker's voice slowly faded away.

At the same time, various faint vortexes began to manifest in the void of space around them.

Boss reminded them: "Don't enter them, those are portals that can warp you straight to the Soul Shrieker's location"

Everyone was considerably shocked.

What huge efforts, performing a great divine miracle to converse with the entire 900 million World Layers and summon all the strongest carriers of [Chaos] towards it.

To deal with Gu Qing Shan alone, the Soul Shrieker had decided to start a war!

It was clearly summoning carriers of [Chaos] but wasn't afraid that Gu Qing Shan would notice.

Because it fully believed that Gu Qing Shan wouldn't know it was actually leading people to the past in order to ambush Gu Qing Shan at that point in time.

Zhang Ying Hao was relieved: "It's fortunate that we knew about this beforehand thanks to Little Dusk"

Ye Fei Li sighed: "But it's useless even if we know. It had summoned so many people, all of which are carriers of [Chaos] stronger than both you and I, while there are only so many of us here, there's no way we would be able to deal with them"

Gu Qing Shan suddenly looked up and replied: "There is a solution"

"What solution?" everyone asked at the same time.

"We will also call upon the power of everyone. I won't believe that all Combatants are willing to carry [Chaos], after all, the 900 million World Layers as a whole had endured being trampled by [Chaos] enough. The people who faced injustice will not be able to bear it, and there will always be Combatants willing to stand on the people's side" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"But then... who will trust us?" Boss asked.

Laura chimed in: "There's no need to worry about that. We can return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom and rally the 900 million World Layers from there"

She patted her chest in pride: "Our Bramble Bird Kingdom's reputation is more than worthy of everyone's trust"

Gu Qing Shan also became spirited: "That's right, I can guarantee it; Barry and Kitty, my sect, the Combatants of Blade Edge Pledge, all of them would surely be willing to fight"

"No one can decide the future of the 900 million World Layers by themselves, this future is for everyone who are willing to fight for it"

"We need to call upon those who are like-minded to fight alongside us"

"I will bring everyone with me to the past, to fight the decisive battle against the Soul Shrieker and Demon Dragon!"

Boss calmly said: "If that can truly be done, we still have one other issue that needs to be resolved"

"What issue?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Boss replied: "Our Angel of Condemnation had fallen into hibernation, unable to activate the power of the coins or bring us to the past"

Gu Qing Shan pulled his Card out and silently asked: "War God UI, can I replace Little Dusk?"

The War God UI replied: [Thank you for 200 Soul Points. As you are the Envoy of Condemnation, you naturally have that potential]

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[However, you will need at least one Inner Plane Card to advance and reach the lowest threshold required to activate that power]

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded.

"Laura, it seems like we still need to collect Cards. I need an Inner Plane Card—— any of them will do"

Laura took out an emerald green leaf and replied: "I will have people buy Cards at a high price, when we return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom, I'm sure it will be found"

"Good, then let's get going, our destination is the Bramble Bird Kingdom!"

The airship abruptly sped up within the darkness of the space vortex, leaving a long trail of light behind it that quickly went out of sight

..

After Gu Qing Shan's group left.

The same space vortex.

Where Calming Soul Country had been destroyed.

This place was in total chaos, countless ruined structures silently floated within the void of space.

The structures that had been so thoroughly destroyed that they were now space dust were mostly civilian buildings.

The only structure that could retain its shape somewhat within the fight between the two Deities was the royal palace.

At this point.

A tower-shaped building drifted through the darkness.

This was the royal library, where the Previous Kings had hidden themselves.

They were hiding within a thick book covered in dust, afraid that the God of Life would discover them before the coronation ceremony began.

The Previous Kings wanted to kill the God of Life!

They didn't trust Gu Qing Shan, so they must have made numerous other arrangements. ——-after all, as spirits, they didn't exactly have much else to do. At the same time, Gu Qing Shan didn't trust them either. And Gu Qing Shan had directly sealed them here, making sure that they missed all the events that transpired in the outside world. ——-until after everything was already over and everyone had left. A clear sound of shatter suddenly appeared within the silent library. The small and transparent hourglass Gu Qing Shan had put on the book was broken. The temporal seal had been undone! The thick book opened by itself. A flash of light. A middle-aged man appeared in the tower. He raised his hand to check his watch. [Just in time, the coronation ceremony will begin in a few minutes] 「...those outsiders didn't arrive after all 」 He muttered. Suddenly, his body expanded and turned into a gigantic spirit. Several hundred faces appeared on his inflated body. ——-each of these faces was one King from the past. One king commented: \(\Gamma \) It's too quiet outside \(\J \) Another king replied: \(\subseteq \text{Stop talking nonsense, the walls are lined with a quarantine spell, and the} \) coronation ceremony is about to take place, of course, it's going to be quiet J A third king loudly declared: Gentlemen, this is our chance to regain our glory. Let's not keep anything to ourselves any longer, we shall follow the original plan and trigger all of our arrangements" Quite obviously, this king was a trustworthy one among the many kings.

As soon as he spoke up, the others went guiet.

This king then began to carefully delegate the tasks.

「5th, you can trigger your trap」

「27th, when the time comes, you will be the first to come out, understand?」

「69th, you will be responsible for restraining the God of Life 」

「9th, your job is more important, you need to watch out for the outsiders, preventing them from ruining our plan 」

「10th, you will kill that 3 years old unwanted child 」

...

He quickly delegated a hundred tasks, then spoke to raise the morale of all the kings:

[Gentlemen, this shall be the most glorious and most praiseworthy moment of our un-life!]

The time is upon us, everyone will act at once, getting rid of the God of Life and those outsiders! J

We act as one! They shall be dealt with!]

All the kings responded at once.

The gigantic spirit broke through the tower and flew out——-

Which led to the Previous Kings seeing the endless darkness.

The outside was just the space vortex as well as the rubble of Calming Soul Country that was slowly being scattered away as they drifted.

The Previous Kings all froze, their fighting spirit from before completely deflated, so stunned that they forgot to even breathe.

The gigantic spirit simply floated along with the wind of the void for a while.

Until a resounding voice shouted:

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE!!!!???? J

Chapter 1065

After Calming Soul Country's destruction.

Gu Qing Shan's group was heading towards the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

At the same time.

Gu Qing Shan's homeworld.

Su Xue Er had put the 9 Lords' star chart away, currently flying into space.

The gigantic fleet of interstellar fortresses hovered in the sky, several Mobile Mechs were stationed within a certain distance to ensure her safety.

Impartial Goddess's voice continued to sound from the personal Holo-brain in her chest pocket:

[Miss Su Xue Er]

[The backflow of the Abyss has ended. The spatial fluctuations are currently settling down]

[Through calculations, the world's security constant had already begun to increase again, soon reaching its average]

[The above was the real-time situational statistics, report complete]

Su Xue Er silently listened, then couldn't help but ask: "Why did you have to tell me about these things?" Impartial Goddess replied: [Because you were the appointed heir of the 9 Lords]

"No——- I recall it quite well, the 9 Lords did not have such a level of authority] Su Xue Er refuted.

Impartial Goddess went silent for a while before responding: [You must enter the S.W. Divine Temple before I can provide you the answer]

Su Xue Er thought briefly before telling her: "Wait a moment, I'll meet you on the S.W. Divine Temple" She accelerated, swiftly made her way through the darkness of space and went out of sight.

...

The S.W. Divine Temple.

A man with a swollen face came to greet Su Xue Er.

"You are... the scientist called Liao Xing?" Su Xue Er observed him carefully for a while before asking.

"Ah, I certainly am. Beautiful lady, I'm surprised that you still remember me" Liao Xing narrowed his now-beady eyes to observe her.

——-how did this girl become even more beautiful after such a short while?

The period of a young fruit reaching maturity was also when it was most alluring, especially for old men of his age.

Su Xue Er continued: "I recall that you were one of Gu Qing Shan's supporters... what happened? Who bullied you?"

If someone is bullying Gu Qing Shan's people, then I should step out to help them.

Su Xue Er silently thought.

Liao Xing smiled: "What a personable girl you are. That is no longer important, how about we have a drink together, let us have a slow but interesting conversation——"

Saying so, he took Su Xue Er's hand, attempting a hand-kissing gesture.

Su Xue Er's eyes turned sharp.

Bah——

A figure was slapped away, crashing into the metal wall, and got stuck there for several minutes before sliding back down.

Su Xue Er casually said: "I probably understand what happened to you now. If you go looking for troubles of similar nature again, I'll help Gu Qing Shan come up with a more permanent solution"

Regretfully, Liao Xing had already fainted, no longer able of hearing her.

Su Xue Er continued heading into the interstellar fortress.

Layer after layer of metal gates closed behind her, complete with numerous defensive measures.

Impartial Goddess' voice resounded again:

[Miss Su Xue Er]

[The world situation is gradually returning to normal, Barry and Kitty who were patrolling the space vortex will soon return to where they set off from]

Su Xue Er nodded.

In the battle of Aboul, the Justice Iron Fist Club's reputation was renowned to have been the main contributors, and she also knew that they were peak Combatants of the 900 million World Layers.

Gu Qing Shan's relationship with these people were also very good.

There were no issues with that.

The only issue was that——

Why is Impartial Goddess treating me so cautiously?

Taking her doubt with her, Su Xue Er continued heading deeper and deeper into the Divine Temple.

This place was a secret metallic chamber with nothing but darkness.

The final gate slowly closed behind Su Xue Er.

For some reason, Su Xue Er suddenly felt her heart beating faster.

Impartial Goddess' voice resounded again: [Miss Su Xue Er, welcome, please verify your identity]

"Got it"

Fingerprints, iris, brainwaves, genetics, and then finally a magical light ring.

[Identity verification completed]

Impartial Goddess' voice sounded again: [According to the information in my grasp, the 900 million World Layers is currently plunged in Chaos]

"You can connect to the 900 million World Layers?" Su Xue Er couldn't help but question.

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[Indeed, ever since Barry and the others came to this place, they've brought information regarding the 900 million World Layers to me one after another. After the advent of Chaos, they saved a few technological Combatants who have aided me greatly] Impartial Goddess replied.

"How strange, you mean the technological Combatants didn't attempt to gain control over you?" Su Xue Er asked.

Impartial Goddess' voice turned solemn: [Our world had become a Super Dimensional world, one with proper ownership. Anyone is allowed to take refuge here, but they are forbidden to hold any ill will towards any belonging or resources of our world——- the Super Dimensional gate key is currently in my possession, and this was the rule set up by Barry and Kitty, as well as the commonly recognized rule for all Super Dimensional worlds]

"Who is the owner of this world?" Su Xue Er questioned.

[His Excellency, Gu Qing Shan; as well as the heir of the Starlight Empire, yourself] Impartial Goddess responded.

Su Xue Er was startled.

[Let us get to business, miss Su Xue Er] Impartial Goddess continued: [Following this, you will be exposed to the secret that you and I hold co-ownership over]

Screens of light appeared all around.

Su Xue Er glanced through the multitudes of words on the screen, muttering: "High-ranking world Law and power suppression research, Optimal robotic cluster arrangement project, Biological armor general formula... Wait a minute, what is all of this?"

Impartial Goddess replied: [These are the research results of the highest level of the Starlight Empire's forefront sciences]

"The Starlight Empire..." Su Xue Er repeated.

Impartial Goddess continued: [Simply put, these research came from a central world, divided into an Empire, Republic, and United Commons during their escape; all of which headed to their end within mutual-assured destruction and war]

[Su Xue Er, I am the greatest culmination of the Starlight Empire's civilization—— the mainframe developed for Apocalyptic Research and Response]

[At the beginning of their escape, a total of three layers of shackles were placed on me in order to prevent the greed of any advanced technological world. In the end, I entered the Scattered worlds together with the descendant of the Starlight aristocrat – the Guardian of the 9 Lords]

[His excellency Gu Qing Shan removed the first layer of my shackles, allowing me to truly awaken]

[Before her death, through appointing you as the heir, the Guardian of the 9 Lords removed the second layer of my shackles]

[After I obtained the central processing unit of the North Pole airship, with the help of numerous technological experts from the 900 million World Layers, I released the third layer of shackles from myself]

[Su Xue Er, the royal family and aristocrat of Starlight Empire might still exist, scattered around countless worlds, but after countless years, only you and I still inherit the knowledge and authority of the Empire. And thus I must ask you one question]

"Go ahead" Su Xue Er replied.

Impartial Goddess continued: [If one day you become an extremely powerful entity, how will you treat your enemies?]

"My enemies?" Su Xue Er froze.

[Indeed, do you wish to kill them, or how else will you treat them?]

"[..."

Impartial Goddess continued: [Please pay attention, I am currently evaluating your aptitude in order to determine the ratio of the shared authority between yourself and his excellency Gu Qing Shan in this world]

Su Xue Er was hesitant about how to answer the previous question, but immediately answered as she heard this: "What use is determining that? I won't answer, let him have the full Super Dimensional authority of this world"

[Are you sure?] Impartial Goddess questioned.

"Of course, I'm not going to compete with him for anything" Su Xue Er replied.

Impartial Goddess seemed to have been caught a bit off-guard, so she went silent briefly before continuing: [It isn't quite that simple... I know your relationship with Gu Qing Shan. According to the constitution of the Starlight Empire, if the two of you get married one day, such division would still be necessary as a part of protocol]

[Otherwise, neither he nor yourself will be able to receive the Super Dimensional authority of this world—— as such, please seriously answer the question]

Hearing this explanation, Su Xue Er's face went flushed.

Get married...

Impartial Goddess is most likely a unique advanced artificial intelligence. If I refuse to answer, she will most likely act as protocol dictates.

If that's the case, Qing Shan wouldn't be able to use his own authority in this Super Dimensional world.

——since it's related to such an important matter, I should give an answer.

Su Xue Er thought briefly before answering: "Earlier, I was beaten up really badly. Only after I was stepped under their foot did I understand that if a person isn't strong enough, they wouldn't even be able to follow the one they wished to, let alone protect them"

"That's why I just want to become stronger—- if I can truly become that strong, all I want to do is be with Gu Qing Shan, everything else doesn't matter"

"As for enemies... I no longer want to be enemies with anybody"

"Ah, right, other than love rivals, but you weren't asking about emotions or feelings, were you?"

Hearing her answer, Impartial Goddess became silent for a long while.

Su Xue Er nervously continued: "Hey, are you finished yet? How do you think the authority should be shared between me and him? I'll just say this first, I don't want anything, just give it all to him"

At this point, Impartial Goddess' voice resounded again:

[It hasn't finished, Su Xue Er, let us change the question slightly]

[If someone declared themselves to be Gu Qing Shan's enemy, constantly looking for an opportunity to kill Gu Qing Shan, while you have gained immense power, what would you do?]

Su Xue Er's nervousness and hesitation vanished without a trace.

Intense killing intent rose from her body, even her voice exuded the coldness of her killing intent:

"Then I will kill them, erasing even their soul from this world, making absolutely sure that they will never bother Gu Qing Shan again"

The voices faded.

The entire S.W. Divine Temple fell silent.

One breath,

Two breaths,

Three breaths.

The advanced technological weapons that were prepared in the deepest chamber of the Divine Temple, enough to destroy several worlds, were silently put away.

Even deeper in the shadow, a female voice that carried a hint of regret faintly resounded:

[Fine...]

[In consideration of that answer, I won't kill you]

Chapter 1066

Su Xue Er nervously asked: "I've given my answer, can you tell me the results of your evaluation?"

After a while, Impartial Goddess answered her:

[Your answer was fine, but this question never had any relations to the authority of this world in the first place]

Su Xue Er froze.

"You deceived me?" she couldn't help but question.

——-an A.I. actually deceived a human?

Perhaps, after Impartial Goddess had all of her shackles undone, her capabilities have gotten powerful enough to surpass the realm of A.I. and become a true technological lifeform?

[My apologies, but this wasn't deception, but rather an official test] Impartial Goddess responded.

"Why did you have to test me like this?" Su Xue Er angrily questioned.

Impartial Goddess answered: [For the safety of this world, I had to conduct such a test, the results of which were used to conduct the most cautious consideration and choice]

A box slowly rose from a hole that opened on the ground, stopping right in front of Su Xue Er.

The box automatically opened.

Inside was a long black triangular piece of metal, with countless ancient runes carved along it.

Su Xue Er's expression turned serious.

She could sense an immense amount of overflowing power from the triangular piece of metal.

"What is this?" she asked.

Impartial Goddess replied: [Su Xue Er, in accordance of the Guardian's last will, you have obtained the Starlight Empire's nine-faceted cloak, thus activating the secret of the Empire: the Dusty World's secret passage]

Her resonating voice continued:

[It is a long story. Countless years ago, the central world—— which was also the Starlight Empire's original homeworld, commonly known as the Inner Plane]

[Before the Inner Plane was destroyed, the Starlight Empire discovered a previously unknown world]

[This discovery shook the entirety of the Inner Plane]

[Because, as far as the Inner Plane understood, the countless parallel worlds are built with the Inner Plane as their center, constantly being created and destroyed in an eternal cycle]

[However, that unknown world wasn't part of any parallel world, nor was it the same kind of place as the Inner Plane]

[Everyone called that place the Dusty World, discovering numerous shocking secrets and knowledge from their preliminary exploration]

[Those secrets were far above and beyond the previous understanding of the Inner Plane, and in order to obtain those secrets, the Inner Plane crowned its first Grand Empress of the Pantheon]

At this point, Impartial Goddess paused a bit.

[Su Xue Er, as you can legally inherit the Starlight Empire's star chart that leads into the Dusty World, I had to give you a test]

[Because if the power you obtain in the future is too powerful, I needed to be cautious of you destroying the entire 900 million World Layers]

Hearing that, Su Xue Er felt a bit relieved: "Which means, the previous questions had nothing to do with Gu Qing Shan?"

[...Correct]

Impartial Goddess replied.

As they talked, the long triangular black piece of metal floated by itself and hovered in front of Su Xue Fr.

Impartial Goddess continued: [Having the star chart by itself is useless, as the key of the passage was in my possession]

[This is the key, you've passed the evaluation, so you may take it and go]

[Su Xue Er, the words you told me during my evaluation, I hope that you will forever keep them in mind]

After saying that, Impartial Goddess went completely silent.

Su Xue Er reached her hand out to hold the triangular piece of metal.

Immediately following that——

The Nine-facetted Starlight cloak flew out from her satchel by itself and spread out to form a vast hallway of stars.

Having sensed the appearance of the star chart, the triangular black piece of metal flashed briefly before pulling Su Xue Er through the roof of the interstellar fortress, hurriedly heading towards the unknown void of space.

The Nine-facetted Starlight cloak vanished together with her.

The S.W. Divine Temple returned to silence.

A while later.

A low female voice muttered: [It's best that you go as far as possible, enough that I never see you again]

[...So annoying, you even ruined my home...]

...

At another location.

A Bramble Bird airship was quickly flying through the space vortex.

At Calming Soul Country, everyone had gone through a long and shocking battle, so they were all exhausted and simply rested on the ship.

At this point, the Abyss was still locked in its battle against the parallel world, while the Soul Shrieker and Demon Dragon had summoned a great number of people, lying in wait in the past to ambush and eliminate Gu Qing Shan.

Because of that, for the foreseeable future——-

"Our flight this time seems to be quite safe, and it's time for lunch, does anyone want something to eat?"

Gu Qing Shan put his apron on and asked.

Boss excitedly raised his hand: "I want a—-"

The cabin of the ship was abruptly kicked open as Laura happily ran out, loudly telling everyone: "Let's not have lunch just yet. Gu Qing Shan, we've collected a lot of Cards, come and check if there's one that you wanted!"

Laura showed Gu Qing Shan a black plastic bag that seemed to be filled to the brim.

Gu Qing Shan was ecstatic.

"Here, let me take a look"

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Gu Qing Shan received the plastic bag and spilled the hundreds of Cards on the ground.

He crouched down and carefully checked each one.

Laura also squatted next to him, expectantly watching as he looked through the Cards.

Seeing that, Boss could only begrudgingly pull his hand back down.

——-he wanted some egg fried rice.

As Gu Qing Shan picked up each one, the War God UI would display the corresponding information.

Even after Gu Qing Shan had checked through them all, he still couldn't find a single Inner Plane Card.

Both he and Laura turned a bit disappointed.

Suddenly, Laura looked up and took out an emerald green leaf.

"The girls have just collected a few more Cards, do you want to wait until more of them accumulate, or check them all now?" Laura asked.

"Let's check them now" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Alright"

Laura chanted an incantation into the green leaf.

The leaf gave off light and turned into 7-8 Cards.

Gu Qing Shan received them and continued checking each one.

The first, not it.

The second, not it.

The third... still not it.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

It wasn't until the 7th Card that a different line of text appeared on the War God UI: [Lonely Speeder, Inner Plane Card]

[You may use this Card to complete your corresponding advancement]

[Would you like to advance right away?]

Gu Qing Shan happily exclaimed: "Yes! Laura, this is the Card I wanted!"

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the War God UI and chose [Advance] right away.

The [Lonely Speeder] Card transformed into countless sprites of light that were absorbed into his body.

Lines of glowing text then appeared on the War God UI:

[You've consumed an Inner Plane Card to improve your power]

[As a Card, you've consumed the strength of a powerful Card]

[Both your Skill and Power have reached the lowest required threshold to advance through consuming Cards]

[The path of advancement is now accessible]

[From now on, you may use Inner Plane Cards to improve your power, this improvement will be all-around, providing an increase in power for all of your Professions]

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

In other words, as long as my Card grade increases, I will advance in my cultivation realm accordingly.

——that's unexpectedly powerful!

While he was feeling emotional, three more lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Furthermore, as you have reached the lowest required standard, your Condemnation status had been increased]

[You've lost the 'Envoy of Condemnation' title]

[Please wait a moment]

Reading through these three lines, Gu Qing Shan felt an unknown sense of excitement.

As a Card, he has been through quite a bit on the Card user path, so he had brushed up on the relevant knowledge.

———Little Dusk was the Angel of Condemnation, while he was only the Envoy of Condemnation, this difference in their title was due to the difference in strength between the two of them.

This change of title represented the fact that both his grade and status within the Condemnation deck had improved.

Gu Qing Shan expectantly glanced at the War God UI.

As he expected, new lines of glowing text quickly appeared: [Your Condemnation rank had been determined] [In five seconds, you will receive a new Condemnation title] [5] [4] [3] [2] [1] [You've obtained a new title: Cherub of Condemnation] Reading the last line, Gu Qing Shan froze, unable to comprehend what he just read for a long while. Wait... Wasn't Little Dusk's title 'Angel'? Why am I a 'Cherub'? Does that mean there's a 'Seraph' as well? Chapter 1067 More lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI: [As you have obtained the title of 'Cherub' belonging to the Condemnation deck, you have been bestowed with the following unique ability] [Whenever you draw a Card, you may draw two Cards at once] Gu Qing Shan's eyes glowed but turned gloomy again. I'm currently an Azure Card, after my advancement, all I had left was a single Card—— The [True Crimson Demon Spear]. Even if I can draw one extra Card, I don't possess one to actually draw. Hah... The unique ability of a Cherub is drawing two Cards at once... ——Little Dusk was an Angel, so what's her unique ability? Gu Qing Shan silently pondered.

He glanced at the word 'Cherub' on the UI and felt a bit irritated.

Why does a Condemnation title like 'Cherub' exist?

With how innocent Little Dusk seemed, Gu Qing Shan could completely imagine what would have happened after she woke up——

...

"Wow, Gu Qing Shan, I've only hibernated for a bit and you're already a Cherub!"

"Cherub, I want to eat!"

"Cherub, big sister wants to rob some people!"

...

Gu Qing Shan lowered his head and clenched his fists tightly.

—-I need to desperately try harder.

The best choice is to get promoted to the next Condemnation rank and escape from this 'Cherub' title.

This time, the true man known as Gu Qing Shan had silently steeled his determination.

Fortunately, this advancement didn't only give him an embarrassing title, but also something else that Gu Qing Shan was after.

The lines of glowing text that he expected finally appeared on the War God UI:

[You've become a Cherub of Condemnation Card]

[You now have just enough strength to provide the power to travel through time as one of the three unique entities]

Gu Qing Shan quickly refocused his mind.

Little Dusk is hibernating, so I'll replace her for the short upcoming period.

The Great Bramble Tree is no issue.

The three coins are also no issue.

Only the Demon King of [Order] remains.

This shouldn't be any other issues either, as Gu Qing Shan had silently questioned the [Demon King Order] about this before.

Because he had brought the [Demon King Order] all the way to its [Demon King Ascension] stage during the Age of Old, coupled with his noble status as an Envoy of Condemnation, the [Demon King Order] can temporarily provide him a kind of power that only the Demon King has in order to support time travel.

This should be enough!

Once we return to the Bramble Bird kingdom and summon help from the 900 million World Layers Combatants, we will be able to return to the moment of the Spire's destruction to save Lady Darksea!

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath to calm himself down.

"Hey, Gu Qing Shan, are you guys done over there?"

Boss called out from the deck of the ship.

"I'm finally done" Gu Qing Shan smiled, "The only thing left for us to do is return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom"

"Then can we have lunch now?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

Gu Qing Shan put on his apron again and asked: "Sure, what does everyone want to eat?"

"Egg fried rice and smoked sausage" Boss put in his order.

"Ice cream!" Laura called out.

"Just ice cream?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Hm, I'm dieting——- give me one bucket" Laura replied.

"...Alright" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Hmm, I'd like a bottle of liquor and two beef servings of beefsteak" Zhang Ying Hao put in his order as well.

"I just want a bowl of beef noodles" Ye Fei Li also called out.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand dismissively: "I'm not making fresh noodles today, Fei Li, choose something else"

Ye Fei Li thought briefly, then tried asking: "Then, fried noodles please"

Gu Qing Shan turned to the War God UI and silently asked: "Will fried noodles also trigger [See you once again]?"

The War God UI responded curtly:

[Yes]

At the same time, the remaining Soul Points value on the UI changed, deducting 200.

Gu Qing Shan: "..."

He raised his meat cleaver and turned to Ye Fei Li:

"Fei Li, let's have a small agreement between us, from now on, don't ask for noodles anymore, ok?"

"Ah... ok"

Ye Fei Li felt his heart beating faster for a brief moment and quickly answered.

So Gu Qing Shan took out his utensils and prepared everything, getting ready to cook.

At this time.

Everyone sensed it at the same time.

——-something was heading towards the airship!

Everyone drew their weapons, silently preparing for battle.

"Fei Li, what do you hear!?" Gu Qing Shan called out.

Ye Fei Li shook his head: "Too fast! Prepare for impact——"

Bam!

The shadow crashed into the deck and went through it completely.

Gu Qing Shan scanned through with his inner sight and asked in surprise: "Anna! And Kitty! What happened to you!?"

Kitty collapsed on the deck of the ship, unconscious.

Anna was bloody all over, barely hanging onto Kitty.

Everyone quickly gathered.

"Save Kitty quickly!" Anna hurriedly called out.

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Laura immediately took out a small bottle and poured it into Kitty's mouth without saying a word.

Kitty moaned softly before her breathing became stable again.

"Her injuries are heavy; she'll most likely require a long nap before she can recover" Laura told her.

She handed another bottle to Anna.

Anna drank the entire bottle at once, only to see that her wounds were visibly healing themselves.

After just a few moments, all of Anna's injuries had completely healed!

This shocked Anna.

"What a potent healing serum..." she muttered.

Gu Qing Shan asked in a low voice: "Anna, what exactly happened?"

Anna regained her senses and answered him: "We came together with you, using the power of the three coins to return to the moment of Lady Darksea's death and tried to save her"

What!?

Everyone was shocked.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly asked: "Then, you mean that you traveled with me back to the past, then came back here again?"

"Yes" Anna's eyes were a bit red, "Gu Qing Shan, you have to save everyone, quickly"

Gu Qing Shan softly grabbed her hand and slowly asked: "Don't panic, tell me, what is the current war situation?"

Anna replied: "We managed to fend the Soul Shrieker off, but suffered heavy casualties in return, so many people are at the brink of death, requiring instant aid!"

"Did we actually win?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Anna nodded affirmatively.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, then turned around and signaled to Zhang Ying Hao.

"Help me carry Kitty, I'll support Anna. Let's bring them to the dining table"

"Ah, ok"

The two girls were carefully escorted over.

Laura put out a bed for Kitty to lie on.

Anna had fully recovered, so she sat on one of the dining chairs.

"Qing Shan, let's hurry and save everyone!" she was sobbing as she said that.

Gu Qing Shan looked at her and gently said: "No worries, Anna, whenever we run into such situations, we need to tell ourselves, not to panic and stay calm"

"But--"

As Anna still wanted to refute, Gu Qing Shan cut her off: "Don't worry, with the three coins, we can return to any moment in the past; that includes the moment before anyone dies, so there's no need to hurry at all——- isn't that right?"

Anna froze.

That's true.

"That's great, why didn't I think of that?" she sighed in relief.

The others also thought a bit and realized that to be true, so they calmed down as well.

They had already won the war, so there really was no need to hurry.

Gu Qing Shan patted her shoulder and asked: "Have you eaten yet? Let us have a meal first before we talk about other things"

He put out a few bottles of liquor on the table, set up a few snacks, then turned around to cook.

"What do you want to eat?"

Gu Qing Shan asked without turning around.

Anna was stunned.

I hurriedly traveled through time to reach here, just to eat.

Fine...

She replied: "Anything is fine, you can choose for me"

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

His movements were skillful and full of expertise, finishing a portion of food for each person in just a short period of time.

Anna simply sat there, blankly staring at him without saying anything.

Kitty also woke up.

Anna then walked up to her and told her what Gu Qing Shan said.

Kitty nodded.

Gu Qing Shan casually made a portion of soft tofu for her.

"Although Laura's medicine healed you, your wounds haven't fully recovered yet, so there's no need to eat rice, just a small snack is enough" he told her.

Kitty nodded and drank the soft tofu.

"How's the taste?" Gu Qing Shan smiled and asked.

Kitty looked over the table full of delicious food and praised: "It was delicious, as expected of something you made!"

Gu Qing Shan turned around, finished up a bowl of noodles, and handed it to Anna.

"Everyone can dig in" Gu Qing Shan said.

The group said nothing and simply ate.

After the meal was over, Gu Qing Shan and Laura cleaned everything up and put all the utensils away before sitting down with the two girls.

Wiping his hand, Gu Qing Shan looked at Anna and asked: "Now, tell me the real reason you're here"

Anna's expression turned blank and muttered: "We came here to bring you back to the past, where the master is lying in ambush, ready to catch you"

Kitty's face turned pale and shouted: "What are you saying!?"

Before she could move, the barrel of a gun was pressed against her forehead while a khopesh was propped right at her neck.

And then ----

Clak clak clak!

Laura released a mountain of sealing artifacts, piled on top of Kitty, and made sure that she couldn't move.

As for Anna, she was being held at the sword tips of both the Six Paths Great Mountain sword and the Earth sword in front and back, not daring to make even the slightest movement.

Boss observed Gu Qing Shan and smiled: "How interesting. No wonder you normally refuse to make noodles, turns out it was to be used for interrogation"

Gu Qing Shan sighed and asked Ye Fei Li: "Understood?"

"Understood, I won't ask for noodles anymore"

Ye Fei Li sincerely replied.

Laura was still in complete disbelief and asked: "Gu Qing Shan, how did you notice that they were fake?"

Gu Qing Shan stroked her head and replied: "Anna loves drinking even more than I do, but she didn't touch any of the bottles I left on the table before I started cooking"

"What about Kitty?"

"Kitty isn't the kind of person to keep her opinions to herself. Earlier, when I made her a bowl of savoury soft tofu, she praised it to be delicious"

"What's wrong with that?"

"She only likes her tofu sweet, it's her brother Barry that likes it savoury"

Chapter 1068

The fake Anna and Kitty were caught, tied up, and thrown to the ground.

"Don't move. If you move, you'll die"

Gu Qing Shan crouched down, placed his hand on the fake Anna's forehead, and used Soul Reading.

A few moments later.

"Ah... so that's the case" Gu Qing Shan muttered to himself.

"What happened?" Boss asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "They're people from the [Chaos] army, and they did come back from the past"

"On the day of the Spire's destruction, we fought against the Soul Shrieker's [Chaos] army several times, neither sides were able to do anything to the other"

"Kitty and Anna were also among our ranks, both selected to travel to the future to see me"

"But the Soul Shrieker learnt about this beforehand, so the Demon Dragon and the Soul Shrieker arranged for these two to disguise as Anna and Kitty to find me first, then lure us into a trap"

Everyone stared at the two on the ground.

From just their appearance, it was very believable that they were Anna and Kitty.

Laura couldn't help but declare: "Why are the two of you still disguising as our people? Hurry up and return to your original forms!"

The two could only dispel their disguising technique.

—revealing themselves as a couple of muscular men.

These two men actually disguised themselves as the two weak and feminine young girls from before.

At a glance, anyone could see their buck teeth right below the exposed nose hairs, as well as the tattoos all over their half-naked torsos.

——-one of them had tattooed roses, while the other had lilies.

The group turned completely speechless.

Ye Fei Li muttered in that dead silence: "Flowers... are the two of you brothers?"

"Big brother, your eyes really are sharp" the man who kept a thick chin beard tried showing his best flattering smile and lowered his head: "Big brothers, we didn't want to disguise as those girls, but since it was our Deity's orders, we had no other choice. Please forgive us"

"That's right, please forgive us this once, big brothers" the other muscular man who had pockmarks all over his face also spoke up.

Laura muttered: "For some reason... I feel like killing them even more..."

Everyone was then startled.

An intense wind current started to surge within the dark space vortex.

Something else was heading towards them from an unpredictable direction.

Could it be, these two's helpers?

Everyone had the same thought.

Having rested up for a short while, Boss had recovered quite a bit of stamina, so he drew the black trident from his back, wielding both the trident and the book in his hands as he gazed into the void of space:

"If it's an enemy, I'll act first"

"Alright, we'll follow up" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The group readied themselves to face the enemy.

Several breaths' worth of time quickly passed.

Two figures appeared from the void, swiftly landing on the Bramble Bird airship.

Compared to these two, whoever came this time was considerably faster!

Everyone turned to look——-

A beautiful black-haired young girl who exuded a mysterious aura while wielding a long scythe.

And a beautiful young girl who wore a striped shirt, a long skirt, and black stockings with a pair of cat ears on her head.

Anna.

Kitty.

It was them!

The two seemed to be in a hurry, both of them had various wounds all over their bodies.

"I'm so thirsty!" Anna exclaimed.

She randomly dropped the scythe on the ground, ignored everyone as she came straight for a bottle of liquor on the dining table, practically guzzling it down.

Kitty also loudly complained: "So many spatial warps, I'm so tireddddd!"

She looked for a chair, plopped herself on it, and breathed heavily as she leaned her entire body on one of the armrests.

"Gu Qing Shan, make me a few snacks, I ran completely out of stamina already, I need something to replenish my energy" Kitty said.

Everyone exchanged glances.

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag, took out a few dishes of spirit cooking snacks that he made, arranged them on a tray, and placed it in front of Kitty.

Kitty's eyes practically glowed as she hurriedly caught a couple of snacks and wolfed them down without reserve.

Gu Qing Shan sat down next to her and slowly said: "Eat a bit slower, there's no need to hurry"

"Can't help it, can't change a habit, and my brother eats a lot faster than this"

While stuffing herself, Kitty still managed to answer him.

Gu Qing Shan chuckled and shook his head helplessly.

Kitty and Barry lived in poverty for many years, frequently starving for months at a time, so both of them were used to stuffing every bit of food they saw into their mouths, preventing the other sibling from stealing it.

A white alarm clock abruptly appeared between the two girls.

The minute hand of the clock just ticked over.

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A mechanical voice sounded from the alarm clock: [Attention! Attention!]

[You have three minutes remaining!]

The two girls immediately panicked as they saw that.

"Hey... what was that?" Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask them.

Anna hurriedly explained: "We came from the past to provide you information. It was thanks to this clock that we managed to locate you immediately like this, but as soon as the time on the clock ends, we would need to return right away"

Kitty continued: "Because of that, we don't have any time to lose!"

After saying that, neither of them paid any further attention to Gu Qing Shan.

Like a starving tiger, Kitty sped up eating.

Anna had already finished a bottle of liquor, randomly tossed it to the ground, and went ahead to her next one, pouring it down her throat without a pause.

Everyone: "..."

Ye Fei Li whispered: "Didn't they just say they came here to provide information?"

Laura whispered in return: "Yes, that is certainly what they said"

Gu Qing Shan softly sighed and waved his hand dismissively: "No need to be on guard anymore"

The group put their weapons away.

One minute passed.

Then another half minute.

While still eating, Kitty said with a stern expression:

"Anna, we don't have much time left, let's get to business!"

Anna could only put the second bottle of liquor down, then put the remaining liquor bottles away into her personal storage.

After that was done, she turned around, gave Gu Qing Shan a hug and explained: "We're back here to tell you somethi——- wait, are these two allies?"

She cautiously glanced at the two men on the ground.

"Ah, they impersonated you earlier and tried to lead us into a trap" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Anna scowled.

"This lady in front of you is the God of Death, those who dare to impersonate the God of Death shan't remain with their lives" she declared.

The two men immediately went limp, no longer exuding any signs of life.

They were dead.

Anna turned back and told Gu Qing Shan: "At that moment in the past, we fought together with the army of [Chaos] numerous times. There were victories and defeat, but even as our supplies ran dry, we still couldn't obtain a decisive victory"

The group was surprised.

——no wonder these two seemed like they were starving to death earlier.

Anna continued: "There were several occasions where ultimate victory seemed like it was within our grasp, but still ended up slipping away, mostly due to the Soul Shrieker——— we were not able to kill it no matter what we did"

"Qing Shan, you had to direct the entire campaign and were unable to leave the battlefield, nor could you return to this time period to meet yourself, so you sent the two of us back with a message"

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask: "What was the message I sent to myself?"

"The Soul Shrieker cannot be completely killed. It can always absorb the souls of others to replenish itself"

"Because of that, do not hurry back to the past, you must find that item first"

"What item?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Anna complained: "You were so careful that you didn't even tell me what it is, only that you have a fragment of that item"

A fragment!

Gu Qing Shan recalled what happened in Riddle world.

For a brief moment, the Earth Creator's voice seemed to resound in his ears again:

...

While you have this fragment, you will be able to sense where the spear is 1

Take it, it will lead you towards the location of the spear—— I do not know why, but I can sense that this spear might be a crucial turning point in fighting against the Soul Shrieker J

In truth, I did not discover this at the beginning, I had only left this fragment here in order to send you to that spear's location \(\)

「All hope shall begin there 」

Time... is of the essence \(\)

...

While Gu Qing Shan was carefully reminiscing, the white alarm clock abruptly screamed:

[5 seconds left!]

Anna's face became flushed, then kissed Gu Qing Shan's cheek right in front of everyone.

While Kitty hurriedly packed up the remaining snacks.

[Time's up!]

The alarm clock let out an ear-piercing noise.

Hoh——-

The two girls vanished at the same time.

The group: "..."

Ye Fei Li asked: "What kind of situation is this?"

Chapter 1069

Zhang Ying Hao tossed the corpses of the two muscular men into the space vortex, watching as they slowly faded away into the faraway wind.

After a long while, he turned around and doubtfully asked:

"Boss, Gu Qing Shan, there's something I don't really understand"

Boss crossed his arms and casually replied: "Go head"

"If we're going to save Lady Darksea, why do we insist on doing it right before the moment of her death? After all, her life is very long, we can simply choose a safer moment and bring her back to our era"

Boss shook his head: "In reality, there is nothing more dangerous than temporal matters"

He patted Gu Qing Shan's shoulder and continued: "Look at him, this guy is the only person I've ever seen traveling all the way back to the Age of Old and still managing to survive the ordeal. In truth, I really want to know what period of time he went back to and how he managed to return intact as well"

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: "My situation at the time was actually quite unique, the place I went to consisted of countless fragments of time each from different parallel worlds, even when I entered the true Age of Old which belonged to this Reality, it was a unique point in time that I arrived at"

"A point in time? How unique was this point in time?" Boss pursued the matter.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "That point in time was hidden away by a human called the Immortal King, which was also the moment of his death"

Boss displayed an expression of understanding and followed up: "No wonder, so it was a Temporal Oasis"

Ye Fei Li cut in: "What's a Temporal Oasis?"

"A real point within a timeline that was detached and isolated from the actual flow of time through a unique ability. That's what we call a Temporal Oasis"

Boss paused briefly, then continued: "Alright, guess I'll give you a proper explanation—— there exists a connection between the fate of every 'creature' and every 'thing' in Reality, although this connection might turn out to be strong or weak depending on each case——— do you understand this?"

"I understand" Zhang Ying Hao replied.

"Lady Darksea was one of the strongest individuals within the 900 million World Layers, having participated in numerous occasions throughout the various eras of the 900 million World Layers. She is a living testament to much of its history, to the point that even I have heard of her name"

Gu Qing Shan chimed in: "And she was always the one to personally select rookies to enter the Strife Zones from the infinite worlds"

Boss nodded: "For that reason, she held a determining value within numerous historical occasions, intertwining herself with the fate of numerous people——— do you care to guess if we were to abruptly remove her from any point within that timeline, what kind of influence that would have on history?"

"I'll tell you what would happen, a catastrophic level of influence. Countless events and even the fate of numerous people in history would be altered"

Boss raised two of his finger before explaining: "At this point, there could be two possibilities: firstly, Reality simply gets destroyed; secondly, those people living in history would find events that had clearly happened suddenly vanish from their memories, as if none of it had ever occurred"

"——they would find that many of the events that had clearly happened had abruptly become just a part of their imagination, some might even see secrets from the distant past or brief visions of their future"

Gu Qing Shan had a sudden thought and muttered: "Could it be... this is how parallel worlds are created?"

"Exactly" Boss confirmed it, "When a pivotal moment of turning fate abruptly occurs, one Reality will split into two, both of which will have the same long course of history, except for a single turning point that created two completely different Eras"

"This is one of the reasons why a parallel world would come into existence"

"However Gu Qing Shan, when you returned from the Age of Old, did you happen to see the River of Time?"

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "I did"

He didn't just see it, he had to travel with the Golden Coin and relied on its [True Luck] to avoid the monsters in the River of Time in order to return safely.

Boss continued: "The act of disturbing the past would anger the monsters that rest within the River of Time, at any point that you attempt to interfere with the past, they would immediately sense and attack when you return in an attempt to eliminate you, thus returning history to its original appearance"

"How strong are they?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

"Some are strong, some are weak——— without exaggerating, even at my peak, I would only end up being food for the four strongest kinds of monsters within the River of Time"

Everyone gasped.

Boss continued: "In summary, the more you interfere with the past, the more numerous and powerful the monsters that notice you would be"

"Reality would either be destroyed or would create a parallel world, but regardless of what happens, the culprit who caused it all would be devoured by the monster that protects the River of Time"

"———This is the reason why we can't arbitrarily interfere with the past"

Zhang Ying Hao pondered: "For that reason, at the moment of a person's death, their connection with Reality, its countless people, as well as everything as a whole would be reduced to its weakest"

"Exactly. At the moment of Darksea's death, she had entered a state where she no longer affected others, so taking her from that moment, from a historical standpoint, nothing she did during her long life would be altered or affected"

"At that moment of history, she had, in fact, 'died'. So the act of us taking her from the past would become the 'Cause', with her appearance in the future being the 'Effect', perfectly fulfilling the requirements of the Laws of Causality"

"This way, everything in both the past as well as the future of Reality, which had become our 'history', would not change"

"But thanks to the Causality that we created; she would now exist in the future"

"History, Future, Fate or Causality would all be perfectly adhered to without any fault"

"Thanks to this, after we save and take her to the future, the monster within the River of Time wouldn't be alarmed"

"We will return alive"

"And that is the correct way to time travel"

Boss summarized everything.

Everyone listened.

Gu Qing Shan combined that knowledge with his own experience and recalled the moments that he was devoured by those monsters.

He sighed and whispered to himself: "No wonder I died so many times back then..."

"Gu Qing Shan, what did you say?" Laura asked.

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"Ah, nothing, it's nothing" Gu Qing Shan quickly answered.

Boss continued: "The secret of the Law of Time is still so much deeper. I can talk for one day straight without covering even half of it, but this much should be enough for you right now"

Zhang Ying Hao cut in: "Guys, Anna said that the reason they came back was to have Gu Qing Shan search for something"

"What about it?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Zhang Ying Hao was a bit bothered: "The [Chaos] army would definitely have their own intelligence network, otherwise, they wouldn't be able to grasp Kitty and Anna's movement so accurately"

"Which means—— many people from the [Chaos] army must have remained in this Era, responsible for observing our movements"

Gu Qing Shan suddenly chuckled: "I know exactly what they're afraid of"

"They're monitoring to see whether or not we'll actually return to the past. If we continue to stall without returning, wouldn't that mean they have to meaninglessly wait in the past?"

"Indeed" Boss clapped his hand and continued: "Not only would they be meaninglessly waiting, but they would also need to be careful of avoiding themselves at that time"

Gu Qing Shan decidedly declared: "So, we're temporarily not going to return to the past at all"

Boss replied: "...But if you to do that, they would surely lose their patience and pursue us from the past"

"As soon as they return to the future, we'll immediately make our way to the past" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"..." everyone.

Gu Qing Shan summoned a sword which turned into Shannu.

And Shannu took his appearance.

"The real reason why we're doing this is to stall for time——— I will need to find a certain item, this item will most likely affect the entire outcome of this war" Gu Qing Shan explained.

"Shannu will replace me to accompany you guys to the Bramble Bird Kingdom. We're going to openly spread the news of the Bramble Bird Kingdom rallying people from the 900 million World Layers, keep stalling for time on your return trip and slowly build up our momentum"

"I will secretly leave to look for that item, as soon as I find it, I'll return to meet up with you at the Bramble Bird Kingdom"

"I'll come with you" Zhang Ying Hao said.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

"The fact that they could disguise themselves as Kitty and Anna to directly find us earlier meant that they also have somebody constantly monitoring our movements, that's why not a single one of us can be seen going missing at any point. We can't draw their suspicion or the Soul Shrieker will immediately realize that its ambush had been exposed and return from the past right away"

Laura was confused: "Monitoring us? But none of the anti-clairvoyance artifacts I carry with me reacted at all"

Boss chuckled: "My senses are extremely sensitive, so the other party would definitely not try to use a clairvoyance technique for that. It must be some sort of non-magical monitoring ability, like a super-

distance telescope, or a creature with natural-born eyesight capable of observing other people at extreme distances"

The group agreed.

Laura reached her hand behind her back and undid her hair tie again.

———after retrieving the [Order] Card from the two Deities, Gu Qing Shan had already returned this Twine of Cloud Atlas to her.

"Gu Qing Shan, since you're going to be moving alone, I suggest that you keep this, it will bring you luck" Laura said.

Gu Qing Shan quickly shook his head and refused: "Laura, your way back to the Bramble Bird Kingdom isn't necessarily safe, it's better that you keep it with you"

"I'm not a fool, Gu Qing Shan, don't use such an excuse to act formally with me"

Laura said nothing else and took Gu Qing Shan's hand, getting ready to tie the Twin of Cloud Atlas to his wrist.

Gu Qing Shan still wanted to refuse, but an image suddenly flashed through his mind.

The Age of Old.

I've just obtained the twin swords Heaven and Earth.

The Earth Creator gave me the Golden Coin, considerably reluctant: \(\int \text{Remember, I'm only lending it to you, once I come back, you must return it to me } \)

After that, he told me again: \(\int \) After you come back and settle yourself down, take some time to activate this coin, it will take you back to my world again— where you can return the coin to me \(\int \)

——due to losing his luck, the Earth Creator lost his life at the Reality Gate.

With that thought in mind, Gu Qing Shan abruptly felt an indescribable sense of prophesized fate.

As if some sort of unavoidable deadly calamity was waiting for him within the long future filled with darkness.

-- just like what the Earth Creator had felt.

Gu Qing Shan gave up on refusing.

He let Laura tie the Twine of Cloud Atlas on his wrist and muttered: "Then I'll be keeping it for the next while"

Seeing him no longer hesitant, Laura happily said: "Be careful, we'll be waiting for your return at the Bramble Bird Kingdom"

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[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]

Chapter 1070

Gu Qing Shan stood at the edge of the airship with a colorful fragment in his hand.

This was one of the seven Saint Armaments of the Abyss, a broken fragment of Abaddon.

Through this fragment, Gu Qing Shan was able to sense the location of the spear.

A brief moment of silence.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly recognized the sensation of guidance.

Countless worlds parted ways to either side, so rapidly that one could only faintly observe images of them.

Gu Qing Shan saw the border of the Eternal Abyss.

The scene in front of his eyes didn't stop and continued jetting forward.

——-through the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation capable of destroying all things, heading towards the unknown faraway space vortex.

And yet it was still not far enough.

Even further away, a place outside of the observable range of the 900 million World Layers.

Indeed, the 7-colored spear, Abaddon was here!

Gu Qing Shan abruptly let go and put the fragment back into his Inventory Bag.

"What's the matter?" Laura asked with concern.

"It's a bit far, seems like I'll have to be on my way immediately" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

In truth, the extreme distance wasn't an issue.

Laura could provide him with an airship with enough speed to traverse that.

The real issue was how could a living being make it through the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation.

——-they were gusts of winds strong enough to ravage and destroy entire worlds.

Gu Qing Shan was completely clueless about how to solve this.

Alright, let's just go on my way first, standing here won't solve the issue.

Boss asked: "Which direction are you heading?"

Gu Qing Shan pointed in a certain direction.

"That way?" Boss was surprised, "That's the direction of the Eternal Abyss"

"Hm, I'll need to make my way through the Eternal Abyss, then continue for a bit more" Gu Qing Shan said.

Boss pondered a bit and replied: "It's currently wartime, so the Eternal Abyss won't simply grant anyone passage—— let me communicate with the Abyss first, just to prevent any misunderstandings"

He closed his eyes and went into thought.

A short while later.

Boss appeared surprised.

He opened his eyes: "The Abyss just informed me something, the Demon Dragon didn't just ally itself with the Soul Shrieker, in reality, the Demon Dragon was actually a spy from the parallel world"

"The parallel world has formed an alliance with [Chaos]"

Gu Qing Shan thought of the masked people.

"So they actually allied themselves" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Boss continued: "The Abyss knows that you're looking for the method to fight against the Soul Shrieker, so it had agreed to grant you passage; at the same time, it also knows that you're attempting to awaken an [Order], so it had made an offer"

"What kind of offer?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Boss replied: "If you successfully awaken [Order], then you would become the envoy of [Order], capable of representing [Order] as a whole"

"Through its long observations of you, the Abyss felt that this would be the most pivotal and desperate point in this war, thus offering to ally with [Order] through you as the representative"

"Ally? We're going to form an alliance as well?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

"Indeed, since a few days ago, the Abyss had stopped its backflow into the 900 million World Layers"

Boss continued: "As the 900 million World Layers and Abyss have a common enemy, we should certainly ally ourselves"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Alright, I agree; but I don't even know what the Abyss is"

"The Abyss is the Abyss, it isn't like any other kind of entity, and I'm the representative Abyssal King, so are you willing to ally yourself with me?"

Gu Qing Shan: "I'm willing"

Boss slightly nodded, closed his eyes, and once again contacted the Abyss.

A few moments later.

A bronze ring appeared from the void of space between the two of them.

Boss knelt with one knee to the ground, took the ring, and offered it to Gu Qing Shan with both hands.

This scene was so completely unexpected, the atmosphere turned completely indescribable.

Silence.

Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao both took a few steps back——- clearly trying to hide below the deck.

Laura opened her eyes wide, her jaw practically dropped to the ground.

"This, this, this! Wha-why!?"

She was stuttering.

Gu Qing Shan retained relative calm as he looked confusedly at Boss: "What are you doing?"

Boss replied solemnly: "This is the gift that the Abyss bestowed to you in hope that you will soon be able to awaken [Order], leading the living beings of the 900 million World Layers to fight alongside it"

So that's what that was.

Everyone silently sighed in relief.

Boss continued: "I will inform you this ahead of time: Regardless of who it is, there is a very real chance of death when coming into contact with the Abyss, and this ring is no different——— so you mustn't touch it unless there is no longer any choice. Only at the very last moment before death can you put it on, gambling to see if you can salvage life within certain death"

"Understood"

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand, the ring hovered by itself and was stored in his Inventory Bag.

Boss stood up and went on: "The 900 million World Layers is currently suffering through the pain of [Chaos], I suggest that we immediately declare this alliance to the 900 million World Layers, notifying the Combatants who are still retaliating against [Chaos], which will also serve to encourage their cause"

"I agree" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Laura cut in: "Gu Qing Shan, then how about you return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom first, I'll have this alliance declaration broadcasted to the entire 900 million World Layers, then summon more people. After that is done, you can be on your way"

As Gu Qing Shan was about to talk, he sensed something.

Dong!

Dong!

Dong!

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Dum badum! Dum badum!

A series of lively battle drums resounding through the void. This sensation——-Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li's expressions heavily warped. Boss also backed away, taking 7-8 meters of distance from him. The sound of music seemed faint, yet resounding, it continued on as if excited for something. Gu Qing Shan immediately said: "Not possible! I can't return with you! It should be near the day where I have to perform the dance this month, if an issue actually occurred, it will truly become a huge joke— let's postpone the declaration of the alliance for now" As soon as he said that, the music stopped. Did he stop the music with a declaration? How does that work? Everyone carefully observed Gu Qing Shan. Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and tried probing: "I want to return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom and announce the formation of this alliance in front of the 900 million World Layers, as well as declaring war on [Chaos] and the parallel world" Dum dum dum dum dum! Dum badum badum! Dum badum badum! The sound of drumming returned! Although Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li had retreated really far away, as soon as the music began to play, the two of them squarely returned behind Gu Qing Shan with a 'sha', reforming their formation. Boss noticed that he didn't move. He sighed in relief and muttered: "Seems like, thanks to my status as the Greatest Above the Star Crown—–" Chen cha chen cha chen, jiuu—— jiuu—— Followed by the sound of exciting electronic music! Boss twirled on the spot, then leapt right next to Gu Qing Shan in a graceful ballet step. The four of them were gathered in place.

Boss: "..."

Zhang Ying Hao: "..."

Ye Fei Li: "..."

Gu Qing Shan loudly shouted: "I've decided not to go!"

After a short moment, the drumming stopped again.

Everyone regained control over their bodies, no longer standing in formation.

Everyone sighed in relief again.

"Yeah, I think Gu Qing Shan definitely can't return, otherwise I'll be ruined by this dance for sure" Zhang Ying Hao commented.

Laura pondered as she nodded, muttering: "This dance seemed to have been created for a grand occasion"

Gu Qing Shan wiped the sweat off his forehead, feeling exceeding tired inside.

"Let's just spread the rumors of the alliance first for now. When you return to the Bramble Bird Kingdom, first rally the Combatants, by the time I get back I should have already performed this Dance once, then we'll make an official announcement"

"——I'll be on my way first, farewell"

He finally said.

...

On another side.

Gu Qing Shan's homeworld.

The S.W. Divine Temple.

A screen of light was hovering at the deepest chamber of the interstellar fortress.

Countless notifications were scrolling up on the screen.

[Utilizing 21 of the Starlight Empire's forefront research results]

[Combined with the knowledge, experience, and genetics of Combatants from the 900 million World Layers]

[After collection of previous materials and metals from various worlds]

[This research project has been completed]

[Results are as follow—-]

A small interstellar warship slowly rose from below the ground.

The warship silently laid there as the chamber returned to darkness.

[I've finally completed it, unfortunately, I don't know where he is]

A regretful voice resounded from inside the small interstellar warship.

All of a sudden, the screen of light reappeared, completely cleared of its previous messages.

[The Eternal Abyss had formed an alliance with Order] [The legendary Abyssal King had reached a common consensus with the Envoy of Order, Gu Qing Shan] [The two sides will make the official announcement of their alliance at the Bramble Bird Kingdom!] After those notifications popped up, they swiftly vanished from the screen. Oong---A thunderous sound of rumbling resounded from inside the S.W. Divine Temple. The upper ceilings of the fortress were opened. An enthusiastic female voice resounded across the entire interstellar fortress: [Preparing] [The Super Space-Time war equipment had been loaded, target: Mystic Zones, Bramble Bird Kingdom] [Three] [Two] [One] [Launch!] Oom---Chapter 1071 Gu Qing Shan's homeworld. The S.W. Divine Temple. Kachak! Kachak! The heavy voice of metal impact sounded. Two figures descended from above, landing inside the fortress. A heavy male voice came from behind the metallic helmet: "The fluctuations of the Abyss have completely stopped" A clear female voice replied: "That's right, we can finally get some rest"

A new notification appeared at the very top:

The man was tall and burly, wearing a black leather jacket as well as fingerless gloves. He took out a cigar from his pocket, lit it up, and took a long drag from it.

The metallic bodysuits were swiftly taken off their bodies, revealing their appearances.

The female was short, slender, and stylish, wearing a miniskirt, long black stockings, and a white shirt, her hair was tied into a ponytail as her cat ears lightly twitched.

Barry and Kitty.

They had just returned from outer space.

Kitty stretched and yawned: "Hah, I'm going relax a bit at the spa before going window shopping again"

Barry also said: "Then I'm going to get a drink, we'll meet up again when it's time for dinner"

"Alright"

Kitty replied and was about to use her spatial warp.

All of a sudden, their Holo-brains both lit up.

A cold, mechanical voice resounded from within:

[Reporting, I'm currently traveling through the Super Dimensional passage, estimated to reach the vicinity of the Justice Iron Fist Club in 1 minute. Requesting permission to enter]

A scene was displayed on the Holo-brain.

A small interstellar warship was rapidly traveling through the space vortex.

Lines of descriptive text appeared on the screen:

[Transporting war equipment]

[Transport approved by: Impartial Goddess]

Kitty was surprised: "You're heading to the Iron Fist Club?"

Impartial Goddess's voice resounded within the interstellar fortress: [The Justice Iron Fist Club is the closest known Super Dimensional world to the Mystic Zones, capable of accommodating transport to the vicinity of the Bramble Bird Kingdom, as such, I am requesting permission to enter]

Barry also asked: "Goddess, you're sending a technological war equipment to the Bramble Bird Kingdom?"

[Correct, Mister Barry. According to the information I received, Gu Qing Shan's group will soon arrive at the Bramble Bird Kingdom]

Barry and Kitty exchanged glances.

Having been here for so long, they know about what happened in this world before they arrived.

The Impartial Goddess had always been on Gu Qing Shan's side.

"Alright, I'll return to the Club to grant you passage right away" Kitty said.

Her body flashed and vanished from the interstellar fortress.

Barry stood there by himself, his expression was cold.

As Gu Qing Shan's homeworld had become a Super Dimensional world, it was now connected to the 900 million World Layers and received information from every corner of it.

The Era of [Chaos] had descended, ravaging the 900 million World Layers.

Many carriers of [Chaos] did everything they could, some even attempted things they couldn't, to destroy order and civilization; for the sake of quickly becoming stronger, they spared no acts of villainy.

Furthermore, they had a Deity on their side, if something truly went wrong, they would simply pay a heavy price to summon the power of their Deity.

And no one could fight against the Deity of [Chaos].

Even more importantly——

[Order] hadn't returned.

The Eternal Abyss hadn't gotten it easy either, having been nearly destroyed by the parallel world, it had only just regained its footing recently.

The situation was rapidly deteriorating.

The 900 million World Layers as a whole was speeding down the slippery of destruction.

Is the ultimate battle approaching?

Barry clenched his fist tightly, glancing down at his Holo-brain.

"Tell me, how long until Gu Qing Shan's group makes it back to the Bramble Bird Kingdom?"

The Holo-brain quickly responded: [A day and a half]

Barry nodded: "Tell the guys, we're all heading there when the time comes"

[Understood, Mister Barry]

Barry turned off his Holo-brain, grabbed a bottle of liquor randomly from the void of space and poured it down his throat.

Then...

First, I'll go to the bar and drink my heart out.

A day and a half later, I'll meet up with Gu Qing Shan in the Bramble Bird Kingdom and prepare everyone for a fight

Barry quickly decided on a course of action.

•••

The Justice Iron Fist Club.

Kitty stood at the door of the Club, maintaining the Super Dimensional passage.

A small interstellar warship slowly appeared from the void of space.

Kitty picked up her personal Holo-brain and asked: "Goddess, you there?"

A cold, emotionless electronic voice resounded from Kitty's Holo-brain:

[Miss, in accordance with the Goddess' approval, this operation is being conducted by the S9003 advanced transportation system. Impartial Goddess still remains on the homeworld to manage its every aspect, thus unavailable here]

"She didn't come? Alright, I've already contacted the Bramble Bird Kingdom" Kitty glanced at the front of the warship and continued: "Destination, Mystic Zones, border of the Bramble Tree world"

She reached her hand out and abruptly pressed the void of space.

A circular passage manifested in front of the interstellar warship, the other side could be seen to be a world full of flowers and greenery.

The warship swiftly made its way inside.

As Kitty pulled her hand back, the passage soon disappeared.

At this time, a line of notification appeared on her Holo-brain:

[Boss Barry's group message:]

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[One and half a day later, Gu Qing Shan and the Abyssal King will arrive at the Bramble Bird Kingdom, everyone please make sure to come and provide aid]

Kitty couldn't help cracking her knuckles.

——so, the real battle is about to begin huh?

This war will be completely unlike any previous ones.

The future of the 900 million World Layers, perhaps even the Eternal Abyss, will be decided in this war.

This would surely be a tough battle, as the other side even has support of a Deity.

There is only a day and a half left, then...

Let's go window shopping first.

A day and a half later, I'll go with big bro to the Bramble Bird Kingdom to meet up with Gu Qing Shan.

Kitty quickly made her decision.

...

The small interstellar warship made its way to the border of the Bramble Bird Kingdom border.

The Bramble Bird General Ilya was already here with several guards, waiting.

Both the Justice Iron Fist Club and Gu Qing Shan were trustworthy allies of the Bramble Bird Kingdom, so she had come to personally receive this matter.

At this point, an electronic voice sounded from the small interstellar warship:

[In accordance with Impartial Goddess' approval, this operation is being conducted by the S9003 advanced transportation system, here to deliver war equipment for his excellency Gu Qing Shan, please provide me positional direction]

——who would've thought, Gu Qing Shan's Super Dimensional world was a technological world.

Ilya thought that as she evaluated the small interstellar warship.

"Please wait a moment"

Ilya took out an emerald green leaf and tossed it out.

The emerald green leaf scattered into specks of light and manifested Laura's appearance.

Laura asked some unseen people behind her:

"It looks like something for Gu Qing Shan, apparently from Impartial Goddess"

Zhang Ying Hao's voice emerged from a bit further away: "Impartial Goddess had always been trustworthy, and something that she personally sent must be quite decent, let it come to us"

"But we're still quite a bit of distance away——"

"It's ok" Ye Fei Li's voice came: "Our warp technology has already reached maturity a while ago. After Impartial Goddess conducted a joint scientific research with several technological experts from the Blade Edge Pledge, they further perfected it to the point of being capable of warping through World Layers"

"That impressive? Alright then"

Laura was apparently surprised and turned to tell Ilya: "Provide it our airship's coordinates, we'll remain here, for now, to wait for the delivery"

"Understood"

As the green light scattered, the conversation ended.

Ilya then took out a star chart, raised it in her hand, and asked a bit doubtfully: "Can you understand this star chart?"

A small light shined from the small interstellar warship and scanned the star chart.

A stiff and mechanical voice replied: [I have all airship routes available within the 900 million World Layers, please do not worry]

[Then, farewell]

Layers of light enveloped the small interstellar warship.

At the next split second, space itself rippled like waves in an ocean as the small interstellar warship simply vanished.

Having carefully watched this, Ilya muttered to herself: "When it comes to efficiency, technology is truly as impressive as they say"

..

Not too long later.

The small interstellar warship arrived at the position of the Bramble Bird airship.

Laura was really surprised: "Whoa, it came so quickly, can it take us back to the Bramble Bird Kingdom first?"

A stiff electronic voice sounded from the interstellar warship:

[My apologies, the mission of this trip is to deliver war equipment to his excellency Gu Qing Shan]

Laura asked with intrigue: "I heard that your world's central technological processing system is called Impartial Goddess?"

The electronic voice responded: [The Goddess remained on the homeworld in order to manage the situation, I am the S9003 advanced transportation system]

"Is that so?" Laura didn't really mind and asked behind her: "Zhang Ying Hao, what now?"

Zhang Ying Hao calmly replied: "Since we have confirmation from Barry and Kitty, as well as confirmation of the Super Dimensional passage authority from my homeworld and the Justice Iron Fist Club, there should be no issues"

Laura nodded and called out: "Boss—-"

"Alright, I'll do it"

Boss walked forward, glanced at the interstellar warship, and said: "Open your door, I'll explain the situation to you inside"

The door of the interstellar warship swiftly opened.

Boss went inside, then projected several isolation techniques around the ship before started explaining:

"We only have a fake Gu Qing Shan here"

"The real Gu Qing Shan had just left. I can draw out his projected route for you"

"You need to quickly find him because I only know his airship route up to the border of the Abyss. After that, none of us know for sure what he would do—— this was for the sake of safety and secrecy"

The electronic voice paused briefly before replying: [Please draw his projected airship route for me]

Boss gathered a cluster of light at the tip of his finger and said: "Project our current position"

A screen of light showed up to display the void coordinate chart of this relative location.

Boss put his finger on the screen and began to draw the route.

A few moments later.

"There, quickly go and deliver what you need to deliver, otherwise you might not be able to find him"

After saying so, Boss left the interstellar warship.

After the blink of an eye.

The small interstellar warship vanished from next to the Bramble Bird airship.

...

In the void, layer after layer of invisible fluctuations were being passed through by the warship.

It moved forward, and further forward, passing through countless worlds, and kept moving forward.

After an undetermined amount of time.

A joyful female voice resounded on the interstellar warship:

[I found you!]

Chapter 1072

Gu Qing Shan held an emerald green leaf in his hand as he seriously listened to Laura.

"...And so, your Super Dimensional world is transporting some sort of equipment to you, stay there and wait for a little bit"

Laura explained to Gu Qing Shan.

"Then I'll remain here for a short while" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

Laura's concerned voice sounded from the leaf: "Up ahead is the Eternal Abyss, the Great Bramble Tree leaf's positional sense of you will be blocked out by the power of the Abyss, so you need to be careful about yourself"

"Don't worry" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Their communication ceased.

Gu Qing Shan's airship slowed down and eventually stopped in the space vortex.

Not too long later.

Invisible spatial fluctuations appeared from the void.

A small interstellar warship silently appeared next to Gu Qing Shan.

"The warship's design still hadn't changed, huh..."

Observing the familiar warship design of his world, Gu Qing Shan sighed in reminiscent.

It's been a very long time since I returned.

----when can this war end?

One day, if true peace can be achieved, I really want to return to my homeworld and just enjoy a mundane life for a while.

While carefully observing the warship, he silently thought.

A screen of light suddenly appeared from a metallic cube inside the warship.

The screen displayed Gu Qing Shan's appearance.

Lines of text swiftly appeared following that:

[Detected three flying swords hidden behind him in the void]

[Detected an extremely powerful defensive armament equipped to his body]

[Detected a cloak with power and movement concealment features]

[Detected a twine exuding Mystic-type presence on his wrist]

[Detected a legendary pendant: Life Exchange Contract]

[This is...]

[There's no place for me at all...]

A worried female voice filled the inside of the metallic shell.

All of a sudden, the image on the screen zoomed in, focusing on Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

[Material: Flaxen cloth]

[Preliminary assessment, he's temporarily blind]

Outside the warship, Gu Qing Shan had just snapped himself out from his myriad thoughts.

He walked in front of the small interstellar warship and asked: "Are you the war equipment created by Impartial Goddess?"

An electronic voice resounded from the warship:

[Indeed, sir. I will need to authenticate your identity now]

The door of the warship opened.

"Alright"

Gu Qing Shan gladly replied.

He then went inside the small interstellar warship and performed the various checks for fingerprints, iris, blood sample, and brainwave.

The electronic voice resounded again:

[Identity authentication completed]

[Your Excellency Gu Qing Shan, please receive the greatest crystallization of a Technological civilization, created by Impartial Goddess]

"Greatest crystallization? Is that really what Impartial Goddess said?" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

The electronic voice remained completely emotionless and replied: [Indeed, this equipment was crafted from the existing scientific foundation of the Starlight Empire, Impartial Goddess' accomplished improvement of 23 different technologies, combined with the support of over a dozen technological experts from the 900 million World Layers]

A metallic cube in the middle of the warship slowly opened.

To reveal a long, black piece of cloth.

A black piece of cloth?

Gu Qing Shan was a bit unsure.

He stood still.

The electronic voice resounded again: [Your Excellency, please replace the piece of cloth in front of your eyes with this]

Gu Qing Shan said: "That's not the issue, I'm just——- is the greatest crystallization of science and technology just a piece of cloth?"

The electronic voice replied: [It has numerous uses, but a majority of them have yet to be put into official use. Furthermore, it should be quite beneficial to the injuries of your eyes]

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan undid the black cloth covering his eyes and replaced it with this new one.

Oong——

An electronic voice sounded from the black cloth:

[Synchronizing brain waves]

[Synchronization completed]

[Conducting examination of your excellency's eye injury. This will require an eye scan and blood sample, please forgive any discomfort]

[Sample collected, beginning analysis]

[...Through 79 analysis, the following conclusion has been drawn:]

[Your eye injury was a result of overuse, preliminary assessments suggested injuries were a result of enduring excessive load to construct a spell or technique]

[Treatment plan has been constructed]

[Beginning cellular regeneration and healing]

Gu Qing Shan started feeling a sense of coolness over his eyes.

A line of text appeared on the War God UI:

[Your eyes are currently undergoing treatment; your eyesight will return in an estimated time of 15 hours]

At the same time, Gu Qing Shan felt that he was now able to see.

The world was being clearly displayed in front of his eyes.

"This is... brainwave imaging technology? I remember there were still a few problems that haven't been resolved, weren't there?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Your Excellency, all problems have been resolved] the electronic voice from the black cloth answered him.

Gu Qing Shan praised: "Impressive indeed"

The black cloth continued: [Your Excellency, this Super Dimensional equipment still contains a lot of unique functions, please conduct the appropriate tests and experiments after your treatment is over]

"Alright"

Gu Qing Shan replied and was about to board the airship Laura provided to continue on his way.

The black piece of cloth abruptly continued: [Your Excellency, your airship is too slow, please ride this newest model of interstellar warship——- its appearance wasn't changed only because of the recent nostalgia trends]

Gu Qing Shan observed the interstellar warship, then back at his airship.

Before he even said anything, a flash of light emerged from the black cloth that scanned the airship from top to bottom.

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[Your Excellency, I will help you store it] the black piece of cloth said.

"You can store things as well?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Naturally. The creation of a unique subspace for item storage is one of the basic functions of this equipment]

...

Gu Qing Shan sat in the small interstellar warship and continued moving forward through the space vortex.

The warship was impressively fast and even occasionally performed long-distance spatial warp.

Each time, the scenery outside the warship would intensely warp.

——this was due to the extreme speed that caused the scenery to be stretched into a thin long string.

"Our warp technology matured to such a degree?" Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

The electronic voice replied: [Indeed, Your Excellency, all of it originally came from the achievements of the Starlight Empire's civilization, it used to be the most Technologically advanced world within the Inner Plane]

A few moments later.

The flight speed gradually decreased.

He had passed through the Eternal Abyss, arriving at the other side of it.

Gu Qing Shan stowed the small interstellar warship away and stood alone at the border of the Abyss.

There was a small veranda here.

——-the Eternal Abyss is truly strange, why is there a red brick veranda at its outermost border?

Gu Qing Shan lightly stepped onto the red brick and no longer paid any attention to this.

He had serious business to attend to.

Taking out the 7-colored fragment, he waited for a few moments.

A sense of feedback quickly arrived from the fragment.

Forward.

Continue forward.

Through the Winds of Tribulation, towards the unknown and even beyond that, he would then reach the 7-colored spear Abaddon.

Gu Qing Shan randomly took out a spirit stone and tossed it into the darkness in front of him.

Hoh---

With the sound of a gust of wind, the spirit stone swiftly vanished from his sight.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

This is the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation that can destroy everything.

How should I go past it?

All of a sudden, a flying figure appeared behind him from a distance.

This was a monkey-like Abyssal monster.

Gu Qing Shan reciprocated the bow and asked: "How should I make it past this area of Winds of Chaotic Tribulation in front of us?"

The monster replied: \(\text{No creature can safely travel through the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation. If you must pass through the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation no matter what, you will have to slide down following the outermost layer of the Abyss \(\text{J} \)

"You mean it would be safe to slide down the outermost layer of the Abyss?"

Indeed, the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation cannot reach the Abyss, as long as you stick close and continue to slide down until you reach the Ocean, you will be safe \(\)

"The Ocean?"

Indeed, the wind does not reach the Ocean. As long as you remain underwater, you will be able to avoid the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation

"Understood, thank you very much" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He walked up to the edge of the Abyss and trekked along the verge.

Sure enough, the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation within the darkness continuously howled, but would not reach the border of the Abyss, so he started to descend.

At some point, the wall behind Gu Qing Shan began to change, turning from brick to boiling magma.

As he continued heading downwards, the wall of the Eternal Abyss became a wall of flesh.

Gu Qing Shan didn't feel that to be nauseating.

He simply focused on heading downwards, until he finally sensed an ocean around half a day later.

Gu Qing Shan slowed his descent and softly landed on the surface of the water.

He looked around.

The only to find the darkness of the void, as well as a never-ending howling wind, blowing on the surface of the water causing huge surging tidal waves.

Lines of text appeared on the black cloth in front of his eyes:

[Sea water composition normal, temperature -30 C (-22 F), no living lifeforms detected]

Gu Qing Shan listened and pondered: "That's a bit cold..."

——he was naturally not afraid of the cold, but he didn't like it.

He wielded the Chao Yin sword.

The seawater parted.

Gu Qing Shan flew under and made his way through the seawater below in the endless darkness at his maximum speed.

After flying for several hours without stopping under the water surface, he finally made it to the other side of the wall.

This wall began at the seabed and continued to stretch endlessly upward, making it hard to infer where it actually reached.

For now, Gu Qing Shan didn't try to follow the wall upward.

Because this wall was simply something on his way according to the guidance of the 7-colored fragment.

——-and because of the lines of text being displayed on the black cloth:

[This wall was estimated to have existed over 500 million years. No traces of dead or spiritual lifeforms within a range of 300km. Miniscule dead cells of various lifeforms detected on the wall, through which the system concluded that many lifeforms have touched his wall at one point. Detected a residue of a summoning-type technique, the analysis suggested that a technique of this nature had recently been performed]

Gu Qing Shan then reached his hand out to touch the wall.

All of a sudden, the world seemed to have vanished.

Gu Qing Shan found himself standing within endless darkness.

An illusion?

While he was thinking that, Gu Qing Shan abruptly looked up.

Only to sense four clusters of light silently manifesting from the endless darkness above.

They slowly descended——-

Boom!!!

With a thunderous boom, the light stormed through the darkness and completely removed it from this world.

The four clusters of light stood at four corners, surrounding Gu Qing Shan.

They gradually manifested as four gigantic heads that were around 10 meters tall, silently staring at Gu Qing Shan.

A solemn voice declared from within the void:

Traveler from far, you must obey the Law of the Four Pillar Gods of the void in order to gain entry into the secret passage of the Dusty World J

The four Pillar Gods of the void?

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised, then answered: "... I... will obey"

Chapter 1073

As soon as Gu Qing Shan declared 'I obey', a sparkle of light descended from above and was absorbed into his body.

———was I granted passage?

While Gu Qing Shan was pondering, he saw a line of text appear on the black cloth in front of his eyes:

[According to the power fluctuation and its uniqueness, it is assumed that the pledge was a magical contract from a Void Deity]

Lines of glowing text also appeared on the War God UI:

[You've been bounded by an irresistible pledge to the four Gods]

[Following this, you must obey the Laws of the Four Pillar Gods of the void, otherwise, you will be directly crushed to death under the four great powers of the void]

The Laws of the Four Pillar Gods...

Gu Qing Shan checked his Soul Points that were growing sparser by the day, but couldn't help but ask: "What are the Laws?"

[Temporarily unsure]

The War God UI replied.

After it gave the answer, Gu Qing Shan's remaining Soul Points value was deducted by 200.

Gu Qing Shan saw his Soul Points value go down and complained: "Oi, you only answered 'unsure' and you still took Soul Points?"

[Yes, I did] the War God UI replied.

Then he was deducted another 200 Soul Points.

Gu Qing Shan felt irritated.

But he didn't want to respond to this UI right now.

Rumble rumble!

A wall within the darkness slowly parted, revealing an underground passage that was filled with seawater.

There was no light.

Only Gu Qing Shan lightly hovered alone in front of the passage.

He was still wielding the Chao Yin sword.

The seawater couldn't reach him.

Gu Qing Shan pondered.

He was concerned with the pledge to the four Pillar Gods of the void.

The four Pillar Gods had performed a spell that made everyone who entered their passage pledge absolute obedience to their Laws, but never stated what the Laws were.

This basically meant that———

Either you do not enter, or you must obey whatever Laws that are revealed after your pledge, or you will die.

It could completely be seen just how careful the Pillar Gods were with this passage.

"How interesting..."

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

At this point, lines of text showed up on his black cloth:

[Please remove the black cloth in front of your eyes]

[Your vision has been recovered]

[Please do not activate your Iris Technique within the next hour, otherwise, your eyes will be injured once again]

Gu Qing Shan happily removed the black cloth, only to see that it was still completely dark.

He casually formed a hand seal to gather light on his finger, using that to illuminate the dark water.

In his vision, the wall had opened up to reveal a large tunnel, which was actually an underwater passage.

——my eyes really did heal!

"None of Laura's many serums were able to cure the wound caused by the World Technique, who would've thought Impartial Goddess would be able to figure out a solution so quickly" Gu Qing Shan emotionally sighed.

An electronic voice resounded from the black cloth: [Knowledge changes the future, and science will change one's life]

Gu Qing Shan smiled, then asked: "Can you turn into something else? Because I don't need a cloth to cover my eyes now"

[Naturally]

The black cloth in his hand turned into a puddle of glowing liquid.

"What is this?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[As the wall had shown traces of more than one person touching it, for the sake of his excellency's safety, I have transformed into a human-surface-characteristics-adjusting device]

This puddle of glowing liquid was quickly absorbed into Gu Qing Shan's skin and vanished without a trace.

A few moments later.

Gu Qing Shan used inner sight to observe himself, noticing that his appearance had been slightly altered.

Just a tiny change on his eyebrows and visage had managed to turn him into a completely different person.

——-although, it seems like I've gotten a bit more handsome.

[Are you pleased?] the electronic voice asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I think... there's no need to make me this handsome. I need an unassuming appearance in order to avoid attention"

The electronic voice spoke with a serious voice:

[Your excellency is incorrect. A person of your excellency's caliber must shine above all else]

[The equipment had decided that your excellency should use this appearance]

[The cosmetic alteration has been completed, a friendly reminder: There are a million ways to change one's appearance, but safety is the best way; an unprofessional procedure would only cause tears to flow, please use Impartial Goddess' genetic cosmetic alteration for all appearance altering purposes]

[—–Because you deserve it~]

Gu Qing Shan: "..."

Apparently, every system had its own quirks.

The War God UI was a total miser; the [Demon King Order] turned out to be an unashamed thief and robber; while this [Super Dimensional device] from Impartial Goddess seemed to be quite vain.

Gu Qing Shan felt another headache incoming.

Regardless, at least my eyesight has actually recovered.

And an adjustment of appearance is convenient for the future.

Although being too handsome isn't necessarily a good thing, it's at least different from my real appearance.

——let's move.

Gu Qing Shan wielded the Chao Yin sword, split the water and headed into the passage.

At first, the passage was level, so Gu Qing Shan simply had to fly forward, but as time went by, it began to tilt downward and eventually became a straight drop.

The entire passage was filled with water, there would occasionally be some strange sea creatures as well.

These sea creatures were basically docile, only some would occasionally try to touch Gu Qing Shan from curiosity.

Gu Qing Shan carefully avoided them, wielding the Chao Yin sword to split the water while also wielding the Earth sword in his other hand, preparing to fight as soon as it was necessary.

He continued flying downwards.

The water-filled passage gradually became narrower and narrower, until a point where there was only enough space for one person to pass at a time.

As time passed, after diving down for a few hundred thousand meters, Gu Qing Shan finally saw the bottom of the passage.

——it was completely clean with nothing here.

How is that possible?

Gu Qing Shan summoned the [True Crimson Demon Spear] and stabbed it to the ground.

Crack!

The ground opened up!

Gu Qing Shan's figure flashed and left the passage.

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This place was an even deeper area of the sea, filled with darkness and silence.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to observe and found that right above the water surface was an immeasurably long wall.

Then...

Did the four Pillar Gods drill a hole through the wall that led to the very bottom of it?

——-that can't be right, there was clearly no path forward, It was just after I broke through that I managed to get here.

Gu Qing Shan found things to be stranger and stranger.

Suddenly, he noticed something out of the ordinary within his inner sight.

Several miles away from his location, several black figures were floating in the water before slowly swimming towards where he was.

For some reason, as soon as Gu Qing Shan noticed those black figures, he felt goosebumps all over his body.

———he saw multitudes of bones behind those black figures.

"Strange, what are these things protecting?"

Gu Qing Shan quickly pondered this, the sense of unease was growing stronger in his mind.

He focused his inner sight and carefully scanned through the wall above the water.

The wall was completely flat without any obvious differences.

Gu Qing Shan used the [True Crimson Demon Spear] to slash the wall again.

Sparks flew.

A deep hole appeared.

Indeed, the [True Crimson Demon Spear] could cut the wall apart, but that was meaningless.

The entire water surface was being covered by this wall.

Without mentioning how much effort it would take, by the time Gu Qing Shan manages to cut open a path, those monsters would have already reached him.

At this point.

The black figures seemed to have noticed him cutting the wall and abruptly speeding up!

An electronic voice resounded in Gu Qing Shan's ears:

[Combat appraisal function turned on]

[The difference in power between you and them are too great, unable to resist their attack]

[The two sides will establish visual contact in one minute, please avoid combat! Please avoid combat!]

This was Impartial Goddess' [Super Dimensional device] reminding him.

Gu Qing Shan regained his calm and observed his surroundings.

Below him was the deep sea, even his inner sight couldn't reach the very bottom;

There were irresistible monsters in front of him, quickly approaching;

There was nothing but the deep ocean behind him, where black figures were also showing up.

What should I do now?

There's no time!

Gu Qing Shan didn't hesitate any longer and jumped back into the passage where he came out.

With how narrow this passage is, those big black figures would definitely not be able to enter.

How there's no guarantee that they wouldn't have things like tentacles or feelers that would be able to reach inside.

Gu Qing Shan used [Ground Shrink] over and over, heading back where he came from.

Finally, the passage had widened again, where all sorts of strange sea creatures were swimming around.

A minute had already passed, as the seawater below the passage was surging forward like an intense wind current.

000-- 000-- 000--

Strange noises resounded from the bottom of the passage.

Following that, the tidal waves were violently flowing up the vertical passage!

Although he had gotten far away from the end of the passage, Gu Qing Shan didn't let his guard down for even a second.

His figure continued flashing forward, traveling several ten thousand miles away from the violent tidal waves.

Oom!

A thunderous heavy voice resounded throughout the passage.

「Hu... man...」

The voice resounded and echoed through the water as if everything around him was uttering this word.

Human?

Gu Qing Shan focused his mind and glanced towards a swimming sea fish.

A brief moment later.

He had vanished.

There was now an extra fish within this passage.

The fish continued swimming towards the entrance of the passage.

A few moments later.

Those heavy voices finally disappeared.

Half an hour later.

An electronic voice sounded in Gu Qing Shan's ear: [The other party has left]

This was the same as Gu Qing Shan's assumption.

He sighed in relief.

——why was there nothing below?

Even when I had cut open an exit, it was only a trap to a place where death was practically assured.

After a while of pondering, the fish made a U-turn and began swimming downwards again.

While quickly making its way through the passage, the fish released his inner sight to observe the walls of the passage.

Time slowly passed.

Until finally, when the passage was about to become narrow, the fish stopped.

It swam back and forth between two walls, watching one wall, then the other wall.

The electronic voice sounded: [Your excellency's assumption was correct, one of these walls appeared the exact same as the others, the material was different and it was hollow]

The fish turned back into Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan drew his sword and lightly slashed the wall open.

The wall was cut through.

A new passage appeared to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan leapt inside and flew forward within the darkness for a few moments before jumping up.

Sha!

He had gone out of the water, standing on top of dry land.

The corner of Gu Qing Shan's lip curled up slightly as he muttered in a low voice: "I see, someone disguised the passage leading to this place as a wall in order to prevent others from also making their way through"

"... What a... scheming individual"

Gu Qing Shan looked up and checked his surroundings.

He saw four large statues, one of which was a gigantic head manifested purely from the grey mist.

——it was the Earth Creator.

Chapter 1074

Four stone statues

They were extremely life-like.

The statue of the Earth Creator's head seemed almost like it was actually mist, but on closer inspection, one would see that it was actually stone.

Other than the Earth Creator, there were also three other stone statues.

A monster with three heads hovering above lava;

A graceful soaring hawk with countless blades hovering around his body;

A jet-black giant who donned a deep blue crown of ice on his head;

It seemed like they were the other three Gods.

This was the first time that Gu Qing Shan had seen all four Pillar Gods of the void, so he was a bit in awe.

Sparks of starlight abruptly appeared on his body.

———it was the pledge to the four Pillar Gods earlier!

Sensing this starlight, all four statues began to move.

A small cluster of stars emanated endless light that enveloped Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan found himself becoming unprecedentedly weak.

Realizing what was going on, he quickly stowed the sleeping Heaven sword into his Inventory Bag.

A split second later, his spirit energy was completely gone.

He slowly lost his inhuman body strength.

His inner sight faded away.

He couldn't help but glanced at the War God UI, only to see his Soul Points value being displayed as [0/600].

Not even Soul Points remained!

The giant then continued with its thunderous booming voice:

The secret passage is filled with danger, for the safety of living beings, we have bestowed mercy, allowing you to keep a single ability]

Gu Qing Shan sensed a mystical technique imbued into his body.

This technique used telepathy to inform that he was allowed to keep one ability.

And the 'ability' mentioned here wasn't any of the basic forms of power that the four Pillar Gods sealed away earlier, but rather a technique or spell that Gu Qing Shan was capable of performing.

Gu Qing Shan quickly pondered this.

——-under the circumstance where I've lost all power and need to enter an area with unknown dangers, which ability should I keep?

Even if I lost all of my powers.

I still have my sword.

Although powerful sword techniques that required spirit energy to perform couldn't be used, with my experience and skill, there should be no issues fighting with a sword.

Under such a situation, what would I need?

——the Lightning Thaumaturgy, [Dreamjolt]!

This was a powerful subduing technique that can decide or turn the tide of a battle to the death!

Gu Qing Shan focused his mind.

Right away, arcs of light blue electricity appeared along his arm.

It was quite strange, while he was using [Dreamjolt], his spirit energy would be completely unhindered by anything.

But as soon as he attempted to use spirit energy for anything else, his spirit energy would immediately vanish.

He had truly been restricted to a single ability.

Gu Qing Shan sighed but felt no dejection.

After all, any amount of people who entered this place before he did would have lost all of their powers as well.

And a sword cultivator was one of the strongest Professions when it came to killing in close combat; under a situation where everyone had lost their power, a sword cultivator could still put up a considerable fight without using any spirit energy.

——not to mention, I still have [Dreamjolt].

After the four statues deprived Gu Qing Shan's power, they gradually became dim and returned to their motionless state.

Darkness slowly filled the area again.

All of a sudden, a whisper resounded from the giant's statue:

[I recognize it]

He slowly moved and crouched down, staring seriously at Gu Qing Shan.

The snow-white hawk silently swooped down, his body shrunk before landing on Gu Qing Shan's shoulder, also whispering: \(\Gamma\) I have also recognized it \(\Gamma\)

The three-headed monster also flew out from the magma and hovered in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The three heads observed him at the same time before speaking in unison: Γ Indeed, I can also sense it

Gu Qing Shan was confused and asked: "What are you talking about?"

The Earth Creator turned into a cluster of grey mist and drifted around Gu Qing Shan's body: The Coin of the Earth— you carry with you the Coin of the Earth, which means you are the Earth God! J

The giant followed up: Γ There are no mistakes. As we did not recognize his identity earlier, it must mean that an old comrade of ours had given him a hand, becoming the protector of his secret J

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

He didn't think that just the statues of the four Pillar Gods would be able to notice the Coin of the Earth in his possession and recognize his real identity.

He clearly recognized the attitude of the four statues changing.

They seriously observed Gu Qing Shan and discussed something among themselves.

We have predicted such a situation before J

Indeed, in the case that something of such nature occurred, we have made the preparations 1

The reserve spells have not been used]

As the successor of a Pillar God, he has the right to know everything J

The giant with a crown abruptly declared: Γ Wind God, you perform the spell, I will tell him of the infinite worlds' past J

「Hm」

The snow-white hawk replied, abruptly took flight, and lightly pecked Gu Qing Shan's forehead.

Gu Qing Shan felt his mind shivering in shock.

The world silently went away from him.

He found that the four statues, as well as the passage and the seawater below rapidly flowing away like grains of sand, while he remained within a scene of primal chaos.

Within the howling sound of wind the giant's hearty voice resounded:
The Pearl of Infinite Worlds, Master of the Star River, Blessed One of the Inner Plane, Grand Empress of the Pantheon, Reneedol J

A world abruptly unfurrowed itself in front of Gu Qing Shan's vision.

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Gu Qing Shan now found himself standing in the middle of an extremely gorgeous and luxurious palace.

And a woman of extreme beauty sat across him on the throne.

Countless stars existed behind her, constantly being born as well as destroyed.

Countless Deities was kneeling beneath her throne.

Gu Qing Shan looked around and abruptly saw Boss.

Boss was wearing a set of armor made from pure light, exuding the power of infinite Origin as he wielded a long spear and stood behind the woman.

Boss walked in front of the woman, respectfully bowed to her, then stood up and headed into the sky under everyone's intentional gazes.

The giant's thunderous voice continued: The Abyssal King was the strongest of the Deities, the master of the Inner Plane, a friend of the void, temporal, and mysticism monsters. He vowed to protect

Reneedol and helped her ascend the throne, while he headed into the Eternal Abyss and became responsible for ensuring that the Inner Plane would never undergo any corruption from the void J

The Abyssal King fought by our side, going against hundreds and thousands of Apocalypses, allowing the Inner Plane and the void to enjoy its peace and prosperity J

Countless battles of Deific proportions flashed by Gu Qing Shan's eyes, enough to make him feel dizzy.

「Such a life continued for 3000 years 」

The flashing scenes stopped.

Gu Qing Shan now found himself standing on the very verge of the Eternal Abyss.

Boss pointed below the Abyss, slowly informing the Grand Empress something.

He had the gentlest look in his eyes.

Gu Qing Shan saw the four Pillar Gods standing in the void, as well as numerous powerful monsters and even unknown entities.

He saw someone he was familiar with as well.

The manipulator of time, the Unextinguishing Sand, Fusi.

These unimaginably powerful entities were all earnestly listening to Boss' explanation of something.

And then, these entities followed behind Boss to head below the Abyss.

——-it was the same route that Gu Qing Shan took.

The scene changed again.

Within a silent secret room, Boss held a cluster of stars in his hands as he presented it to the Grand Empress, Reneedol.

The giant's voice resounded once more:

The Lord of Infinite Origin, Greatest Above the Star Crown discovered the secret of the Dusty World

[He risked himself to traverse the secret passage, returning with an artifact from the Dusty World]

^{\Gamma} With this artifact alone, Reneedol would become the most powerful entity within the infinite worlds

「And then…」

She betrayed us all]

Boom!!!!

A thunderous boom.

The scene of the Inner Plane's destruction unfolded in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

The stars fell like rain, the earth trembled without end.

At the moment of all creatures' extinction, countless screams and cries resounded in his ears, lingering without end.

Even though he had already seen this once before, Gu Qing Shan was still unable to help himself feeling shocked.

The majority of the powerful Deities he saw before were now dead, their corpses drifting through the space vortex without a destination to end on.

Gu Qing Shan saw the fully armored Boss who just exerted himself to save seven Deities as well as their palaces from the Inner Plane. Just as he was about to do something else, he saw Reneedol appearing in front of him.

"Reneedol! Quickly, run!" Boss quickly came forward to take her hand.

Reneedol reached her hand forward.

A cluster of star flames appeared in her hand, manifesting into a blade that pierced through Boss' body.

The flames of the stars expanded to engulf Boss' body.

"Ah... Why... did..." Boss struggled to speak.

Reneedol didn't say a single word, but simply pulled her blade back to stab Boss' chest again.

Boss' body was gradually swallowed by the star flames, slowly losing his vitality, but continued to stare at Reneedol without averting his gaze.

Reneedol lightly pushed his shoulder.

Boss fell into the Eternal Abyss and finally vanished.

Reneedol wielded her blade and reached her hand into the void to grab something else.

A mass of brightly burning flames was completely extinguished in her palm.

「Noooooo———」

A desperate scream resounded from within the flames.

Reneedol remained motionless as she began to chant a mystical incantation that resounded across the entire void.

The giant's voice continued resounding in Gu Qing Shan's ears:

In front of everyone, she killed the Pillar God of Fire, then used the ten thousand souls of deceased Deities as a sacrifice to perform a curse J

The scene moved towards the vast ocean beneath the Abyss.

Gigantic black figures appeared—– the same figures that Gu Qing Shan sensed earlier within the seawater as he broke through the wall below the passage.

However, these figures were tens of thousand times stronger than the figures that he sensed!

The black figures filled the entire ocean until they reached the wall, standing guard as they howled with resounding fury.

They are the Consuming Ghosts of Primal Chaos, unbeatable and unkillable monsters with the ability to return all things and all entities to nothingness. As they received the souls of ten thousand Deities, they formed a covenant with Reneedol, sealing the passage to the Dusty world for her with a duration of a hundred million years 1 the giant continued narrating.

From this point onwards, no one else could reach the secret of the Dusty World J

The scene ended here.

The scenery around him turned to sand and was swept away by the void.

Now, the sands of time have washed away the relics of the past, the hundred-million-year curse gradually undoing itself]

Full the powerful allies of the past have already perished or scattered within the infinite worlds' Apocalypse J

\(\text{While those hidden in the shadow who covet the power of the Dusty World have regained activity, readying themselves to strike \(\text{J} \)

The sand completely scattered away.

Gu Qing Shan found himself returned to the middle of the four statues.

The snow-white hawk's voice resounded:

 Γ The ashes of time have buried the truth of the past, but could not change it J

New Earth God, you must travel through the secret passage and reach the Dusty World in search of the reason why Reneedol betrayed the Gods J

Fut before that, we hope that you will be able to do a certain thing J

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask: "What is it?"

The four statues of the Pillar Gods silently stared at him.

And the giant uttered a single word: "Survive"

Chapter 1075

"Survive? Is the secret passage that dangerous?"

Gu Qing Shan asked.

The giant answered in his thunderous voice: \(\text{ Over a hundred million years ago, the secret passage was cleaned out by numerous Combatants, leaving very few danger spots remaining \(\text{J} \)

The time of a hundred million years is enough to turn the deep ocean into a vineyard.

In other words—-

Who knows what could be inside?

Without power, what am I supposed to use to explore this passage?

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan tried asking: "Gods, since we're allies, can you loosen the conditions and return my power to me?"

The four statues shook their heads at once.

The giant replied: Γ A pledge is a pledge; it cannot be impeded. Even we cannot violate it, after all, this is a fixed spell set up to prevent any unexpected outcomes J

Gu Qing Shan sincerely spoke:

"I will be frank, the Fire God is already dead, the Earth God had also left this world, as for the Wind God and Water God——- I have never even heard of your whereabouts"

"At this point, the only one remaining within the space vortex and this void is me, a rookie Earth God"

"As allies, you should at least be able to loosen a little bit, right? At least, if I happen to run into any irresistible situations, you can't just let me lose my life"

The four statues silently listened.

The snow-white hawk replied: Γ The pledge cannot be violated, however, we have certainly predicted such a situation and made preparations on a smaller scale J

Gu Qing Shan silently smiled and said nothing with an expression that depicted he was carefully listening.

But then, the four statues didn't say anything else and started to chant a mystical incantation in unison.

Their voices gradually grew louder and louder, as if summoning something.

The dirt and stone that was within the four Pillar Gods' encirclement slowly began to move.

Cr-crak.

With a tiny noise, the dirt at the very center of them all sunk down as a small spherical rock floated up.

The spherical rock hovered in mid-air, clearly displaying the innumerable sides on its surface.

——it looked almost like a cut diamond, but the sides were far smaller and much harder to observe.

"What is this?" Gu Qing Shan curiously asked.

The giant answered: Γ An Omni Stone. A natural artifact created by Reality itself, it is non-sentient, soulless, and has no strength by itself, the only artifact that can bypass the pledge of the four Pillar Gods Γ

「And now, it is yours 」

Gu Qing Shan received the spherical rock with his hand.

As he received it, the snow-white hawk continued: \(\Gamma\) Numerous people of unknown origins have gathered at the entry point of the secret passage, waiting for the time to arrive \(\J\)

The giant urged him: Go quickly, one hour later, Reneedol's curse of Primal Chaos will thoroughly fade away, everything will depend on you now J

Saying so, the four statues returned to silence, completely motionless.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised, carefully observing the statues, then at the spherical stone in his hand.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Omni Stone, the treasure of the void]

[This is a precious artifact that was naturally manifested from the space vortex, capable of imbuing its wielder with power]

[Note: The Omni-Stone will continuously imbue you with various abilities. Specifically, it will do so once every hour, and one ability each time]

[After every hour, the previously imbued ability will vanish as your new ability replaces it]

[You've obtained the Omni Stone]

[For the next hour from now, you will obtain a new ability]

[Power of the void: Shadow Strike]

[You've grasped Shadow Strike and can split into at most three afterimages to deceive other people]

[Attention: The ability imbued by the Omni-Stone is completely random, both the strength and characteristic cannot be predicted ahead of time]

——what a strange thing.

Gu Qing Shan began to confirm his own status.

The War God UI needs Soul Points.

Without Soul Points, neither [War God Skills] or [War God Intelligence] will be usable.

Title Skills... can still be used.

Gu Qing Shan set his Title to [Shen Wei General], which passively increased the speed of his sword.

"Earth sword, what's your situation?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Sanctuary] was a passive ability that could be used as he wished without any need for Soul Points.

"So even you have to obey the pledge of the Pillar Gods?" Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

The Earth sword replied: Γ Of course, all entities with a soul or sentience are required to obey the pledge—— and I want to tell you this, that wasn't just the pledge of the four Pillar Gods alone, the power of the pledge was buffed by the power of several other powerful entities Γ

The Chao Yin sword dejectedly let out a short 'oong'.

It naturally kept its ability to control the sea, but since Gu Qing Shan had no Soul Points, this ability was unusable.

As for the jade gourd pendant Adorable—-

Xiu xiu xiu~

It smugly boasted from the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

It simply snuck through the four Pillar Gods' statues without being detected, and so wasn't under any restrictions.

[Spotless Jade] was truly an impressive ability, not even the real Earth Creator managed to notice it in the Age of Old.

"There, I'm starting to feel a bit more confident now" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He began making his way into the passage.

...

Gu Qing Shan was walking speedily through the passage.

Since there was no light here, he needed to be careful.

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Due to losing both spirit energy and inner sight, he was basically a normal person right now.

Fortunately, there weren't any turns here.

Of course, Gu Qing Shan was cautious of running into a fake disguised wall like before.

But as he made his way through, he found nothing suspicious.

——-which made sense, because any entity who came this far would have all of their abilities sealed, leaving only a single one left.

Most likely, none of the other people had the mind to do something as boring as deceiving others that way.

Even if they wanted to, digging a fake tunnel to disguise the real one after they had lost their powers would surely consume a lot of their stamina.

Meaning it was a waste of effort for very little results.

Time slowly passed.

The darkness was finally dispelled by a faint light.

The exit was in sight.

At the end of the passage, there was a small stone square.

Numerous luminous stones were engraved into the walls and floor in order to provide light.

Quite a few people were already waiting here.

They had split up into various groups that gathered at their own corners, obviously from different forces and organizations.

At the end of the square was a black mass of light.

This black mass of light had obstructed the passage and made it so that no one would make it through.

Noticing a new person arriving, everyone turned to Gu Qing Shan.

All of a sudden, a smug voice chuckled:

"What a sharp one, so you managed to notice my trap and actually made it here"

Gu Qing Shan followed the voice.

Only to see 7-8 cultivators standing together with one of them declaring that.

They're all wearing masks.

——this kind of outfit clearly showed that they were people from that parallel world.

Which means, it was them who made that fake passage that led me into the death trap under the sea?

Gu Qing Shan silently took note of this but didn't show anything on his face.

Everyone is clearly waiting for that black mass of light to fade away in order to enter the secret passage.

Under this situation, not only am I alone, but I've also lost the majority of my power, so it would be best to remain patient for now.

Let's wait until it's time to enter before anything else.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan remained silent and randomly looked for a spot to wait.

But the situation didn't play out as he had thought it would.

The voice from before spoke up again:

"This guy is alone, but I doubt that he's the same as that girlie who gained the right to survive through power"

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

His gaze swept through the square and discovered the 'girlie' that they mentioned.

Su Xue Er.

Su Xue Er was here.

One of her arms was dyed red in blood, cautiously leaning on the wall to watch her surroundings.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze met with hers.

Su Xue Er quickly averted her gaze.

——-Gu Qing Shan was currently using a disguise and was standing in the shadow, so Su Xue Er couldn't recognize him right away.

Not too far in front of her, there were several masked corpses.

Quite obviously, a battle had transpired just earlier.

Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze.

Only to see several lone corpses all around the large square.

——they were most likely people who came to explore this passage alone.

Aside from Su Xue Er, the other loners have already been purged.

It made sense; everyone here had been turned into ordinary people with only a single ability to their name.

The secret passage was about to open, leading to the Dusty World that was possibly full of precious treasures.

At a time like this, using the advantage of numbers to eliminate the number of competitors would naturally be beneficial.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze swept through Su Xue Er several times.

Her spirit seems to be good, still full of fighting spirit, she was just injured, blood dripping down her arm.

Every person here can only keep a single ability.

Most likely, Su Xue Er kept a powerful combat-type Card.

That's why she doesn't have a way to heal herself.

Looking around, it was clear that the others were occasionally sneaking glances at her, most of which contained ill will.

——her injuries are gradually worsening.

Gu Qing Shan lightly scowled.

He turned his gaze and stared straight at the group of masked cultivators.

They injured Su Xue Er.

Gu Qing Shan wielded both swords in hand, silently adjusting his breathing.

I currently have an ordinary person's body, so it's not quite as easy to kill people as before.

Suddenly, a voice spoke up from another group.

Their leader declared: "You've already killed enough, this person is ours to kill, everything he has belong to us"

The leader made a gesture.

His subordinates scattered and headed towards Gu Qing Shan.

Chapter 1076

The group started to head towards Gu Qing Shan with clear hostile intent.

Gu Qing Shan didn't bother to keep a low profile any longer.

He simply headed towards the group while wielding his two swords.

Seeing him so nonchalant, the leader shouted: "Test his mettle"

The group stopped.

One of them chanted an incantation with a staff in front of his chest before stabbing it onto the ground.

"Come, Great Elephant of Anti-magic!"

Roar!!!

A giant elephant who donned a suit of pure wait armor appeared from thin air, landing on the small square.

Its body was big enough that the ground beneath the square trembled from the impact.

Everyone in its vicinity swiftly took their distance.

This was a unique magical creature, not only was it naturally bulky, but it was also born with very high magical resistance, which allowed it to be an excellent scout in both combat and exploration.

——-anyone who arrived here was allowed to keep only a single ability.

And this summoning ability was the one that this person decided to retain after losing all of his powers.

Using the Great Elephant of Anti-magic to fight would not only serve to probe the other party's power, but it would also prevent casualties for people on their side.

This was an excellent strategy.

Unfortunately, the one they faced was Gu Qing Shan.

———a swordsman who had the Earth sword with the power of [Sanctuary].

The elephant charged towards Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan didn't bother to use any techniques, simply took a step forward and heavily swung forward with his sword.

[Sanctuary] was activated!

This strike was 1001 times heavier than the elephant's own weight and was all focused on the elephant's head.

Everyone at the scene saw their vision turning blurred.

A faint white and red shadow shot backward like a storm and struck the group of people hiding behind the elephant, the extreme speed blew them all completely away without leaving any room to react.

——everyone here were now ordinary people except for one chosen ability; how could they react to this attack in the first place?

The group was swept away by the huge mass of the elephant and crashed into the black mass of light at the end of the passage.

This black mass of light was actually a Consuming Ghost of Primal Chaos who was standing guard at the entrance to the secret passage as per the covenant they made.

At this point, the covenant was about to disappear, but it received some unexpected food, so how could it not devour it all as fast as possible?

And so, the sound of crunching and chewing resounded from within the black mass of light.

"Aaaarrgh!!"

Countless desperate screams and cries resounded throughout the square.

Each of these people had their own unique powerful ability, specifically selected for the sake of team combat and exploration of the secret passage, but before they could even display their abilities, the entire party had already been wiped out.

One strike.

One entire party was eliminated.

The area became silent.

"Natural-born superhuman strength? No, it isn't just that" someone muttered.

Gu Qing Shan glanced towards the group of masked men.

"I heard that you need strength to obtain the right to survive here?" he asked.

The masked men exchanged glances.

The same person who spoke up before in the group of masked man spoke up: "With your excellency's strength, you can naturally survive"

Gu Qing Shan was already full of killing intent and ready to continue picking a fight.

But something unexpected happened——

The black mass of light at the entrance of the tunnel abruptly gave off an intense light, faded into the void, and vanished without a trace.

It had left.

The curse of one hundred million years had ended.

Without anything to obscure the passage, the inside could be seen filled with dust.

——-this passage had remained silent for the longest time, but it had now once again been opened for everyone!

"Go!"

Someone silently shouted.

Numerous figures were flying——- no, nobody had the ability to fly right now, so they were running as fast as they could towards the end of the secret passage.

So many people were trying to get into the passage first in order to reach and secure treasures before anyone else.

But a minority of the people remained still.

Some of these people were being cautious, others had different motives.

"Do not come any closer" Su Xue Er spoke up.

Gu Qing Shan quickly turned to look.

Only to see a group of over a dozen people standing 30 meters away from Su Xue Er.

Su Xue Er held a blood-colored Card in her hand, ready to deploy it at any moment.

The leader of this group came forward and said in a gentle voice: "Young miss, do not be alarmed, we mean you no ill will. I believe that a powerful Card user such as yourself should join a similarly powerful group like ours in order to display your full power"

The leader gestured to his men.

A subordinate put a red potion onto his hand.

"Please take a look, this is a medicine to heal external wounds, if you are willing to join us, I will help mend your wounds" the leader offered.

Su Xue Er coldly laughed: "If you truly mean that, why don't you have your people try that medicine out first? Why not offer me the medicine before anything else? Why didn't you come right after the battle was over and instead waited until my stamina was about to run out to make this offer?"

The leader was struck speechless.

His subordinates angrily refuted her: "Oi girlie, we're sincerely trying to accept you into our group, don't ask for punishment when you're being offered a hand!"

Su Xue Er's voice became frigid and declared: "I don't need your medicine, leave now. If you take one more step forward, I will perish with you if I have to!"

The Card in her hand began to glow crimson, seemingly about to be activated.

The group couldn't help but retreat one step.

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Everyone saw how this girl fought earlier.

That Card was powerful.

Since everyone could only use a single ability at the moment, that Card really wasn't easy to deal with.

Gu Qing Shan silently praised her.

So Su Xue Er had finally matured.

He observed the surroundings.

Only to see that everyone who remained was staring at the Card in Su Xue Er's hand with a faint glow in their eyes.

Gu Qing Shan slowly realized why these people stayed behind.

In the infinite worlds, Cards were actually considered precious items.

Not to mention, Su Xue Er had the Bloodsea deck, which meant that this Card which she specifically chose to retain must be a particularly precious one.

——-not anyone can be like Laura and casually have several hundred Cards on hand.

In fact, Laura was the only one like that within the entire 900 million World Layers.

"Ah..." Su Xue Er scowled.

The bleeding on her right arm just became worse.

Quite obviously, her wounds were quite severe.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't wait any longer——

Wielding his sword, he quickly approached Su Xue Er.

Everyone noticed his movement.

Does this guy intend to test out that girlie's power?

Oh right, he came late so he didn't see just how powerful that girlie is.

——let him court death, maybe they can kill off one another.

With that thought in mind, everyone quickly made way.

Su Xue Er also noticed his unbelievably handsome guy approaching her.

He just killed an entire party with one strike of his sword, a terrifyingly strong one!

"Do not come any closer, unless you want to die!"

Su Xue Er coldly declared.

The crimson glow from the Card in her hand became even brighter.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan was about 20 steps away from her, so he spoke: "Stop trying to show off, you're still putting up a front while being that heavily injured"

This sounded like two acquaintances chatting.

Su Xue Er was surprised.

A lot of people noticed the change in Su Xue Er's expression.

——-she doesn't recognize him.

Someone purposely spoke up: "Brother, this group clearly holds good intentions, this girlie isn't simple, try to be careful"

Someone else followed up: "It makes sense for her to stay on guard, who knows what kind of intention he has, trying to get close to her at this point"

The leader of the group from earlier also spoke up: "Expert please, if you can——"

Their words were cut off by Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan looked at Su Xue Er and stated: "Three skewers of chicken feet, two fresh oysters, ten skewers of grilled meat, one smoked sausage, one portion of fermented tofu; everything slightly spicy, with a cup of lemonade or orange juice"

Su Xue Er's killing intent vanished, her pretty eyes opened wide as she pointed at Gu Qing Shan with the hand holding the Card.

She was still in disbelief, only asking after a long pause: "You... then... what if I'm still hungry?"

"Then one portion of stir-fry rice noodles—— but you'll only eat half, the other half is left for me" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Why would I leave it for you?"

"Because eating too much will make you fat, being too fat is bad"

"Ah...

Su Xue Er continued staring at him in shock, still shaken from the encounter.

These were all things that she liked to order when eating at Gu Qing Shan's BBQ stand.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged and continued: "I look a bit different now because Impartial Goddess altered my appearance, I just hope you won't hate me for it"

Impartial Goddess!

What a familiar name.

Did Impartial Goddess tell him my whereabouts so that he could come looking for me?

If that's the case, I need to sincerely thank Impartial Goddess when we return.

Su Xue Er silently vowed to herself.

"Hey, your current appearance is a bit too handsome, I'm not used to it, can you still turn back?" Su Xue Er smiled and asked.

"Of course I can" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"That's good to hear"

Su Xue Er sighed in relief and calmed down.

Her body wobbled slightly.

—–a chance!

Several people were about to spring into action.

But several images split off from Gu Qing Shan's body and blocked their paths.

What!?

Why does he still have an ability?

What can these images do?

The people cautiously stepped back.

At this time, Gu Qing Shan had already walked forward and embraced Su Xue Er.

"Don't worry, I'm here now"

He whispered.

Chapter 1077

Gu Qing Shan's gaze swept through the area.

Everyone remained still without moving forward.

Three faint images of Gu Qing Shan were drifting around his position, exuding an unknown sense of mystery.

This was the ability he was imbued by the Omni Stone: [Power of the void: Shadow Strike].

In reality, none of these images could actually do any damage.

But having witnessed Gu Qing Shan's attack that wiped out an entire party, who would actually try to test it out?

Gu Qing Shan no longer paid attention to these people and focused on Su Xue Er's wound.

He scowled.

Her bleeding hadn't stopped.

Now that no recovery technique can be used, this level of injury was considerably troublesome.

Su Xue Er was still smiling: "Just now, I felt that your gestures and presence seemed a bit familiar so I was already wondering about it; who knew that it was really you"

Seeing her excited look, Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked: "Your arm is still bleeding, aren't you hurt?"

Su Xue Er shivered, her eyes slowly tearing up, and whispered to him: "It actually hurts a lot!"

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

He recalled something and asked: "[Super Dimensional equipment], you were created by Impartial Goddess, so you surely have a healing function, right?"

An electronic voice replied: [I am a Technological lifeform with my own soul and sentience, so my unique functions have been stripped away earlier as well]

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan felt a sense of dejection in the voice.

"Then, what kind of ability did you retain?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[A useless one, in summary, I cannot save her] the electronic voice stiffly replied.

Having heard that, Gu Qing Shan didn't try asking further.

He pressed his finger on the acupoints on Su Xue Er's upper arm, chest, and back, to block her blood flow. Using the short time that she stopped bleeding, he cut off a piece of his own clothes with the Earth sword and used it to carefully bandage Su Xue Er's arm.

Although he had lost his powers, having fought numerous wars in his two lives, even as an ordinary person, he still kept several methods of first aid in mind.

And his current clothes were the common outfit in the cultivation world——- these clothes weren't anything special and only contained the most basic cleanliness and dust-isolation functions.

But those functions were exactly what was needed for bandages.

"Endure it a bit, I'll try and think of a way to heal you later on" Gu Qing Shan told her.

"It's ok" Su Xue Er leaned her head on his shoulder with a slight smile on her face: "I won't die for now" Everyone couldn't understand what happened at all. What kind of situation is this? These two clearly didn't know each other before. But the closer this man got to her, the more that girlie listened to him. Watching the three images that stood cautious behind Gu Qing Shan's back, several people decided to give up. More and more people were leaving. ——-rather than trying to steal a Card that seems to be getting harder to obtain, it was better to explore the secret passage. We might actually find some true treasure inside! "Tsk, we're leaving" one of the masked men declared. Gu Qing Shan's gaze became sharp. These people injured Su Xue Er. However... currently, Su Xue Er is clearly unfit for further combat. If a fight breaks out, I wouldn't be able to guarantee her safety. Unless I can kill all of them in a single strike. Then—--I'll have to fully exert myself—— Gu Qing Shan reached for the Earth sword. And held it tightly. "Save meee——-" All of a sudden, a desperate scream sounded from inside the secret passage. Everyone was surprised and turned to look at the dark entrance. "Aaaa!" "Somebody, save me!" "Hurry! Run!" "Noo!"

Various screaming voices resounded all at once.

The people who ran into the secret passage first were also running for their lives.

Quite a few people were riddled with wounds.

Their desperate fleeing caused many of the onlookers who remained at the square to become cautious.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the secret passage.

Only to see 7-8 severed heads as well as numerous broken limbs being thrown out from inside the passage.

A thick mist of blood surged forward from the darkness.

Xii!

Xii!

Xii!

A strange sound resounded from within.

The ground was rumbling without end.

Gu Qing Shan shielded Su Xue Er as they retreated to a secluded location, taking that chance to sneak a glance at the masked men.

They had all put up their guards and stood in a combat formation, ready to unleash the most powerful attack they had.

Tch--

It's impossible to kill them all at once now.

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Gu Qing Shan frowned.

The current situation was too complicated, no one had any idea what kind of danger was waiting inside the secret passage.

For the sake of Su Xue Er's safety, he could only withhold his killing intent for now.

At this point, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Time is up, the Omni Stone has reset]

[Your ability: Shadow Strike has disappeared]

[You've obtained a new ability: Void Slash]

[Void Slash: The Laws of the void converged as slashing damage, relatively sharp]

[This ability cannot be unleashed by itself and must be performed through a weapon]

[Trigger incantation: Eternally Void]

Gu Qing Shan skimmed through everything.

"Qing Shan, what do we do now?" Su Xue Er anxiously asked.

———when Gu Qing Shan wasn't with her, she was able to make her own decisions, but with Gu Qing Shan present, she had become completely reliant on him.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the secret passage.

The intense billowing wind carried a sense of primitive cruelty.

Although he no longer had his spirit energy, the combat instincts he had built up over countless battles on the verge of life and death still remained.

"Something is amiss"

He muttered, sheathed the Chao Yin sword at his waist and wielded the Earth sword in one hand, then took Su Xue Er's hand with the other and retreated.

While the others were readying themselves to face the upcoming enemy, he had already taken Su Xue Er and retreated to the back of the square.

Just in time for several of the hysterical survivors to dash towards their direction.

"The monster is coming, run!"

"Run!"

They exclaimed in fear.

When Su Xue Er's eyes flickered, Gu Qing Shan had already whispered to her: "Behind me"

Su Xue Er immediately went behind him.

The hysterical people were heading towards the passage where everyone first arrived from.

Gu Qing Shan abruptly stood in their way and swung his sword.

As soon as those people showed expressions of evil intentions, the sword had already cut through their bodies.

One strike.

It still only took one strike.

Clank! Clank!

The weapons that they just drew fell to the ground.

——sure enough, they wanted to sneak an attack but died before achieving anything at all.

Someone shouted: "What are you doing, you dared to kill our people!?"

Gu Qing Shan discarded the blood on his sword with a single flick, stared straight at the questioning voice, and muttered: "So what if I killed them? If you want to die, come closer"

He emanated with an unadulterated, raw fighting spirit.

Having practiced the Asura royal clan's foundation swordsmanship along with the Asura King's swordsmanship experience, the Asura Deific King's swordsmanship, as well as the sword Divine Skill [Rahu's Eclipse Of Sun and Moon], Gu Qing Shan's aura now contained a part of the Asura's unique fighting spirit.

His swordsmanship had already surpassed Convergence Realm, steadily making its way towards the realm of Sword Deity.

The one who questioned him hesitated before shutting up.

Everyone was fearful.

——this man is truly terrifying, killing several people with a single strike, his swordsmanship skills had already reached the point of surpassing the limit of power.

In a situation where everyone only has a single ability left, this man can become a killing machine even without any abilities.

Rather than his swordsmanship, what's even more terrifying about him are his eyes that saw through everything.

Those people were clearly fleeing for their lives, but he was capable of discerning their true intention and accurately killed them just before they were about to act.

While shielding Su Xue Er, Gu Qing Shan continued retreating.

At this point, a hoarse voice resounded from inside the secret passage, speaking in the Old Godlanguage:

 Γ The world of Dust cannot be intruded upon; violators shall end up dead J

A large figure slithered out from inside the secret passage.

Snake body, human head, clad in scaley armor, four claws, as well as an endless flow of fire around its body.

It was a monster that had never been seen before!

Gu Qing Shan's anxiousness grew stronger.

"Eternally Void"

He muttered.

Invisible fluctuations instantly manifested from the void of space.

The fluctuations descended and silently attached themselves to the outside of the Earth sword.

——-[Void Slash] had been activated!

Shortly after that, the monster displayed a cruel expression and chanted:

The path is lost]

With that incantation, a resounding impact emerged from behind everyone.

They couldn't help turning back.

Only to see the passage where they arrived from had completely vanished.

The wall was completely blank.

Other than the square, they could no longer see any path to retreat.

The monster opened its toothy mouth and licked its lips with a signature long snake tongue.

Foolish fodder, now that you no longer have anywhere to flee, you all shall die right here J

Oom!

The flames in its body rose up high and extended towards everyone in the vicinity.

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The flames from the monster's body quickly swept through the entire area!

Those who stood too close weren't able to prepare themselves in time and instantly got lit on fire without being able to do anything.

The man-headed snake monster cruelly smirked.

☐ Death is a necessary step in preparing food 」 the monster muttered.

In just a few short moments, the flames had fully engulfed these people's bodies and turned them into screaming torches.

It could faintly be seen that each of these torches had trapped a transparent soul inside.

The monster inhaled, sucked the flames into its mouth, and swallowed.

———at the very beginning of the combat, 7-8 people had already been killed and devoured by the monster!

Those who stood far enough to react quickly took distance from the monster and resisted its attacks.

"Everyone, get behind me!" someone loudly shouted.

A mirror-like reflective ice shield appeared in front of him to block the flames.

Those who stood behind him were safe from being burnt.

Another person equipped himself with a black gauntlet and grabbed the approaching fire.

The scorching flames were completely absorbed by the gauntlet.

Everyone displayed their prowess and concentrated on defending against the flames.

On the other side.

——from the very beginning, Gu Qing Shan had already retreated with Su Xue Er, so when the monster appeared, the two of them were at the very back of the crowd.

They were the ones who stood the furthest away from the attack.

As the flames spread, most of it was prevented by people of various parties, leaving only sparse flames that managed to shoot towards them.

Gu Qing Shan wielded the Earth sword with [Void Slash] and lightly swung down.

The flame was split apart, moving to Gu Qing Shan's sides.

"Qing Shan, look"

Hiding behind him, Su Xue Er silently whispered.

Gu Qing Shan followed the direction where Su Xue Er was pointing.

Only to see the masked cultivators standing still.

The flames were automatically avoiding them.

Gu Qing Shan noticed it quite clearly.

These people haven't performed any defensive maneuvers and still managed to avoid the flame attacks.

Why?

Gu Qing Shan's gaze focused on the hand of one of them.

Only to see him holding a strange-looking badge.

These cultivators from a parallel world gradually approached the monster.

"Following the agreement, we have come"

The leader of the group stated.

The monster saw the badge in his hand and nodded: \(\Gamma\) Indeed, you may enter \(\J\)

The monster moved its giant body to make just enough way for them to enter.

The cultivators started walking towards the gap.

The monster blinked, then turned back to look at the others on the square and asked: Γ Are there any more of your people? J

One cultivator answered indifferently: "No, they're all your food"

Saying so, they went past the monster and entered the secret passage.

The monster slithered around the square.

「All... food...」

Its gaze swept through the entire square as drool dripped from its mouth.

Gu Qing Shan scowled.

Those guys from the parallel world had contact with this monster from the secret passage.

Wasn't this place sealed by Reneedol's curse for a hundred million years?

Or maybe, there were fewer and fewer consuming demons of Primal Chaos as the curse weakened, which allowed them to contact the monsters inside?

While he was thinking the monster had already made its move.

It opened its mouth wide and spat a viscous liquid towards the entire square.

This time, everyone was significantly more careful and quickly avoided it.

However, the viscous liquid seemed to be sentient as it aimed specifically for the orifices of the people below.

Those who were struck quickly collapsed, their bodies turned into a bloody pulp that was then sucked into the monster's mouth.

「Hmm, delectable, next…」

The monster moved about, licking its lips with a long snake tongue.

All of a sudden, it swiped backward with its claw.

A shadow that had just ran past its body was caught.

This was a fellow who had the ability to conceal himself, seemingly decided to run into the secret passage as the monster attacked everyone else.

But the monster noticed him.

"Save—-"

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The man only managed to utter a single word before being chewed and devoured alive by the monster.

The entire area turned silent.

This monster was too cautious, and who knew how many other hunting abilities that it hadn't displayed yet.

But everyone here had already lost all of their powers, leaving only a single ability left.

How are they supposed to fight now?

At the back of the square, Su Xue Er lightly tapped Gu Qing Shan's shoulder.

"Qing Shan, it looks like that monster wants to eat us"

She said in a whisper.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Hm, it's going to be a really tough battle. Coming up, I'll handle the fighting, just stay behind me"

Su Xue Er chuckled: "Don't look down on me now"

She stuck close to Gu Qing Shan's body and drew her crimson Card.

At this point, Su Xue Er couldn't help but recall the words that her teacher taught her as she left Triste's collection world.

——-actually, Gu Qing Shan and I are a really good duo in combat.

"Protect me" Su Xue Er muttered.

She tossed the crimson Card forward, shouting: "Bloodsea Divine Arm, manifest!"

The crimson Card manifested into a large bloody glow that converged into a giant sword.

As soon as the sword appeared, it had flown across the entire square to slash the monster.

Bam!

The giant bloody sword pounded the monster into the ground.

「AAaarrrg! YOU'RE DEAD!」

The monster roared as it stood up, its head now turned into a giant gaping maw full of teeth that looked straight at Su Xue Er.

At this point, the giant sword had scattered into dark red light and returned in front of Su Xue Er.

"Again!" Su Xue Er shouted.

The bloody light glowed bright and once again converged into a weapon.

Observing the newly manifested weapon, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help asking: "Didn't it turn into a giant sword? Why is it a mace now?"

Su Xue Er explained: "The Omnispirit Demon Slaying Sword is powerful, but I can only ask for help from each Divine Arm once, so now I called for the Ancient Dragon Slayer Mace"

"A mace... can slay a dragon?"

"Why not? Its background is quite considerable"

While they spoke, the glowing red mace had swung down from above and struck the monster's chest.

The air was shaken by the shockwaves.

The monster was sent flying and crashed into the wall.

The dim crimson glow returned, then was once again activated by Su Xue Er to manifest a bloody battle-axe.

Gu Qing Shan's eyes twitched.

No wonder those people from before were practically burning with greed, this Card is really powerful.

The others weren't staying idle either.

Someone loudly called out: "Everyone, we need to band together and fight!"

As the first person suggested that, several others followed up:

"That's right! That monster wants to eat all of us, if we still refuse to cooperate, wouldn't we be idiots?"

"Indeed, let's all charge forward together!"

Gu Qing Shan heard a voice he was familiar with.

As he followed the voice, he saw the other party had taken off his hood to reveal a dignified appearance.

Hazeden.

The King of Sky Haze Kingdom.

The Card user that he met during his battle in Huang Quan.

The person who spoke up first to rally everyone was him.

"Strange, why is he here as well...?"

Gu Qing Shan muttered to himself.

At this point, Hazeden had already made his move.

He tossed out a Card engraved full of gems.

Bam!

White mist exploded.

Hazeden formed a summoning seal with his hands and shouted: "One battle, two mages, three cavalry, four archers, five shieldsmen.

Poof poof poof poof!

Several figures appeared once after another within the exploded mist.

——they were a total of 15 heroic spirits who wielded intricate armor, weapons, and shields.

Hazeden's eyes turned cold.

"Insect who can't even decide to be human or monster, you dared stand in this king's path, go to hell"

He made a gesture to attack.

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With Hazeden's gesture, the 15 heroic spirits began to move.

The shield bearers stood in front, the knights and cavalry in the middle, the mages at the back, while the archers stood on either side——

A perfect combat formation.

The heroic spirits unleashed their attacks towards the monster!

My dear cherished subordinates, come and aid me!

Someone else shouted from the other side of the square.

Everyone turned to see that it was a jet-black evil creature with two horns.

At its summon, the evil creatures who stood around it placed their hands on its body.

Shortly, all the evil creatures entered its body.

These evil creatures had combined to form a giant evil creature that exuded the scorching flames of Purgatory.

The giant evil creature stepped forward and struck at the monster from the secret passage.

The man-headed snake mocked them: \[\int \] Just you lot dare to—- \[\]

Sha!

A bloody battle-axe descended from above and struck the middle of its body, pinning it to the ground.

「AAAarrgh! YOU AGAIN! I will kill you, then crunch and chew both your body and soul for ten thousand times! 」

The monster viciously stared at Su Xue Er and writhed its body, wanting to escape from the bloody-axe's hold.

Su Xue Er quickly hid behind Gu Qing Shan again.

Hearing it screaming, Gu Qing Shan scowled.

At this point, the heroic spirits that Hazeden summoned had arrived in front of the monster, with their wealth of combat experience, they recognized the best course of action in this situation and pinned the monster to the ground with their weapons.

Seeing that, everyone else unleashed their most powerful attacks.

For a short while, numerous spells and magic struck the monster's body, causing it to scream and cry in pain.

The giant evil creature soon got close.

It held the monster down while clenching its fist tightly and pounded the monster, again and again, shouting as it did:

Fuck your slithering, you think your slithering was pretty or something?

When it comes to moving the body, I know numerous techniques that look a lot more stylish than your damn slithering

I Do you know it's already time for you to die? I

And you still dare to glare at me!?

I'll tell you right now, you're in so much wrong that even if you reincarnate, you'd still be a target for others to chop up, do you know where you went wrong!?

I You don't know? I'll mercifully tell you, it's because just now, you were too nois——]

Sha!!!

A cold gleam of the sword.

The monster's head fell.

Gu Qing Shan sheathed his sword.

"Sorry about that, I didn't let you say everything you wanted"

Gu Qing Shan apologetically told the giant evil creature.

The giant evil creature trembled a bit, then turned away in irritation.

While it walked, evil creatures started to detach from its body, finally, all of them returned to their original appearances.

Gu Qing Shan came back to Su Xue Er and walked up to Hazeden.

"Long time no see" Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist.

Hazeden narrowed his eyes: "You are—-"

"How come the Great Demon General and Asura king aren't here? Also, my sword can prevent [Time Stanch]" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Hazeden's expression became spirited.

"Ah? How come you've changed?" he asked.

"It's a long story, mostly for safety" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Ahaha, I gave you a token to travel to my kingdom, but you never visited"

"I had too much on my plate. I did make a trip there recently, but you seemed to have already relocated deep into the Mystic Zones"

Gu Qing Shan once aided Hazeden in saving his consort, and Hazeden had witnessed Gu Qing Shan rallying the dead people of Huang Quan against the invading demons; it was also him who gave Gu Qing Shan the Devil King Warden Rod, so the two of them were comrades and allies.

"Have you met those people in masks before?" Hazeden asked.

"Yeah, they are people from a parallel world" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Parallel world?

This explanation shocked many of the others.

Everyone came closer, looking to hear Gu Qing Shan's information.

Gu Qing Shan didn't care too much and simply explained the alliance between the parallel world and [Chaos].

Many people already knew about this, considering how big of a commotion the Soul Shrieker made when he rallied the army of [Chaos]. That event was famous throughout the 900 million World Layers, and anyone who cared to investigate would surely know.

Hazeden thought briefly and spoke with a serious expression: "You and I have both lost the majority of our powers; now with only a single ability to our name, I suggest that we travel together"

Gu Qing Shan praised him: "My thoughts exactly. After all, in such a situation, it would be very tough for a single person to go up against two similarly powerful factions"

The Archfiend from Purgatory also approached them: [Count me in as well]

Gu Qing Shan and Hazeden turned to look at it.

The Purgatory Archfiend continued: The two of you are both very strong, but I'm not any weaker, and we need to band together to prevent those guys from allying themselves to ambush us !

A man clad in flames also walked forward and spoke to Gu Qing Shan: "Count me in as well——- the information you just provided is the same as what I know. I have a bad feeling about this"

Gu Qing Shan glanced over these people.

Hazeden was a king, so he naturally had a group of subordinates, the Purgatory Archfiend also brought several evil creatures with it, and the flaming man was the same.

He was the only loner here.

——-no, he also had Su Xue Er with him.

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"Very well, then we'll join forces—— are there any others who wish to join us?" Hazeden loudly asked.

Some people from other parties asked: "How are we going to divide the treasures we find?"

"Treasures?" the flaming man scoffed: "You're running around flexing your might in the territory of others, just try and think of survival first before anything else for one second, blind fellow"

Hazeden followed up: "Everyone can split the treasures later when we run into them. For now, we need to make sure of our safety first"

Those people shook their heads and went ahead into the secret passage.

Their group also didn't comment on that, as everyone had their own choice.

Hazeden loudly clapped his hands.

A Card user behind him presented a Card.

———a covenant Card.

"How considerate, you even have a covenant prepared" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

He received the covenant Card and checked it.

The information of the Card was displayed on the War God UI:

[King of Covenants: This is a covenant Card with a soul, the ancestor of all covenants who holds the strongest binding power]

[If there is a covenant that would never be violated in this Reality, it would be this one]

Gu Qing Shan relaxed.

——-seems like this is an extremely strict covenant, there shouldn't be any issues.

Hazeden replied: "It can't be helped. One must make ample preparations when traveling, and there are many situations where asking for the help of allies is easier and saves a lot of trouble"

Gu Qing Shan returned the covenant Card to him and asked: "Do you have a healing Card?"

Hazeden glanced at Su Xue Er and understood.

He told another Card user behind him: "Heal her"

"Understood, your majesty"

The Card user took two steps forward, drew a green Card, and began to help Su Xue Er heal her injuries.

A few moments later, Su Xue Er's frown slowly relaxed.

"It doesn't hurt anymore" she told Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and sincerely clasped his fist: "Thank you very much, your majesty"

Hazeden replied: "No need to be so formal—— call me Haze, I was not formal with you when you helped me save my dear consort, was I?"

At this time, an electronic voice resounded in Gu Qing Shan's ear:

[Your excellency Gu Qing Shan, Su Xue Er's injuries are about to completely heal. According to the system's combat statistics, if she comes with you, you will have to spend extra time and effort to take care of her]

[Furthermore, she doesn't seem to like fighting, in fact, she hates it]

[In consideration of her best interest, it is advised that she is left here to rest]

[This way, her life would not be in danger]

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan walked up and asked Su Xue Er: "Do you want to come with me, or remain here to rest?"

Su Xue Er replied without hesitation: "I'll come with you, of course"

Gu Qing Shan didn't ask anything else.

The electronic voice also stopped, but it sounded like someone was gritting their teeth in the void of space.

"Gentlemen, the covenant has been prepared"

Hazeden held the Card and manifested it as a covenant scroll before telling everyone.

The leaders of each party came forward.

"This is the strictest type of covenant among those known to people, any violators would end up with their soul completely shattered without fail"

After reading the content of the covenant, no one objected.

"I hope we can all cooperate and survive within our upcoming exploration" Hazeden stated.

He was the first to place his hand on the covenant.

His corresponding information was then displayed on it:

[King of Sky Haze kingdom, Wielder of the Gem Deck, Sovereign of one of the five greatest kingdoms in the Mystic Zones, Hazeden; hereby sign this ally covenant]

The flaming man also placed his hand on the covenant.

His information was also displayed on the covenant:

[Lord of Flame Canyon, Heir of the secret Flame Authority, Master of Magma, Guyan; hereby sign this ally covenant]

The Purgatory Archfiend laughed: \[\] So everyone here was those with considerable status \[\]

Su Xue Er who had remained silent up to now suddenly spoke up: "Status doesn't matter, what's most important is strength"

——everyone here were those who held great status, while Gu Qing Shan had only been drifting through the infinite worlds, so she was worried that Gu Qing Shan would be troubled by the difference in status.

The Purgatory Archfiend shook its head: [Status itself can display one's strength, like me—-]

"You?" Su Xue Er doubtfully asked.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly winked at her to stop, but couldn't make it in time.

Sure enough, the Purgatory Archfiend had already begun to speak: That's right, like me who used to be a lowly imp, pushed off a cliff due to being too useless. But to my luck, I fell into a secret cave where a Void Dragon was breathing his last, he left me all of his secret techniques, telling me about the war that happened 100 million years ago, as well as the existence of this place. It was thanks to that that I became the greatest Archfiend within Purgatory in an incredibly short time, now ruling over the entirety of Purgatory while maintaining friendly relations with numerous Evil Worlds, wreaking havoc as we please——- one's status can easily display their experience and true strength 1

The group: "..."

Gu Qing Shan whispered into Su Xue Er's ear: "He's one big talker"

Su Xue Er was speechless and didn't respond to the Archfiend's words.

Seeing how everyone turned silent after its speech, the Purgatory Archfiend thought that its experience had surprised them all, so it triumphantly placed its hand on the covenant.

Information regarding it appeared on the covenant scroll:

[Archfiend of Purgatory, Sha Qiang; hereby sign this ally covenant]

The entire square went silent.

The Archfiend named Sha Qiang was shocked and couldn't help but exclaim: \[\] What the hell? I did so many great things, so why don't I have any catchy titles!? \[\]

It started to give off a violent—-

—nothing, everyone here had their powers sealed away, so it couldn't utilize its presence.

Chapter 1080

Seeing Sha Qiang fuming with anger without being able to express it, seemingly just about to leave, Hazeden thought briefly and presented him an exit:

"Perhaps it's because you were too sentimental of old friendships and didn't kill the old King of Purgatory. If you had killed him, you would have gained a proper title like 'King of Purgatory'"

At this point, more desperate screams and cries resounded from within the secret passage.

Everyone's expressions changed.

The people who went ahead must have ran into more monsters!

Just how many monsters were inside the secret passage?

"Hurry, Gu Qing Shan!" Hazeden urged him.

Gu Qing Shan followed the others and put his hand on the covenant.

——this covenant was necessary to make sure that everyone would be able to trust their back to one another and jointly fight as a group.

Very quickly, Gu Qing Shan's personal information appeared on the covenant:

[Dragon Slayer from the Age of Old, Nemesis of the Deity of Chaos, Devil King of Huang Quan, Wielder of Heaven and Earth, Ally to the Eternal Abyss, Demon King and Cherub of Condemnation, the man with the unrivaled kissing technique, Experienced Performing Artist, Gu Qing Shan; hereby sign this ally covenant]

[Special note: Some of his statuses are enough to frighten you to death, but it is unrelated to this covenant, and this covenant would like to live well for the next few years, so they are not listed]

The group: "..."

Reading this long series of titles and the accompanying addendum, everyone simply became stunned.

He sure matured quickly.

——-the King of Card, Hazeden, silently thought.

Who exactly is this person? Are those titles of his real?

——-the Lord of Flames, Guyan, also thought to himself.

How the hell did he get so many titles? Damn it, I'm going to find some time to discuss with him and give a few of them to me.

- ——the Purgatory Archfiend, Sha Qiang, silently thought.
- ...Everything else makes sense, but what's going on with that 'man with the unrivaled kissing technique' title, who gave him that?
- ——Su Xue Er clenched her small fist and silently thought.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the 'Cherub' Title and sighed in irritation.

I still have to improve myself further.

I need to quickly find more Inner Plane Cards to change my Condemnation Title.

Seeing everyone stunned, he quickly reminded them: "A monster is approaching us from the secret passage, what are you all standing there for!?"

The covenant was now formed.

Clusters of divine white light enveloped each of them.

——-the covenant was fine, and the terms of the covenant were also reasonable, which had everyone's approval.

"There, from this moment on, we shall stand together and fight!" Hazeden loudly declared.

The Purgatory Archfiend Sha Qiang swung his hand.

All of his subordinating evil creatures entered his body.

He grew tall again.

Hazeden shouted an order to his men, and Guyan also busied himself into arranging his men for battle, quickly making appropriate preparations for the upcoming battle.

——-with the covenant as a security, everyone swiftly displayed their coordination.

"Su Xue Er, your power is very crucial, stand in the middle of everyone" Gu Qing Shan loudly said.

No one objected.

In a battle, a powerful Card user naturally required protection.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Since I'm a sword cultivator, I'll be the first to face the enemy!"

Saying so, he drew his sword and stepped out to be at the very front of the formation.

With him standing out as an example, everyone else quickly dispelled their unnecessary thoughts.

Su Xue Er worriedly said: "Qing Shan, be careful"

"I'll be fine"

Gu Qing Shan showed her a confident smile.

From within the darkness-filled secret passage, the sounds of commotions were growing gradually louder.

Screams, cries, begging, and even desperate shrieking faintly resounded through the air.

——-this was the sound of those who had entered the secret passage ahead of them.

As for the various strange noises that weaved among the screaming, they were evidently the sound of monsters.

Everyone on the small square held their breath, readying themselves for a fight against the enemy.

The stench of blood wafted through the air, originating from the darkness.

Several tattered limbs were tossed out of the secret passage, landing on the ground.

The sound of crunching and chewing clearly resounded.

Tension rose.

Gu Qing Shan raised his swords, ready to——-

"Huh!?"

The King of Cards Hazeden suddenly exclaimed in surprise.

"What's the matter!?" the Lord of Flames Guyan immediately questioned.

Gu Qing Shan and the Purgatory Archfiend also shifted their focus.

———in a crucial moment just before facing an enemy, it was mandatory to make sure that nothing unexpected would occur.

Hazeden looked at the covenant in his hand and replied: "It's nothing, but Gu Qing Shan, you just suddenly gained another title"

"What title?" everyone couldn't help but ask at once.

Hazeden stared closely at the covenant and muttered: "Head Dancer of the Secret Dance"

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Gu Qing Shan's expression warped heavily.

Instantly, the fervent sound of battle drums began to sound.

Dum dum dum dum dum dum!

Dum badum!

Dum badum!

Chaka chak ka-chak~ Chaka chak ka-chak~

Everyone was stunned.

Where is that music coming from?

The Purgatory Archfiend Sha Qiang's hearty voice spoke up:

| Drum of battle? Very fitting for the situation, I can feel my heart beating in anticipation!

Anticipation my ass!

Gu Qing Shan's heart sank.

——oh no, I'm definitely going to have to dance.

Last time, we were literally one step away from breaking into dance, scaring Zhang Ying Hao and the rest.

I had to force it back.

——which means this time I probably can't get off without dancing!

Damn it, this isn't a grand occasion at all, and wasn't [Dreamjolt] the only ability I had left?

And wasn't this supposed to be some sort of pledge that cannot be violated between the four Pillar Gods of the void and countless other powerful Deific entities!?

Four Pillar Gods, what happened to your integrity!?

Gu Qing Shan no longer have any time to think about those things, so he hurriedly told everyone: "Quickly, get as far away from me as possible, I'm going to be dancing very soon"

Before anyone could react, a bald old man had already appeared next to Gu Qing Shan.

The strongest human Combatant of the Bygone Era!

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly said: "You came again, that's perfect! Can you help me end this Dance? I'm about to fight so I'm not sure if I can dance at all"

The bald old man displayed a surprised expression before shaking his head: [This Dance belongs to only yourself; I won't be able to stop it]

"Then you---"

[I only came out to watch, after all, this Dance seems to have resonated with a distant place]

The bald old man pointed in the direction of the secret passage.

Gu Qing Shan went blank for a split second.

A thought flashed through his mind.

——-could it be, this Occultism Dance is somehow related to the Dusty World?

The bald old man sensed something and muttered: [This Dance was bestowed to you by that personage, a Dance specifically made for no one but yourself, but since you haven't performed it at all, this time should be a practice session]

"Practice session?" Gu Qing Shan was stunned again.

[That's right] the bald old man nodded: [You body will be taken over by the Dance, it will explain the dance steps to you while also displaying them through your body]

...

At another location.

The seven masked cultivators had made it to a certain location of the void.

A shadow stood in front of them.

[Hasyour trip been smooth?] the shadow asked with a slight hoarse voice.

"Relatively smooth, except a few insects who accompanied us that ruined our mood" the leader of the masked cultivators replied.

The shadow seemed to have smiled and replied:

☐ Don't worry, this place is our turf, if we refuse to grant someone passage, they shall do nothing but die! 」

These words were filled with killing intent.

The masked cultivators went silent briefly from it.

The shadow was pleased with their attitude and continued: \(\text{What do you say we take a look at how those people are being devoured, that would surely please you \(\text{J} \)

It flicked its hand into the void.

Immediately, the scenery at the entrance of the passage was displayed.

First came the strange sound of music.

Chaka chaka chaka~ Chaka chaka~

Bun bun chat!

Bun bun chat!

Ah harrai harrai harrai~~~

Followed by a scene.

Gu Qing Shan was standing at the very front, displaying perfect dance steps: "One two three, kick!"

"We're going to spin in the air, Sha Qiang, make sure to tuck your belly in!"

"Four five six, Hazeden, Guyan, the two of you leave the line, no need to rattle your shoulders anymore, swing your hips with me!"

"Now—– left swing, swing; right swing, swing"

"Well done"

"Next is..."

Everyone was meticulously performing a Dance.

On the square, countless terrifying looking skeletons of creatures that had been stripped of their flesh were devoutly praying.

There were no battles.

There were no monsters.

Only—--

Dance! Dance! Dance!

Chapter 1081

The small square.

At the entrance of the secret passage.

Everyone laid completely flat on the ground, panting heavily.

¶ You... that dance of yours... is really vigorous ¶ the Archfiend Sha Qiang praised while he continued to pant.

After entering this place, everyone was stripped of their powers so they only possessed ordinary bodies.

And performing that high tension dance just now had basically drained them of all their stamina.

The Sky Haze King, Hazeden, barely managed to sit up from the ground, wiping his sweat, he asked: "And that was the ability you kept?"

"Hm"

Gu Qing Shan wasn't thick-skinned enough to explain, but he couldn't just not react to him either, so he glossed it over with a curt snort.

The Lord of Flames glanced towards Gu Qing Shan with a complicated expression: "Throughout my entire life, I've killed too many people to count, but never have I had to perform a belly dance"

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fists together: "I'm really sorry, once this ability is triggered, even I can't control it; but at least it was useful"

Everyone glanced around their surroundings.

The entire square was filled with mountains of white skeletons.

Just now, numerous monsters had rushed out from the secret passage in order to kill their group.

Each of them far more powerful than the very first monster that had come out.

Numerous spells, sharp weapons, claws, fangs, and unprecedented unique abilities were aimed at them.

While the group simply...

Danced.

A hoarse dry female voice appeared from the void.

She only stated one thing:

Those that disrespect the Sacrificial Dance shall... Die!

And all the monsters simply died.

Their flesh and souls detached from their bodies and vanished into nothingness, leaving nothing but their skeletons to kneel and pray in repentance.

——-the more one thought about what had occurred, the more they would find it to be eerie and terrifying.

Fortunately, such power was on their side.

The Lord of Flames, Guyan, pondered over it a few times and simply decided to let it go.

The group slowly regained their stamina after a short period of rest.

Hazeden gestured behind him.

A subordinate took out his Card and tossed it to the empty space on the ground.

Poof!

The Card turned into a long dining table full of various food and drinks.

Hazeden moved forward, picked up a mana potion, and drank it as he informed everyone:

"Suddenly performing a dance made me feel a bit parched. Everyone, please help yourselves"

Guyan's eyes flickered slightly.

I made so many preparations and even had several subordinates with highly destructive spells, but forgot to prepare any food.

"Thank you" Gu Qing Shan pulled Su Xue Er with him to pick out some food.

Guyan nodded to the people behind him.

Everyone began enjoying themselves.

———and they really needed to replenish their stamina, otherwise, none of them would have any strength left to actually explore the secret passage.

"It had been many years since I last experienced being restrained by a feeble body"

While sighing emotionally, Guyan ate a piece of cake.

At this point, Sha Qiang questioned Gu Qing Shan with a doubtful expression on his face: There was something wrong with that dance just now 1

"What was wrong?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Su Xue Er was currently peeling a fresh fruit to feed him.

Sha Qiang said: Take a look, during the second verse, I clearly moved my body according to the beat, so how come I keep feeling like it was a bit uncoordinated.

While saying that, he started twisting his body from head to toe, even displaying a slight hint of seductive intention.

Gu Qing Shan: "..."

The group: "..."

If an Archfiend like you could actually perform this dance in a coordinated manner, then this world is better off destroyed.

But I can't actually say that.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and replied: "I really respect serious people like yourself, in truth, that movement——"

Aaaaaa—— yaaaaaa——

Dong dong dong~ xiii~

Dong dong dong~ xii~

The sound of music abruptly manifested again, as if the Dance was about to once again begin anew!

Gu Qing Shan immediately shut up.

Hazeden and Guyan came forward to pull Sha Qiang away.

"Ahahaha, for this wonderful dance, let us have a toast" Hazeden spoke up first.

"Indeed, from now on, everyone are dance buddies, come, we're going to finish this entire bottle first! Cheers!" Guyan followed up.

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The two of them sat Sha Qiang in front of the long dining table and began to drink.

At first, Sha Qiang was really confused, but he soon got drunk in the atmosphere and began to enjoy drinking with the two leaders.

The sound of music gradually subsided.

"Hoh--"

Everyone couldn't help but sigh in relief.

That was dangerous.

——we're all elites of our forces, having been through countless battles, chosen to explore this place after a rigorous selection process.

We did not come here to perform a group dance!

Gu Qing Shan wiped the cold sweat off his forehead.

He really didn't want to perform that embarrassing dance in front of Su Xue Er again.

However, now that I think about Su Xue Er——-

Her dancing was really beautiful just now, this kind of dance was definitely designed for young and alluring girls like her.

"Qing Shan, I have a small question" Su Xue Er whispered.

"Hm, go ahead" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Su Xue Er hesitantly asked: "Then... erm, how did you... kissing technique..."

"That was because of you" Gu Qing Shan replied with a stern expression.

Su Xue Er froze.

Because of me?

Gu Qing Shan explained: "In Aboul, when you placed me under three layers of restraints, one of them was the [Gift of the Witch's Kiss]"

"I have an ability where I can use the power of the soul to immediately grasp any Skill, so I used it to learn the kissing technique from that and dispel it"

"Otherwise, how did you think I managed to arrive at Triste's collection world in time?"

His voice gradually became lower as he whispered: "Unfortunately, you ran away at the time, otherwise we would have been able to fight alongside each other"

Su Xue Er trembled a bit.

"Which means before that, you've never actually kissed anyone else?" she asked.

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed in relief and swore to her: "I really haven't"

Su Xue Er's lips slowly curved into a smile.

"Seriously..." she softly touched Gu Qing Shan's face, then the back of his ear, then his nape, "If I knew that you were that strong, I would have fought together with you. Hah, I really was the one to blame"

"Let's not talk about that anymore and eat, that dance just now was really tiring"

"Hm"

...

The group was about to set off again after reorganizing themselves.

There were no longer any sounds arriving from the secret passage.

That eerie scene just now had probably scared even the monsters, so before they were able to discern what had transpired, they wouldn't try to attack again.

Before they set off, Hazeden gathered with the other three leaders.

He cleared his throat and said: "Let's reach an agreement. Just now, we went through an intense battle and managed to barely triumph with our lives intact"

Everyone else was briefly stunned before realizing what he meant.

Guyan followed up: "I used my Scorching Fist technique to move into the heart of the enemy, unleashing over five hundred shattering fists to blow 23 monsters to bits"

Gu Qing Shan pondered a bit: "I... used over two hundred strikes to flay 17 monsters to their bones"

Hazeden continued: "I used my heroic spirit Card to summon an army and killed the 5 strangest looking giant monsters"

A historian official stood behind him, quickly recording their words.

——as one of the greatest kingdoms of the Mystic Zones, this would be a part of the Sky Haze royal conquest, a tale to be told to the ages.

When they return, this shall be how it would be known.

As for the Dance...

What?

What dance?

Can dancing kill an enemy?

No one would ever mention a single word about that Dance, the only thing the later generations shall remember were the sights of Sky Haze King fighting alongside the Lord of Flames, the Dragon Slayer from the Age of Old, and the Purgatory Archfiend; a tale of a battle of mythical proportions.

The Purgatory Archfiend...

——indeed, there was also a brave Archfiend who participated in that great battle, as one of the four allies, it also contributed greatly to their victory.

The three of them turned to the Purgatory Archfiend.

"You should also say something——— think carefully before you speak, after all, this is history to be passed on" Hazeden implied.

"Indeed, the four of us fought alongside one another, braved through danger before finally triumphing against the monsters" Guyan implied a bit more heavily.

"It was a battle of mythical proportions" Gu Qing Shan also nodded in agreement.

Seeing how serious they were, the Purgatory Archfiend Sha Qiang also understood that he must think seriously.

He pondered long and hard, then said aggrievedly: [Actually, there was something that I hadn't been able to figure out for the past while no matter how hard I thought]

"What is it?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

During the dance just now, the three of you were responsible for swinging your hips at the very front

Why didn't I have a part in such a flashy position?

[We all signed the covenant as equals, why wasn't I included in that!?]

Chapter 1082

Sha Qiang's right to contribute to history was thus stripped.

The historical official quickly finished the description of the epic battle according to what Hazeden, Guyan, and Gu Qing Shan had described.

Naturally, Sha Qiang didn't need to know about this.

Guyan gestured through his eyes for his subordinates to pull Sha Qiang away and continued drinking.

Hazeden read through the battle depiction once and nodded in satisfaction.

He handed it over for Gu Qing Shan to see.

Gu Qing Shan then handed it to Guyan.

The three of them were very pleased.

Indeed.

This is the truth.

"Alright, let us be on our way" Gu Qing Shan said.

He wielded his swords, prepared to walk in front of the group again.

"——It might be best that you don't lead the way" Hazeden pulled him back.

Guyan tried delivering it to him gently: "Your sword is very powerful, so you should only act at a crucial moment. All of us should be at the back and act as overall battlefield support"

Sha Qiang commented from far away: ¶ Yeah, you shouldn't stay in front. I'll be frank, just looking at your back right now makes me feel like you're about to lead another dance ¶

With that statement hammering the point in, not only could Gu Qing Shan not refute, but everyone else also nodded in understanding.

Gu Qing Shan could only stay back, feeling a bit irritated.

Hm?

This means I won't have to face any danger, what am I irritated for?

He quickly adjusted his temperament.

Sha Qiang said and waved his hand.

Two of his subordinates moved forward and crouched down on all fours.

The two evil creatures gradually turned into a type of greyhound that emanated flames of Purgatory.

¶ Go
↓ Sha Qiang ordered.

The two Purgatory hounds went ahead into the dark passage.

——-the secret passage that headed into the Dusty World.

After a few moments.

Sha Qiang suddenly spoke up: [No issues, it's safe inside]

"Then let us advance as well" Hazeden stated.

Everyone nodded.

Hazeden's subordinates, Guyan's subordinates, as well as Sha Qiang's subordinates stood in formation and began heading into the secret passage as well.

Gu Qing Shan watched them, pulled Su Xue Er close, and accompanied her forward.

He was walking together with Hazeden and the other two leaders as they made their way into the secret passage.

...

Darkness.

There were some glowing gems and stones on that square earlier that served as light sources.

But after they entered the passage, there were no longer any light sources at all.

——-if these evil creatures weren't born with the flames of Purgatory, and if Guyan's group wasn't one that practiced flame techniques, everyone would have no choice but to blindly move forward.

The stairs were wet and slippery, full of blood and pulpy flesh.

Quite a few who weren't careful enough actually slipped, falling down a considerable distance.

By the time they regained their balance, they would all see bits of corpses that hadn't been fully devoured, as well as writhing limbs of some monster that were still alive.

After a short while, Hazeden finally couldn't endure it any longer and gestured to his subordinates.

One of them unleashed a spell.

——the wind surged forward.

A strong gust of wind blew forward and swept through the passage, bringing the multitudes of corpse pieces and blood away with it into the faraway darkness.

The path was finally cleared up, but since blood couldn't be washed away completely, there were still large patches of black and red all over the ground.

"This spell was prepared in case of poisonous gas and environments obscured by fog" Hazeden explained.

"Hm, it's perfect for a situation like this" Gu Qing Shan commented.

The group continued to move forward into the passage.

About half an hour later.

[Halt] Sha Qiang spoke up.

Everyone stopped.

"Is there an enemy up ahead?" Guyan asked.

No, but take a look at what kind of thing this is \[\] Sha Qiang replied.

He blew a whistle.

A faint image swiftly arrived in front of him.

One of the two Purgatory Hounds had returned to the party with something in its mouth.

Sha Qiang gave the item to Guyan first.

"I'm not sure, we don't have this sort of creature in our civilization" Guyan replied.

Shaking his head, he handed it to Hazeden.

Hazeden couldn't recognize it either, so the item finally arrived in Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Gu Qing Shan took a careful look.

——this was a small piece of bone, but unlike the bones found in the 900 million World Layers, there were multitudes of boney spikes that grew from this piece of bone, each of them carved full of ancient runes.

The War God UI didn't react, which meant that this piece of bone was most likely useless.

"Do you recognize it?" Guyan asked.

"No"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head but continued to stare closely at it.

If you don't know, why are you still staring at it?
 ■ Sha Qiang complained.

Gu Qing Shan just smiled and said: "Please give me a bit more like, it's a bit too dark here. I need to take a careful look at it"

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Sha Qiang walked up to him.

The flames of Purgatory burned on its body, illuminating the area around Gu Qing Shan.

Using the light of the flame, Gu Qing Shan continued studying the bone.

"What did you find out?" Hazeden asked.

"Hard to say, this bone isn't quite pure" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Not pure?" Hazeden didn't understand.

"Yeah, this isn't the bone of any creature——- as long I can hold it in my hand, I can easily infer how soft or tough any piece of bone should be, as well as where to cut it up and how much force I should use; but this bone doesn't seem to have only bone in it..."

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan tossed the piece of bone into the air.

A gleam of his sword.

Sha!

The bone was cut in half and fell down to the ground.

He and Hazeden each caught one half of the bone and checked it again.

Only to see a small corpse right inside this bone.

The corpse was only around the size of a thumb, but it crumbled almost immediately as it came into contact with the air and faded into dust.

""Pixie!""

Gu Qing Shan and Hazeden both exclaimed at once.

The two of them exchanged glances, not sure why they found the corpse of a Pixie in a place like this.

The group advanced forward again.

About 10 minutes later, they arrived at the location that Sha Qiang mentioned.

Two Purgatory Hounds were loitering around here.

Not too far away from where they stood was a giant skeletal hand.

The passage was quite big, enough for 7-8 people to traverse in a line, but this skeletal hand had completely filled the passage, only leaving a tiny gap.

Marks of the hand clawing at something was all over the walls.

At a glance, this seemed like the aftermath of the skeletal hand trying to grab something.

Everyone carefully observed it.

"It blocked the path" Hazeden muttered to himself.

Guyan was quite doubtful: "But this skeletal hand seems like it had been here for a very long time without moving, how did the masked cultivators go past it?"

Sha Qiang replied: I sn't it clear? They probably warped away I

Guyan glanced at him a bit but didn't say anything.

Sha Qiang pondered briefly and gestured to a Purgatory Hound to come forward.

The Purgatory Hound tried biting the skeletal hand.

No reaction.

Another Purgatory Hound slipped through a gap on the skeletal hand and moved further into the passage, finally returning after a long while.

It reported: Boss, this skeletal hand is still attached to a thick skeletal arm, it completely blocked the end of the passage without even a bit of room to slip through, so I had no choice but to return 1

Everyone fell into thought.

What kind of monster's remains is this? And why is it so gigantic?

Hazeden signaled to his men.

Two of his subordinates tossed their Cards out, manifesting as Frost-type and Flame-type attacks that struck the skeletal hand head-on.

It didn't move at all, and wasn't damaged even as the attacks gradually stopped.

——perhaps, it's just an object?

Being able to resist both fire and ice, the material seems to be quite considerable.

Sha Qiang thought for a bit longer and ordered:

Seems like this thing had existed for so long that it's already broken, go ahead and clean it up, make way for everyone to pass

Several evil creatures walked forward, wielded their weapons, and struck the skeletal hand with all their might.

After the very first hit, everyone found their vision becoming blurred.

Several shadows emerged from the skeletal hand to grab and crush those evil creatures.

Green blood was splattered all over the wall.

The skeletal swiftly pulled back and went out of their vision in an instant.

It was only then that they finally reacted.

Bastard! You dare kill my men; I'm going to massacre you!

Sha Qiang roared furiously and was about to jump forward.

Gu Qing Shan immediately held him back and shouted: "You're no match for it!"

Just as Sha Qiang was about to respond to him, something resounded in his ears.

Desperate and fearful screams resounded from far away behind the skeletal hand.

The screams gradually subsided.

Replaced by the sound of slow chewing.

Everyone's hearts sank.

———the owner of that giant skeletal hand is eating.

What kind of entity has such a giant hand?

And this entity seemed to be stuck in the passage, so it reached its skeletal hand out to bait any unfortunate prey.

"We're no longer as powerful as we were outside" Hazeden spoke with a stern expression: "It had been impervious to our spells so far, plus with its speed and power, we wouldn't be able to fight it at close range"

Sha Qiang opened his mouth wide, speechless.

Gu Qing Shan pondered: "At first, it let the Purgatory Hounds attack and go through without retaliating, then only springing into action when 7-8 people were baited at once..."

"Quite obviously, this monster is alive"

While they were talking, a loud rumbling noise could be heard coming from the far end of the passage.

The skeletal hand once again returned and blocked the path as if it had never moved a single inch.

Plish.

Plish.

The blood of evil creatures slowly dripped down from the white bones of the hand.

Chapter 1083

Various spells struck the giant skeletal hand.

Although everyone had been stripped of their powers while being able to retain just a single ability, when they unleashed that ability, they would still be able to exert it at its strongest.

The skeletal was completely intact without a scratch.

This was a bit terrifying.

As Gu Qing Shan looked at this terrifying hand's appearance, he silently felt like sighing.

———it's regretful that I can't summon the [True Crimson Demon Spear] right now, otherwise, I would definitely peel this monster away bit by bit.

He turned his thought away and focused on the lines of glowing text floating in front of his eyes:

[You've completed the first training session of the Dance of the Earth God]

[Through this training, your strength has been increased by a certain degree]

[Through this training, your reaction speed has been increased by a certain degree]

[Through this training, your stamina has been doubled]

[The residue fluctuations of the Dance of the Earth God are spreading deep into the secret passage]

[It is unknown if this is a blessing or a curse]

After reading through them all, Gu Qing Shan indeed felt his greatly weakened body becoming slightly stronger.

Of course, this improvement was very little, incomparable to his body as a cultivator.

But in a situation where everyone had been stripped of their power, this improvement would still be useful.

"War God UI, what do you mean by 'unknown if this is a blessing or a curse'?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The War God UI didn't reply.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and said: "Put 200 Soul Points on my tab, I'll pay you back when we return"

The War God UI remained silent.

Gu Qing Shan frowned, then said: "I'll pay double, hurry up"

[Ting]!

A clear chime resounded.

The War God UI replied: [By 'unknown if this is a blessing or a curse', I meant that the residual fluctuations from Living Being Sacrificial Dance are currently spreading, thus allowing an entity to sense it while attempting a weak reaction. However, we are unable to tell what it is]

Gu Qing Shan's mind quickly turned, then looked to Su Xue Er and asked in a whisper: "Xue Er, how did you make it here?"

Su Xue Er replied: "I was the last remaining heir of the 9 Lords, so I inherited their 9 Starlight Cloaks"

"Starlight Cloaks?" Gu Qing Shan repeated.

"Yeah, apparently I reached some sort of lowest required threshold of power, so they combined to form a star chart, then brought me here"

"Also, I heard that this place leads to some sort of 'dusty world'? Where I apparently would be able to obtain the power of Occultism—— you probably know as well, within the 900 million World Layers, the power of Occultism is the hardest type to obtain"

So that's what it seems to be!

——it seems the Dusty World really does have something to do with occultism, that's why the Living Being Sacrificial Dance was triggered so suddenly.

Gu Qing Shan had also noticed a sense of restlessness emerging from the Sacrificial Dance ever since he arrived in this place.

As the most powerful type of power he had that wasn't fully under his control, there must surely be a reason that the Sacrificial Dance reacted that way.

The answer lies...

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the secret passage ahead of him.

Deeper in the secret passage?

Or perhaps in the Dusty World itself?

The giant skeletal hand simply sat there, motionlessly blocking the path forward.

In the end, I still need to think of a way to get through and check, just to be sure.

"Su Xue Er, how about you give it a try as well?"

Gu Qing Shan told Su Xue Er.

Su Xue Er drew her Card and tossed it forward.

Various Bloodsea Divine Arms manifested from the void of space and struck the skeletal hand with full force.

The skeletal hand wasn't damaged but seemed to feel pain as it twitched each time it was struck by a Bloodsea Divine Arm, yet it still refused to budge.

Su Xue Er could only recall her Card.

Sha Qiang snorted in irritation: There's no other way forward, does anyone of you have any idea what we should do next?

Everyone fell silent.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly, then asked: "Does anyone have an ability that can search or look through walls?"

One of Guyan's subordinates came forward.

"I can do that. I have the ability that enables my ear to perform Clairvoyance through any wall" he said.

Gu Qing Shan turned to Sha Qiang and asked: "Where did your men discover the piece of bone that contained the pixie's corpse from before?"

Sha Qiang walked back a few dozen meters and pointed at a corner of the wall: [It was here]

Gu Qing Shan commented: "Pixies are the best at hiding and concealing themselves, as long as they don't want to be seen, no one would ever be able to find them"

Hazeden's eyes flickered and said: "You mean..."

"We need to give it a try" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Guyan then told his subordinate: "Go and help sir Dragon Slayer from the Age of Old investigate"

"Understood"

The subordinate responded, walked to the corner of the wall, and pressed his ear against it.

Everyone simply stared at him, waiting for the results.

After listening for a while, he shook his head: "This wall is very thick, about several ten thousand miles, I can't hear any further than that"

Gu Qing Shan then suggested: "Try and listen up top"

The man then had one of his friends to help him get close to the ceiling.

After pressing his ear against the ceiling for a bit, he replied: "Above us is the ocean, it's boundless, I can't see any landmass within sight"

This was within Gu Qing Shan's expectation, as the only things outside of this secret passage were a giant wall and the ocean. Although their group had traveled a long distance, it was obviously not enough to leave the humongous ocean.

Gu Qing Shan then said: "Try the other wall"

The man jumped down from his friend's shoulder to listen to the other wall.

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"Also several ten thousand miles of wall, I can't hear any further than that" he sighed and replied.

Everyone felt a bit dejected.

Gu Qing Shan was unmoved and continued: "Try the floor"

Seeing him so insistent with his idea, the man couldn't help but follow and press his ear against the floor.

A few moments later.

He still didn't stand up or say anything, then gradually displayed a surprised expression.

Everyone noticed that.

"What did you hear?" Guyan questioned.

"My Lord, there is a huge mass of darkness below us, I can't see very clearly, but I think there's a giant insect there" the man replied.

A giant insect? How giant? I Sha Qiang asked.

The man waved his hand a bit, then answered: "In the human worlds common measurement unit, almost a hundred meters"

An insect that was almost a hundred meters in size.

Everyone was a bit stunned to hear that.

"A body almost a hundred meters in size... with our current strength, I wonder if we can win against it" Guyan pondered.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "No need to think about it if it's an entity at the same level as this skeletal hand, we won't be able to do anything to it"

¶ Why so?
↓ Sha Qiang was unconvinced.

Hazeden casually replied: "Because an insect can move, attack and retreat as it pleased, completely unhindered, while the skeletal hand is stuck here without being able to move any further"

Gu Qing Shan thought about it a bit and loudly asked: "Does anyone here understand the culture of pixies?"

Everyone shook their heads.

The pixie race was regarded as the most mysterious species, in reality, it would normally be impossible to even meet one of them, let alone understand them.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

This is going to be a bit tough.

While he was pondering, someone pulled at his sleeve.

It was Su Xue Er.

"Erm... I know a little bit" she whispered.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "How did you know about the pixies? Did you get into contact with one of them?"

"No, I haven't"

Su Xue Er shook her head and continued: "At first when I was still studying at the Fog Isle, I used to do nothing but study in the institute public library. After Teacher took me in, I stayed at the House of Law and read through every book in his collection as well, using magic to memorize them all, and then I was transferred to the Holy Church——— the Holy Church's library was even bigger, so I took on the position of librarian on top of my regular duties. If I have nothing do I, I would always stay in the library without leaving"

Gu Qing Shan was a bit stunned, then chuckled: "You already graduated from high school, didn't you? How come you're still so interested in studying?"

Su Xue Er replied with a stern expression: "I've always held a certain belief: the more you know, the more opportunities you'd have—— knowledge can give anybody the chance to change their fate and future"

Gu Qing Shan crossed his arms and muttered: "Then you might be able to become very close friends with Impartial Goddess, that had always been her worldview as well"

"Impartial Goddess had treated me very well, so I will have to thank her when I return" Su Xue Er continued: "Now, regarding the pixies, I can probably still remember everything I read, what do you want to know Qing Shan?"

"I want to know what kind of things would the pixies do when they run into danger—— even better if it's specifically pertaining to them being in a passage or tunnel" Gu Qing Shan said.

Su Xue Er thought about it for a bit and answered: "Dig a hole"

"Dig a hole?"

"Yeah, when they run into something especially dangerous, they'll disappear into the ground"

Su Xue Er continued: "There once was a person who explored an ancient ruin, but as soon as he went into a tunnel, it began to collapse"

"Having no other choice, he had to run back out"

"While he was running away, he suddenly saw a pixie carrying a bag full of glittering gems that was hurrying to escape from inside the ruins"

"At this point, the tunnel was collapsing too quickly for him to make it out in time"

"When the man used a teleportation scroll to escape, he saw the pixie scurrying into the ground at the very last moment before he was transported away"

After listening to her, Gu Qing Shan asked: "What's the relationship between pixies and insects——- any kind of insect is fine, or rather, do they have a hobby of raising insects?"

Su Xue Er recalled for a short while before answering: "Pixies hate insects to the very core of their being. They only like beautiful, wondrous, luxurious items—— in fact, the number one most effective insecticide in the 900 million World Layers was created by the pixies, who silently spread their use throughout the infinite worlds"

"I see, Xue Er really is bright"

Gu Qing Shan stroked her head, drew his sword, and walked up to the corner of the passage.

"Was it this place?" he pointed at a point on the ground and asked the man from before.

"It's right around this area, but I don't know how to go down" the man replied.

Gu Qing Shan started to tap each tile of the floor with his sword, using considerable force.

By the 11th tile he tapped, the ground began to rumble.

Immediately after that, the floor opened up and Gu Qing Shan dropped straight down.

Everyone was shocked.

Su Xue Er shouted in panic before swiftly jumping down with him.

In the air, she had even drawn her Card, preparing to fight at any moment.

But no fight occurred.

A pair of strong hands caught her.

"Relax, this place is safe" Gu Qing Shan replied.

——he managed to correctly take everything into consideration, except Su Xue Er's reaction.

Fortunately, his strength and reaction speed was improved by the Dance, otherwise, he might not have been able to catch Su Xue Er in time.

"What about that giant 100-meter insec——-" Su Xue Er asked as she followed Gu Qing Shan's gaze.

The two of them said nothing.

This was not an insect.

It was a long and dusty metal train, standing alone on a long rail that led into the thick and lonely darkness.

"Qing Shan"

"What is it?" Gu Qing Shan kept his eyes on the train and asked.

Su Xue Er lowered her voice and replied: "...My star chart just activated"

Chapter 1084

"Don't move"

Gu Qing Shan hugged Su Xue Er closely and slowly walked from the side of the rail towards the middle part.

He sighed in relief and let Su Xue Er down gently.

——-the area on both sides of the rail were occupied with patches of bottomless darkness, he couldn't infer the distance, nor could he deduce the depth of this darkness.

As for the area above the rail, he could see that the secret passage that guided them to this place gradually extending upwards and leading them further away.

The secret passage and the railway led to completely different locations.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised to see this.

Who could've thought that there was a turning point in the secret passage?

This way no one would be able to reach this place during the same method I did.

But the good news was that the further we got away from the secret passage, the further we would also get from the owner of that giant skeletal hand.

The group above were still rowdy, seemingly thinking of a way to go down.

Taking this chance, Gu Qing Shan asked Su Xue Er:

"Your star chart activated? What is it displaying?"

"It's displaying the name of this train, called The Explorer. There's also a line of description here, it says.... 'The train has entered hibernation, manual activation is hidden at the side of the 11th window on the 3rd compartment, a block-shaped button'"

Gu Qing Shan continued observing the metal train just in front of them and muttered: "Seems like this was a leftover relic of the Starlight Empire"

The entire train was divided into a total of 4 compartments, each one just a bit longer than 20 meters, silently docking on the rail.

At this point, Hazeden came down with his men.

"So it was a Technological artifact" Hazeden was surprised.

Guyan also went down.

"Didn't you say it was an insect?" he glared at his subordinate.

The subordinate tried pleading: "My Lord, it really did look a lot like an insect"

No one tried to support his claim.

An insect almost 100-meter long... that literally scared everyone stiff.

Guyan apologetically said: "Sorry about that, our world is a Magic-type one, this guy hasn't read too many outside books so he didn't recognize Technological artifacts"

He made the gesture.

Two Purgatory Hounds clad in faint flames ran forward and arrived in front of the train.

They cautiously stared at the metal train and bared their fangs.

Everyone looked at them from behind.

All of a sudden, the two Purgatory Hounds began to bark:

"Woof woof woof woof!"

"GRrrrrr woof!"

The train remained still.

Sha Qiang rubbed his chin and pondered in a low voice: \llbracket Strange, it's so big, maybe it's the same as the skeletal hand up top and doesn't care about the dogs? \rrbracket

Gu Qing Shan: "..."

Guyan: "..."

Hazeden: "..."

Su Xue Er tried explaining to him in a low voice: "---This is a kind of transportation vehicle. Until it's activated, it won't react to anything"

Ahahaha, how could there be such a dumb thing! I Sha Qiang mockingly laughed at it.

Everyone refrained from explaining anything at all.

Hazeden cleared his throat and stated: "Let us move forward and take a closer look"

"Indeed"

Everyone agreed.

The group walked up to the train and carefully observed it.

Most likely because it had been here for too long, the inside of the train was covered in a thick layer of dust that flew everywhere with the slightest touch.

Hazeden covered his mouth and nose, scowled, then ordered: "Clean it!"

"Understood, your majesty"

His subordinates leapt into action.

[Surging Wind] and a Water-type spell was used to wash both the inside and outside of the train, revealing its original appearance.

Guyan manifested a fire in the palm of his hand and illuminated the train.

He mused: "I don't know what you think, but I can't help but... sense a bad feeling from that"

There were dried-up bones of various creatures all around the rail track that crumbled at the slightest touch; quite obviously, they had been dead here for a considerable number of years.

As for the train——- the outside of the train was full of dents, slash marks, claw marks, and even scratch marks, as well as botches of graffiti-like blood that plastered all over the sides.

Evidently, an extremely harsh battle had occurred in this place.

A skeleton hung from a window of the train, maintaining a thrashing motion even though it had died.

It was stuck that way.

"Seems like we won't be able to enter the train" Gu Qing Shan commented.

Hazeden spoke resolutely: "We don't need to board this train"

"Why not?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

"If memory serves, these technological trains are usually very fast—— compared to ordinary humans"

"In the case that there is an issue up ahead if the train is moving too quickly, we wouldn't be able to do anything beside crashing head on"

Guyan agreed: "Our bodies are currently mortal bodies, both crashing and jumping from the train into the darkness would definitely spell our deaths"

Saying so, he casually picked up a pebble from the track and threw it into the darkness on the side.

Everyone listened.

But there was no sound of impact.

There was no way to tell how deep it was.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "What you said is true, but we should still take a careful look at this thing first..."

He pulled Su Xue Er to check the train out.

Sha Qiang looked down and told the two Purgatory Hounds:

If we're going on foot, go ahead and scout the road I

The two Purgatory Hounds moved along the railway, quickly making their way forward.

While the others studied the marks on the outside of the train.

Someone drew their weapon and slashed the train.

Sparks flew.

But the metallic surface of the train was intact.

It was then that they understood how strong its defenses were.

Gu Qing Shan walked with Su Xue Er to circle around the train once.

The doors of the train compartments were shut close, refusing to be opened from the outside.

"Are there any schematics of the train's structure on the star chart?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"None" Su Xue Er shook her head.

All of a sudden, an electronic voice spoke up: [I have all the records of the Starlight Empire, currently extracting data related to The Explorer train]

Su Xue Er also heard that and was stunned.

"This is the Super Dimensional equipment, created and sent by Impartial Goddess" Gu Qing Shan explained.

While he was explaining that to her, somehow, the entire schematics of The Explorer train was displayed in his mind.

Gu Qing Shan seriously checked the various functions of the metal train before exhaling.

"Very impressive"

He couldn't help but sigh.

"More impressive than our science and technology?" Su Xue Er asked.

"A lot more" Gu Qing Shan sincerely commented from the bottom of his heart.

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"Compared to the Seraph——"

Su Xue Er was about to ask again, but was cut off by the electronic voice:

[Your Excellency Gu Qing Shan, would you like to know any other information?]

Su Xue Er begrudgingly went silent.

"Was it brainwave transmission that you used just now?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Indeed] the electronic voice asked.

"What kind of function did you keep exactly? Was it the brainwave transmission?" Gu Qing Shan asked again.

[Data transfer is a natural-born characteristic of all Technological lifeforms. The function that this Super Dimensional equipment retained is one used for war] the electronic voice replied.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: "Then, what about weapons? I actually need a Technological weapon at the moment"

The electronic voice replied: [There is a great difference between a cosmetic tool and a weapon of war, this will require a certain amount of time]

"Alright, we're in no rush, at least we have something to use now"

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out and heavily pressed a block-shaped button on the outside of a train compartment.

———this was exactly on the side of the 11th window on the 3rd compartment.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan pressed it, an unassuming grey doorknob appeared.

All of a sudden, Sha Qiang called out from the other side of the train: \[\bigcap\$ Oh no! Both of my hounds just lost their lives! \[\bigcap\$

Hazeden asked: "What's the situation?"

Everyone turned tense.

"Gather by my side, ready your formation!" Hazeden loudly ordered.

"Prepare for battle!" Guyan also declared.

Hazeden angrily refuted him: "If you want to sit there and get eaten, go ahead, we're going to fight!"

Hearing that, Sha Qiang reluctantly got his act together and ordered the other evil creatures:

[Everyone, get ready to risk your lives!]

On the other side of the train.

Su Xue Er grabbed Gu Qing Shan's hand and looked at him.

Gu Qing Shan gave her a confident look.

"It'll be fine, just like you said before, knowledge can change one's future"

He grabbed the grey doorknob and pulled.

Cra-rak!

Ooooo uuuu----

The metal train started trembling.

A flash of light appeared from the train to scan everyone.

A second later, a cold and metallic voice resounded from inside the train:

[Performing self-check]

[Self-check completed, current state: 87% undamaged]

[Detected individual with the Starlight bloodline]

[Detected a great threat approaching the train]

[Imminent collision in one minute]

[Entering War Mode]

[Awaiting order]

As the voice stopped, a group of binary and data quickly scrolled across the black chassis of the train.

One minute left.

The clock was quickly ticking down.

Gu Qing Shan squeezed Su Xue Er's hands that were holding his and said: "Xue Er, it's your turn"

"Huh? Yes, I have the Starlight bloodline, but what should I do now?" Su Xue Er asked.

Gu Qing Shan recalled the various functions of the train and replied: "You need to grant me the authority to use this train"

Su Xue Er quickly understood and asked: "You're going to use it to fight?"

The ground began to shake.

If one took the time to listen, there would be a loud and heavy sound of an entity running in their direction.

"The only people who understand technology here are you and I. Just now, I received the entire schematics of the train so I know how to use it——- not to mention I'm a lot more used to battling" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Su Xue Er worriedly said: "Then I want to join you as well"

"Of course, there's a co-pilot seat" Gu Qing Shan told her.

The train began to speak again:

[Collision against the enemy quickly approaching]
[Beginning countdown: 20]
[19]
[18]
[17]
Su Xue Er loudly declared: "I authorize control to this man beside me and let him bring me into battle by his side, hurry!"
[Orders received]
The metallic voice calmed down as a flash of light shined across Gu Qing Shan and Su Xue Er.
The two of them disappeared instantly.
The train began to rise up on top of the track.
It reached out with two large metallic hands to grab the sides of the track to prevent itself from falling.
Right after that, countless metallic parts moved and shifted, quickly rearranging itself into a perfect humanoid form.
The metal giant stood straight up from a crouched position.
[Starlight Assault Mech Armor has been prepared, please select your weapon]
[—–selection complete]
[Sun Paralyzer Sword activated]
The metal giant drew a short metal club from its thigh.
Oong——-
A long and straight luminous shaft appeared from the metal club that ripped the void of space around it apart.
The metal giant lowered its body, wielded the sword, and retreated.
It had abruptly vanished from their sights!
Don't pay any attention to that Technological artifact, look ahead! Sha Qiang loudly shouted.
Everyone quickly suppressed the various emotions in their hearts and readied themselves to face the track ahead.
The trembling was gradually growing heavier.
"Intercept the enemy——"
Hazeden shouted.

A second later.

A humongous figure suddenly appeared from the darkness in front of them.

It had a body engulfed in black flames and a mouth full of teeth.

The monster was easily several dozen meters tall, the rails on the track that it stepped on were constantly being melted and collapsed.

Everything behind it had already been destroyed, leaving nothing but empty darkness!

It seemed almost like some sort of mythical monster!

The monster observed the group and declared with a booming voice: Fresh meat, all of you are my food——- J

Before it could finish, the metal giant appeared from its side.

The sword of light in its hand abruptly pierced through the monster's chest!

Chapter 1085

The metal giant wielded its sword and unleashed a heavy downward slash!

The sound of howling wind filled the void of space as an intense light radiated from the Sun Paralyzer Sword.

With a bright flash of light, the monster was bisected, tossing and turning in the air while falling into the darkness.

Everyone cheered.

However, the metal giant stood still, with its knees slightly bent and with its sword raised to form a stance.

A hurried voice resounded from within the metal giant:

[Quickly run away]

[There is a maintenance stairway on the 5th section of the railway, you can leave this area through that stairway, hurry!]

This was Gu Qing Shan's voice, clearly urging them to hurry.

Everyone's expressions changed.

Hazeden and Guyan were smart enough to understand the implications, so they hurriedly made their way to the 5th section of the railway and looked down at the side of the track.

Sure enough.

A thin, black metal staircase was there, leading down into the darkness below.

This staircase seemed to be made of a special material that made it impossible to detect through senses other than sight while also blending into the darkness.

If Gu Qing Shan hadn't informed them, no one would have been able to even notice the staircase's existence.

"Quickly!"

Guyan shouted.

The group quickly made their way down the stairs, while carefully navigating through the darkness.

Hazeden briefly paused before he loudly asked the metal giant: "If we're leaving, what about you?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: [If you stay here, you'd only die without being able to do anything, I can still hold it off for a short while, I'll act according to the situation]

As soon as he finished, the metal giant lightly leapt up and moved away from where it was.

Boom!

A black mass of flames had exploded where it stood, completely melting away a portion of the track.

Immediately after that, the terrifying monster from before abruptly appeared behind the metal giant and struck it head-on.

The metal giant was sent flying and vanished into the darkness.

The monster gathered all the black flames in its hands and looked down at the fleeing group.

Trying to run?

It scoffed and prepared to attack.

All of a sudden, the metal giant leapt out from the darkness and unleashed another full-powered slash!

The monster was cut open but managed to toss a mass of black flames towards the metal giant at the very last moment.

In that split second, the metal giant moved very slightly.

The black flame struck the left arm of the metal giant, blowing it away.

——the two similarly huge monsters were both sent flying by the other party.

Pitiful object, you can't kill me J the monster mocked.

Its bisected body reattached and regenerated just like before.

On the other hand, the metal giant's left arm had already been blown away, melted into a puddle of molten metal by the flames; it then generated a giant cannon within itself to replace the lost limb.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The cannon shot continuously.

The monster was struck so many times it started swearing before hiding into the darkness, out of sight.

The metal giant remained hovering in the air, cautiously maintaining a defensive stance.

"Just now, when we avoided the mass of black flames, was it your maneuver?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Su Xue Er spoke while her hands were quickly moving around the dashboard, inputting various parameters and adjusting the cannon's angle, shaking her head: "It wasn't me. Be careful—— it's going around, trying to pounce on us"

Gu Qing Shan controlled the sword and prepared to receive the enemy.

But he was hesitant.

——-what kind of power suddenly made the Mech armor abruptly move away like that?

If that hadn't happened, the black flames would have been able to cause even more damage.

At this point, the group who were standing on the black stairs had decided not to leave.

Hazeden loudly declared: "Listen, if that metal giant is defeated, none of us would be able to flee, if you have any hidden trump cards, this is the time to use it!"

Guyan shook his head: "Our abilities were mostly selected with the focus on destruction and power, but any of this monster's wounds can be regenerated, so our powers are useless"

Hazeden glanced at his subordinates and also felt a bit helpless.

That's true, if we can't locate the monster's weakness, no matter how powerful an ability is, it would still be useless.

[Ahahaha... ha ha ha....]

Laughter reverberated.

Who could still laugh at this point in time?

Everyone turned toward the laughter.

Only to see Sha Qiang trembling, apparently trying his best to hold back his laughter.

"What's the matter?" Guyan asked.

It's nothing Isha Qiang waved his hand dismissively: Is simply think that it's about time I display my true powers I

He shouted: [My dear loyal subordinates, come!]

The evil creatures quickly gathered towards him while he let go of the staircase's railings to make his way back onto the track.

During this, the evil creatures were merging into his body one by one.

He gradually grew bigger and taller, his height soon comparable with the metal giant and the black flame monster.

In just a few moments, a large archfiend whose body exuded the burning flames of Purgatory appeared on the track, emanating an unbelievable power.

Roar!!!

The large archfiend uttered a resounding roar.

It was like a mass of flames, but also a burning sun that had great power capable of burning everything.

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Guyan couldn't help but exclaim: "He also used this ability before—— how did he become so ridiculously strong!?"

Hazeden said: "I seem to have seen this Archfiend's form before..."

He looked to a white-haired subordinate behind him.

The subordinate answered right away: "Your majesty, this is the legendary founder of Purgatory, the very first Archfiend to manifest in the void, an entity of unimaginably huge power"

The very first... Archfiend?

Everyone couldn't help but feel a sense of respect.

Gu Qing Shan and Su Xue Er also noticed the change on the track.

Huge patches of data scrolled through the screens within the Mech armor, analyzing the power of the founder of Purgatory.

"Truly... powerful..." Su Xue Er muttered in shock.

"Indeed," Gu Qing Shan praised, "If he had used this mythical power earlier, we wouldn't have gotten into such a tough situation"

While they were talking, the monster clad in black flames also showed itself from the void.

The monster hovered in mid-air, cautiously observing the founder of Purgatory.

"A chance, quickly analyze it!" Gu Qing Shan urged.

Su Xue Er affirmed as the two of them quickly operated the Mech armor's analysis system.

Various sensors locked onto the monster's body, swiftly absorbing the scattered power it gave off.

"We need 10 seconds to finish the analysis!" Su Xue Er told him.

Gu Qing Shan's gaze fell onto the founder of Purgatory, pressed a button and said: [Sha Qiang, I need information, stall for 10 seconds before you kill it]

The founder of Purgatory paused.

It had been a long time since I last appeared after founding Purgatory, you all have probably forgotten my power

The power emanating from his body began to expand in every directions, leading even the void of space to tremble.

『 Haaaaaahh! 』

The founder of Purgatory was still howling.

His power grew increasingly stronger until it reached a point where everyone felt shocked.

10 seconds had passed!

[Sha Qiang, you can kill it now!] Gu Qing Shan declared.

He glanced towards the data on the analysis machine.

A short line of text appeared above to draw a conclusion:

[Black Flame Venerable, Soul Manifestation form, a wraith from the Samsara]

[Soul Manifestation is a unique form of existence; capable of existing separate from the body while also retaining all of the body's powers]

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

So it was a wraith!

Compared to the wraiths from my homeworld, the difference in strength is like heaven and earth, no wonder I couldn't recognize it.

Then, why is it only a Soul Manifestation?

Where is its body?

Gu Qing Shan's mind quickly turned and continued speaking: [Sha Qiang, it's the Soul Manifestation form of a wraith!]

Right away, the founder of Purgatory received Gu Qing Shan's information through brainwave transmission.

The monster started shivering.

It abruptly turned around and flew as fast as possible into the darkness, swiftly disappearing from everyone's sight.

--it fled!

[Hmph! Coward who only knows how to flee!]

The founder of purgatory roared in regret.

Everyone cheered again.

With such power by our side, there would no longer be a need to fear any monsters, we can just mow through them like grass!

The metal giant also descended from the air and turned back into a train.

Gu Qing Shan and Su Xue Er emerged from within.

"Seriously, if I knew you were this strong, I wouldn't have wasted any efforts" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

Hazeden and Guyan also walked up as they gazed at the founder of Purgatory with respect.

——who would've thought, this Sha Qiang guy actually had such a hidden trump card!

From this point on, who else can say that he is stupid?

The founder of Purgatory maintained an expression of vicissitudes and dignity, loudly scoffing at the direction that the monster fled to:

Don't let me see you again, or I'll beat you up every time!

His body slowly shrunk and split into several dozen evil creatures again.

Sha Qiang appeared in front of everyone.

He walked up to Gu Qing Shan and whispered: Not good, that BOSS transformation just now was fake, I can only use the power fluctuations and aura to scare the enemy, but not actually fight

Gu Qing Shan knitted his eyebrows.

Thud!

Sha Qiang collapsed.

——-he fell directly to sleep.

No one reacted in time at all.

A few moments of silence.

Followed by the sound of silence.

And then the gritting of teeth.

"We... how about we just leave him here?" Guyan irritatedly suggested.

"I can understand your feelings, but he did in fact save everyone just now" Hazeden replied.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and continued: "His aura just now was too strong, so not only did he scare that monster away, but we would also most likely not run into any other monsters soon"

"In that time, let's leave"

Chapter 1086

00000--

Chugga chugga chugga!

The train quickly travelled through the darkness.

There was a large network of railways deep underground, constructed by the Starlight Empire in the past.

Gu Qing Shan understood the full extent of the Starlight Empire train's functions and structure.

While Su Xue Er knew the path forward thanks to her star chart.

The two of them worked with each other to pilot the train through the darkness, changing from track to track as they followed the instructions of the star chart.

A night quickly went by, the train continued to run tirelessly, but the two of them were already exhausted.

——-due to the restriction, everyone in the group had become ordinary people, so after about half a day of walking, the short struggle against a monster, as well as an entire night of piloting the train, they had been completely drained.

"Qing Shan, hand over the control to me, you can rest first" Su Xue Er said.

Gu Qing Shan smiled reluctantly and told her:

"Wait a bit longer, at around 6 o'clock, the train will need to transform again"

Recalling the instructions of the star chart, Su Xue Er muttered: "That's true, there will be no more tracks up ahead, it's nothing but completely empty darkness, how do you intend to cross it?"

"We're going to transform into a ship——- both Hazeden and Guyan know how to pilot a ship, so we'll leave it to them at that time"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan quickly returned to operating the train.

...

The train gradually slowed down.

When the tracks completely disappeared, the train continued flying forward and slowly transformed into a metal ship.

"I've rested well enough" Hazeden showed up at the control room, "It'll be our turn now"

Guyan also came and informed them: "The two of you should quickly get to rest, we don't know what kind of situation we'll face next, so it's best that we keep our stamina up"

Gu Qing Shan went with Su Xue Er back to the resting area.

Hazeden's subordinates were already waiting here for them.

"Honorable allies, please come this way"

One of the subordinates bowed.

Gu Qing Shan and Su Xue Er were led to the dining compartment of the train, where a hearty breakfast had been prepared for the two of them.

While they ate, Sha Qiang woke up due to the alluring smell and showed up to have a bit before going back to sleep.

"This Archfiend is very special" Gu Qing Shan commented.

"Hm, not only is he strong, but he's also loved by his subordinates, quite a considerable leader" Su Xue Er replied.

Gu Qing Shan recalled the battle from the night before and asked again: "Xue Er, when we piloted the Mech armor to fight, there was a moment where the Mech abruptly shifted slightly, it was thanks to that that we managed to avoid the black flames' attack. Did you really not perform that maneuver?"

Su Xue Er giggled: "Yes, I couldn't react in time at all, are you still worried about that?"

"Yeah, I feel like that wasn't a coincidence. This Mech armor was an intricate and advanced weapon of war, without being ordered to, it would not arbitrarily make a move"

Gu Qing Shan pondered a bit, then suddenly asked: "Super Dimensional equipment, was it you who took control of the Mech?"

An electronic voice answered: [It was not me, I am currently in the middle of transforming, unable to perform such a thing]

——then there really aren't any plausible reasons at all.

Could it really have been a coincidence?

Gu Qing Shan's mind quickly turned.

He abruptly took out a small piece of bone and took a careful look at it.

——-this was the piece of bone that contained the pixie's corpse from before. At the time, as soon as it was opened, the pixie's body immediately decayed and turned into dust.

Seeing this piece of bone, Su Xue Er recalled what happened at the time.

She curiously asked: "Qing Shan, you said that you can tell how hard or soft any bone that you hold in your hand, is that true?"

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Gu Qing Shan continued to observe the bone in his hand and answered her while feeling uneasiness: "That's right, I can"

Su Xue Er went flushed, lightly grabbed Gu Qing Shan's hand and whispered: "Then... can you take a look if my hand is soft or hard? Perhaps I've fought too much that my fingers became hard and blistered..."

Gu Qing Shan took her hand without hesitation, and even squeezed her arm a bit before answering: "Your hand and arm are both too soft, there's no muscles in them at all so I think you won't be able to fight for very long; furthermore, you've never gone through any resilience training, your extremely delicate skin would also increase your sensitivity to pain and make you unsuitable for close combat"

Su Xue Er froze.

Gu Qing Shan turned his words and continued: "That's strange, I remember that you used to train in both martial arts and body strength, the Su clan's martial arts was very famous in the Confederate, and you were the eldest young lady..."

"I used to be able to perform a martial secret technique as well—— the Crane Strike. But it's been too long since I last trained, so I think I've gotten rusty" Su Xue Er giggled.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "So that's why, but it's ok, I know a few training methods. I'll teach you when there's time, after training for a short while, you'll slowly be able to regain your martial senses from the past"

Seeing his sincere appearance, Su Xue Er thought briefly before smiling: "I don't need to study martial arts anymore since I'm a Card user now, I can just use my Cards to fight"

Her face became flushed again, whispering in the tiniest voice she could: "Qing Shan, can you help me take a look at other parts as well, just in case I'm no longer fit to train martial arts"

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand dismissively and replied with a serious expression: "There's a thing called 'seeing it once, seeing it all'. By just touching your hand and arm, I can already tell your overall situation. To be honest, the foundations of your martial arts were quite well-built. If I remember correctly, you should be the most excellent martial artist among all your fellow peers at the time"

"It's unfortunate... truthfully, I obtained a martial scripture very recently, bestowed to me by a martial arts grandmaster from the Bygone Era, I could have given it to you for you to train with"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "I heard that by reading through this martial scripture just once, an unimaginable seed of martial art would be sowed within yourself. Although I'm a sword cultivator, whenever I recite it during my cultivation, I would always gain a deeper understanding of power, so it should be something to be treasured"

Su Xue Er froze again.

This is completely different from what I imagined.

—but it is very warm.

True warmth.

Su Xue Er's gaze mellowed out and softly asked: "What kind of martial scripture is it?"

Gu Qing Shan paused.

When Lin taught him this martial scripture, she didn't tell him anything else, so he doesn't know what it was called at all.

But this martial scripture was truly potent and greatly benefited any cultivator, so he once asked Lin if he could spread this martial scripture to others and teach it to others as well.

At the time, Lin didn't really care and told him to do as he liked.

That's why he was currently offering it to Su Xue Er.

"The martial scripture name... I'm not really sure either, the person who taught me didn't mention it. I'll recite it to you now, so try and commit it to memory"

Gu Qing Shan clearly recited each word and letter of the martial scripture, waiting until Su Xue Er had fully memorized it that he informed her about his own understanding and experience with it.

Su Xue Er curiously asked: "You said that you're always reciting this scripture, wouldn't that affect your other activities?"

Gu Qing Shan carefully explained: "Beside the time where I'm training my swordsmanship, I would constantly recite this martial scripture during every meal, every conversation, and every activity, so it doesn't affect the cultivation of my swordsmanship"

"Alright, I'll give it a try. But right now, our powers have already been stripped..."Su Xue Er clenched her fist.

Gu Qing Shan told her: "Even if you only comprehend it, that is still your own comprehension, which would help to fortify the foundation of your martial arts"

Su Xue Er closed her eyes and silently chanted the martial scripture.

At first, Gu Qing Shan kept an eye on Su Xue Er, but then he shifted his attention.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Time is up, the Omni Stone has reset]

[You've obtained a new ability from the Void: Demon Cat Transformation]

[Demon Cat Transformation: You will transform into a real demon cat]

[Trigger incantation: I am a cat]

Gu Qing Shan froze.

Why does such an ability exist in the void?

What's the use of turning into a demon cat?

Gu Qing Shan hesitated for a bit but decided not to activate [Demon Cat Transformation]

Chapter 1087

Now that I think about it, it's very safe on the train, what use is turning into a cat now?

With that thought in mind, Gu Qing Shan gave up on using this transformation technique.

He silently watched Su Xue Er and waited for the results from her cultivating and reciting the martial scripture for the first time.

A few moments later.

Su Xue Er opened her eyes in surprise: "When I recited the martial scripture, all the martial arts I've ever learnt suddenly resurfaced in my mind, and for some reason, I feel that my understanding of those techniques have become even deeper"

Gu Qing Shan smiled and told her: "This is only your first recitation, if you keep it up, it would be even more effective"

Seeing how effective it was, Su Xue Er focused her mind, closed her eyes, and continued to ponder over the martial scripture.

Gu Qing Shan watched over her.

Time slowly passed.

Gu Qing Shan gradually felt more and more tired, so he leaned back on the sofa, then soon drifted into his sleep without noticing.

In his daze, the sound of wind blew in from afar.

A voice could be heard faintly in his ear.

Γ I... I

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

"Who's calling me?" he abruptly stood up and loudly asked.

Everything was a blur around him.

It was as if he was at the bottom of a deep lake, murky and chaotic.

Gu Qing Shan was being guided by some sort of power and was quickly travelling through countless dimensions at an extreme speed, heading towards the unknown darkness.

The voice called out again:

Fing... me... to... me]

"Who are you?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Rays of light pierced the darkness.

A 7-colored light.

——it was the spear!

It uttered a loud cry towards Gu Qing Shan.

Oong!

Gu Qing Shan abruptly opened his eyes and woke up.

Indeed, that was the 7-colored spear, Abaddon!

I didn't think it would have already sensed the existence of the fragment and formed a connection with me through my dream.

Unfortunately, I'm still only half-way there, it's still a very long journey until I reach the spear.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and looked forward.

He froze.

Su Xue Er was nowhere to be seen.

To be exact, there was nobody around him at all.

He was no longer inside the train, but rather the grassy field of a forest.

Gu Qing Shan maintained his clarity and silently stood up.

Various voices spoke up.

"Look, he's here"

"It really isn't easy, we clearly implied it to him and still needed to use this spell"

"What do we tell him?"

"There's not much time, get to the point"

Every voice went silent, leaving only an excited and enthusiastic voice:

"Erm—– young adventurer, we normally do not appear in front of people, even one such as you whose fate is closely related to us must solve a riddle before you can meet us"

"A riddle?" Gu Qing Shan repeated.

"That's right, a riddle! Listen well!"

"Only washes the face but never combs the hair; doesn't need a light at night, whiskers curled upwards"

"Go ahead and make your guess. If you can arrive at an answer within the next hour, take a look outside the window; if you cannot guess, then you will never meet us in this life"

While still confused, Gu Qing Shan was lightly pushed and felt himself falling into an abyss.

He suddenly opened his eyes and woke up.

Chugga chugga, chugga chugga, ooooo——

The train was still moving forward at high speed.

Su Xue Er sat across from him, her eyes closed as she recited the martial scripture.

Gu Qing Shan stood up and looked around.

Everyone else on the train was resting.

He looked towards the window just outside the train, only to see nothing but darkness, unable to discern anything.

Gu Qing Shan pinched his hand.

A sharp sensation of pain.

"...Then, I actually dreamt twice just now. The first one was the call of Abaddon, while the second was a guessing game" Gu Qing Shan muttered to himself.

He was a considerably experienced person, but what he saw just now seemed completely extraordinary.

He had only ever experienced a single dream-related event.

It was Xie Dao Ling's dream in the Age of Old.

Gu Qing Shan briefly thought for a few moments before tapping Su Xue Er's hand.

"What's the matter?" Su Xue Er opened her eyes and asked.

"There's an issue, I need you to protect me" Gu Qing Shan mused.

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Su Xue Er instantly became tense.

She lightly touched the Bloodsea Card within her reach and whispered: "What happened?"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "I don't know either — someone told me to solve a riddle in my dream"

Su Xue Er silently looked at him, then reached her hand to touch his forehead.

His temperature was normal.

"What riddle was it?" Su Xue Er pulled her hand back and asked.

"Only washes the face but never combs the hair; doesn't need a light at night, whiskers curled upwards"

"Isn't the answer 'a cat'?"

"That's right, such a simple riddle means that they're basically giving the answer away..."

Gu Qing Shan's gaze returned to the War God UI and stopped at the ability that he had just obtained.

——[Demon Cat Transformation]

The only thing cat-related I have is this ability.

Could someone have influenced the Omni Stone causing it to bestow me this ability?

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan thought back to the battle against the Black Flame Venerable and the power that caused the armor to slightly shift.

What exactly... will happen?

Gu Qing Shan made up his mind and said: "Xue Er, I'm going to do it now, so make sure to protect me"

"Do what?"

"Turn into a cat"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan chanted the trigger incantation: "I am a cat"

As soon as he chanted that, his body swiftly shrunk down and turned into a cute big tabby cat.

Su Xue Er was stunned before exclaiming in shock: "Whoa, Qing Shan, how did you get such a cute ability!?"

She hugged the tabby cat onto her chest and happily giggled.

Who would've thought Gu Qing Shan could be so cute!

I'm definitely not letting you go!

A few moments later.

"Meow, meow meow!" the tabby cat hurriedly cried out.

It was now that Su Xue Er noticed that she was hugging him so tight that he couldn't be seen anymore, so she hurriedly held him up.

The tabby cat breathed heavily for several seconds in order to regain enough oxygen in his brain.

Su Xue Er said apologetically: "I'm sorry, I just really like cats, I used to own a cat at home too"

The tabby cat shook his paws, expressing that it wasn't important.

After moving around a bit, the cat displayed a pondering look and cried out: "Meow meow"

Su Xue Er panicked.

"Erm, I don't understand Cat, can you speak in human language instead?" she hurriedly asked.

The big tabby cat plopped his paw against his head, then put it up again, pointing at the window of the train.

This time, Su Xue Er understood.

She brought the big tabby cat to the window and asked: "You wanted to look outside?"

The big tabby cat nodded.

Su Xue Er raised him up and pressed it directly against the window.

The big tabby cat struggled a bit, trying to back off.

"Ah, sorry, sorry, I put you up too close" Su Xue Er was flushed red.

She adjusted the position again.

This time, the big tabby cat had no trouble looking outside.

While the scenery outside the window was still completely black, his eyes were reflecting something entirely different.

Apparently seeing something too shocking, the big tabby cat began trembling incessantly.

Potty? Oh no!

Su Xue Er silently said to herself.

Immediately after that, she slapped herself in her mind due to shame and reminded herself:

Wait, no, no!

This isn't my house cat, it's Gu Qing Shan!

The big tabby cat turned back to look at her, then pointed at the control room with his paw.

Su Xue Er asked: "To the control room?"

The big tabby cat nodded.

So Su Xue Er held the big tabby cat in her embrace and walked straight to the control room.

Hazeden and Guyan were piloting the ship.

In truth, the flight path had already been set up, the two of them only remained here in order to watch out for any unexpected situations.

When Su Xue Er came in, she saw that the two of them were looking down at something.

They both had clear expressions of caution and concern.

Seeing Su Xue Er, Hazeden quickly handed something over to her and said: "Can you ask Gu Qing Shan for me what exactly is going on here?"

Guyan added: "Because he suddenly gained a 'Head Dancer of the Secret Dance' title last time that we were abruptly forced to perform that eerie dance, so we can't help but treat it seriously when another title of his abruptly manifested"

Su Xue Er received and checked the item in confusion.

——ah, it was the ally covenant.

Only to see that Gu Qing Shan's list of titles did in fact change where his name was listed:

[Dragon Slayer from the Age of Old, Nemesis of the Deity of Chaos, Devil King of Huang Quan, Wielder of Heaven and Earth, Ally to the Eternal Abyss, Demon King and Cherub of Condemnation, the man with

the unrivalled kissing technique, Experienced Performing Artist, **Big Tabby Cat**, Gu Qing Shan; hereby sign this ally covenant]

Chapter 1088

"Meow meow meow meow!"

"Meow meow, meow!"

The big tabby cat pointed at each apparatus and called out to the group.

Hazeden wiped some sweat off his forehead and asked: "Can anyone of you understand Cat?"

Guyan replied: "I don't have such a talent under my service"

Su Xue Er continued: "Then, we can only ask Sha Qiang. I remember reading from a book that since evil creatures needs to travel to many different worlds, they're born with an ability to understand every language"

A few moments later, Sha Qiang was called.

[He turned into a cat?] Sha Qiang asked in surprise, [Alright, us evil creatures can understand every language in existence, I'll talk to him]

Little kitty—— no, Gu Qing Shan, what do you want to say?

The big tabby cat explained: "Meow meow meow"

Sha Qiang listened and explained to everyone else: \mathbb{I} ——he wants us to alter our course and head towards the Underground Command Center \mathbb{I}

"The Underground Command Center..."

Su Xue Er carefully recalled and soon found the appropriate route.

The so-called Underground Command Center was the technological base of operation that the Starlight Empire established here when the Inner Plane first began exploring this place.

It wasn't just the Starlight Empire either, every organization that existed within the Inner Plane in the past had formed their own force to explore the Dusty World.

The various bases and routes that were opened up at the time were recorded into the star chart and now hidden in Su Xue Er's memory.

Su Xue Er placed the big tabby cat onto the table, then quickly operated the equipment.

The metal ship slowed down within the darkness, gradually heading downwards.

After a short while, the tabby cat looked through the window and called out again: "Meow meow, meow meow meow!"

Everyone was surprised.

Changing course again?

"The Reserve Armory? I'll change the course immediately"

Su Xue Er began to adjust the ship's route.

After around 10 more minutes of flying, the tabby cat called out again: "Meow meow meow! Meow meow meow!"

He said to alter the course to the World Research Center 1

"...I'll change it now"

Now fly towards the Mech Center

To the Mysticism Investigation Department 1

To the Vanguard Barracks 1

Change the course, to the Warp Tower

I Wait a minute, change the course again, to the Cave of Bones J

Su Xue Er continued to alter the course over and over.

While no one said anything, everyone was feeling very confused.

——where exactly is Gu Qing Shan trying to go?

Fortunately, they had an ally covenant with one another, and since Gu Qing Shan had piloted the Mech armor to shield everyone from the Black Flame Venerable in the earlier battle, everyone still chose to trust him despite their doubts.

However, they didn't know that Gu Qing Shan was seeing something else entirely.

Within the deep darkness, countless tiny glowing sprites silently hovered like numerous fireflies.

While the ship flew, these glowing sprites would follow the ship forward.

After flying for a while, the glowing sprites would gather to form various words.

The Reserve Armory, the World Research Center, the Mech Center, the Mysticism Investigation Department, the Vanguard Barracks, the Warp Tower, the Cave of Bones; every once in a while, the glowing sprites would change to form different words and guide the ship forward.

While following their instruction, Gu Qing Shan also pondered.

Why is it that I can only see these glowing sprites after turning into a cat?

As the ship entered the cave, it began to descend.

From the description of the ship's map, they knew that this place was a place where the Starlight Empire came to search for various strange kinds of bones, which rest at the very end of the secret passage, a large and wide underground cave.

After Reneedol's betrayal of the Deities a hundred million years ago, the death of myriad Gods, and the cursed sealing of the secret passage, this place had turned into a dark cave without any personnel.

Gu Qing Shan brought everyone out from the ship.

This place is so dark, there's nothing here at all
Sha Qiang complained.

"That's right, everyone makes sure to maintain your guard!" Guyan followed up.

Gu Qing Shan was seeing something completely different from everyone else.

——-he was currently a cat.

He was seeing countless glowing sprites that turned the entire cave into a sea of light.

"Meow meow!" Gu Qing Shan called out.

He told us to wait here I Sha Qiang said.

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Gu Qing Shan wiggled to get himself loose from Su Xue Er's embrace and jumped down.

He ran forward and leapt onto a large boulder.

A few moments later.

Among the innumerable glowing sprites, the brightest one descended and hovered in front of him.

The light slowly receded to reveal a long-bearded old man that was only as big as a thumb.

"Very well done, you've solved our riddle and gained the right to communicate with us"

The long-bearded man praised the tabby cat.

The tabby cat pointed at the group behind him and asked: " Meow meow meow meow meow?"

"Indeed, everyone on your side had been stripped of power by the pledge, so they can't see us" the long-bearded old man replied.

The tabby cat then pointed at himself and asked: "Meow meow, meow?"

The long-bearded old man chuckled: "Since you turned into a cat, you can naturally see us, because—cats are born with the ability to see souls"

The tabby cat appeared doubtful and tiled his head: "Meow meow meow?"

"Ah, that's correct, we're pixies, but we're all dead——- we can't help but die"

The long-bearded old man continued: "A hundred million years ago, as the race that had the most profound understanding of Mysticism, we cooperated with the Deities to study the Occultism powers of the Dusty World"

"Until one day, a battle abruptly broke out between the Deities, this place was placed under a curse, completely sealed"

"Even more despair-inducing, the entire secret passage came under the joint pledge of the four Pillar Gods as well as numerous other powerful entities"

"Anyone would only be able to use a single type of ability here—— this pledge was initial put in place in order to prevent excessive power from bothering the Dusty World and result in irreversible outcomes"

"However, as the passage was sealed, we were no longer able to leave, and having been placed under the restraints of the four Pillar Gods, we had no choice but to live on, in this place"

"As time went by, we gradually accepted this"

"After all, there are countless artifacts from the Dusty World stored in this place, more than enough for us to study the power of Occultism for the rest of our lives. We were more than happy to live this way"

"But several ten thousand years ago, something was awoken here"

"Meow meow?" the tabby cat asked.

"Ah, it was a legendary Occultism artifact, a broken fragment of the Samsara"

"We didn't know how or why it was awoken, but while it was only a fragment of a world, it contained innumerable Wraiths of overwhelming power that rendered us unable to retaliate"

At this point, the long-bearded old man's expression changed.

All the pixie souls behind him became worried and panicked.

Numerous of those souls had already begun to flee towards the depth of the cave.

"Oh no!"

The long-bearded old man hurriedly said: "Quickly, that thing is coming, you need to hurry up and hide, we'll talk later!"

"Meow meow meow?"

The long-bearded old man pointed at the ground not too far away and said: "Tell everyone on your side to get in and hide!"

The tabby cat turned around.

Only to see a dirty painting resting in the middle of countless unknown bones.

The long-bearded old man waved the short club in his hand and tapped Gu Qing Shan's body.

Poof!

Gu Qing Shan returned to human form.

Immediately, all the glowing sprites vanished without a trace.

——-as a normal person, he could no longer see the souls of pixies.

Gu Qing Shan instantly pointed at the painting and told everyone: "Hurry, some kind of monster is coming, we need to head inside and hide!"

On the way here, everyone had run into the skeletal hand and the Black Flame Venerable, both impossibly strong monsters that couldn't be repelled, so they really didn't want to hear the word 'monster' right now.

Earlier, they saw Gu Qing Shan turn into a tabby cat and communicate with something invisible in the air, which roused an unknown sense of fright.

Now that Gu Qing Shan had returned to human form, they listened to him without question.

I Isn't this a painting? How do we get in? I Sha Qiang asked.

Gu Qing Shan didn't know either and simply walked up to the painting.

This was an extremely old painting that depicted the scene of people dancing while singing around a fire.

Gu Qing Shan tried approaching the painting.

In the blink of an eye.

He vanished.

Everyone was shocked and looked into the painting at once.

Only to see Gu Qing Shan inside the painting, waving towards them.

Su Xue Er immediately walked into the painting.

She also appeared inside, holding Gu Qing Shan's hand as she looked out at everyone.

——there was no longer any hesitation.

Everyone quickly went into the painting.

Chapter 1089

The sun brightly shone from above.

The land was dry.

A single altar stood in the middle of a desolate land.

Numerous people stood around the altar, dancing, and singing.

They seemed to be people from the primitive era as they were using leaves and animal hide to cover their bodies.

A lot of their skin was exposed, drawn full of strange and primitive black patterns; as they danced, these black patterns also moved with their bodies to create an indescribable sense of eeriness.

At this point, these people had already forgotten themselves in their dance.

They're dancing, what should we do now, do we join them or not? I Sha Qiang asked.

Everyone had already entered the painting in order to temporarily seek refuge.

Hazeden looked at Guyan and asked: "People from Magic-type worlds like yours should have a very deep understanding of painted worlds like this, what do you think we should do now?"

"I know a bit about them"

Guyan nodded: "In a painted world, one must make sure to fit in with their environment and not to make inappropriate actions"

"——For example, if a painting depicted a gladiator fight in a colosseum, you need either act as a cheering spectator or a gladiator in the ring fighting; if you were to stay in a corner of the stand and sleep, you'll soon be kicked out from the world"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Which means, we will have to dance in this painting?"

"Indeed, as long as the majority of us are dancing and singing, no one would be kicked out!" Guyan confirmed it.

Silence.

Everyone stared at Gu Qing Shan.

Hazeden, Guyan, and Su Xue Er spoke up all at once: """You don't need to dance!"""

"Alright, I'll just run around in a circle while singing" Gu Qing Shan compromised.

Everyone sighed in relief.

Under Hazeden, Guyan, and Sha Qiang's lead, the group started dancing around the altar together with the strange crowd.

Su Xue Er stuck close to Gu Qing Shan, 'watching' him, and made sure that he wouldn't dance.

"Are you also afraid of me dancing?" Gu Qing Shan whispered.

Su Xue Er followed the movements of the primitive people and replied to him in a whisper: "I'm not. Performing that dance let me sweat a lot, not only did it feel comfortable, my movements seemed to have become a lot swifter"

Gu Qing Shan silently commented: "When you danced, your facial expression was very well coordinated with your movements, every step you took was stable and especially skillful"

"You mean... my dancing was beautiful?"

"Hm"

"Then why didn't you just say that it was beautiful?"

"Because your movements were very well done and gave off a natural sense of coordination. Believe me, when it comes to dancing, my current self can be considered a professional, so I could tell" Gu Qing Shan thought for a long while before answering.

Su Xue Er just gave him a sidelong glance.

This guy has gone way past the point of being a regular wooden blockhead, his head is practically steel alloy made into a block before being painted to look like wood.

However, Su Xue Er still lifted her chin up in triumph.

—–after all, a compliment was a compliment.

She lowered her voice: "Qing Shan..."

"Hm?"

While Su Xue Er was about to talk about a certain important topic, someone poked Gu Qing Shan from the side.

It was Sha Qiang.

This Archfiend seemed to be very anxious and signaled for Gu Qing Shan to look where he was pointing.

——very interestingly, while they were dancing inside the painting, they were perfectly capable of observing the situation outside.

Various faint glowing lights appeared within the Cave of Bones, illuminating the seemingly endless sea of bones.

A carapace monster who emanated a faint glowing flame silently flew into the cave from the outside.

Both of its hands had seven razor-sharp spikes that curved towards its back in a droplet shape, it had a skull for a head with a pair of vertical irises.

Together with this monster were two monsters clad in black flames whose mouths were full of terrifying jagged teeth.

Black Flame Venerable!

Everyone in the painting went stiff but quickly resumed their dancing.

Don't be ridiculous, one Black Flame Venerable was able to perfectly match blows against the Mech armor of the Starlight Empire, and even gained the upper hand, yet there were two Black Flame Venerables here!

However, the creature that caused them to truly stiffen was the carapace monster that emanated a faint glowing flame.

Because both Black Flame Venerables were waiting beside it with their utmost respect.

The three large monsters hovered motionlessly above the dusty ruins.

They seem to be observing something.

「Sir, this time the pixies seemed to have run away even faster than they ever did in the past 」

As it said so, one of the Black Flame Venerables flicked its hand and unleashed countless sparks of black flames to plunge this area into a sea of fire.

Gu Qing Shan's group went pale.

Their painting was inside the sea of the fire.

If the painting was destroyed, the painted world would also collapse, which means that they would either die together with the world or get ejected from it.

——-being ejected also meant death.

With their current mortal bodies, they were essentially helpless to fight against these terrifying fellows.

The black flames continued to spread in every direction, but after burning for just a short while, they went out.

 Γ It's useless. We were too late this time around; you won't be able to burn these things or chase the pixies out from within them J

The glowing flame monster spoke up.

Its body was low and full of power, almost like it was a Deity that could converse with the entire world at once.

Hearing that, the Black Flame Venerable quickly put its black flames away.

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——-and just as it said, nothing in this ruined world was destroyed by the flame at all.

These pixie insects are very easy to kill off, but they're so hard to find 1 the Black Flame Venerable begrudgingly said.

The other monster replied: Γ This is a part of their survival ability, as long as they wish to hide, no living being can ever discover them J

The two Black Flame Venerables went silent.

The monster's tone shifted and continued: Γ Do not worry, after several ten thousand years, the fight between the pixie and ourselves will soon come to an end J

「Sir, you mean…」

☐ Our guests ☐ the monster slowly replied: ☐ They come from a real fragment of the Huang Quan realm; it is their specialty to deal with souls ☐

And the pixies are nothing but souls at the moment, no matter how well they can conceal themselves, they would still be helpless to stop themselves from falling to the power of Huang Quan J

The monster abruptly laughed in a cruel tone of voice: \(\text{ With our Wraith realm's unrivalled strength} \) and the Huang Quan realm's control over souls and the dead, once we join forces, no one in this world would be able to stop us any longer! \(\text{ J} \)

Do not be in a rush, the Apocalypse of these pixies is coming J

The monster turned around and headed out from the cave.

The two Black Flame Venerables followed suit.

In just a few moments, they left.

The world of bones was once again filled with darkness and silence.

The people within the painting had remained wary of the situation outside and only sighed in relief as the monsters left.

Hazeden pondered: "Are the Wraith realm and Huang Quan realm really that impressive? I recall hearing of a Samsara within the Mystic Zones, but never have I heard of such terrifying monsters existing within it"

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit before answering: "The Samsara within the Mystic Zones is most likely an imitation. I think those monster just now were the true inhabitants of the Samsara"

"There's an imitation Samsara and a real one?" Hazeden was surprised.

"Indeed" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He then told everyone about the matter regarding the Divine race creating the 900 million World Layers.

Everyone was shocked.

"What do we do now?" Guyan asked.

"Let's get out of here first, there must surely be a reason why the pixies led me here, we need to understand the situation first before anything else" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Everyone nodded.

"It's now safe outside, as long as we stop dancing and singing, we will be able to leave" Guyan told them.

And so, the group stepped out away from the primitive dance.

A few moments later, everyone was kicked out of the painted world.

As soon as they left, the strange dancing people stopped.

One of them muttered in a low voice: "Was it the Sacrificial Dance?"

Another person replied: "That's right"

Another person affirmed: "I also felt it"

A fourth person asked: "What now?"

A fifth person replied: "I'll go make a report, you keep an eye on him"

"Yes!"

The fifth person quickly ran towards the border of the painting, jumped up, and vanished without a trace.

The others jointly formed a strange hand seal.

The painting silently rolled itself up, vanished into the void of space, and remained invisible as it went through Gu Qing Shan's cloth, then attached to Gu Qing Shan's arm to form a tattoo.

None of the people outside the painting noticed at all.

Gu Qing Shan also didn't notice.

His attention was placed on the Omni Stone.

It had already been one hour.

The ability of the Omni Stone will reset soon.

If I can't turn into a cat, I wouldn't be able to see the pixies, what now?

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

[Time is up, the Omni Stone has reset]

[You've obtained a new ability from the Void: Demon Cat Transformation]

[Demon Cat Transformation: You will transform into a real demon cat]

[Trigger incantation: I am a cat]

It's the same ability!

Gu Qing Shan understood right away.

This was definitely the pixie's work.

Gu Qing Shan assumed that the pixies had returned and chanted the incantation:

"I am a cat"

As soon as he finished, he turned into a jet-black cat.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the color of his fur in confusion.

"Whoa, a black cat!" Su Xue Er happily exclaimed.

Her voice carried a clear sense of enthusiasm.

Gu Qing Shan raised his black cat paw in front of himself and doubtfully muttered: "Meow, meow meow?"

"Hahaha, this is because you are becoming increasingly anxious; having prepared yourself for combat as well as any other situation that may arise, which caused your Quipcraft to change accordingly—— this is a part of Quipcraft's mysticism"

The long-bearded old man appeared in front of the black cat and replied with a smile.

Chapter 1090

There was a great sense of terror within the darkness.

——-the ruler of the Wraith realm, Heavenly King Mara.

It stood within the void, its figure appearing as great as Mount Sumeru itself, connecting heaven and earth.

Countless wraiths of various shapes and sizes stood around its towering figure, occupying a radius of several thousand miles.

All the wraiths followed the Heavenly King's order.

At this point, several cultivators who wore masks were being led to face the Heavenly King by four Black Flame Venerables.

A Black Flame Venerable was about as big as the hundred-meter-tall Mech armor of the Starlight Empire.

——but a single eyelid of the Heavenly King Mara as it closed its eyes was as big as a Black Flame Venerable.

The cultivators who arrived from the fragment of Huang Quan realm were essentially specks of dust in front of the ruler of Wraiths.

The cultivators bowed to greet the great wraith and spoke in unison:

"We greet the master of the Wraith realm, Heavenly King Mara"

The great wraith hailed as Heavenly King Mara kept both its eyes and mouth closed.

—but its voice resounded within the void:

 \llbracket Guests who came from far away, forgive me for not opening my eyes and mouth \rrbracket

The leading cultivator clasped his fist: "Where the Heavenly King's gaze reaches, all living things would perish; when the Heavenly King's mouth opens, plagues of death would grow without inhibition; this humble one naturally understands this and give thanks to the Heavenly King for your mercy"

The Heavenly King Mara felt pleased as its voice resounded again through the void:

As expected of inhabitants from the true Huang Quan realm, you understand my personal troubles quite well. It seems I did not waste my effort in leading you here

The cultivators bowed again.

"That is indeed true" the leading cultivator replied.

[Very well, then you have accepted all of my demands, but I have one last condition]

"We are always ready to listen, Heavenly King"

[Every day, I want you to offer a world, thriving world full of living beings and things to me]

The leading cultivator felt a bit confused and clasped his fist: "If I could be so ignorant as to ask, for what sake does the Heavenly King want these worlds? If the Heavenly King could tell us, it would benefit our preparations of them"

The Heavenly King Mara's voice resounded through the void, filled with a sense of dignity:

The birth and death of worlds is nothing but an illusion, only destruction by my hands is extreme bliss

As it uttered these words, all the wraiths and monsters within the radius of several thousand miles prostrated themselves in mid-air, bowing to Heavenly King Mara.

None of the cultivators said anything, but some of them were trembling.

The leading cultivator remained silent, then suddenly took out a handkerchief to wipe the sweat from the back of his neck.

Right as he wiped it away, more sweat poured out right away, he couldn't endure, and had to use a hand seal to remove all the cold sweat at his back and neck.

——-this man was a VIP within the Huang Quan realm, one who had been through many ups and downs; not only was he acquainted with numerous powerful entities, but he also held great Authority; a single word from him could determine many of Huang Quan's important matters.

And yet, even he could not arbitrarily accept the Heavenly King Mara's demand just now.

——it wants to destroy a thriving world filled with many living beings and things every day, just for the sake of its own entertainment.

The Huang Quan realm's fragment was an extremely powerful world that had conquered hundreds of thousands of worlds for its own benefit.

However.

To destroy billions of living beings, as well as an entire world every day...

This heavy and deep level of pure malice far surpassed what these cultivators could imagine.

The leading cultivator barely managed to regain his composure and clasped his fist again: "This is a great matter, this humble one would need to report it first, I hope that the Heavenly King would be so gracious as to wait"

The cultivator then took out a purple talisman, spoke into it, then infused it with spirit energy.

The talisman turned into a purple flying dragon that quickly disappeared into the void of space.

The Heavenly King Mara continued: It should take a bit of time for an answer to arrive. During this time, perhaps you could first fulfill the matter that you had accepted !

The cultivator went silent briefly before asking: "The entities that the Heavenly King referred to, all of them were souls?"

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Correct, their expertise lies simply in hiding, but once they conceal themselves, my subordinates would be helpless to find them, it had been very troublesome

The cultivator clasped his fist: "Do not worry, Heavenly King, we will surely resolve the Heavenly King's trouble"

"Understood, Heavenly King"

•••

On the other side.

The Cave of Bones.

The long-bearded old man was talking to the black cat.

"Kitty, oh kitty, you're finally here, I'll tell you about what happened back then"

The black cat held his paws together and said: "Meow"

The long-bearded old man began: "In the past, when we first began to explore the Dusty World, the Deities felt a heavy sense of unease"

"Because if a huge explosion of power was ever exerted, it would disturb the Dusty World—— there were many things within that world that caused even the collective forces of the Inner Plane, the void, as well as various hidden locations to feel wary"

"For that reason, the Deities jointly made a pact to disallow the exertion of great power within the passage that connected to the Dusty World"

"Meow, meow meow"

"Were there any exceptions? Heheh, I wasn't supposed to reveal this, but at this point, it's ok to tell you"

"——When the Deities were jointly making their pledge, I was sitting on the shoulder of a certain lady, flattering her"

"As the pledge of the Pillar Gods was unleashed, that lady happened to glance at me, then shed a single tear"

"She took out a certain artifact and gave it to the four statues of the Pillar Gods, then told me that if a person appeared to us while carrying that artifact, they would represent the hope of the pixies"

The black cat perked his ears up, calling out with interest: "Meow, meow meow?"

"You're asking who that lady was? She was the Sovereign of the Fairy, wielder of Time, the Unextinguishing Sand, the Lady of Legends" the long-bearded old man replied.

"...Meow"

"After countless years of waiting, we finally discovered someone who was able to bring that artifact into this place"

The black cat pointed at himself with his law: "Meow meow? Meow meow?"

"Indeed, that was you and the Omni Stone"

"Meow meow meow" the black cat muttered to itself.

The long-bearded old man continued: "I have been sensing a fate even worse than death approaching us closer and closer. As soon as I saw you, I immediately understood: the Omni Stone and you are our last hopes"

The long-bearded old man then became tense and went on: "Listen, I believe you've sensed the same thing as well——— both we and you will soon be captured and killed, our souls undergoing the eternal suffering of torture——— perhaps in 10 minutes, or perhaps in 1 hour, it would surely occur"

"Kitty, if I give you the incantation to activate the Omni Stone, will you accept us into your group? Are you willing to fight along our side? Though, to be honest, cooperation will be the only path of survival for the both of us"

"Meow" the black cat sincerely nodded.

"Very well, then listen carefully, the incantation that lady left was: The sands of time, that which all living beings can hold, let the pledge scatter into nothingness"

After hearing that, the black cat slowly returned to Gu Qing Shan's form.

He held the Omni Stone in his hand and softly muttered: "The sands of time, that which all living beings can hold, let the pledge scatter into nothingness"

Oom--

Everything around him vanished without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan now found himself standing in the middle of endless drifting sand.

In front of him stood a boundlessly graceful mature lady.

The Unextinguishing Sand, the Lady of Legends, Fusi.

Compared to her present self, she appeared much younger 100 million years ago.

Fusi observed Gu Qing Shan, but her eyes seemed to perceive nothing but the void.

"Time is much too long and the future is too chaotic, as such, I cannot clearly perceive your appearance"

"Person of the future, listen well. In exactly one hour, the pixies and yourself will perish within the Samsara, doomed to never escape"

"Even I cannot do much against the pledge of the four Pillar Gods"

"But I have decided to help you strive for a single chance at survival"