Apocalypse 1121

Chapter 1121

[Demon Dragon Transformation]

These four words seemed to contain some power, as they left Gu Qing Shan shaken for a brief moment.

If he really had power at the same level as the Demon Dragon, he wouldn't have the need to spend so much effort, worrying about every little factor that could become beneficial in combat.

-----I'd be able to go directly toe-to-toe against the Soul Shrieker before anything else.

The information that could be extracted from direct combat was vastly more realistic and valuable compared to any other means.

If he could transform into the Demon Dragon, Gu Qing Shan would feel a lot more self-assured.

At that time, even if I can't win against the Soul Shrieker, I'd still be able to flee without issues.

Then...

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fist tightly, pondering the matter of breaking through.

——the Demon Dragon's power is so great that I can only fully absorb it by breaking through.

Then, there's no need to consider returning to the Bramble Bird Kingdom first.

Breaking through right now is the real important issue!

Gu Qing Shan took out a cushion, lit a stick of incense, prepared his pills, and slowly walked around the ship.

He was going through all the cultivation knowledge he had ever learnt in his mind, reconsidering the mysteries hidden within his swordsmanship and cultivation, going through it all in his mind to confirm and compile them all.

The {Yama King} realm does not have a division of early-middle-late stage, it was a single realm with a single stage.

While a {Mahesvara King} realm cultivator far surpassed what a {Yama King} realm cultivator could even imagine.

——Mahesvara is the realm of freedom, which signifies their capability of traveling the infinite worlds, where they are free to claim themselves as 'King' regardless of the place.

Above this realm was the Sumeru Lord realm.

But none of the numerous cultivation worlds within the 900 million World Layers had recorded information related to this realm.

It was only known that the title of 'Sumeru Lord' existed among cultivators.

But there was no concrete proof regarding the cultivation realm of 'Sumeru Lord' itself.

There were only a few baseless rumors:

[A {Mahesvara King} has 48 Dependants, while a Sumeru Lord has 120 Followers, all of whom are taken through Prayers, they will come without being wished for]

This vague rumor made it very easy for people to make assumptions on what 'Dependants' and 'Followers' were.

And there was another issue---

When a female cultivator advances to become a {Mahesvara King} or Sumeru Lord, what would that be like?

This made everyone's imaginations soar even further, venturing into territories that shouldn't be mentioned.

By word of mouth among the cultivators, this rumor soon disseminated across the entire 900 million World Layers.

———even Zhi Luo had to come into contact with Gu Qing Shan early on to reserve a 'Dependant' spot for herself.

But no one really knew what exactly would happen at the cultivator realms of {Mahesvara King} and Sumeru Lord.

It was very strange.

Gu Qing Shan actually had a theory about why this was the case.

In the Bygone Era, humanity from another parallel world arrived at the space vortex and created the worlds here.

After there was an issue with the Demon Dragon, they hurriedly left.

The Divine race then took over from them and continued to create more worlds.

Because the Divine race wanted to rule over the Primordial Heaven Realm while they themselves could only reach Paragon realm at most, they had destroyed the knowledge of further advancement.

From that point on, cultivators could only rely on sporadic rumors to base their knowledge on.

For example, the fact that the {Yama King} realm Tribulation was a Tribulation of reward.

Or the fact that a {Mahesvara King} realm cultivator and Sumeru Lord realm cultivator had 'Dependants' and 'Followers' respectively.

True, usable knowledge was never passed down within the 900 million World Layers of the space vortex.

And thus, the overall power of living beings within the 900 million World Layers had been artificially restrained.

Gu Qing Shan turned his thoughts.

Perhaps ...

Only those cultivators from the parallel world have the complete inheritance of cultivation knowledge.

Gu Qing Shan continued further down this line of thought.

Cultivators within the 900 million World Layers knew about the existence of the {Yama King} cultivation realm, but no one could ever reach it.

Which meant that the cultivators I saw within the Yama Heavenly realm were not cultivators from the 900 million World Layers or the space vortex.

They came from other parallel worlds.

--worlds that were naturally created.

Then, how could the living beings of the 900 million World Layers break through the artificial restraints of the Divine race and continue to advance in strength?

The Eternal Abyss is one such method.

But the Eternal Abyss has a very strong isolated property that will kill any living being who can't adapt to the power of the Abyss.

When Lin and her comrades performed reconnaissance in the Abyss in the distant past, other than Lin who was able to adapt to this power and survive, all of her comrades had died.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

---the Abyss isn't a proper way to advance.

Did the Bygone Era humans leave any knowledge inheritance?

Other than Lin, the only person who passed on anything from the Bygone Era was the strongest Combatant who taught me a Dance.

According to him, this Dance was the greatest discovery they made within the space vortex.

This means that the Living Being Sacrificial Dance isn't actually a part of their inheritance.

Then, the inheritance of the Bygone Era humans had been cut off as well.

What a headache.

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Is there really no way that allows the living beings of the void to become stronger?

Gu Qing Shan began recalling everything he had experienced in the Age of Old.

The Divine race... shouldn't have the ability to alter or change [Orders].

The Soul Shrieker was wary of [Order], so it had been trying to destroy [Order] since the Age of Old.

But I managed to save Lady Darksea from a fragment of a parallel world.

Only for her to be defeated by the Soul Shrieker again in the battle at the world of the Spire Association.

At that point, she had lost much of her power, even leaving her Card in Calming Soul Country.

From a certain point of view, this shows just how much the Soul Shrieker was wary of her.

Then, saving Lady Darksea and activating [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Human Regiment] would be one proper path for living beings to strengthen themselves.

Other than that, if there's a way to... travel to any naturally occurring worlds in other Realities to find high-leveled cultivation scriptures, magical tomes, martial arts techniques, etc.; that would also be a solution.

But no one knows how to do that.

Two paths.

Activating [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Human Regiment]

Or to think of a way to procure scriptures from parallel worlds.

While thinking, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but find himself a bit fortunate.

I have the power of the Demon Dragon, so I can directly skip both of these paths and breakthrough first.

But the issue is that I've offended the Wraith realm.

Heaven's Tribulation has always been a troublesome matter, so if the wraiths were to arrive at this point to exact their vengeance, things would become even more dangerous.

——-but I can't delay my breakthrough just because I'm afraid of running into the wraiths either.

The more I delay, the more well-prepared they would be.

If I take this chance to break through right now, the Wraith realm might not have enough time to react.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan could feel his body finally adjusting to his peak.

He then sat down on the cushion, placed the pill into his mouth, and began breaking through.

Clearing the mind, forgoing breathing, inner sight melting into the void, ignoring life and death, entering a state of perfect emptiness.

A black mass of air began to manifest around Gu Qing Shan, quickly spreading into every nook and cranny of the ship.

The power of the Demon Dragon.

It first manifested as black air but gradually transformed itself into overflowing power.

The essence of the Demon Dragon's power circulated within this overflowing power, slowly but surely being converted into a source of power, constantly strengthening Gu Qing Shan's body, soul, and spirit.

———for the Demon Dragon's immense power, this conversion was extremely slow and insignificant.

But on the contrary, Gu Qing Shan felt that the speed of his improvement was too rapid——-

It felt as if he was riding a wild horse who had lost its rein, galloping uncontrollably at full speed towards the road to heaven.

Before he knew it, one hour had passed.

Gu Qing Shan could feel his advancement slowing down.

This wasn't because he had expanded too much of the Demon Dragon's power, but because too much power had gathered at a certain bottleneck, preventing him from further advancement.

Indeed.

This was the peak of {Yama King} realm.

After this step, it would be the {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation.

Gu Qing Shan recomposed himself, held his breath, and broke through at full speed.

The abrupt leap of power immediately triggered the Laws of Reality that constantly existed within the void.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Your strength has reached the highest peak of {Yama King} realm, and is continuously improving]

[You are currently breaking through to the {Mahesvara King} realm]

[Special attention, the UI shall give you information that had never existed in the 900 million World Layers:]

[The {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation is a joint Tribulation with the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation]

[This Tribulation will bypasses the limits of space and time, occurring in unison with cultivators from other realities, the danger involved would far surpasses anything you've seen in the past]

[Keep in mind]

[Take care of yourself, do not let your guard down]

Gu Qing Shan's heart jumped from reading that.

What does that mean?

I'm facing the {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation, what does that have to do with the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation?

But Heaven's Tribulation did not give him time to think.

[In five seconds, the {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation will begin]

[5]

[4]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[The {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation has officially begun]

An invisible Law appeared from the void of space and attached itself to Gu Qing Shan.

Immediately, Gu Qing Shan vanished from the ship.

Chapter 1122

"What is this tortoise shell used for?"

"It can be used for Divination, or as a defensive treasure tool"

"How many spirit stones?"

"100,000; no bargaining"

"That's too expensive. The most this tortoise-shell could be used for is Divination, everyone here has a reputation to uphold, who's going to use a shell for defensive purposes?"

"95,000; I can't go any lower"

"I'll give you 93,000 at most; take it or leave it"

"Deal"

The two cultivators finished their transaction, both pleased with their gains.

Gu Qing Shan watched this wonder.

He had only just arrived not too long ago.

The entire place was full of people, haggling and trading items with one another.

It seemed very lively.

----is the {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation a marketplace?

As Gu Qing Shan's gaze passed through the open market, his expression turned stern.

Everyone within this marketplace in the middle of nowhere is at the peak of {Yama King} realm, all of them giving off the same spirit energy fluctuation.

In other words, every cultivator in this location arrived here to face their {Yama King} realm Tribulation.

{Yama King} realm can be considered as a high cultivation no matter the location.

No wonder that person just now said 'everyone here has a reputation to uphold' while haggling.

Gu Qing Shan slowly took a stroll across the marketplace.

No one took any notice of his movements.

Occasionally, a female cultivator would glance at him, but that was the extent of it.

After all, he had become a lot more handsome due to the Super Dimensional equipment's genetic-level cosmetic surgery.

In the Super Dimensional equipment's own words, his current facial appearance leaned more towards the softer side, which easily drew the attention from women.

---this was a completely different style from Gu Qing Shan's original one.

Even his voice had been slightly altered.

At the time, Gu Qing Shan only agreed to undergo cosmetic alteration because he was afraid that an enemy might discover his true identity.

As Gu Qing Shan strolled through the marketplace, a thought abruptly flashed in his mind.

—–none of these cultivators are from the 900 million World Layers.

Strictly speaking, the space vortex was actually the 'bordering space between parallel worlds', while these people arrived from natural occurring worlds, from comparatively real Realities.

Gu Qing Shan stopped.

He had just realized a certain truth.

---cultivators were able to come into contact with people from parallel worlds.

Due to the existence of Heaven's Tribulation, they were able to bypass the limits of Space and Time, thus coming into contact with one another.

Like the previous {Yama King} realm Tribulation.

And like this {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation

Then, what exactly is this Heaven's Tribulation about?

--wasn't it supposed to be a joint Tribulation with the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation?

Gu Qing Shan's expression didn't change as he simply walked aimlessly around the marketplace, occasionally taking a glance at the various shops.

Talismans, equipment, pill furnaces and pills, immortal fruits and herbs, cooking ingredients, cultivation scriptures, etc. all sorts of things were up to sale here, a sort of visual shock.

There were so many cultivators that there was practically a traffic jam here.

Sometimes, it was practically impossible to stay away from each other, so to avoid being wrongly accused, everyone had put up a layer of spirit energy shield around themselves, whenever the shield came into contact with another person's spirit energy shield, both parties would acknowledge and move a bit further away.

This was a surprisingly peaceful scene.

Gu Qing Shan nodded, this was understandable, as everyone here was at the exact same cultivation realm while also being complete strangers, if they truly fought, there would be no telling who would actually come out on top.

Gu Qing Shan stopped in front of a kiosk.

"Fellow Dao seeker, what kind of information do you need?" the cultivator asked.

"Heaven's Tribulation" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The cultivator smiled and replied: "At our current level, we all naturally understand that the information of each Heaven's Tribulation is top-secret, it cannot be revealed arbitrarily"

Gu Qing Shan didn't understand a single thing.

"How are you selling it?" he asked while turning his gaze towards another kiosk with an unconvinced expression.

The cultivator immediately stopped putting on airs, held up a jade tag in between two fingers and replied: "Information regarding the current {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation; 10,000 spirit stones"

"10,000!?" Gu Qing Shan appeared surprised and asked: "What is this daylight robbery?"

After his stroll earlier, he had grasped the overall value of this information.

The cultivator put the jade tag out cleanly for Gu Qing Shan to see and sincerely replied: "This one is specially compiled information, so it's worth a lot more compared to other people"

He silently sent his voice: "I have information regarding the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation as well, this alone is worth 6,000 spirit stones"

"Really? Are you trying to pull my leg?" Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

That cultivator patted his chest with pride: "I can guarantee this is original information, precious intel that could only be read by paying, definitely not the kind obtained through copying the efforts of others——- if you don't believe me, you can check it right here after you buy it before you leave"

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

If the other party was so insistent, he felt assured that this information would be worth the money.

"Deal"

Gu Qing Shan paid the spirit stones.

The spirit stones he currently had were still the same that he received as an allowance from Shifu back in Bai Hua sect, as well as the monthly expenditure he received while staying in Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace.

These spirit stones had been doing nothing but staying in his Inventory Bag, it had been a very long time since he last used this type of currency.

Fortunately, spirit stones seemed to be the common currency between cultivation worlds, so the other party easily handed him the jade tag after he received the spirit stones.

The cultivator boasted confidently: "You can read it right here; I can guarantee that you're not losing anything!"

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

He's that confident?

So he stood right there and infused his inner sight into the jade tag.

Two pieces of information appeared in his Thought Sea.

This place is known as the Heaven Pillar World – home to the Heaven-supporting pillar.

Both the {Mahesvara King} realm and Sumeru Lord realm Tribulations are conducted here.

The {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation would only be conducted once every thousand years.

All cultivators within a thousand years who attempt to face this particular Heaven's Tribulation would be transported to the Heaven Pillar World, bypassing the limit of Space and Time.

Gu Qing Shan's current location was the wilderness a bit further away from the Heaven Pillar World's central city.

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All cultivators attempting to break through {Mahesvara King} realm must travel to the Heaven Pillar World central city and wait for a cultivator who is facing their Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation.

Those cultivators would then become that cultivators' subordinates, following that cultivator's lead while escorting them to the summit of Mount Sumeru, where they would pass the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation.

Once that cultivator successfully faced their Tribulation and became a Sumeru Lord realm cultivator, the other cultivators who escorted them to the summit of Mount Sumeru would also finish their own {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation.

They would then become {Mahesvara King} realm cultivators.

——-for that reason, this was said to be the joint Tribulation of the {Mahesvara King} realm and Sumeru Lord realm.

This was without a doubt, the most dangerous Tribulation that any cultivator had to face since the beginning of their cultivation.

And there was another more serious issue.

——-the Heaven-supporting pillar that connected the Heaven Pillar World and Mount Sumeru had been broken.

Because of that, the trials and tribulations that must be faced on the path had become unpredictable and unfathomable.

A total of 5 cultivators in a row had lost their lives while attempting to scale Mount Sumeru during their Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation.

And basically, all the cultivators who escorted them had died as well.

In a tea cup's worth of time, Gu Qing Shan had finished reading through the information.

With a heavy heart, he nodded and told the cultivator: "Your information truly is worth that price"

The cultivator then grinned and loudly declared: "Naturally, we've always operated with sincerity and trust, only then would we have repeat customers"

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight across the lively marketplace towards a certain direction.

Sure enough, he found a city.

Heaven Pillar city.

In the middle of this city was a gigantic stone pillar that seemed to pierce the sky, but it was cut off right beneath the clouds.

This was the legendary Pillar To Heaven.

According to the jade tag, in the ancient past, it once connected heaven and earth, leading directly to the summit of Mount Sumeru.

No one knows why it was cut off.

While Gu Qing Shan was observing it, he suddenly noticed something.

In a split second, the entire marketplace vanished, every cultivator had disappeared without a trace, returning it all to silence.

Three swords appeared from the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan wielded the twin swords Heaven and Earth without hesitation to protect himself.

All the surrounding spirit energy fluctuation vanished.

His surroundings returned to silence.

A gust of cold wind blew across the ground, howling sorrowfully.

Gu Qing Shan kept his hands on his swords and slowly took a step forward.

He had entered a state of combat.

What exactly... happened?

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight towards his surroundings.

It was as if those people had evaporated in the blink of an eye.

Within this barren wasteland, other than some rocks and dirt, there was nothing but some sparse, dried grass.

Gu Qing Shan observed the multitudes of footsteps as well as the marks left from the kiosks on the ground and found himself even more confused.

Those cultivators were clearly here just now.

And so were their items.

Why did they all disappear without any warnings?

Gu Qing Shan felt cold sweat dripping down his back.

All of a sudden, he regained his senses and hurriedly reached for the Inventory Bag on his hip, only to find it missing.

Gu Qing Shan froze.

My Inventory Bag had been stolen.

--- I am a sword cultivator, but someone managed to steal my Inventory Bag without me noticing.

That person's strength must be terrifying!

Since that's the case, if that person wanted to kill me...

No.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

My spirit sense didn't react for even a single bit.

Not even the Soul Shrieker is able to kill me without a sound or presence.

Most likely, this was an ability that exists specifically for the sake of stealing.

He silently stood still, going through every detail since he first entered the marketplace, then pinpointed a certain moment.

The cultivator who sold the information received my spirit stones, then put the jade tag into my hand.

If it was a thief, the only person who came into contact with me was the information broker cultivator.

He's the most suspicious person.

As Gu Qing Shan thought of this, he recalled something else.

He scowled, muttering to himself: "This sensation... isn't it a bit familiar...?"

•••

At the same time.

Heaven Pillar city.

Inside a luxurious palace.

A certain beautiful porcelain-like little girl was holding Gu Qing Shan's Inventory Bag, lightly waving her hand over it.

The inner sight lock on the Inventory Bag was instantly removed.

The little girl began counting her spoils.

"A bunch of kitchen utensils..."

"Spirit stones"

"Strange, why aren't there any cultivation-type inheritance?"

"...Quite a few Technological-type items as well, unfortunately, useless to take back to our world"

The little girl's immature voice spoke up again and again, then she suddenly stopped.

She was holding a large white brick that barely fit in her hand.

The little girl's expression became stern.

Although she appeared stern, anyone who saw that would only think of her as cute—— because she was too young.

"This is a mega-size jade tag made by Qin Xiao Lou... I recall he said that he gave it to Qing Shan..."

Chapter 1123

Gu Qing Shan stood in the barren wasteland, silently waiting.

If the one who took my Inventory Bag was Shifu, then she'll quickly return once she discovers the items from Bai Hua sect.

Sure enough.

In just 20 breaths' worth of time, a strong gust of wind descended from the sky, sucking up dirt and rock to manifest into a female form.

After several layers of light, the female's appearance became clear.

She was wearing a white silk dress with a jade crown on her head, a beauty like no other.

There was a faint sense of otherworldly simplicity, her eyes were clear like an autumn pond that reflected the full moon above.

Xie Dao Ling.

She placed the mega-sized jade tag in front of Gu Qing Shan and curtly asked: "Where did you obtain this jade tag?"

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

"At the time, I had just arrived in Shen Wu world, when I asked second brother to give me a few cultivation scriptures, he gave them to me"

He then clasped his fist and praised: "Shifu is now able to manifest your body through dirt and rock, such skillful technique is beyond my imagination"

Xie Dao Ling silently observed him for a while and asked: "You are Gu Qing Shan? Why do you look like this?"

Gu Qing Shan explained everything to her from the very beginning.

Xie Dao Ling pondered his words, then said: "Your story is without flaw, but the previous time I left Shen Wu world for the cultivation alliance, someone had attempted to impersonate Gu Qing Shan in order to infiltrate our Bai Hua sect. Xiao Lou's group was so lax that they were nearly hurt, it was only due to Qing Rou and Wan Er's quick-wittedness that made the experience frightful but without dangers"

Gu Qing Shan followed up: "Then ... "

Xie Dao Ling continued: "Swordsmanship is a sword cultivator's spirit and soul, a person can be impersonated, but not his swordsmanship. You must prove to me that you are the real Gu Qing Shan"

Gu Qing Shan then grabbed the Earth sword from the void of space, sincerely telling her: "In the past when I was taken in and taught by Shifu, this disciple had always kept it close in mind. Ever since our parting at the 900 million World Layers alliance, things had become impermanent, while this disciple lives among the streets of the infinite worlds, I had never forgotten Shifu. Today with my swordsmanship as proof, I hope that Shifu will teach me once more"

Xie Dao Ling displayed a warm smile and replied: "Come, let your master see how much you've improved"

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist and bowed, then abruptly vanished.

Fwah!

A layer of air filled with frost manifested from the tip of the sword, abruptly piercing into Xie Dao Ling's chest.

Xie Dao Ling's figure slowly faded away.

----it was an afterimage.

Gu Qing Shan looked up, only to find that Xie Dao Ling had taken to the air, her sleeves fluttering like a heavenly fairy.

Gu Qing Shan turned his hand to grab the Heaven sword and thrust upward at the sky.

Glittering light surged forward from the sword, manifesting as a single giant sword phantom.

Boom!

The sword phantom shot upwards, causing the dirt and rocks around to tremble, almost like an earthquake.

---Secret Art, [River Traversing Iron Sword]!

With Gu Qing Shan's current swordsmanship, he had already fully comprehended all there was to comprehend from the Secret Art, [Water Flow Severance], from which he had created a new, more powerful Secret Art!

The giant sword phantom flashed through the air and appeared immediately in front of Xie Dao Ling.

Xie Dao Ling waved her long sleeves without even the slightest hint of flinching.

----Divine Skill, [Sleeves of Holding]!

The giant sword phantom immediately vanished, taken somewhere by Xie Dao Ling.

Xie Dao Ling abruptly turned and threw a punch into the air.

Just in time for Gu Qing Shan to appear right at that location, whereas he originally planned to attack, he could only block her punch with his sword due to him losing the initiative.

Bam!

The void of space shook.

Gu Qing Shan was sent flying into the ground like a cannonball.

Xie Dao Ling clasped her hands behind her back while standing in the air, only to feel the wind picking up.

"Sword-infused wind... seems like it is a sword array"

She softly sighed and summoned a long whip from the void of space.

Sha—-klak!

The whip swung forward and made a loud snap.

The wind itself seemed to have been struck by this whip and scattered.

There was no longer any wind in the air.

Xie Dao Ling put the whip away and casually descended.

In front of her, Gu Qing Shan had only just jumped out from the crater.

"No need to continue. I ask you; do you face your enemies the same way when you're outside?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "When I'm outside, I naturally fight to kill"

Xie Dao Ling then glared at him and said: "You fought like you had their arms and legs twisted together, nothing like a sword cultivator at all. If I wasn't your master, I wouldn't have been able to sense your original swordsmanship from that fight just now at all"

Gu Qing Shan was glad and casually replied: "It's been a long time since I saw Shifu, but my swordsmanship had improved too quickly, so I was afraid that I might hurt Shifu without meaning to"

Xie Dao Ling commented: "Your swordsmanship truly has surpassed the realm of Sword Saint, which realm had you reached now?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "After a thousand swords is a single sword"

Being a person of her caliber, Xie Dao Ling immediately understood: "One sword to surpass one thousand, so it was the realm of power convergence, what realm follows that?"

"A single sword manifests into hundreds and thousands, that is Sword Deity" Gu Qing Shan told her.

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Xie Dao Ling pondered briefly and praised: "Hundred and thousands of Secret Arts manifesting at will, unrivaled combat prowess"

With a single statement, she had clearly understood the path of godly swordsmanship, that was Xie Dao Ling!

Gu Qing Shan was fully convinced and smiled: "I hope to be taught by Shifu even more from now on"

Neither of them mentioned a single word about his Inventory Bag being stolen.

Xie Dao Ling observed his appearance and frowned: "Qing Shan, your current appearance is too soft, nothing like a sword cultivator"

Gu Qing Shan explained: "This is a kind of Technological power, a disguise done from the genetic level, capable of evading detection of my original appearance from even a clairvoyance technique, this was the only reason why I took on this face"

"Earlier, I tried a few other means as well, but couldn't turn back"

Xie Dao Ling nodded and said: "I'm going to turn you back to your original form, what do you think?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Of course, there is no issue, I will listen to Shifu"

"Endure it a bit, it'll be over very quickly"

"Yes"

Pap!

Gu Qing Shan was slapped.

He touched his face and found that it had returned to normal.

"Thank you, Shifu" he said happily.

"Hm" Xie Dao Ling clasped her hands behind her back and said: "Xiao Lou doesn't like to compete, Xiu Xiu is still young, Qing Rou and Wan Er were taken in late; you are the only person in our Bai Hua sect to have come the furthest, so you must remember not to act like a feminine man again"

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Xie Dao Ling added: "Compared to cultivation, I would rather that you and the rest be the best people that you could be, to have a clear conscience at all times"

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "I will make sure to follow Shifu's model, always staying as a sword cultivator who can walk and talk straight"

Xie Dao Ling was pleased: "Hm, that is how we of Bai Hua sect should be"

As they were talking, a few black dots appeared from afar.

Xie Dao Ling instantly lost the presence she gave off earlier and said: "Qing Shan, we will come into contact again tonight, your master has other business to attend——-"

As soon as she finished, the light of the technique flickered and vanished, her body returned to dirt and rock that collapsed to the ground.

Gu Qing Shan froze.

Shifu left a bit too quickly.

Was she under some sort of threat?

Gu Qing Shan scowled and looked at the black dots arriving from afar.

He started exuding killing intent as he wielded his sword.

...

10 minutes later.

Several cultivators searched Gu Qing Shan's vicinity.

They released various spells, carefully searching every inch of dirt in the area, some even took to the air to scan the void of space with their inner sight.

Someone was even consoling Gu Qing Shan: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu, since it had come to this, you should readjust your mentality somewhat, after all, we will soon need to face the Tribulation"

Gu Qing Shan awkwardly stood there, endured it for a while, but couldn't help himself muttering: "There's no need to waste your efforts anymore, that thief ran away too quickly, we won't be able to find them"

"Tsk!"

A cultivator angrily threw his weapon to the ground.

"Completely vanished, impossible to find!" another cultivator sighed.

The cultivator who was consoling Gu Qing Shan was unwilling to accept that result and insisted on asking: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu, did you perhaps see that thief's appearance?"

When Gu Qing Shan was about to answer, a cultivator next to him chuckled bitterly and answered dejectedly: "It's useless even if he saw them clearly, that thief took on the form of thousands and acted

while everyone was strolling through the marketplace——- did everyone not fall victim the exact same way?"

Everyone was clearly irritated.

——-indeed, these people were also {Yama King} realm cultivators, real cultivators who arrived at Heaven Pillar World to face their Tribulation just as Gu Qing Shan had.

They came to face a Tribulation, but got their Inventory Bag stolen instead...

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

Shifu really did it this time.

But Shifu wasn't really a materialistic person, so why did she take these people's Inventory Bags?

While he was thinking, someone suddenly asked: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu, you seemed to have spoken with that person for a while, did you perhaps know one another?"

Gu Qing Shan patted his chest and opened his eyes wide: "How is that possible! You can ask anyone, I am the third-ranking disciple of Bai Hua sect, a renowned lawful sect that has always lived in the light— —- we disciples walk straight and talk straight, being nothing but the best person we can be, living with a clear conscience at all times. We would definitely never get acquainted with such thieves!"

Seeing him filled with righteous indignation, the people recalled that he had also been stolen from; understanding his mentality, no one said anything else.

Truly.

If they knew one another, why would the other party steal from Gu Qing Shan as well?

At this point, everyone recognized something and looked up at the sky.

7-8 Inventory Bags were falling from above.

"My Inventory Bag!" someone called out.

Everyone waved their hands to summon their respective Inventory Bags.

Including Gu Qing Shan, everyone immediately checked their Inventory Bags.

Someone doubtfully said: "How strange, nothing is missing at all. But my cultivation scripture jade tag seemed to have been used"

Happy Lunar New Year to all readers, thank you for your support of the novel so far and we wish you another wonderful year

Chapter 1124

The secret passage to the Dusty World.

Two men in yaksha masks descended from above, standing on top of the jagged rocky ground.

They searched the surroundings and soon found what they were looking for.

"Is it over there?" one of them asked.

"Yes, the Heavenly King had chosen its master and revealed where its real body had been suppressed" the other person replied.

The first person spoke emotionally: "With this Divine Armament returned to us, our Wraith realm would no longer have to worry about gaining victory against the Abyss!"

The two of them reached a desolate location and looked towards a wall.

One of them reached their hand out to press against the rocky surface.

Rumble rumble!

The rock wall slowly opened.

While the inside was empty, tens of thousands of stone heads showed themselves in front of the two wraiths.

These heads displayed furious expressions on their faces, hovering and spinning in the void of space.

They neatly arranged themselves while exuding an unknown force that caused the heart to unknowingly beat faster.

"Suppression of Ten Thousand Heads, forbidding deities and wraiths alike"

"Hm, these Occultism rocks were actually able to open the path to a different space entirely, how admirably terrifying"

The two of them looked down at the area below the stone heads.

A pale longbow was being suppressed by the stone heads, pinned to the ground, unable to move.

This was one of the two great Divine Armaments of the Wraith realm, the Bow of Mara!

This bow was the Heavenly King Mara's true form!

One of them was surprised: "When the Heavenly King Mara came to us, there were 80,000 Hex Ghosts that followed, where are those Hex Ghosts' true forms?"

The other person replied: "The master said that when the Bow of Mara is drawn, a Hex Ghost would manifest as an arrow that would always hit its target"

"——that's why all 80,000 Hex Ghosts are actually attached to the string of the bow, we only need to bring this entire bow back"

The first person was startled and nodded: "Right, let us get to work. Take out those Divine Armaments and arrange them according to the method, we need to rescue the Heavenly King's true form as soon as possible"

The other person stood still, apparently recalling something.

His companion asked in confusion: "What's with you?"

It was now that the other person sighed: "I heard that there exists a Mountain God in the Huang Quan realm, it's a pity that the Huang Quan realm we rule over doesn't have such a Deity"

"What's so special about that Mountain God?"

"If that Deity was here, they would only need to wield the Divine Armament manifested from the Grand Tie Wei Mountain and simply take the Bow of Mara out"

"Huh?" his friend was intrigued and asked: "Can that Divine Armament ignore this Suppression of Ten Thousand Heads formation?"

"Yeah, legends has it that the Divine Armament manifestation of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain is able to break all Laws, but that's nothing but a rumor, we haven't been able to confirm it"

"If that really is the case, that's very impressive"

After talking, the two of them slowly focused their thoughts and began to arrange the means to procure the Divine Armament.

The two of them took out over a dozen Divine Armaments, arranging them into a formation.

Time slowly passed.

While they were completely focused on their work, a figure suddenly appeared behind them.

This figure silently arrived without any presence or sound, simply stood there silently and watched the two of them.

They eventually finished arranging the formation.

They activated the formation, used the power of the dozen Divine Armaments, and finally formed a weak resonance with the Suppression of Ten Thousand Heads formation.

A few moments later, the Suppression of Ten Thousand heads formation opened up a very small gap.

"Come!" one of them shouted.

The pale bow shot up with a 'sha', using that gap to fly out.

While the two wraiths were glad, that bow was tightly grabbed by another's person's hand.

"This is the Bow of Mara? Why isn't the weapon spirit here?"

A curious female voice asked.

No one responded.

The two wraiths stood there, unable to move.

The female voice spoke again: "I've just returned with disappointment from the Giant of Beginning's place, who would've thought that I would run into this unexpected benefit here?"

As she turned the bow over in her hand, it vanished.

"Very well, I shall gradually reconsider the matter of the weapon spirit, since this bow is now mine"

Saying so, the figure slowly left.

The two wraiths were still unable to move.

They stood still, blood seeping from the pores on their skin, gradually dying their entire bodies red, like humanoid puppets made from red wax.

Even much later, when the Wraith realm sent other people, they were found to remain absolutely still here.

After taking the bow, that figure continued moving forward deeper into the secret passage.

Soon, she reached the location where a battle had previously occurred.

The Starlight Empire war base.

She didn't immediately fly through and instead landed on top of the base.

"The scent of death... how strange, could someone have come here?"

She muttered.

Following her whispers, an image manifested itself from the void of space, displaying what had happened in the past for her to see.

Su Xue Er fought against the two Deities.

Gu Qing Shan returned.

The two worlds overlapped.

Gu Qing Shan summoned the dead people to mess up Huang Quan.

The army of pixies arrived.

The group promised to see one another again, Su Xue Er entered the base while Gu Qing Shan left while piloting a ship.

-----she silently watched until the very last moment.

All the images then disappeared.

"That girl called Su Xue Er, is she right under my feet?"

She spoke up again, her voice didn't seem to contain any emotions.

After that, a holy light illuminated the darkness, revealing her beautiful and pure visage.

The Sacred Chant Angel, Frost.

She looked down at the outside of the base, her gaze constantly moving about.

It was as if she was able to see through the metal and observe the inside of the base.

"Found you"

Her body turned incorporeal as she went through the outer layer of metal and entered the base.

While maintaining her incorporeal form, the Sacred Chant Angel continued flying forward until she reached Su Xue Er's location.

This was a large transparent incubation chamber.

Su Xue Er was sleeping inside, floating in a fetal position.

Numerous tubes were attached to her body, countless sprites of light that were constantly being absorbed into her body.

The Sacred Chant Angel observed for a while and muttered: "Technological artifacts, makes me sick just by looking at it"

Saying so, she reached her hand towards Su Xue Er and spoke in a cruel tone: "Gu Qing Shan will surely be mine, you, on the other hand, should disappear from this world"

Another female voice suddenly sounded from behind her: [I can't care who you are, if you try to harm her, the one who's going to disappear is you]

The Sacred Chant Angel stopped.

She turned around to look at the other party.

"Who are you?" she questioned.

[The one you can take your life] the other party replied.

The Sacred Chant Angel observed that person with a startled gaze.

She then turned to the black handgun in her hand and mocked: "With just that thing?"

[You can give it a try] the other party coldly replied.

The Sacred Chant Angel noticed the implications in her voice and didn't say anything in response.

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More holy light manifested from every direction.

They formed a total of 73 visions.

Each vision displayed the scene of the two of them fighting one another.

Within 43 of those visions, the Sacred Chant Angel and the other party ended in mutual destruction; while the other 30 visions showed her being heavily injured and the other party dead.

In one breath's worth of time, all the visions vanished like they had never appeared.

The Sacred Chant Angel casually said: "If this base does not contain so many weapons of total destruction, you wouldn't be able to do anything to me"

The other party replied: [But we are currently inside this base, and I can kill you at any moment I wish]

The Sacred Chant Angel scoffed: "Are you really not afraid to die? I refuse to believe that you'd choose to kill yourself with me!"

The other party curtly answered: [Of course I'm not afraid, and I know that you definitely are afraid of death]

The Sacred Chant Angel was in disbelief and stared closely at her: "How are you so sure of yourself?"

The other party replied: [I had time to prepare, you did not]

The Sacred Chant Angel's body trembled slightly.

As an entity who had lived for numerous years, she naturally understood what Technological-type life forms were capable of.

So she could only remain silent.

After a while, she whispered: "I hate technology"

The other party didn't respond and simply pointed a handgun at her.

The Sacred Chant Angel had no choice but to give up, preparing to leave this place.

Before leaving, she suddenly replied: "Your name, tell me"

The other party answered: [Impartial Goddess]

The Sacred Chant Angel shook her head and said: "I didn't ask for your title, I wanted to know your name"

Impartial Goddess kept her mouth shut and didn't give her an answer.

The Sacred Chant Angel seemed to think that she had understood something, laughed sarcastically, and said: "Coward, are you an evil creature or something? Otherwise, why don't you even have the courage to give your name?"

Saying so, she immediately vanished.

Impartial Goddess stood still in silence.

[My name...] she muttered.

The Sacred Chant Angel left without turning back, quickly made her away out of the war base, and raised both hands into the air.

A giant hammer manifested from white light appeared in her hands.

----now that I've left the base, I'm no longer under her threat!

"Die!" she maliciously declared.

The giant hammer was thrown straight at the war base without hesitation

In that split second, the war base suddenly vanished.

Such a giant base disappeared without a trace in less than a second, completely unbelievable.

The Sacred Chant Angel scowled.

She waved her hand.

The hammer of light turned back into countless sprites of light that returned to her body.

"Gu Qing Shan's... woman, and a guardian who won't even gave their name"

She pondered for a while, then muttered to herself: "This can't do, he has the Twine of Cloud Atlas, as well as the power of Occultism. He must belong to none other but me, I definitely can't let any other woman take him"

"That's right, I'm going to find him and unify with him!"

She abruptly grabbed something from the void of space.

A mass of aura was held in her hand.

"...He gave my power to the Giant of Beginning... fortunately, there's still this"

The Sacred Chant Angel hesitated for a while before spreading this aura in front of herself.

She started to write something on the aura with her finger.

After she finished, she chanted a long incantation and lightly blew on the aura.

"Do, regardless of where he is, by the power of Occultism, this letter will arrive in front of him"

The aura quickly melted into the void of space and vanished.

While the Sacred Chant Angel silently stood still in wait.

•••

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan was flying through the air.

He was following a few cultivators, who were also here to breakthrough, towards Heavenly Pillar city.

All of a sudden, he stopped.

"Ah, gentlemen, please go ahead, I have something to take care of, I'll catch up soon" Gu Qing Shan called out.

"Keep in mind, you must enter the city before sundown!" one of the cultivators loudly reminded him. Gu Qing Shan nodded. The other cultivators left first.

Gu Qing Shan stood still.

His three swords also appeared from the void of space.

[「]What's the matter? 」 the Earth sword asked with a resounding voice.

"A sort of special sensation, it's as if something that belongs to me is trying to find me again" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Something that belongs to you?" Luo Bing Li asked doubtfully.

The Chao Yin sword also gave off a curious 'wuu'.

"It's here!" Gu Qing Shan said.

The void of space immediately broke open as a mass of invisible aura appeared.

"Huh?" Gu Qing Shan called out in surprise.

Because he noticed that this aura belonged to him.

This aura hovered in front of Gu Qing Shan and manifested as glittering light.

The light gradually reformed as a letter

He and his three swords got closer to read the letter.

The letter contained a message written in the Holy Heaven's language, the general gist of it was to show that the Sacred Chant Angel had written this letter: she felt grateful to Gu Qing Shan for saving her, so now that she had fully recovered, she had nothing to do, and that she was willing to come to Gu Qing Shan and fight along his side.

At the end of the letter, the Sacred Chant Angel left a summoning incantation.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan chanted his incantation, she would arrive at Gu Qing Shan's summon.

-----she expressed clearly that she was ready to fight, and was waiting for Gu Qing Shan to summon her.

Gu Qing Shan and his three swords finished the letter.

The Earth sword commented: That woman is very powerful, and a rare person aside from yourself who holds the power of Occultism. Your current situation is unpredictable, so perhaps it might be a good idea to ask for her help J

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "No need"

Luo Bing Li's doubtful voice resounded from the Heaven sword: "You're refusing such a good helper? Why?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I think something isn't quite right—- my spirit sense is giving off an adverse reaction"

Luo Bing Li was in disbelief: "You're refusing her for such an unclear, obscured reason? Wait, Earth sword, was that angel actually very ugly?"

 \lceil That's not the case at all \rfloor the Earth sword shook its body and spoke in an obscured tone: \lceil In layman term, both her figure and face were the ultimate fantasy of many human males—— and she's quite the holy one as well, tch \rfloor

Luo Bing Li understood.

The Heaven sword circled around Gu Qing Shan like it was evaluating Gu Qing Shan.

"You... are you sick somewhere? If you are, you need to cure it quickly, don't drag it out" Luo Bing Li told him out of concern.

"I'm not sick" Gu Qing Shan answered beyond any doubts: "No need to mention this any longer, I have an eerie sensation regarding her, and I trust my intuition"

"Then, you're not going to respond at all?"

"Not a single word"

Luo Bing Li worriedly thought: "She's still waiting for you to summon her, so if you do that, you might offend her"

The Earth sword also commented: \lceil This is a very powerful woman—– if you refuse to summon her, how do you intend on explaining if you ever meet again in the future? \rfloor

Gu Qing Shan looked down at the letter in his hand, pondered a bit, and replied: "I can't read"

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---you must enter the city before sundown.

This was the sincere advice of the cultivators to Gu Qing Shan before they left.

Gu Qing Shan put the letter away and looked up at the sky.

Night would soon descend.

Gu Qing Shan sped up his flight.

He simply flew across the lower layer of clouds, through the frigid winds and the large numbers of ruined cities.

At some point, it began to rain and gradually turned into a heavy downpour.

In the wilderness, large quantities of rainwater washed through the ruined walls and structures.

After some observation, Gu Qing Shan noticed that these structures were all created from some especially tough material, some of which still radiated a unique power fluctuation.

Perhaps it was because of this that they were still able to retain their original appearance after being destroyed countless years ago.

However, what exactly destroyed these cities?

A large-scale war?

Natural disasters?

Or something else entirely?

Gu Qing Shan carefully observed those ruined structures.

Almost all of the roofs of buildings had been flipped over, the various items inside tossed strewn all over the ground.

Some places seemed to have items that attracted attention, as there were traces of organization and selection.

This was definitely the work of someone who arrived later.

So much time had passed and so much had been tampered with by the people who came later on that many traces of the past could no longer be observed.

Under this situation, Gu Qing Shan couldn't draw any solid conclusions for the time being.

"Oi"

All of a sudden, a voice resounded in his Thought Sea.

Gu Qing Shan was startled so he stopped in the air and asked: "Who?"

"It's me"

A young man arrived flying from afar.

Gu Qing Shan first observed his appearance, then the tortoise shell on his back, and exclaimed in shock: "Young Tortoise! Why are you here!?"

Indeed, this young man was none other than one of the four Divine Beasts of the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace, the Spirit Tortoise.

Young Tortoise flew in front of him and said: "Your master was in a hurry that she forget to tell you something, so I came to deliver her message"

"What is it?"

"You must go into the city before nightfall"

"Ah, I know about that, but why is Young Tortoise here?"

Young Tortoise replied: "It's because you obtained the twin swords Heaven and Earth. Since all of the duties entrusted to me had been fulfilled just in time when your master returned to the Primordial Heaven Realm, I moved back to your world with her"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Then, you came here with Shifu in order to help her pass her Tribulation?"

"That's right!" Young Tortoise replied.

At this point, the rain had gotten so heavy that the scenery was completely white-washed in front of their visions, making them unable to see anything outside the range of a few meters.

The sky had gotten a bit darker.

Young Tortoise urged him: "We'll talk as we go; we can't delay any further"

"Yes"

The two of them started flying towards Heaven Pillar city.

"Is my Shifu here to face the {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation or the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation?" Gu Qing Shan asked as he was flying.

"Didn't you already meet her?" the Spirit Tortoise asked.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "I didn't, she arrived through an incarnation technique, I couldn't judge her power at all"

"Ah, is that so? She's here to face her Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation"

The Spirit Tortoise lowered his voice and continued: "Your master seemed to have run into quite a unique opportunity, insisting on facing her Sumeru Lord Tribulation. No matter how much the other disciples and I tried to convince her, she wouldn't listen.

Gu Qing Shan was confused, and couldn't help but ask: "Aren't cultivators supposed to face their Tribulations? Since she's looking to breakthrough, of course, she would need to face her Tribulation, why did you stop her?"

The Spirit Tortoise glanced at him and replied: "Your master once refined a golden lotus into a ray of golden light that was absorbed into her Thought Sea, from that point onward, whenever she wished to advance, she only need to directly breakthrough without the need to face any Tribulations"

"No need to face a Tribulation and directly breakthrough?" Gu Qing Shan thought that he misheard, so he tried asking again.

The Spirit Tortoise nodded.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

When Xie Dao Ling was born, a golden lotus was born with her, manifested from the essence of heaven and earth which drew the ire of the Divine race, who placed a malicious curse on her.

Xie Gu Hong final's solution was to seal her in crystal ice and let her slumber, only waking up after her curse had been dispelled.

This was the extent of Gu Qing Shan's knowledge.

He just didn't think that his Shifu's talent would be so heaven-defying that there wasn't even a need for her to face the Tribulation whenever she wanted to break through!

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly asked: "Then why did my Shifu come here to face the Tribulation?"

The Spirit Tortoise sighed and replied: "Because of Shen Wu world——- after all, Shen Wu world doesn't have any decent cultivation scripture that would allow cultivators to reach the realms after {Yama King}"

"Then how did my Shifu—--"

"She had few scriptures, but apparently they were only suitable for her. So, she decided to come here and obtain some cultivation scriptures from cultivators of other worlds and help the living beings of Shen Wu world quickly grow stronger"

Gu Qing Shan nodded in understanding as he listened.

At this point, a huge black mass appeared in front of them from within the showering rain.

They had finally arrived at Heaven Pillar city.

The two of them flew up the walls of the city and steadily landed.

The Spirit Tortoise sighed in relief.

The group of cultivators from before were already waiting here.

"How great, you had managed to arrive before sundown" one of them happily said.

The others also nodded, apparently relieved of their worries.

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit surprised and clasped his fist: "Fellow Dao seekers, could it be that you had been waiting for us here?"

A male cultivator replied: "We have. The {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation isn't just a normally dangerous trial, the more people we have, the more assured we'd feel in passing it"

The female cultivator standing next to him seemed to be his Dao companion as she followed up: "If there are too few people, I'd rather retreat a realm and cultivate again for a few hundred years"

A monk explained: "Amitabha, according to the records of our world, to successfully reach the summit of Mount Sumeru, the more people we have, the better chance we've got"

Seeing everyone else's reactions, Gu Qing Shan saw the same expression of agreement, so he understood.

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These people were waiting here for him to see if he was able to reach this place safely.

Gu Qing Shan tried asking: "That person who took our Inventory Bags, don't they count as one as well?"

He was asking this mainly because he was afraid that these people might recognize Shifu as the thief, so he was probing their reactions first.

Gu Qing Shan understood his Shifu's intention, and he would definitely take his Shifu's side when it came to this matter.

The other cultivators exchanged glances, all of them seemed hesitant.

The thief didn't really take anything from us and only accessed our cultivation scripture jade tags.

But then...

"I examined my cultivation scripture jade tag" a cultivator said, "With the fluctuation that remained on the jade tag, I discovered that a copy had been made of it"

"Hmph, me as well, they also made a copy of mine—— they stole this humble one's unique scripture, so this humble one swears to never see them eye to eye" someone coldly snorted.

Another person also mentioned: "I don't mind having some spirit stones taken from me, but a scripture is a cultivator's root and foundation, since they had stolen my scripture, I swear to never cooperate with them"

"Right!"

"That's how it should be!"

The other cultivators followed up in agreement, their reactions triggering even more emotions from their surroundings.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head, glanced at the Spirit Tortoise, and was about to leave.

At this point, a cultivator laughed out loud, boasting triumphantly: "This humble one's scripture is the most precious of our sect, one that requires daily studies and comprehension, so this one had always been on a lookout, that person never managed to take it"

"Ah? So you didn't put your jade tag in your Inventory Bag?" another cultivator asked.

The boasting cultivator said: "You are free to take a look!"

Everyone looked in his direction.

Only to see layers upon layers of runes manifested as formations in the void of space above his head.

Among the numerous runes, a single jade tag was hovering up and down.

That cultivator explained: "With so many formations around it, even I would have to waste a lot of effort to take the jade tag, let alone a thief who could only act during a short window when I'm not paying attention"

"Furthermore, as soon as any of these formations are triggered, the jade tag would immediately be transported back to my world, inside the sect's library"

"Even if I die, nothing would ever happen to the scripture jade tag"

The cultivator boasted again: "This is a foolproof plan, no matter how good that thief is, they would never be able to steal my jade tag"

The cultivators thought about it for a bit, and sure enough, they couldn't think of any method.

"Hm, that is indeed a good choice"

"Hidden in the void, protected by formations, never kept on one's body, what a wondrous way of thinking"

"Ahaha, that thief will definitely not expect it"

"That thief deserves it, wasting effort without obtaining anything from you, how wonderful it feels"

The other cultivators also laughed in derision.

"If we ever catch that thief, this humble one will definitely torture them to release this sense of irritation"

"Yes, indeed"

"We'll kill them if they're a man, and if they're a woman, hek hek, we'll show her who she's messing with"

"That's right, bahahaha"

Gu Qing Shan silently listened and scowled.

You people——

I can understand your irritation from having your scriptures copied.

But you're insulting my master in front of me...

If that's the case...

"Young Tortoise, let's go" Gu Qing Shan told the Spirit Tortoise.

"Ah, ok"

The two of them leapt up and flew towards the inner city.

In about a cup of tea's worth of time, they had entered the inner city, reached a palace, and arrived in front of Xie Dao Ling.

"Shifu, why did you shrink?" Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

Xie Dao Ling's main body still looked like a 7-8 years old little girl.

"Hm, it's only a technique, since it's very useful to me, I've decided not to dispel it for now" she replied.

At this point, a huge commotion resounded from the city walls, which soon reached the entire city.

The Spirit Tortoise couldn't help but wonder: "How strange, they were still fine when we left, so why are they suddenly acting rowdy now?"

"Because of this" Gu Qing Shan casually replied.

He showed his hand.

A jade tag was silently sitting there.

Gu Qing Shan infused his inner sight into the jade tag and memorized the content.

Sure enough, it's a very decent scripture.

He tossed the jade tag into the air and let it hover in front of Xie Dao Ling.

"Shifu, the scripture in this jade tag seems to be quite extraordinary, I won't be able to return to Shen Wu world after this since I have some business to attend to, so I'll ask Shifu to take it back to our sect" Gu Qing Shan said.

Xie Dao Ling received the jade tag, glanced at it, and smiled.

"Very decent indeed, the content of this scripture encompasses Elemental techniques, Secret Arts, Blades, swords, staves, as well as Thaumaturgies, it will be very useful for our world"

She put the jade tag away.

The Spirit Tortoise only needed to glance at the jade tag to recognize that it was from the man who boasted earlier.

He couldn't help but ask: "Gu Qing Shan, how did you get that jade tag?"

Gu Qing Shan lightly cleared his throat and replied: "The world is full of wonders, and I am good at borrowing them"

Xie Dao Ling's eyes immediately lit up, repeated those words, and slapped the handle of her chair: "Those words were wonderfully said. Scriptures are realized from nature, that which belong to nature are free to be borrowed, this was not obtained from the hands of other, but from nature"

"Indeed, indeed, Shifu had said it very well!" Gu Qing Shan praised her.

The Spirit Tortoise glanced at Xie Dao Ling, then at Gu Qing Shan.

—–not only did this pair of master and disciple have unique skills for the sake of stealing, but the words they spout are also completely ostentatious.

Didn't the inheritance of Bai Hua sect originate from Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace?

We were a righteous sect whose inheritance goes back several ten thousand years!

We were supposed to be frank and upright!

"I can't believe I was almost convinced" the Spirit Tortoise emotionally sighed to himself and muttered in a lonely manner: "You master and disciple pair of Bai Hua sect are truly beyond any words"

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Xie Dao Ling held the jade tag tightly and closely examined the content inside.

A minute later.

She told Gu Qing Shan: "This place is the Palace of Burning Incense. According to the ancient rules, all cultivators preparing to scale the Heaven-supporting pillar must perform the rite of burning the incense for one entire day in this place, only then can they scale the Heaven-supporting pillar and head up to Mount Sumeru"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "The Heaven-supporting pillar was already broken, and Heaven Pillar World had turned into this desolate wasteland, but Shifu would still adhere to the ancient rites?"

"Hm, I am prepared to remain here for tonight and begin scaling the Heaven-supporting pillar tomorrow"

Saying so, Xie Dao Ling summoned the Spirit Tortoise.

She handed the jade tag to the Spirit Tortoise and said: "Same rules as before, return it"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Did Shifu fully memorize it?"

Xie Dao Ling nodded: "This scripture has a total of 94 issues, 1089 points that can be improved, and 61 points with double meaning. I've pointed them out and made the corresponding improvements, consider it my thanks for using their cultivation scriptures"

Gu Qing Shan then asked: "Did Shifu do the same for each cultivator's scripture as well?"

"Indeed. After all, we are not acquainted nor hold a grudge against one another; I used something that belonged to them, so I helped them avoid the roundabout in return; this way neither sides will be indebted to one another, it is for the best"

Gu Qing Shan was about to praise her but recalled how those people were chastising, insulting Shifu earlier, so he held himself back.

As the Spirit Tortoise received the jade tag, he vanished without a trace.

The only people left in the palace were the pair of master and disciple.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and asked: "Shifu, could you really continuously break through and advance without facing a Tribulation?"

Xie Dao Ling nodded.

"I do not know why it is like this either" she slowly said, "But ever since I fully refined the golden lotus, my comprehension of cultivation has far surpassed myself in the past, fully comprehending many things at a single glance. Occasionally, some visions would flash through my head"

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

Xie Dao Ling appeared a bit lost and muttered: "I can't really say, occasionally, sometimes there are creatures that I have never seen before, sometimes the scene of a world's destruction, as well as numerous unfamiliar faces and languages"

"Perhaps they were visions of a dream? Can you see the cultivators from the Age of Old?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

He was asking this because when Gu Qing Shan was searching for the Heaven sword, he once entered Xie Dao Ling's dreamscape.

To avoid the Temporal Oasis where he was forging the Heaven sword from being discovered, the Immortal King had hidden the final jade disk within Xie Dao Ling's dreamscape.

Xie Dao Ling thought for a bit, then replied: "No, if they were cultivators, I would have been able to infer somewhat, but the objects and scenes that I witnessed were definitely things that I had never seen before in my life"

The two of them exchanged glances.

Xie Dao Ling waved her hand to arrange several formations around them and whispered: "I once left all of our sect's inheritance to you, have you learnt [Unbreakable Mountain Range]?"

"I have" Gu Qing Shan admitted: "That Skill can manifest a shadowy figure"

"Right, it was that figure, I saw that figure in my visions" Xie Dao Ling explained.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

He recalled that figure.

It was a gigantic humanoid monster, the face could be faintly recognized to be human, but the body was an extremely long body of a snake— or perhaps it wasn't a snake, but a—— dragon?

Xie Dao Ling continued: "When I noticed this, I immediately searched for the jade tag that I used to study this technique, to find out who or what that entity was; but unfortunately, that martial arts jade tag did not contain this Divine Skill, not a single word about it"

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan felt cold sweat rolling down his back as he heard this, and couldn't help but ask: "Could it be that you misremembered? It wasn't that jade tag, but a different one?"

"There was no mistakes"

Xie Dao Ling lowered her gaze and muttered in an incredibly low voice: "It was when I was checking through that jade tag that I finally recalled, [Unbreakable Mountain Range] was a technique that I personally created"

Gu Qing Shan froze.

Xie Dao Ling continued: "At the time, I was only 19 years old, my sect had just been destroyed not too long ago. While drifting alone on the outside, I killed a certain martial artist filled with malicious intent and learnt a martial arts scripture from him, while I was taking a look at it, I subconsciously created this Divine Skill—— at the time, I was fearful of it myself and understood that something wasn't right, so I sealed this memory away—— it was only when I went in search of the technique that this memory resurfaced and the truth came to light"

Gu Qing Shan tried his best to retain his composure and asked: "Shifu, then what about [Forgetting River]?"

"It was also a Skill that I created, or rather, 'realized' on my own" Xie Dao Ling admitted.

"When was it?"

"21 years old"

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath.

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He had seen many strange and unusual things in his life, but in the case of Xie Dao Ling, this was something that he hadn't even heard of, let alone witness.

Xie Dao Ling continued: "Unlike the entity manifested from [Unbreakable Mountain Range], the ferryman of [Forgetting River] was an entity that can be communicated with, she's always the one who asks how much vitality I'm willing to give up each time I use the technique, so I took an opportunity to ask her what exactly happened"

Gu Qing Shan immediately asked: "What did she say?"

"She had never told me anything before, there was only one time when I insisted on it too heavily that she sighed and told me that I was 'pitiful'"

Gu Qing Shan's heart almost jumped out from his chest.

This statement had always remained at the bottom of his mind, never once did he forget about it.

In the world of the giant corpse, the monster that took all of his strength and the Earth sword's nearsacrifice to kill had told him the same thing.

It said that I was pitiful.

Pitiful?

Why am I pitiful?

A heavy sense of fear heavily grasped at Gu Qing Shan's heart.

He abruptly stood up and walked around the palace.

"My disciple, what's wrong?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

Gu Qing Shan displayed a forced smile and replied: "It's nothing, I was just thinking about what kind of Deity that ferryman of the Forgetting River is supposed to be"

—-the Huang Quan fragment under the rule of the Wraith realm shouldn't have such a Deity.

She is too powerful, so the Wraith realm might not necessarily be able to deal with her.

Which means, she must have come from an unknown Huang Quan realm fragment world.

Why did she say that Shifu was pitiful?

What does she know?

In the first place, is Shifu's matter even related to the monster that I met?

Gu Qing Shan felt like his mind could explode.

Xie Dao Ling frowned: "I once performed a few Divinations, attempting to foresee if there were any ways for me to come into contact with the matters in my visions"

"What was the result?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"The results all pointed at this Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation—— as you know, I originally did not need to face this Tribulation, but since facing the Tribulation would allow me to learn more about myself, as well as help our world collect more cultivation scriptures, I decided to come"

Gu Qing Shan stopped.

Seems like I'll have to use everything I have this time around.

Not only is this matter related to Shifu, but it might also be related to me.

Xie Dao Ling continued: "Ever since the Heaven-supporting pillar was broken, both the {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation and Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation had gotten considerably more dangerous. I'm not particularly confident about this, so Qing Shan, you mustn't let your guard down either"

"I understand. I'll go strolling outside and take a look around" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Very well, this place isn't a location that anyone can simply arrive at, only those who face their Tribulation would be able to make it here. You can take a look around, perhaps you'll find something new"

Xie Dao Ling's tone suddenly became softer and asked: "When can you return to the sect? Xiu Xiu and the rest are all missing you"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I'm caught up with some task for the next while, but as soon as I'm done, I'll return to visit everyone"

He then recalled something and asked: "Shifu, are you currently at {Mahesvara King} realm?"

"Indeed" Xie Dao Ling replied.

Gu Qing Shan cautiously asked: "The legends say that a {Mahesvara King} has 48 Dependants, but what does that mean?"

Xie Dao Ling exclaimed a curt 'ah', climbed down from her hair, both hands clasped behind her back as she walked in front of Gu Qing Shan.

She reached her hand out——-

But Gu Qing Shan was too tall, and her current body can't reach Gu Qing Shan's forehead.

Xie Dao Ling glared at him and bit and said: "Lower your head"

So Gu Qing Shan lowered his head.

Xie Dao Ling tapped her finger between his eyebrows, then returned to her chair, climbing back onto it.

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When Xie Dao Ling tapped Gu Qing Shan between his eyebrows, a piece of information appeared in Gu Qing Shan's inner sight.

At the same time, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Beginning from {Mahesvara King} realm, the Laws of Reality will begin to answer cultivators]

[Xie Dao Ling is a {Mahesvara King} realm cultivator, so following the Laws of Reality, her multi-individual Thaumaturgy had awakened]

[She can have a total of 48 Dependants]

[You have obtained a chance to become one of Xie Dao Ling's Dependants]

[Are you willing to become her Dependant?]

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan replied.

----if there is anyone in this world who tries to harm me, it wouldn't be Shifu.

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

[You have become one of Xie Dao Ling's Dependants]

[You can choose one Thaumaturgy, skill, technique, or any form of power manifestation to share it with Xie Dao Ling]

[Attention: The ability you share must be a Cultivation-type ability]

[Attention: When using that ability, Xie Dao Ling will use her own spirit energy, not your own]

[Attention: Xie Dao Ling using that ability will not affect you using that ability]

[Note: A {Mahesvara King} can only choose one ability every three days from their 48 Dependants to use]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Every time a cultivator breaks through, they would need to be struck a few times by lightning; after advancing far enough, they'd reach Tribulation realm where they need to live every day in fear; after surviving through Tribulation, they would have to face the four Tribulations of Earth, Water, Fire, and Wind; then forced to enjoy themselves during the {Yama King} realm Tribulation; who would've thought that after all of that was over, the Laws of Reality would actually change their attitudes.

48 Dependants, which means a potential total of 48 abilities.

One ability can be used every three days.

For a cultivator, this was an unimaginable level of reinforcement!

Gu Qing Shan then started to consider which ability he should choose to share with Shifu.
Since it can only be a Cultivation-type ability, my most powerful one would be [Rahu's Eclipse of Sun and Moon].

Unfortunately, Shifu's weapon is a whip and not a sword, so it would be very inconvenient for her to use it.

----I'm a sword cultivator, so all of my abilities are sword-based, what can I share with Shifu that she could actually use?

While he was thinking, Xie Dao Ling chuckled and told him: "No need to think too much about it, you can just share one of your spells through the Dependant link, after all, you're a sword cultivator"

She continued: "In truth, I've taken Xiao Lou, Xiu Xiu, Qing Rou, and Wan Er as my Dependants already. This way, I'd be informed of your current state as soon as anything happens, the shared ability is only a medium for that"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "How would you know about our state?"

"When a Dependant becomes heavily injured or dead, I will lose the ability of that Dependant" Xie Dao Ling replied.

Gu Qing Shan nodded, but still carefully considered what he should choose.

[Shadow Shift] is a decent choice.

[Dreamjolt] is also a good choice.

For movement techniques, Shifu already has [Ground Shrink].

In battle, Shifu is already powerful enough, and she's a whip user.

Gu Qing Shan continued that train of thought.

[Dreamjolt] is the Lightning Thaumaturgy that I had to go through many advancements in order to fully evolve.

This Thaumaturgy is definitely a Cultivation-type ability, and since it was obtained from [War God Thaumaturgy], it's very powerful.

I can imagine Shifu wielding a long whip clad in arcing lightning and striking an enemy from afar.

The enemy would then be affected by [Dreamjolt] and couldn't move.

Pah! Pah! Pah!

--wouldn't that mean they'll be whipped until death?

Hm, that's a good choice.

Since Gu Qing Shan had decided, he closed his eyes and shared his Lightning Thaumaturgy with her.

This was a miraculous feeling, as if the Laws of Reality had entered his mind, made a copy of part of him, then sent it to Xie Dao Ling.

At first, Xie Dao Ling didn't really mind what she received and simply smiled.

But soon, she sensed what she had received and opened a mouth slightly in surprise.

"Qing Shan, so your Lightning Thaumaturgy had evolved to this degree, how rare indeed, this would be excellent for restraining an enemy"

Saying so, she immediately summoned a whip.

Zi zi zi zi...!

Arcs of blue and white lightning travelled along the long whip.

Xie Dao Ling observed the arcs of lightning and swung her whip.

Sha—–

Boom!

A loud boom resounded throughout the palace.

All the dust in the palace was blown into the air as if lightning had truly descended.

Xie Dao Ling praised: "What a convenient Lightning Thaumaturgy!"

Gu Qing Shan: " ... "

He had already begun to pray for Xie Dao Ling's future enemy.

This was no longer being struck by a whip——- this was practically forcing someone to face a Lightning Tribulation!

Gu Qing Shan chuckled to himself.

He was glad that he could help his Shifu, even if only a little bit.

Xie Dao Ling put the whip away, then took out a talisman, giving it to Gu Qing Shan>

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Attention, this talisman is triggering a conversation between Dependants]

Gu Qing Shan sensed a few different inner sights in his Thought Sea.

One of them was Xie Dao Ling, and the others were also very familiar.

All of a sudden, a female voice happily asked: "Third brother? Is it Third brother?"

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "Xiu Xiu?"

"Yeah, it's me! Third brother, did you meet Shifu?" Xiu Xiu asked.

Before Gu Qing Shan replied, Wan Er's voice quickly followed: "Wait a minute, could it be that you're currently breaking through to {Mahesvara King} realm?"

"That's right, I just happened to run into Shifu here, Wan Er, it's been a long time since we met" Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

Everyone on the other side was completely stunned.

{Mahesvara King} realm!

We knew that Shifu was monstrously talented, but who would've thought that Third brother would also be the same.

How are we supposed to catch up?

All of a sudden, one of the inner sights vanished.

Gu Qing Shan worriedly asked: "Who was that that just left?"

Qing Rou was the one who replied to him with a sense of gentleness: "Senior brother doesn't need to worry; it was Second brother who felt a bit ashamed so he cut off his inner sight"

Second brother ...

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Qin Xiao Lou!

Gu Qing Shan held back his laughter and asked: "What realm is he at now?"

The three girls answered at once: """Tribulation realm"""

"Tribulation realm is one of many deathly trials, tell him to be careful for me" Gu Qing Shan sighed emotionally.

"It's ok" Xiu Xiu said, "Third brother doesn't know it but Second brother hasn't ever killed anyone, so he'll be fine"

"That's right, whenever he fought against cultivators of other sects, he wouldn't ever win, it was always us who had to come to his reinforcement" Wan Er followed up.

After chatting for a bit more, everyone bid their goodbyes, knowing that Xie Dao Ling and Gu Qing Shan were in the middle of a Tribulation.

"Has our talisman craftsmanship reached this level?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Xie Dao Ling giggled and shook her head: "This is the highest grade Communication Talisman we have, there are only a few of them in total, so make sure to keep this one well"

Gu Qing Shan then carefully put the talisman away.

"So? Did you miss them a lot?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

"I do. It's truly nostalgic to think back to those days of peaceful cultivation" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Unfortunately, there is no returning to the past.

Gu Qing Shan was curious and asked again: "Shifu, a {Mahesvara King} has 48 Dependants, while a Sumeru Lord has 120 Followers, but what is a Follower?"

Xie Dao Ling replied: "The term 'Follower' actually means to 'follow like one's shadow', in reality, it's also a type of multi-individual Thaumaturgy——- a Sumeru Lord is able to take a total of 120 Followers, who can instantly bypass the limits of Space and Time to appear in front of the Sumeru Lord by their summon and join them in combat"

"So that's what it was" Gu Qing Shan nodded in understanding.

This was a bit like a summoning technique, but there are more advantages to it.

----bypassing the limits of Space and Time, as well as being able to summon those from the same race.

These two points alone are more than enough for it to be better than a regular summoning technique.

Gu Qing Shan stood up and excused himself: "Shifu, I'm going to go outside and see if I can obtain any information, if there are any issues, please use the Dependant Thaumaturgy to contact me"

"Very well, you are excused, I'll be considering tomorrow's matters" Xie Dao Ling replied.

Gu Qing Shan bowed and left the palace.

He strolled along the city streets.

The entire city was built in a traditional Cultivation-type manner, filled with old but well-kept buildings that exuded a sense of historical beauty.

Unfortunately, there was no one on the streets at night.

As Gu Qing Shan glanced at the sky-high Heaven-supporting Pillar, he silently thought to himself.

There is no need to climb the Pillar To Heaven in a hurry because everyone will have to climb this pillar when Shifu faces her Tribulation anyways.

All of a sudden, the sound of fireworks resounded in the night sky.

Gu Qing Shan turned to look.

He saw various fireworks blooming in the sky but was quickly blown away by the heavy rain and wind.

"From where it was, that should be outside the city walls..."

Gu Qing Shan muttered and recalled something else.

Everyone reminded him not to stay outside the city by nightfall.

He didn't have time to ask about it earlier, but now there were fireworks clearly erupting outside.

Alright, since I'm here to look for information anyway, let's go to the city wall first and see what happened.

Gu Qing Shan lightly leapt into the sky and flew towards the outside of the city.

A few moments later.

He landed on one of the city walls.

There were 2-3 cultivators standing watch on top of the wall, observing the outside.

Gu Qing Shan walked forward to greet them.

While they were talking, one of the cultivators suddenly said: "Look, it's coming"

Everyone turned to look outside.

Only to see a thin veil slowly manifesting outside the city walls, it covered the entire night sky and isolated Heaven Pillar city from the outer wilderness.

Everyone kept silent as they waited.

All of a sudden, an illusory world descended upon them.

So many people they almost seemed like a tide.

Numerous carts and carriages running after another like artificial dragons or snakes.

The light was bright, things became lively.

The entire world seemed to have come alive, displaying the scene of prosperity from ages ago.

Everyone were busily moving about, some were bargaining, conducting transactions; some were simply greeting their friends or acquaintances; somewhere cheering on a friendly competition in a pub; some were arguing, resorting to armed violence in the middle of the streets; etc. so many different scenes that perfectly painted a world filled with vitality.

Gu Qing Shan silently watched these people who donned ancient-styled clothing.

He found that he couldn't hear anything at all.

Fireworks were still exploding in the sky, illuminating the night sky with their flickering lights.

A transparent dragon slowly manifested out of nowhere that started to circle around the night sky.

Gu Qing Shan turned his head in another direction.

At another side of the city wall, an invisible barrier had appeared.

This barrier also connected heaven and earth, isolating the city from the lively world of humans outside.

Another world manifested.

Jagged, strange-looking rocks.

Blue flames that stretched all the way to the horizon.

On top of the desolate land, numerous demonic creatures ran rampant, fighting against one another, killing each other, eating the bodies of those who lost.

Even further than that, another transparent barrier appeared.

Realistic illusory worlds manifested in front of the cultivators.

More and more worlds kept appearing one after another, dazzling the people in the city.

But the cultivators just silently stood on top of the city walls.

Suddenly, a beautiful woman from the marketplace took flight and flew to just outside the city wall.

She stuck close to the veil-like thin barrier and smiled: "My friends, please come take a look"

None of the cultivators moved.

Someone even whispered: "Remember, definitely do not step outside, if you do, you won't be coming back"

Another person sighed: "Last time, fellow Dao seeker Huang... hah..."

No one continued.

Having reached {Yama King} realm, all of these cultivators were the cream of the crop, those who had been through numerous trials and hardships, people who had experienced and witnessed numerous extraordinary things.

But the scene unfolding in front of them couldn't help but cause their hearts to freeze over.

Seeing everyone's cautious expressions, Gu Qing Shan decided to reach his inner sight into his Thought Sea, lightly infusing it into the Devil King Warden Rod.

The Devil King Warden Rod didn't react.

----it seems this woman wasn't a wandering soul.

If they aren't wandering souls, then what are these entities?

Gu Qing Shan watched the woman and muttered: "How interesting"

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When the woman found that no one replied, she stopped smiling and turned away.

The group silently watched her return to the night marketplace in front of a two-horned man covered in a purple cloak, reporting.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly asked: "Fellow Dao seekers, who is this fellow Dao seeker Huang that you mentioned earlier?"

The cultivators turned to a certain person.

He replied: "Fellow Dao seeker Huang arrived from my cultivation world; he was the one who came here to face his Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation the previous time"

"Where is he now? Did he lose his life from facing the Tribulation?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"How do I say this... last time the few of us also came to escort him through Tribulation, but then——-"

The cultivator appeared a bit fearful and pointed towards the marketplace.

Gu Qing Shan followed where his finger was pointing.

Only to find a man standing in a secluded corner of the marketplace with a round furnace.

The man wiped some sweat off his face but was still soaked in sweat as he was shouting something.

Unfortunately, other than the woman from earlier, none of the voices of the others managed to reach them, so Gu Qing Shan couldn't hear anything.

The man picked up a ball of dough, threw it onto his cutting board, stretched it a few times before sticking it to the inside of the furnace.

----he was making bread.

"Fellow Dao seeker Huang believed in his high cultivation and wondrous techniques, but when he entered that world with their invitation, all of his powers were rendered useless and he succumbed to his death" a cultivator said.

"We first thought about how to recover his body in order to bury him, but then he suddenly stood up, walked to a corner of the marketplace, and began to sell baked bread there" another cultivator replied.

"Did no one try to wake him up?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"We've tried everything, but he seemed to have turned into another person entirely" the cultivator replied.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the man in the marketplace.

A {Mahesvara King} realm cultivator suddenly losing his life, then being resurrected.

He had forgotten everything and remained in the night market selling bread.

No, that's not right.

He's already dead, so thoroughly that not even his soul remained here.

Otherwise, the Devil King Warden Rod would be able to sense the dead person with my inner sight.

Then, can this person actually remember his previous self?

Gu Qing Shan glanced through the human night market and turned to the other worlds that were being obscured by various barriers.

They included Cultivation worlds, Wraith worlds, Technological worlds, Asura worlds, Savagery world, Martial Arts worlds, Beast King worlds, Card worlds, Angelic worlds, Hell worlds, Wooden spirit worlds, Deep sea worlds, Lifeless worlds, Mysticism worlds, Heavenly worlds, Spirit worlds, Primordial worlds, Sound worlds, Ruined worlds, Artifact spirit worlds, Magma worlds, Silent worlds, Darkness worlds... etc. numerous worlds of numerous origins.

No matter how long Gu Qing Shan observed them, he still couldn't see through anything.

The living beings of each world were acting exactly how their racial traits suggested that they would.

This won't be easy...

Gu Qing Shan pondered.

According to the other cultivators, there hadn't been anyone who successfully managed to pass the Sumeru Lord realm for the past few thousand years.

This time, it was Xie Dao Ling's turn to face the Tribulation.

Fortunately, Shifu had never been arrogant or underestimated danger due to her high cultivation.

But if the same situation persists on the Pillar To Heaven as well...

No, I need to understand this world better to help the Tribulation as much as possible.

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking, that girl flew up from the night market again and faced the group.

From the other side of the barrier, she asked: "Gentlemen, are there anything you wish to buy or sell?"

The cultivators remained silent.

When Gu Qing Shan was about to reply, the cultivator from before pulled on Gu Qing Shan's sleeve and told him out of goodwill: "Don't make any transactions with them"

"Is it dangerous?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The other cultivator replied: "It's not dangerous, but they would always trade cheap and meaningless items for our precious commodities—— it's not a transaction that anyone would be willing to accept"

Gu Qing Shan thought about it briefly and tapped his Inventory Bag to take out a bag of spirit stones.

He asked the woman: "3000 spirit stones, what can I buy from you?"

Seeing his spirit stones, the woman's eyes lit up and replied: "Please wait a moment, Dao seeker"

She turned back, picked out various things from the nearby shops in the market, and put them all into a basket before returning.

"Please take a look, Dao seekers, 3000 spirit stones can be exchanged for any one of these items"

Gu Qing Shan looked into the basket.

It contained some snacks, clean water, a muskmelon, a straw fan, moon cakes, such mundane items.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and asked: "Can I have some baked bread?"

"Sure" the woman nodded, returned to the night market, and approached the cultivator named Huang.

The cultivator named Huang immediately took out a fresh loaf of baked bread and handed it to the woman.

The woman returned to the barrier and looked at Gu Qing Shan.

"Give me the bread"

Gu Qing Shan tossed the spirit stones forward.

As the spirit stones collided with the barrier, the woman formed a hand seal to receive them.

The woman then formed another hand seal to send the bread forward.

Gu Qing Shan received it.

The loaf of bread was still steaming hot as if it had just been freshly baked not too long ago.

"Dao seeker, do you require something else?" the woman asked expectantly.

"No—– but I have a question, what exactly are you? And where did you come from?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The woman shook her head and replied: "I don't know"

Saying so, she took the spirit stones and returned to the market, disappearing out of sight.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit regretful.

A line of glowing text was being displayed on the War God UI:

[You've activated the Iris Technique: Time Recollection]

[Due to the isolating world barrier, your technique failed]

[Time Recollection]

Even while Lin was vastly more powerful than me, she was still affected by this World Technique.

But since they were literally a world apart, this technique couldn't be used.

Then there are no other ways.

Gu Qing Shan evaluated the loaf of bread a bit, then offered it to the cultivator behind him.

"Fellow Dao seeker Huang's world surely had its own rules and etiquette, please take a look if you can see any hidden message from fellow Dao seeker Huang here" he told the group.

The cultivator finally realized what he was doing.

A few moments later.

After passing through everyone's hands once, the bread returned to Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Everyone was dejected.

The loaf of bread was just bread, there was no information, secret messages, or hidden signals inside.

"It seems that fellow Dao seeker Huang had truly lost his life" someone sighed.

Everyone nodded.

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Gu Qing Shan pondered—-

There's not much information.

The first probing had basically failed.

"Fellow Dao seekers, do you know if the other worlds are also willing to do business like this as well?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

A cultivator answered him: "They all do, but they're all the same as that one earlier. It's basically impossible to trade for anything useful from them"

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "Then I'll just go take a look"

The cultivator tried persuading him: "They won't tell us what all of this is about"

Another cultivator followed up: "That's right, we've already tried. The only thing they'll do is try to pawn off useless items on us. Most likely, they don't even know what's actually happening here"

"Ah, I see, I'll just go take a walk then"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan started walking along the city walls to the East.

He soon passed the border between two worlds.

The next part of the city wall was no longer connected to a human world, but rather a magma world.

The magma world didn't have any civilization, just a few non-sentient primordial fire elementals.

Gu Qing Shan directly passed this world and continued forward.

The next world he came across was a Magic-type world.

He picked out a random magic Card and exchanged it for a memory stone from a mage.

It's said that this memory stone contained some of this ancient magic world's secrets.

Gu Qing Shan received the memory stone and slowly read the information inside according to how the mage taught him.

Нт...

Lord A was actually Lord B's illegitimate son, Lord B's wife was having an affair with Lord C, Lord C and Lord D were actually a pair of long lost brother and sister.

Sure enough, ancient secrets.

And just like what the cultivator earlier told me, this thing doesn't explain where the Magic-type world came from, nor why it appeared in Heaven Pillar world.

Gu Qing Shan silently put the memory stone away and continued heading forward.

After passing through the Magic-type world, a Savagery world, and a Silent world, he reached a Wraith world.

Thinking of something, Gu Qing Shan suddenly stopped.

When he stood still, an Arch Wraith slowly flew in front of him and invited him into the Wraith world.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and said that he was only here for a transaction.

So the Arch Wraith returned, carried a bunch of severed arms and legs over, displaying them to Gu Qing Shan.

 \llbracket This tastes good, this also tastes good, this one next to it also tastes really good! floor

The Arch Wraith was drooling as it introduced its wares.

Gu Qing Shan crouched down and acted like he was interested in these severed arms and legs from across the barrier.

"Are there any innards?" he asked.

The Arch Wraith opened its eyes wide, then nodded: [I never thought I'd see a gourmet here, yes!]

It turned around, about to prepare some.

"Wait, I want it really fresh, can you sell me a living wraith or devil?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Alive is no good, alive cannot pass through this barrier I the Arch Wraith shook its head.

Gu Qing Shan heard and seemed a bit regretful.

He took out several plates of spirit cooking, placed them all on the ground, and said: "My food is full of energy, I'll exchange them with you"

I said alive is no good I the Arch Wraith replied.

"Then how about this, look for the freshest severed head among the cooking ingredients you have in stock—– the fresher the better" Gu Qing Shan said.

The Arch Wraith looked down at Gu Qing Shan's spirit cooking and shook its head: [] I want to try your food first]

Gu Qing Shan sent one plate over.

The Arch Wraith chanted an incantation, received the plate, then poured everything down its mouth.

[Hm... taste a bit strange, but it is indeed filled with energy] the Arch Wraith was pleased.

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag to take out 5 more plates of spirit cooking, placing them all on the table.

"Now, please find me a severed head" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The fresher the better? I the Arch Wraith asked.

"Right, not only do I need it fresh, I need it to have lived long enough as well. If you can do that, I'll pay even more" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Arch Wraith nodded and left.

A few moments later, it dragged an old wraith over to Gu Qing Shan.

The old wraith was constantly spouting blue flames to attack the Arch Wraith.

The Arch Wraith then broke its neck, reached through the barrier, and handed the head to Gu Qing Shan.

[Very fresh] the Arch Wraith declared.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, then replied: "Now I know what it truly means to be a wraith"

He gave all the spirit cooking to the Arch Wraith and received the old wraith's head from it.

With his inner sight, Gu Qing Shan could tell that this severed head was no longer alive.

But it hadn't fully stopped functioning.

At least, the jaws were still opening and closing, trying to bite his hand.

Gu Qing Shan carefully lifted the head and faced his eyes.

Let's hope I make it in time!

Gu Qing Shan silently prayed, then---

[Time Recollection], activate!

In that brief moment, the world in front of Gu Qing Shan collapsed to reveal nothingness.

The nothingness only existed for a brief moment.

A split second later, another world suddenly unfolded itself and appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The sky was falling, the earth breaking apart.

An inextinguishable column of smoke was rising to the sky.

The world was quickly collapsing.

Countless desperate cries.

The fleeing wraiths collapsed to the ground one by one, exploding into mists of blood.

A cold female voice suddenly resounded from above:

"A Samsara world is only to this degree after all"

Gu Qing Shan looked up.

He saw a woman.

An indescribably beautiful woman.

Numerous stars were constantly being created and destroyed behind her, displaying the great Divine power she wielded.

Gu Qing Shan's heart jumped.

----- in front of the four Pillar Gods' statues, he had seen a vision of the past and had seen this woman.

Indeed, she was the Pearl of Infinite Worlds, Master of the Star River, Blessed One of the Inner Plane, Grand Empress of the Pantheon, Reneedol!

Chapter 1129

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the Grand Empress in the sky.

The world below was slowly being destroyed.

All things came to an end.

All the wraiths were practically being massacred to extinction.

"Stop!"

Gu Qing Shan declared.

The collapsing world suddenly stopped.

The clouds in the sky turned still.

The bodies of the wraiths were breaking apart into a foul flower of blood but didn't fully explode.

----time wasn't stopped.

Gu Qing Shan simply controlled the [Time Recollection] technique to make the things that already transpired to stop at a certain moment, allowing him to carefully observe it.

He walked in front of a certain wraith and carefully examined it.

He then took flight and flew once around the world.

Finally, returned to his original position.

"Continue" he stated.

The world once again continued with its destruction and collapse.

Time slowly passed until the entire world became sand and dust, scattering into the space vortex.

Reneedol curtly glanced over this world.

Her gaze then focused on Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized that he was currently the old wraith.

"So there was an escapee"

Reneedol reached out with her long, thin finger and lightly pointed.

Darkness descended.

Everything stopped here.

Gu Qing Shan had returned from the [Time Recollection] technique.

He found that he was still holding the old wraith's severed head, cold sweat had soaked his back while he couldn't help but pant heavily.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the barrier, that Arch Wraith had only just taken the first step.

Time.

Only a single blink of the eye had passed by.

Gu Qing Shan tossed the head away and sat down on the cold floor of the city wall.

He took out a gourd of liquor and drank gulp after gulp until he calmed down.

This wasn't anything serious, just that the power Reneedol exerted was so terrifying that just by observing it, Gu Qing Shan felt his soul receiving a small wound.

He slowly closed his eyes, rethinking and recollecting everything that he saw earlier once again.

"Something is wrong ... "

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The wraiths in that world were too weak.

Gu Qing Shan had already run into those masked fellows—— the ones who had gathered 70% of the Wraith realm's fragments. A mere servant carried an extremely powerful Causality Law weapon with him.

But Reneedol completely didn't run into any notable resistance as she destroyed that world.

Then, the Wraith world that she destroyed was only a fragment of the Wraith realm.

A fragment world....

Gu Qing Shan's gaze fell onto the head of the dead wraith.

Strange.

This guy should already be dead.

The Wraith realm fragment world should have already been destroyed as well.

So why is there another Wraith realm fragment world here?

Furthermore, this world only appears at night, desiring new members, desiring to trade mundane items and powerful items.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand to summon the severed wraith head.

"What exactly are you?" he softly asked.

The wraith's eyes were opened wide.

Staring at him.

Unmoving.

Gu Qing Shan put the head down and continued to think.

A destroyed world——–

Was somehow able to manifest itself again inside Heaven Pilar world whenever night descended.

There are many of these worlds, all inside Heaven Pillar world.

What exactly are they?

All of a sudden, Gu Qing Shan's left eye twitched.

It was the World Technique that was hidden in his eye.

----the remnant wills of two worlds were inside.

They were abruptly moving about, seemingly informing him something.

A thought flashed through Gu Qing Shan's mind, so he immediately stood up.

"So that was it... I understand ... "

He looked at the numerous strange worlds outside the city wall and felt nothing but unspeakable sorrow and shock.

Following his will, a line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You have used up all of your Prayers within the previous Dance of the Earth God, you cannot perform a second Offering Dance here]

Gu Qing Shan didn't give up.

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He started to clap his hands.

Stomping his feet.

Humming a tune.

Although there weren't any Prayers, the Offering Dance was still a Sacrificial Dance, which could be used to display his identity.

Sure enough, as he danced, indescribable entities began to resonate with him within the void of space.

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

[Attention, as you as the Offeree of the Dance of the Earth God, under a certain entity's witness, you made an agreement with destroyed worlds of the past to perform a Dance that must be completed]

[You have the Blessing of the Past Worlds]

[And now, they, the ones who had hidden in Heaven Pilar world have noticed your identity]

[They have allowed you to witness the entire truth]

Immediately, all the worlds and the entirety of Heaven Pillar city vanished.

The scene in front of Gu Qing Shan had changed.

Broken entities — —

Large bodies, long extremities, no faces, but humanoid.

They were the remnant souls of past worlds.

They were all worlds that had been destroyed by Reneedol, now with only a bit of remnant soul remaining, seeking refuge in Heaven Pillar world.

They could only appear at night, using their collective power to link together, desiring to obtain all kinds of power.

Gu Qing Shan had understood.

He muttered: "Because of that, you wish for living beings to enter your world and extend the time that you may exist; you hope to exchange mundane items with powerful treasures to replenish even a little bit of power; you are gathered here together, just to seek a joint sense of warmth, is that right?"

The gigantic entities all nodded.

They turned into countless sprites of light that circled around Gu Qing Shan.

They seemed to be hurriedly trying to express something.

——from probing to contact, then to mutual understanding, these worlds' seemed to have gotten more intimate with him.

"Don't be in such hurry" Gu Qing Shan lowered his voice and asked: "What exactly is it, you can tell me slowly"

All the sprites gathered in one place right next to his ear and slowly uttered each word:

「Quickly... hide... outside... there's... dragon...」

"Wait a minute! When you say 'outside', you mean this Heaven Pillar world?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The sprites of light flew up again, gathered in front of him, and turned into a screen.

A scene appeared on it.

----a legendary creature with an immeasurably huge body.

Riding the winds and clouds, thunder and lightning descending wherever it went.

A majestic presence.

A creature that roused respect and worship at the mere sight of it.

———the Azure Dragon!

It had surrounded Heaven Pillar world, flying around the outside of it.

Gu Qing Shan observed the Azure Dragon.

Each of its scales, each strand of its long beard, even its gestures and expression was clear to Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

But Gu Qing Shan couldn't sense it at all.

It's not just me, none of the cultivators here, not even Shifu managed to sense it.

Is this one of its abilities?

---the Azure Dragon had perfectly concealed its presence, simply moving about in the space vortex.

It was like a casual and graceful cold-blooded hunter, silently waiting for its chance.

Gu Qing Shan felt a chill run up his spine.

The remnant souls of these worlds spoke up again: Come... kill all... J

Gu Qing Shan understood.

At night, the countless remnant souls of these worlds gathered here and formed a barrier that could strip the soul of all living beings, so the Azure Dragon couldn't enter this world.

But at dawn, these remnant souls of the worlds would hide away.

At that time, the Azure Dragon would no longer have anything to fear.

How strong would a dragon be?

When Gu Qing Shan first entered the Primordial Heaven Realm, the remnant soul of the Golden Dragon was able to kill him just with a glance.

Even though Gu Qing Shan had grown far stronger than he used to be, he could still remember the fear he felt whenever he thought back to that time.

The remnant soul of the Golden Dragon was already that powerful.

Yet he was about to face a living Azure Dragon at its peak.

"Thank you all. I need to tell Shifu right now, we need to climb the Heaven-supporting Pillar tonight!" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He took out all the spirit stones he had and threw it all outside of the city.

"I haven't brought a lot of items with energy. These spirit stones contain the most energy, there's a few hundred thousand of them, I'll give them all to you" Gu Qing Shan said.

A total of 700,000 spirit stones immediately vanished without a trace.

「Thanks…」

A voice thanked him from the void.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "No need to thank me, just take care of yourselves, I need to escort Shifu to face this Tribulation first. If I have time, I'll come chat with you again"

When he was about to leave, some of the bright sprites of light flew out from the group and stopped in front of him.

These sprites started to surround Gu Qing Shan and quickly sped up as they circled around him.

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

[The remnant souls of many cultivation worlds would like to transfer the most advanced knowledge of their civilization to you]

[They have begun to connect to your Thought Sea]

[Prepare to receive this knowledge]

Chapter 1130

Gu Qing Shan stood still.

From the perspective of other people, he seemed simply stunned.

But if they were acknowledged by the countless world fragments, they would find a completely different scene.

Countless sprites were circling, flying around Gu Qing Shan, constantly producing strand after strand of faint white light that were being absorbed into Gu Qing Shan's forehead.

Gu Qing Shan maintained a thoughtless state of mind, silently accepting the knowledge from each cultivation world.

——usually, knowledge exchange between cultivators would either be conducted through verbal teaching, jade tags, or through direct bestowal techniques.

But the way that these world fragments were sending knowledge to him was by directly converting all the knowledge that they found suitable into 'enlightenment' and pouring them directly into Gu Qing Shan's Thought Sea.

'Enlightenment' was a phenomena that could even be attained by observing a flower bloom at the beginning of spring, natural and obvious, a state where one was able to thoroughly comprehend everything about a certain matter without the need to even think or ponder upon it.

Since Gu Qing Shan was a sword cultivator, the cultivation world fragments were specifically transferring mostly swordsmanship-related knowledge.

Of course, there was also knowledge of the Elements, Martial Arts, Secret Arts, precious natural resources, Divination, Talismans, Formations, Spirit cooking, Forging, Pill making, etc. but only the very best were chosen to be transferred to Gu Qing Shan.

After an entire incense stick's worth of time.

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

"Swordsmanship..."

He softly muttered.

In truth, some of these destroyed world fragments had actually been a part of other Realities, which were naturally forming worlds unlike the worlds present in the space vortex, so they contained a complete system of knowledge inheritance, as well as a deep understanding of swordsmanship cultivation.

Frankly speaking, the path of a sword cultivator had always been tough. It took nothing less than a genius to reach the level of Sword Saint, let alone the following steps of Convergence Realm and Sword Deity.

Such people weren't common even in those cultivation worlds.

Perhaps there were sword cultivators whose cultivation reached a very high level who could claim themselves unbeatable in those worlds, but when considering swordsmanship alone, they might not have attained the realm of Sword Deity.

The will of these worlds directly turned the lives of the only two sword cultivators who managed to achieve Sword Deity into enlightenment and transferred it to Gu Qing Shan.

Studying this level of swordsmanship through enlightenment, Gu Qing Shan's horizon was greatly broadened, he instantly confirmed many points that he hadn't been able to resolve, as well as realizing many issues that would have taken a lot of practice and combat experience in order to understand.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Your swordsmanship is swiftly improving]

[During the next period of time, you may enter and leave the state of deep enlightenment as you wish]

[When you enter a state of deep enlightenment, the knowledge residing within your Thought Sea will thoroughly become your own]

[Note: Once you've enlightened enough knowledge on swordsmanship, you will be able to understand 'Enemy-killing Sword Technique', thus practicing the mystical sword technique within]

Gu Qing Shan fully understood.

[Enemy-killing Sword Technique] was the true inheritance from the Bygone Era that Xie Gu Hong had chosen, which he later passed on to Gu Qing Shan.

When he left the Age of Old, the Earth Creator kept a lot of things in that era to avoid Gu Qing Shan running into issues while traveling through the River of Time.

[Enemy-killing Sword Technique] was hidden inside the gold coin and was brought to the future along with Gu Qing Shan.

Later on, when the Fairy of Time merged the silver star with the gold coin, forming the complete Coin of the Earth, [Enemy-killing Sword Technique] was placed in Gu Qing Shan's mind by the coin, once he had attained the appropriate level in swordsmanship, he would be able to unseal that technique and practice it.

Other than that, through enlightenment, Gu Qing Shan had also noticed something interesting.

Compared to other worlds, the cultivators of Cultivation-type worlds had to face too many Heaven's Tribulations. To be exact, from Qi Training realm to Sumeru Lord realm, there were a total of 21 realms.

Not only do cultivators felt a headache with this division, the other worlds that had come into contact with cultivators also felt a headache from this division of cultivation realms.

Because with regards to conversing or welcoming reception, each world had its own standards and rules specifically geared for people of different levels; but since cultivators divided themselves into so many levels, the worlds that divided their power systems into broader and more generalized levels usually found themselves troubled on exactly what to do.

When the complaints of various Technological worlds, Magical worlds, Savagery worlds, etc. finally reached them from every direction, the Cultivation worlds finally realized this was an issue.

Finally, after much discussion, the final conclusion was--

They wouldn't change it.

Because before {Yama King} realm, cultivators were constantly being weeded out by the Laws of Reality with numerous Tribulations; but starting from {Yama King} realm, each realm received a very clear response from a Law of Reality.

For example, a {Mahesvara King} realm cultivator could have 48 Dependants; a Sumeru Lord realm cultivator had 120 Followers; while a Star River Saint was able to condense seeds of the void, manifesting a treasure tree of stars.

These realms represented the very clear difference between cultivators and other Professions, so regardless of whether the other Professions were used to them or not, Cultivation civilizations as a whole would definitely not change it.

Gu Qing Shan soon exited from the state of enlightenment.

It was good to improve his swordsmanship, but there was currently a more pressing issue.

"Everyone" he turned to the various word fragments: "Do you perhaps know why the Azure Dragon wants to kill the people who came to face Tribulation in this world?"

The fragments of the world danced and whispered into his ears: 「Killing intent... boiling...」

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

——he had never witnessed an Azure Dragon, nor could he think of a reason why this dragon would want to kill these cultivators.

However, he had gone to the Age of Old and summoned the four Divine Beasts of Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace, so he had witnessed the actual living Golden Dragon.

That dragon was most likely just on the verge of reaching Paragon realm.

Since the Divine race would definitely not allow any species to become stronger than they were as they created the various worlds, that Golden Dragon probably couldn't represent the true power of the dragon race.

An Azure Dragon...

He had seen it earlier, although it wasn't quite as powerful as Reneedol who he saw in his vision, it was still powerful enough for Gu Qing Shan's spirit sense to raise danger alarms.

Gu Qing Shan pondered a bit and asked: "Do you know where it came from?"

The whispers of the worlds resounded again:

[Wraith... presence...]

Gu Qing Shan realized what was going on.

"So, it came to kill me"

He was speechless.

The Wraith realm world had collected and fused with 70% of the Wraith realm fragments, so its living beings had most likely reached an unimaginable level of strength.

A mere servant was equipped with a mask that had an unblockable hex technique, as well as a golden pair of chopsticks with a Causality Law.

That servant also had the courage to try and persuade a {Yama King} realm sword cultivator to surrender.

With that in mind——–

What about a dragon from the Wraith realm?

How strong would it be?

Gu Qing Shan remained silent for a long while without saying anything.

Shifu is currently in the middle of her Tribulation.

This Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation had become so incredibly dangerous that no one had been able to successfully pass it for numerous years.

Although Shifu is incomparably stronger than other cultivators in the same realm.

The issue at hand isn't from the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation alone.

There is also the Azure Dragon.

Not even Shifu had managed to discover the hidden Azure Dragon.

Gu Qing Shan sighed emotionally.

Although the Pillar To Heaven had been broken, it isn't particularly hard to scale it.

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The true difficulty arrives after we reach Mount Sumeru.

But even if we reach Mount Sumeru, as long as I'm there, the Azure Dragon would definitely chase after us by following the Pillar To Heaven.

At that time, not only would Shifu need to face the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation, but the Azure Dragon as well.

Even without that, if I run into trouble, how could Shifu toss me aside without care?

Gu Qing Shan was a bit irritated.

I didn't think that there would actually be a day where my troubles would adversely affect Shifu...

He tapped his Inventory Bag and took out everything he had.

The various Technological items, coins from the Strife Zones, the tattered fragments of numerous Cards, all of his cultivation resources, even some of his other gains were all thrown into the air.

As soon as they left his hands, these items started fading away.

The grateful voice of the world fragments resounded from the void of space:

「Thank... you...」

Gu Qing Shan said: "You're welcome. I have something I want to ask of you, but I don't know if you'll be able to do it"

「What?」 the world fragments asked.

"It's very simple, a small matter" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

...

At another location.

Xie Dao Ling was meditating with her eyes closed in the palace.

"Strange, why do I feel some sort of obscure uneasiness?" she opened her eyes and doubtfully wondered.

Rumble rumble—--

The ground began shaking.

Xie Dao Ling took out several coins and was about to perform a Divination when Gu Qing Shan entered.

"Shifu, I have something to report" Gu Qing Shan spoke sternly.

As her spirit sense was interrupted, Xie Dao Ling could only put the coins away and asked: "What is it?"

"There is an issue with this world" Gu Qing Shan replied.

As soon as he said so, the night outside abruptly turned into day.

——-it wasn't actually daytime yet, but the illusory worlds outside the city were beginning to give off an intense glow.

They were expanding and contracting intensely as if they had fallen into a state where they would immediately collapse at any moment.

Xie Dao Ling was shocked: "What's going on? There shouldn't be any issues in this Heaven Pillar world"

Gu Qing Shan appeared worried and said: "This world looks like it might be destroyed at any moment, Shifu, perhaps we should begin the Tribulation now!"

Xie Dao Ling tossed the coins in her hand forward.

Clink clink clink!

The coins were strewn all over the ground.

Xie Dao Ling muttered the results of the Divination.

The Divination results were great woe!

She scowled: "I can also feel the world is undergoing some sort of great change, but I can't tell what it is"

Boom!

The ground was trembling even more.

"Shifu, let's climb the Heaven-supporting Pillar and quickly leave this world, that way we won't have to worry about what happens here" Gu Qing Shan suggested.

Xie Dao Ling stood up from her chair and sternly replied: "Very well, then let us face the Tribulation now"

Gu Qing Shan handed her a jade brick.

"What's in here?" Xie Dao Ling was surprised.

"Your disciple was met with an opportunity and obtained some cultivation scriptures from other worlds, they're all inside" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Xie Dao Ling skimmed through them all and nodded.

She smiled: "This is truly great, even better than what I had been able to get my hands on. Not only would this help me, but I can also bring them back to our world as the foundation of our world's inheritance"

Gu Qing Shan also smiled.

"Shifu, as the price for obtaining these cultivation scriptures, I will have to cut this Tribulation short and return to where I originally was, there is a bit of business to attend to"

Xie Dao Ling stared closely at him.

Gu Qing Shan explained: "These cultivation scriptures came from the remnant will of numerous worlds, I will need to help them with a few matters first. When I come back to face the Tribulation next time, they will help me"

"Will of worlds?" Xie Dao Ling repeated.

Gu Qing Shan pointed at his left eye.

Xie Dao Ling reached her hand out and waved over it.

"How miraculous, you really have obtained a great opportunity, not only can you become acquainted with worlds, there is a world hidden inside your iris as well, if I didn't see it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed this" Xie Dao Ling exclaimed.

Despite how unbelievable it seemed; Xie Dao Ling had no choice.

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan nodded, "This is my great opportunity, so I won't be able to follow Shifu during this Tribulation"

Xie Dao Ling replied: "It is fine, such opportunity only arrives once every thousand years, it's best that you focus on what you need to do"

The Spirit Tortoise suddenly appeared from the void of space and narrowed his eyes, watching Gu Qing Shan.

He was displeased: "Hmph, you little brat, ignoring your Shifu as soon as you find yourself an opportunity, do you know how long it had been since someone managed to pass the Sumeru Lord realm Tri——"

"No need to say so much" Xie Dao Ling cut him off, "Qing Shan's opportunity is unheard, it's much more important than my Tribulation"

She told him in concern: "Then your master shall begin scaling the Heaven-supporting Pillar, you should leave Heaven Pillar World soon——- the Divination shows that this world's collapse is nearly inevitable"

Gu Qing Shan looked at her and muttered: "Shifu, your disciple cannot be there to protect you, such worry is nearly impossible to ease. I only hope that Shifu will be able to turn all danger into fortune and smoothly make it to the summit of Mount Sumeru"

"Do not worry, I'll be leaving now"

Saying so, Xie Dao Ling's figure flashed and vanished from the palace.

Before leaving, the Spirit Tortoise even glared at Gu Qing Shan in disdain.

Right after that, the cry of a phoenix resounded in the sky outside that soared into the sky above.

-----Xie Dao Ling was summoning all the cultivators who had come here to face their Tribulation.

A few moments later, every cultivator had gathered under the night sky.

Under Xie Dao Ling's lead, they flew up the Pillar To Heaven.

The Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation had officially begun!

A few moments later.

All the cultivators disappeared from this world.

The only person left in Heaven Pillar world was Gu Qing Shan.

He silently stood in the middle of the palace.

Chapter 1131

A ring was hovering over Gu Qing Shan's fingers.

But he didn't wear it.

This was the Abyssal Ring, and simply putting it on carried a risk of death.

"The above... is the information I obtained"

After informing the ring, Gu Qing Shan put it away.

He yawned, sat down on a chair, and stretched his back.

"Finally done..."

He muttered, then tapped his Inventory Bag to take something out to drink.

But the Inventory Bag didn't react.

Gu Qing Shan then realized that he had already given everything to the world fragments.

He only had a single Azure Clear Pill left.

But there was no liquor.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but lick his lips in regret.

His three swords manifested from the void of space.

[[] Impressive, you actually managed to fool Ling er to leave] the Earth sword praised.

Before knowing Gu Qing Shan, it had always stayed with Xie Dao Ling, so it knew just how sharp and brilliant of a girl she was.

"Hah, I'm probably dead already, who knows when she's going to realize what happened?" Gu Qing Shan replied.

^r Right, so whatever you want to do, you had better do it quickly J the Earth sword agreed.

Luo Bing Li suddenly cut in: "Wait, wait, why do I get the impression that you two are feeling a sense of accomplishment by fooling his master?"

" 「 Of course 」 " Gu Qing Shan and the Earth sword replied at the same time.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Shifu is the kind of person that's not afraid of anything, but she's always worried about us disciples; so if we run into even the tiniest trouble, she would be very anxious"

"How do you know?" Luo Bing Li asked.

"There was one time where Qin Xiao Lou and I went to a neighboring sect to steal some hundred-year wine that they had been brewing, just as we were about to be discovered, Shifu suddenly appeared in the sky, declaring that she had something important to talk about with their sect master. It was thanks to her drawing the attention of everyone in that sect that we managed to escape"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Later on when I thought back about it, the various things Qin Xiao Lou and I ran into on the way like butterflies, squirrels, goats, etc. were all most likely her"

Luo Bing Li sighed: "If she's that worried about you, you should have ——"

"I couldn't tell her, she's currently in the middle of a Tribulation, any distractions will cause her to be distracted" Gu Qing Shan waved his hand dismissively.

The Earth sword followed up: $\[\]$ Indeed, this is the trouble that he caused, furthermore, I think this is only a small matter to him]

"A small matter?" Luo Bing Li repeated.

Gu Qing Shan smiled: "Causing a bit of trouble outside, then getting scared and running back to the sect to find their master—– there are people like that, but I'm not one of them"

The Chao Yin sword let out a curt 'wu'.

It didn't really understand why it had to do that, but it did so anyway.

It felt stylish to join a conversation like this.

Luo Bing Li sighed, then asked: "Then what are you going to do now? At dawn, the Azure Dragon will come to kill you"

Gu Qing Shan stood up and walked outside:

"Come, let's seize the time we have"

His three swords followed closely behind.

Gu Qing Shan flew until he reached the top of the wall.

"Hey, I'm here"

He called out to the numerous strange worlds outside.

The world fragments turned back into sprites of light, surrounded him, and asked him out of concern.

Gu Qing Shan said: "Like I said before, I hope that you can end tonight's nightlife right now and go back to sleep early—— to express my apology when I have another chance to come, I'll bring everyone better things"

「No problem... take... care 」 the world fragments replied.

"Don't worry, it's just a small matter" Gu Qing Shan waved his hand dismissively.

The world fragments then returned outside the city.

One after another, the illusory worlds outside the city wall vanished.

Gu Qing Shan then asked Luo Bing Li: "When do you think I attract people the most?"

Luo Bing Li replied: "That depends on what you're trying to do"

"I want that dragon to find me immediately as it enters this world" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Why?" Luo Bing Li asked.

"Because it would then immediately come for me" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Attract people... you look quite decent when you use your swords" Luo Bing Li's voice slowly becomes tiny.

"Good idea" Gu Qing Shan praised.

The illusory worlds outside the city walls had all vanished.

The world fragments had all scattered and returned to hiding.

The barrier that surrounded this world instantly disappeared.

The Azure Dragon that was waiting outside the world immediately noticed.

At the same time, Gu Qing Shan drew his sword.

He pointed it at the sky and infused spirit energy into a sword seal.

Sha—–

A blinding sword phantom shot to the sky, forming a pillar of light connecting heaven and earth.

The Azure Dragon appeared from above the clouds, then abruptly turned into a fully armored man in azure clothing landing on the ground.

He had two vertical horns, his skin was covered in azure scales, his very presence formed a whirling wind that swept into his surroundings.

The Azure Dragon!

He glanced at Gu Qing Shan and flashed a cruel smirk:

[¬] Running into the target right as I arrive, how delightful J

Gu Qing Shan also smiled as he looked at the Azure Dragon and said: "Hey!"

He spat up some blood.

He had just reserved the flow of his spirit energy to damage his own Dantian, thus diffusing a bit of his own cultivation by injuring his acupoints.

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This made his cultivation go backward, no longer in a state where he could break through into {Mahesvara King} realm.

——earlier, there was a cultivator who said that she would be willing to diffuse her cultivation and cultivate again for a few hundred years if this wouldn't work out, which Gu Qing Shan had taken notice of.

So now, he chose the most advanced spirit energy diffusing method among the numerous cultivation worlds, which could reduce his cultivation at the lowest possible cost.

The Laws of Reality quickly noticed this and immediately manifested all around Gu Qing Shan.

「NO!」 the Azure Dragon roared in anger.

But at the very next moment, Gu Qing Shan was enveloped in a flash of light and left this world.

Since he no longer has the qualifications to break through to {Mahesvara King} realm, he was kicked out of Heaven Pillar world.

He would then return to where he came.

[[]You think you've escaped? I am the fastest, most powerful dragon of the Wraith realm, I can immediately catch up to you!] the Azure Dragon was unwilling to accept defeat.

His body turned into an arc of lightning that shot in the same direction that Gu Qing Shan was moving at extreme speed.

No world, space vortex, or entity can stop my advance.

I am the Azure Dragon!

••••

Gu Qing Shan reappeared inside his ship.

He chewed on the single Azure Clear Pill he had and swallowed.

The power of the Demon Dragon immediately permeated throughout this body and instantly absorbed all of the pill's potency.

The tiny injuries within his acupoints were gradually healed.

Gu Qing Shan stood still and used his spirit energy together with the Demon Dragon power to speed up the healing process.

After a few dozen seconds, the overall damage on his acupoints had been healed by more than half, but the Azure Clear Pill's potency had also been fully expended.

Gu Qing Shan didn't care about that bit of injury and instead focused the Demon Dragon power to increase his cultivation again.

A few more dozen seconds.

His cultivation had recovered to reach the point where he would be able to break through {Mahesvara King} realm again.

An azure arc of lightning appeared and landed inside the ship.

The azure armored man laughed: [[] Ahahaha, you haven't escaped, even if you've gone through billions of worlds, I would never lose your tracks]

A blue aura was boiling around his body, he had seemingly expended a great deal of power, causing him to pant ever so slightly as he talked.

However, this bit of stamina would not change the results of this massacre.

After all, for the Azure Dragon, it was very simple to kill a {Yama King} realm cultivator.

Gu Qing Shan appeared impressed and clasped his fist: "It is said that there is an Azure Dragon on the side of the Wraith realm; in their numerous campaigns against the Eternal Abyss, he had relied on his strength to make great contributions. Even during the few small campaigns where the Wraith realm had lost, the Azure Dragon had never lost before"

"This track record of the Azure Dragon caused even the most powerful monsters in the Abyss to want to praise him, and yet the Eternal Abyss had never been able to capture him, because not only was he powerful, he was also the fastest within the Wraith realm"

The blue armored man silently listened and curtly replied: regardless of what you say, I will rip your body to shreds and capture your soul J

[[] After all, you are nothing but a small and feeble reptile]

"I'm just an insect" Gu Qing Shan muttered, then sighed: "Then I have no choice but to say goodbye"

He triggered his spirit energy.

The Heaven's Tribulation descended upon him again.

Instantly, he vanished from the ship.

He had gone to face his {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation.

---he actually entered the Heaven's Tribulation once again!

The blue armored man wasn't able to react in time.

As he realized what happened, he immediately prepared to give chase.

There's no way he would be able to continue back and forth this way.

Wait...

Chasing after him like this isn't a good idea either.

The blue armored man stopped himself.

He stood for a while, then slowly sat down on a nearby sofa.

He's only going to face his Tribulation, after which he'll have to return here.

Whether he's a {Yama King} realm cultivator or a {Mahesvara King} realm cultivator makes absolutely no difference whatsoever.

Even without any help, I could eliminate countless Abyssal monsters, let alone such an insignificant cultivator like this?

---he is smart, but he's nothing but a feeble reptile who's going to die regardless of what he does.

The blue armored man leaned back on the wide sofa and scoffed: I'm going to rest up for a bit, if you die in the Heaven's Tribulation, that will be your blessing, otherwise, I'm going to rip you to shreds and eat you alive right here before I bring your soul back to the master J

He closed his eyes and began to sleep.

One breath.

Two breaths.

Three breaths.

He abruptly felt that something wasn't quite right.

He stood up, his body flashed, and appeared in the space vortex outside the ship.

He suddenly noticed that there wasn't a single gap left in the entire surrounding space vortex.

All of the most powerful monsters of the Eternal Abyss had gathered here.

They silently came without any sound or commotion, hiding themselves into the void of space and waited until Gu Qing Shan had left to show themselves.

The ship had been thoroughly surrounded by Abyssal monsters, leaving nothing but powerful Abyssal monsters for a ridiculously far distance in every direction.

Furthermore, the void of space had been completely sealed by the power of the Abyss, rendering all powers useless.

Not even the king of the wraiths would fare well if it fell into this situation by itself.

「Oh no… I've been had!」

The blue armored man muttered in shock.

He suddenly felt something he had never felt before.

Death was approaching.

The Eternal Abyss had specifically sent the most powerful meat grinders of war, just to cooperate with Gu Qing Shan and set up this intricate death trap.

Even if he was the fastest within the Wraith realm, he would never be able to escape from this encirclement.

-----and so, this truly was the Azure Dragon's time to die.

An Abyssal monster displayed a rare mocking expression and spoke in a thunderous resounding voice: Would you like to try and flatter us first, small and feeble reptile?

Chapter 1132

The Pillar To Heaven.

There existed a flight of stairs on the edge of the pillar which gradually spiraled upward through the sky.

In ancient legends, whenever a person tried to scale this flight of stairs, supernatural phenomena would manifest from above the sky, with a resounding heavenly aria and countless heavenly beings would appear to bear witness.

But that was in the past.

At present, never mind heavenly beings, the Pillar To Heaven itself had already been broken.

Which was followed by a fact that caused many cultivators to feel despair ----

There were fewer and fewer cultivators who successfully broke through and became a Sumeru Lord realm cultivator.

For the past few thousand years, there essentially hadn't been any cultivator who achieved Sumeru Lord realm.

The civilization of cultivators seemed to have entered an era where advancement gradually became harder.

In the middle of the night.

Xie Dao Ling had brought a total of 11 cultivators along with her, flying from the ground to the air following the direction of the broken Pillar To Heaven.

Not too long after that, the cultivators saw a lake above the clouds.

The lake reflected the sky above it, which overlapped with itself and obscured any and all senses of limits.

Xie Dao Ling didn't say a single word, she only formed a hand seal and flew into the lake before everyone else.

The others quickly chased after her.

As the cultivators entered the lake, they flew straight downwards until the light slowly turned dim.

Until finally, the lake itself became completely dark and nothing could be seen anymore.

A dim light flickered for a brief moment.

This flicker of light was basically unnoticeable, but since the cultivators had released their inner sights for searching, they recognized it immediately.

"Over there" Young Tortoise called out right away.

Xie Dao Ling swiftly moved and brought the group towards the direction of the flicker of light.

A few moments later, their surroundings went from pitch black to full of light once again.

Rays of light were peering through the surface of the water, moving about as waves traveled across the surface of the lake.

The lake water gradually became clearer and clearer.

Until the group leapt out from it.

Only to find that the vast lake and everything around them to be nothing but boundless emptiness, smoke and mist that lightly drifted above the lake, and a tall empty sky.

Everyone glanced at Xie Dao Ling with complicated expressions, apparently anxious.

No one really knew what would happen to them next.

Indeed, to be able to reach this realm, all of them were determined, resolute, and enlightened Combatants.

But it had been a few thousand years since someone last successfully faced this Tribulation.

Anyone would feel anxious.

Especially for the past few hundred years, when fewer and fewer people were willing to face the {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation.

Because those who had the courage to were basically all dead.

Only very few lucky cultivators had the chance to recede their cultivation and return with their lives.

Even then, it would take them a few hundred years of recovery to slowly return to normal.

——what Gu Qing Shan used was a highly advanced cultivation diffusion technique to minimize the injuries that he would sustain.

But the origin of that technique was from a cultivation world that had been destroyed countless years ago, so it was already a lost art.

If Gu Qing Shan didn't inherit the Dance of Worlds Offering and could communicate with the world fragments, he would most likely not have been able to obtain this technique.

Furthermore, Gu Qing Shan had the Demon Dragon power.

After receding his cultivation for just a bit, he immediately released the great power of the Demon Dragon pushing himself back to his peak, which allowed him to enter the Heaven's Tribulation almost immediately.

"We've passed the Immortal Lake of Inversion, sect master Xie" a cultivator reminded her in a whisper.

Xie Dao Ling nodded.

She turned towards a certain direction and peered into the void.

"A grand mountain that connects heaven and earth, a brightly glazed world" Xie Dao Ling sighed.

Everyone followed her gaze but found nothing.

Mount Sumeru was a mountain manifested from the Laws of Reality, so only great cultivators who came to face the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation could see it.

A cultivator praised: "To witness Sumeru with one's own eyes is the difference between mortal and immortal, I wonder how long would it take until we would also reach this point"

Everyone remained silent.

The {Mahesvara King} realm and Sumeru Lord realm Tribulations were linked to one another.

If no cultivator could break through to Sumeru Lord realm, then similarly no cultivator would be able to break through to {Mahesvara King} realm.

Xie Dao Ling simply observed it for a while without saying anything.

The lake water was gradually becoming unsettled.

A gigantic entity was swimming under the water, quickly approaching them from afar.

A few moments later.

A monster appeared from below.

It was about 5-story tall with the head of a lion, antlers of a deer, as well as a body covered with dragon scales. As soon as they saw it, someone exclaimed: "A Qilin!"

Qilins were a type of ancient divine beast that had already gone extinct in the infinite worlds.

Everyone remained cautious while a flash of greediness passed in their eyes as they observed the Qilin.

The Qilin observed Xie Dao Ling and spoke in human language: $\[\]$ Who has come to face the Tribulation?]

"Bai Hua sect, Xie Dao Ling"

[[] Very well, follow me and enter the glazed world]

"Wait"

The Qilin stopped and asked: $\[\]$ What else is there? Do you wish to recede your cultivation now and give up on this Tribulation? $\]$

"Not at all" Xie Dao Ling casually replied: "I still need to wait for another person before I can begin the Tribulation"

[[]Who are you waiting for?]

"My disciple, Gu Qing Shan"

...

At another location.

Gu Qing Shan had returned to Heaven Pillar world, flying all the way across the desert to reach the city walls again.

"Hah—-" he let out a long sigh.

「 Hah—− 」 the Earth sword also let out a resounding sigh.

"What?"

Luo Bing Li doubtfully asked.

Both he and the sword didn't answer her.

Luo Bing Li could only follow their gazes.

Only to see that there was a bird with a beautiful coat of feathers sitting on top of a balcony, blankly staring at them.

Gu Qing Shan quickly clasped his fist at the bird and said: "Shifu, I was a bit busy with my own matter, so I originally didn't want to interrupt your Tribulation"

The bird narrowed its eyes and asked: "Who's bullying you?"

"It wasn't that" Gu Qing Shan gradually answered, "Someone with too much time on their hand was just bothering me... I've just guided him on the way to Huang Quan" The bird's presence completely vanished and sighed: "That is how we of Bai Hua sect should act, if Xiao Lou could be like you, I would be a lot more assured"

"I'll have a talk with him when I return" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Are you still heading to this time's Tribulation or not?" the bird asked.

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A bit embarrassed, Gu Qing Shan replied: "Ah, I still haven't finished my matter yet... perhaps Shifu should go ahead, I'll catch up soon"

"Do you need Shifu to act for you?" the bird said.

"It's ok, it'll be over very soon" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Hm, then I will be waiting for you"

After saying so, the bird vanished.

Gu Qing Shan stood still, cupping his hand to look at the sky.

"Should be soon... yeah, they aren't quite as fast as the Azure Dragon, but there shouldn't be any issues"

While he was muttering to himself, a few dozen black dots appeared in the sky.

Boom!

The black dots all descended around the wall where Gu Qing Shan was standing.

---Abyssal monsters.

These fierce monsters were fully equipped and gave off a terrifying presence.

One of them stepped out and spoke in the softest voice it could manage: "Lord of [Order], please take a look"

The dozens of monsters raised their hands to display strings of grey light.

These strings of grey light were weaved together to form a cage.

Inside the cage was a man fully clad in azure clothing with wounds all over his body, both his arms and feet were tightly bound by the grey light, ensuring that he couldn't move.

The Azure Dragon.

He was already drawing his last breaths, his life like a candle in the wind that could be snuffed out at any point.

Even so, as soon as he saw Gu Qing Shan, he began squirming intensely.

「Scoundrel! Damn vile devil! You are not a true fighter!」

「You're more sinister than any wraiths!」

[[] The Wraith realm will definitely cut you down and into numerous pieces!]

The Azure Dragon roared in its frenzy.

It had never felt humiliation like it did today.

Gu Qing Shan tilted his head a bit and said: "Makes no sense"

The Azure Dragon froze.

「What do you mean?」

Even though he was furious, he still couldn't help but ask.

Gu Qing Shan put up one finger and said: "If you think I'm more sinister than any wraith, how could the Wraith realm chop me into pieces?"

The Azure Dragon coldly said: [[] Brat, with your little bit of strength, don't—–]

Gu Qing Shan cut him off: "Sorry, but I'm in a hurry"

Black strands of black aura started to spread from his body into the cage.

The Demon Dragon's bloodline.

Under the help of the Living Being Sacrificial Dance, Gu Qing Shan had fully grasped the Demon Dragon power, so he could naturally use this unique ability.

The Azure Dragon was slowly being corrupted by the Demon Dragon power.

This is... such power! J

He started trembling on the ground, absorbing the Demon Dragon's bloodline while muttering in shock.

A few moments later.

The Azure Dragon understood.

^Г Are you giving me this power in order to force me to work for you? J he narrowed his eyes and asked.

——-firstly, he beat me up to this terrible degree, then gave me power, this is the typical carrot and stick tactic.

Seems like ...

This brat understands the value of a dragon and knows how great having the support of a dragon is.

Within the infinite worlds, having a dragon fight for you is the fantasy of countless people.

This brat wants me to follow and work for him!

The Azure Dragon realized this.
However... such thoughts are much too naïve.

---does he really think he can force anyone to follow his orders and become his subordinates?

I'll agree to him first, even if I become restrained by lock seals or am forced to sign covenants, it wouldn't matter.

When the Master arrives, he'll definitely be able to remove those things.

What I need to do now is...

Act subservient, then secretly tell the Master of this Huang Quan Devil King's actions.

The Azure Dragon instantly decided his plan of action.

"Work for me? Is that what you think?"

Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

The Azure Dragon nodded: 「Your wits are truly worth admiration, I'm willing to sign any covenant with you. It's ok even if you wish to brand lock seals on my soul, I'll follow your every order and work for you——- as long as you spare my life 」

Gu Qing Shan paused.

He displayed a complicated expression and finally said: "That is... I'm really sorry, but it seems like I need to explain a bit"

"——also, did you know that in the art of cooking, there are ways to make a single fish into many dishes?"

The Azure Dragon was stunned, then shook his head: 「I don't understand what you're talking about 」

Gu Qing Shan cleared his throat and slowly explained: "It's like this, a fish can be cooked in many ways, for example: the flesh of the fish can be made into sushi; the bones and tail of the fish mixed with various spices to make soup; while the fish head can be turned into a spicy braised fish head with a bit of chili and pepper"

"Although, I usually like to prepare red-roast fish head and slow braise the body—– when making seafood, I always prefer to make it this way"

"This way, the entire fish would be used without any wastes"

"And so..."

Gu Qing Shan drew his sword and lightly slashed the inside of the cage.

The Azure Dragon was already close to death, all of his powers were also being restrained to their limits, so he naturally couldn't resist against such an attack.

Sha—--

A head flew.

Gu Qing Shan put his sword away.

When the head fell to the ground, it was still looking at Gu Qing Shan with a confused expression.

He completely couldn't understand what Gu Qing Shan was thinking.

He died without even being able to close his eyes.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and explained again:

"I'm sorry, I don't usually have a habit of soliciting friendship with an enemy, nor am I so naïve that I can convince an enemy to be my subordinate"

"Usually, I just kill them outright—— only when I run into an enemy with value do I try to wrack my head to reach the state of 'one fish many dishes' and guarantee that I would not waste anything"

As he said so, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've killed a Demon Dragon bloodkin]

[As the Demon Dragon, all of the Demon Dragon bloodkin's powers will be consumed by you]

[You've killed a mythical creature: the Azure Dragon]

[This combat had been judged as above your current level; you will obtain the corresponding Soul Points]

[Soul Points are being calculated...]

Chapter 1333

As the Azure Dragon's head fell to the ground, an Abyssal monster carefully picked it back up.

Following the agreement, the dragon body, and dragon soul belongs to the Abyss 1 it cautiously looked at Gu Qing Shan and said.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged: "Naturally"

That Abyssal monster sighed in relief.

『 We shall leave
』

At its order, the other abyssal monsters took to the air with it and swiftly left this world.

Gu Qing Shan waited for a few moments before abruptly collapsing to his knees.

"Aaarrrggh—–"

He couldn't help but shout.

An azure shadow and black shadow manifested behind him, pushing against one another while exuding extremely terrifying power.

Lines of text were scrolling through the War God UI:

[Although you can almost be considered a sleeping Demon Dragon, the power that must be absorbed is too great. It will take one full minute of extreme suffering for you to completely store it until you can fully digest it later on]

Indeed, the Azure Dragon was heavily injured and was on death's door, but as long as he underwent treatment, he would have quickly recovered.

He was a rare and powerful dragon of the Wraith realm.

If he wasn't greatly weakened, he might even have been able to stop the Demon Dragon power from corrupting himself.

The fact that Gu Qing Shan didn't explode from absorbing that much power was already a great fortune.

——he only managed to achieve this thanks to having converted quite a bit of the Demon Dragon's power into his own.

[Although you have the identity of the Earth God, you are still only a mortal]

[Because of that, this was a kill above your level]

[The War God UI had absorbed all the Soul Points from the Azure Dragon]

[You obtained 6,000,000 Soul Points]

6 million!

While he was still enduring the extreme suffering, Gu Qing Shan felt better as soon as he saw that number.

More lines of glowing lines of text were still scrolling across the War God UI:

[You are using the power of the Demon Dragon's bloodline to consume the power of the mythical creature: Azure Dragon]

[That entity's power is too great, so it will be stored away to facilitate gradual daily absorption]

[Special attention: The Azure Dragon's main forms of attacks will be converted into reserve power and stored, only a few unique abilities remain]

[You may choose one of these unique abilities to turn into your Thaumaturgy; or use the Demon Dragon power to fully consume them all and change your Demon Dragon's bloodline ability]

[Attention!]

[The Demon Dragon was the greatest Soul Artifact created by the Bygone Era humans, if you choose to consume it, you will lose the Demon Dragon's bloodline ability and change it into a new unknown ability]

Gu Qing Shan answered right away: "No, no need to consume it"

Don't be ridiculous!

Sometimes, Gu Qing Shan thought that the Demon Dragon's bloodline ability, rather than the Demon Dragon itself, was the masterpiece of the Bygone Era humans.

When the Demon Dragon's bloodline was let loose, it could persist for a long period; so waiting for all the Demon Dragon bloodkins to mature and then absorbing them would actually be the most profitable way to use it.

Using this ability in combat would cause the enemy to feel a wave of extreme torturous pain.

Furthermore, after killing the enemy, he could even absorb the enemy's power.

This ability exactly defined the idiom: Those who face the evil dragon will eventually see themselves turning into the evil dragon.

——-but in this Apocalypse, where the infinite worlds were constantly under the threat of destruction, who would care about your identity?

Naturally, some especially powerful enemies—— like the Azure Dragon at his peak – would most likely have a way to defend against the corruption of this ability.

The previous lines of glowing text disappeared, replaced by new ones:

[You've given up consuming and chose to turn one of those unique abilities into your Thaumaturgy]

[Please choose one of the following unique abilities to convert into your Thaumaturgy:]

[First: Dragon Roar]

[Dragon Roar: An enemy struck by your attack would definitely be sent flying]

[Second: Azure Dragon Scales]

[Azure Dragon Scales: You can conjure an azure barrier once every 5 minutes that can prevent the majority of attacks, reducing all incoming damage by 70%]

[Third: Origin Flow Leap]

[Origin Flow Leap: Directly leap through space at 2000% movement speed, require the use of a certain amount of Soul Points (Attention: cannot attack during the displacement or it would be automatically nullified)]

[Fourth: Azure Dragon Shadow Hex – Binding]

[Azure Dragon Shadow Hex – Binding: While you are talking to an enemy, the Hex will naturally manifest as imperceivable shadow shackles that would restrain the enemy's body, reducing their movement and attack speed. Its effectiveness is directly related to the duration of your conversation]

At this point, the pain slowly subsided from Gu Qing Shan's body.

As he read these abilities, he slowly felt surprised.

[Dragon Roar] and [Azure Dragon Scales] are very decent unique abilities.

The third ability is in a league of its own.

——-[Origin Flow Leap].

This was the Azure Dragon's foundation and root, capable of leaping a large distance through space and making sure that no one could catch up.

He managed to chase me from Heaven Pillar world back to the vicinity of the Eternal Abyss by using this ability.

As for [Azure Dragon Shadow Hex – Binding], just reading it made Gu Qing Shan feel a sense of wonder.

He then realized.

When the Azure Dragon descended from the sky, he immediately began talking with me, but it turns out that it was using this binding Hex.

The very act of talking to another person was to use an ability.

——the Azure Dragon was stronger than me by an immeasurable degree, but he was still that careful in combat.

Or rather, he was outright wicked.

What an eye-opening experience this was indeed.

In reality, both sides had trump cards that the other party couldn't see through, but Gu Qing Shan's trump card was borrowing the Laws of Reality with his Tribulation, the Demon Dragon power, as well as the Abyssal army.

Otherwise, it would be hard to tell who would have come out as the ultimate victor!

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This was the uncertainty of combat in the infinite worlds.

Until the very last moment, no one would be able to tell the other party's trump card.

No one could guarantee a complete victory!

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief, though he was still a bit fearful.

Who could've thought, such a powerful Azure Dragon was actually a scoundrel...?

He paused for a second.

—–hmm?

Wait.

Isn't this ability very suitable for me?

Gu Qing Shan looked back to the War God UI, pondering between [Origin Flow Leap] and [Azure Dragon Shadow Hex – Binding].

The War God UI spoke up: [Please select the ability you wish to keep within 1 minute, when time is up, the Laws that make up this abilities will break down and can no longer be absorbed]

Gu Qing Shan stopped hesitating. "I choose [Azure Dragon Shadow Hex – Binding]" [Are you sure?] "I'm sure" Gu Qing Shan clenched his teeth and replied. The War God UI responded: [Currently absorbing this unique ability to convert into your Thaumaturgy] [Please wait for 10 minutes] Gu Qing Shan slowly stood up. The pain had fully subsided. A sense of overflowing power coursed through his body. This was the power of the Demon Dragon and Azure Dragon that had been combined into the same reserve. From this moment onwards, Gu Qing Shan would become stronger with every passing second! At the same time, he had also obtained a unique ability from the Azure Dragon. Killing a single dragon brought so much benefit. Demon Dragon... Azure Dragon... would another dragon appear in the future as well? While wondering this, Gu Qing Shan replied: "I probably won't wait, just tell me when it's finished, I need to go meet up with Shifu and the rest now" Saying so, he leapt up before flying up to the sky. As he entered the clouds, he saw the bird from before. The bird flapped its wings and landed on his shoulder. Xie Dao Ling's voice sounded: "This way, enter the Immortal Lake" ... The Immortal Lake of Inversion. Gu Qing Shan leapt out from the lake and landed in front of everyone. "My apologies, a bit of personal business" he smiled and clasped his fist at the others. Everyone simply clasped their fists to greet him back, not at all impatient.

This pair of master and disciple both came to face their Tribulations, one of them to Sumeru Lord realm, while the other was to {Mahesvara King} realm, which showed clearly how powerful their sect was.

It's best to get acquainted and stay friends with them.

The Qilin's voice resounded through the world:

^r Very well, you have all gathered, will you begin to scale Mount Sumeru now? J

Xie Dao Ling nodded and said: "Let's begin.

The Qilin leapt into the air and turned into a transparent image glowing colorfully.

The image slowly solidified.

It was a Qilin-shaped mountain lock that was 15 meters tall and 20 meters wide!

The lock pointed at Xie Dao Ling

「 OPEN—– THE —— MOUNTAIN—— GATE! 」

The Qilin's heavy voice resounded throughout the surroundings.

The world parted in front of them.

A glowing glazed divine mountain that reached the top of the sky revealed itself in front of everyone!

They all felt a resounding sense of shock.

The divine beast Qilin spoke up again:

^Г The Divine Mountain is pure and unblemished, manifested from countless blissful worlds. But a long time had passed, and some of the worlds that make up the Divine Mountain eventually fell to ruin J

Following its voice, the glowing glazed mountain slowly became grey, revealing that it had been corroded by a gloomy color, exuding a sense of rot and destruction.

"My god! No wonder no one had been able to successfully break through!" someone exclaimed in shock.

Another person pointed at the Divine Mountain and trembled as he spoke: "The Divine Mountain wasn't like this when I arrived several hundred years ago, almost all the worlds on the Divine Mountain have been destroyed already, how could anyone pass a Tribulation like this!?"

"From the foot to the top, every step is destruction, harsh! Harsh! Harsh!" another cultivator muttered to himself and continuously sighed.

He immediately used his scripture to reverse the flow of this spirit energy and crashed it into his Dantian.

Pfft——-

Everyone only saw him coughing up some blood before vanishing from the Heaven's Tribulation.

---he had just receded his cultivation and returned to his cultivation world.

The Qilin spoke up again:

「Xie Dao Ling!」

[¬] You must travel from one destroyed world to another, helping the Divine Mountain clean up the contamination along the way until you reach the summit of the Divine Mountain and achieve the realm of Sumeru Lord! J

Xie Dao Ling stood still with her hands clasped behind her back, silently watching the dull Divine Mountain without saying anything.

Gu Qing Shan walked behind her and whispered: "Don't worry Shifu, I'm quite used to this"

Chapter 1134

The grey and gloomy Mount Sumeru stood still in the distance.

Xie Dao Ling turned around and told the cultivators: "Everyone, if you are willing to follow me through this Tribulation, we shall head forward now, but if you wish to preserve your life, please go ahead and return now"

The group exchanged hesitant glances with one another, still remaining silent.

An old man suddenly sighed: "Hah, Mount Sumeru had been nearly destroyed, this Tribulation is much too dangerous. This old man has already reached the peak of {Yama King} realm and obtained prolonged lifespan, it might be better that I wait for time to pass and see if there would be any changes in the future"

Saying so, the old man formed a hand seal and reversed his spirit energy to strike his Dantian.

Pftt—–

After coughing up blood, the old man slowly disappeared from this world.

Following him, another two cultivators chose to retreat from this Heaven's Tribulation.

The remaining people didn't move.

Gu Qing Shan counted.

Including both his Shifu and himself, there were a total of 10 people.

9 {Yama King} realm cultivators.

1 {Mahesvara King} realm cultivator.

This powerful lineup was something that Gu Qing Shan hadn't even witnessed.

"Let's go"

Xie Dao Ling leapt up and flew towards Mount Sumeru.

Gu Qing Shan followed.

And so did the other 8 people.

After about 10 minutes of flying, the group reached the foot of Mount Sumeru.

Gu Qing Shan took notice of something and used the World Origin in his left eye to silently observe the Divine Mountain.

-----the Divine Mountain gave off a completely different sensation as they observed it here.

This mountain seemed almost like a Dharma mountain, so the naked eye couldn't observe what was on it.

But by using World Origin to look at it, one would notice the countless Laws of Reality and World Origin that were hidden inside the mountain, they were overlapping and resonating with one another, drawing each other out in order to form a single interconnected world.

At a glance, this seemed like a great boundless world of many worlds, but after careful observation, it gave off a sense of natural consistency and insight.

"Strange..." Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Everyone turned back to look at him.

"It's nothing" Gu Qing Shan smiled, "What should we do now?"

"There's an envoy to receive us" Xie Dao Ling pointed ahead.

At the foot of the gloomy mountain, a hole suddenly opened.

A group of monkeys appeared and told everyone: "The situation is becoming worse and worse; you must hurry up and help"

"What's the situation?" a cultivator asked.

The monkeys sighed: "The Divine mountain is quickly progressing towards the verge of destruction, there would be more misfortune than fortune this time"

Everyone was speechless.

Suddenly, a female cultivator spat up blood and vanished.

Another one left.

There were 9 people left.

The monkeys scratched themselves and doubtfully asked: "Why did one of you just disappear?"

It shook its head and showed everyone a gong and a gong hammer.

"Bang on the Dharma Gong and you will be received into the Divine Mountain"

"The Dharma Gong will randomly choose one title from among your many epithets. Through considering the chosen epithet, it would finally send you to the appropriate location on the Divine Mountain"

"Who shall go first?"

The group turned to the bronze gong in the monkey's hands.

——indeed, according to the records of past Tribulations, when first entering the Divine Mountain, everyone would be separated.

"I'm first"

Xie Dao Ling received the Dharma Gong and its hammer, then glanced at Gu Qing Shan before sending her voice:

"I will go in first"

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded and responded: "Please be careful Shifu, I will look for you when I come in"

Xie Dao Ling raised the Dharma Gong and lightly banged on it.

A voice resounded from the Dharma Gong: [Xie Dao Ling, the epithet drawn was: Three Saints of Humanity]

[Three Saints of Humanity is an epithet only obtained by a great person respected and admired by all. With this epithet, I decide—-]

[Xie Dao Ling, point of entry: Ancient City of Immortals]

A ray of light consumed Xie Dao Ling and whisked her away in a flash.

Everyone was considerably glad.

"Sect master Xie truly is one to be admired"

"So it was the Ancient City of Immortals!"

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"Indeed, what a good start"

"Seems like this Tribulation isn't completely hopeless after all"

According to the records of history, the Ancient City of Immortals was the most prosperous location at the foot of Mount Sumeru, where there were numerous ancient inheritance and treasures, while also being protected by powerful spells and formation arrays. It was essentially the best place to start.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and silently asked the War God UI: "Epithet— is it the same as Titles?"

[That which is recognized by the Laws of Reality, as well as recognized by living beings and all things is a Title, also known as an epithet] the War God UI replied.

200 Soul Points were then deducted.

Gu Qing Shan was now filthy rich with 6 million Soul Points, so he didn't mind that little expenditure.

If they're Titles, then I have quite a few powerful ones, like [Huang Quan Devil King], [Shen Wei General], [Starflame War God], or [Dragon Slayer from the Age of Old].

——although, since I just killed an Azure Dragon, the [Dragon Slayer from the Age of Old] title might have already been changed.

While he was thinking, the monkeys had caught the Dharma Gong and its gong hammer, then turned to the group: "Very well, next"

A middle-aged cultivator smiled as he received the hammer.

He said: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu, and everyone, although this one is a bit incompetent, I have confidence in my own epithet, which should also take me to the Ancient City of Immortals. Perhaps, it's best that I go in first to meet up with sect master Xie and heed her orders"

Gu Qing Shan thought about it a bit, then nodded: "Then, please go head"

The middle-aged cultivator received the gong hammer and banged on it with a bit of strength.

The Dharma Gong spoke up: [Zhang Yong Zhi, the epithet drawn was: Skilled Great Doctor]

[Skilled Great Doctor is an epithet for only those with the people in mind, having saved many living beings and cultivators alike, an epithet of a great person respected and admired by all. With this epithet, I decide—-]

[Zhang Yong Zhi, point of entry: Ancient City of Immortals]

Everyone praised him.

Zhang Yong Zhi briefly clasped his fist before being transported away.

Gu Qing Shan also felt a bit more assured.

This person must be an expert at healing-type spells and techniques; since he had reached {Yama King} realm, his means of attack might be quite decent as well; and someone who had obtained such a Title shouldn't be a person of bad character.

Which means he will be a decent supporter.

At this point, the monkeys raised the Dharma Gong and hammer again, glancing at the group.

A female cultivator with a graceful expression and otherworldly presence came forward, receiving the hammer and lightly banged the gong.

The Dharma Gong spoke: [Wang Ya Yun, the drawn epithet was: Distant Fairy Maiden]

[Distant Fairy Maiden, such is a female cultivator born of the era of heaven and earth, receiving the love of all living beings. With this epithet, I decide——]

[Wang Ya Yun, point of entry: Lake Shore of Autumn]

The female cultivator turned to the group and nodded: "Fellow Dao seekers, I shall meet you again inside"

She was enveloped by the light and vanished without a trace.

A cultivator mused: "Lake Shore of Autumn... it is a decent location, but it's a bit close to the dangerous defense posts and observation towers"

Another cultivator replied: "It's fine, that is merely the point of entry, there's no need to worry about it too much"

"Hm, that is true" that cultivator replied.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan walked up to receive the gong hammer from the monkeys.

The remaining cultivators couldn't help but look at him and had the same thought.

——his master was a [Three Saint of Humanity], then as a {Yama King} realm sword cultivator, his Title would most likely not be that bad.

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist at the group and said: "Everyone, we shall meet again inside"

He took the hammer and lightly banged on the gong.

The Dharma Gong spoke: [Gu Qing Shan, the drawn epithet was: Big Tabby Cat]

[Big Tabby Cat, is...]

The Dharma Gong couldn't say anything else.

Big Tabby Cat.

Why is this epithet... recognized by the Laws of Reality?

The Dharma Gong has never seen such an epithet ever before in its entire existence.

How is it supposed to explain this epithet?

Gu Qing Shan was also confused.

Didn't I already lose that ability to turn into a cat?

Why didn't it take the Dragon Slayer Title?

Or the War God Title?

Why this one—--

He turned to the other cultivators.

He was showered with an indescribable look by everyone.

At this point, the Dharma Gong stopped hesitating and declared:

[Gu Qing Shan, point of entry: Frontline observation tower]

A ray of light enveloped Gu Qing Shan and took him away in a flash.

Chapter 1135

The night was cold

The frigid wind blew without an end.

The frontline observation tower.

Gu Qing Shan appeared out of thin air.

There was a single set of ancient metal scale armor on the ground, other than that, there was nothing else.

Gu Qing Shan crouched down on the cold stone floor and gazed outside the observation tower.

Among the cascading mountain tops, the fragmentary beacon-fire was slowly being snuffed out, leaving only a thin column of smoke that slowly rose and was blown away by the wind, displaying the same shade as the night sky.

There was nothing but the sound of howling wind.

A faint smell of blood was being transmitted through the wind, but then quickly faded away.

Roarr—–

There was the faint sound of a heavy cry, but even when Gu Qing Shan sent his inner sight to confirm, he found nothing.

---seems like it was too far from where I am.

Gu Qing Shan could only give up.

The void of space suddenly moved.

A jade badge hovered in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan infused his inner sight into the jade badge and quickly learnt everything.

——every cultivator who arrived to face their Tribulation in Mount Sumeru will be provided a jade badge by the Laws of Mount Sumeru.

Each cultivator would obtain an identity within Mount Sumeru through this jade badge, as well as some basic information.

The beacon-fire was lit at sunset.

Two minutes earlier, the frontline had thoroughly collapsed.

In that case, the observation tower had lost its purpose.

The order to retreat had been issued.

Gu Qing Shan was stationed at this observation tower with the military rank of corporal, responsible for protecting the observation tower until his death, unable to leave without orders.

----but since he had received his orders, he could now run away.

After receiving all of this information, Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

After drawing the [Big Tabby Cat] epithet, I was thrown here.

This treatment is basically incomparable to every other cultivator.

---so what if I'm a cat? Cats have rights too you know!

Gu Qing Shan sensed something and swiped the air, grabbing a 7-colored shield from the void of space.

The shield gave off a short cry before retracting all of its glow.

A line of text appeared on the War God UI;

[Svalinn's Abyssal Pact has been forbidden]

[Attention, from this moment on, you cannot use the power of Abyssal Pact within Mount Sumeru]

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask: "Why not?"

The War God UI replied: [During the Sumeru Lord realm and {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulations, a cultivator must face the secret of their true identities, because of that, the Divine Mountain of Sumeru forbids the summoning of Abyssal creatures, ensuring that they cannot participate]

"The secret of true identity? What is that?" Gu Qing Shan pursued the question.

[Regarding this, you must find out on your own] the War God UI replied.

400 Soul Points were deducted.

Gu Qing Shan frowned and silently put Svalinn back into the void of space.

That's fine, even if I can't summon Abyssal monsters, at least the shield's defensive capabilities weren't stripped away.

The sound of roaring beasts resounded from afar.

The howling wind turned even more frigid.

Gu Qing Shan looked outside the observation tower.

Chaos.

Everyone had already fled, only he remained here.

Gu Qing Shan stopped hesitating and put on the metal scale armor on the ground.

----having a suit of armor was still better than not having anything at all.

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

[You've obtained a frontline soldier armor (antique, half-damaged)]

[Frontline soldier armor: A standard suit of armor that can protect against cold weapon attacks to a certain degree]

Gu Qing Shan held the Earth sword in his hand before leaping into the darkness and flying away.

•••

Darkness.

Freezing coldness.

The entire world was plunged in snow and ice.

Gu Qing Shan was flying alone close to the desolate landscape.

It was currently the time of war, and their side had suffered defeat, so he was being careful to not fly too high.

———however, why were they defeated, who the enemy was, and where his own allies were located... these questions weren't answered.

The jade badge only provided him with a very basic identity and description of the situation without mentioning anything else.

While nimbly traveling forward, Gu Qing Shan was also observing his surroundings.

The snowstorm was gradually growing stronger, not a single living creature could be seen in sight.

"Earth sword" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

「I'm here 」

"Have you noticed that this world is completely different from the other worlds we've been to?"

[... Not at all] the Earth sword replied.

Gu Qing Shan swung the Earth sword at the ground.

Bam!

A resounding sound of impact.

A small crater was carved into the ground.

□ Now I can sense it 」 the Earth sword replied, □ This world's Foundation Laws are unimaginably powerful, so I am unable to cut through this world]

In the past, such a slash from Gu Qing Shan would have created a canyon without any issues.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Indeed, they said that the worlds on Mount Sumeru were all at the verge of destruction, but the world beneath us is still so incredibly solid, which is a bit strange..."

He suddenly stopped.

After waiting for a short moment.

A cautious shout sounded from in front of him in the darkness:

"Who are you?"

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist: "This humble one is the corporal of the Southwest 15th observation tower, Gu Qing Shan, currently following orders to retreat"

The voice asked again: "I know that observation tower, but why are you alone? Where are your comrades?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "This humble one is responsible for holding the backline during the retreat, as for them, they had most likely followed the main army and retreated from this area"

Another younger voice spoke up: "He's telling the truth, the people of that observation tower had all returned, I saw them at the backline"

The first voice relaxed a bit and said: "So that's how it was"

——as the superior, the fact that he stayed behind alone to secure the retreat naturally made him respectable.

A corner of the darkness lifted up to reveal the fire within.

Two cultivators in leather armor carefully observed their surroundings.

"Come quickly, Corporal Gu"

A cultivator with a bow on his back waved him in.

Gu Qing Shan evaluated them.

Quite obviously, these two were scouts whose expertise lie in information gathering.

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Gu Qing Shan entered the formation.

It then closed back up.

Once again, this area of the wilderness was covered by darkness.

"Are you resting?" Gu Qing Shan sat down by the fire and asked.

The cultivator with a bow replied: "We are. It's been several days of running in a row with several consecutive battles, we're exhausted"

The three of them clasped their fists to greet one another.

"Gu Qing Shan"

"Chang Yu Li" the cultivator with the bow said.

"Bai Zhuo" the teenage cultivator with a saber said.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the teenage cultivator.

"Ah, yes, I was named by my father, he was a master spirit cook who liked to use the Bai Zhuo technique, and since our surname was Bai..." the teenager explained.

Gu Qing Shan praised: "I understand completely, in truth, I was also the cook in my family"

Bai Zhuo scratched his head awkwardly and said: "Rather than cooking, I still think fighting is a lot more stylish"

He then formed a hand seal to make the fire a bit stronger.

Chang Yu Li skillfully took out a pot, propped it above the fire, and began to put ingredients inside.

"Although his father was a grandmaster spirit cook, he's a blade user—- the kind that hunts demons and demonic beasts"

Chang Yu Li then silently made a gesture to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan understood.

So he learnt it to show off in front of his crush.

Ah, that truly would be something that a young man like him would prefer to do.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and reached for his Inventory Bag.

He stopped.

His Inventory Bag was currently empty.

I've already given everything in my Inventory Bag to the world fragments in Heaven Pillar world.

I've also eaten the last Azure Clear Pill.

So besides the three flying swords, I don't actually have anything on me right now.

Without being able to deal with his appetite, Gu Qing Shan's frame of mind was a bit off.

He begrudgingly sat there, feeling a bit lost.

Both Chang Yu Li and Bai Zhuo were scouts, so their eyes were naturally much sharper than normal people. Bai Zhuo tapped his Inventory Bag to take out a bit more ingredients, while Chang Yu Li told him with a relaxed tone: "Brother Gu, feel free to join us for a meal, there's no need to be so distant"

Gu Qing Shan rubbed his hands, feeling a bit embarrassed: "Then I'll trouble you. Actually, I'm quite used to cooking, so how about I give you a hand?"

Chang Yu Li's eyes lit up: "Right, you did say that you used to be a spirit cook, then we'll trouble you"

As Gu Qing Shan received the pot, his presence changed: "Don't worry, we'll eat in just 15 minutes"

Chang Yu Li and Bai Zhuo both nodded before going back to rest

---indeed, cultivators could survive for a long time without eating anything.

But if one thought that eating was merely a way to fill one's stomach, one would be misunderstanding the point of eating.

True grandmaster spirit cooks could allow an entire battalion of cultivators to readjust themselves to their peak with nothing but a single meal and a bit of tea.

--- no matter what cultivation realm those cultivators are.

Dinner was soon done.

And was cleaned out by the three people without leaving a scrap behind.

Chang Yu Li stood up and said: "Corporal Gu, Bai Zhuo, and I will need to re-enter the frontlines to scout the situation, so we won't be accompanying Corporal Gu after this point"

Gu Qing Shan also stood up and said: "That's no problem, tell me what you are looking for; after all, I was the last person to leave from the frontlines, perhaps I might be able to help"

Chang Yu Li nodded: "We are looking for a tiger"

Saying so, he handed Gu Qing Shan a Communication Talisman.

"A tiger?" Gu Qing Shan received the talisman and replied in surprise.

Bai Zhuo replied: "Yes, it inflicted huge casualties on the frontline soldiers, so the superiors sent us to the frontlines to search for its tracks"

Gu Qing Shan pondered: "When I left from the Southwest 15th observation tower, I faintly heard a roar, but couldn't confirm whether or not it came from a tiger"

Is this serious?

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to touch the two of them.

Chang Yu Li is 3 realms lower ¹than me.

Bai Zhuo is a bit weaker, 4 realms lower¹ than me.

They can be considered decently strong, and most likely had camouflage Thaumaturgies that they were chosen to return to the frontline for such a mission.

Bai Zhuo put out the fire with a fire controlling seal and cleaned up all of their traces.

It was time to leave.

"Farewell" Chang Yu Li and Bai Zhuo both clasped their hands.

"Farewell to the two of you as well" Gu Qing Shan also clasped his fist.

The two scouts nodded, then started flying deeper into the wilderness.

Gu Qing Shan turned around and kept moving forward.

There was an order for all frontline soldiers to return to the Strong Wind military camp before dawn, so Gu Qing Shan also sped up.

The cold of the night gradually became heavy.

The snowfall was getting heavier, but the wind slowly calmed down until it eventually ceased.

Gu Qing Shan continued flying without stopping.

At some point, he stopped.

A thick stench of blood washed over him.

Gu Qing Shan narrowed his eyes, turned his hands, and wielded both the Heaven and Earth sword.

Hoh hoh hoh hoh!

The heavy sound of panting resounded from afar, but quickly reached Gu Qing Shan.

The panting stopped.

A thin tiger that exuded a greyish white demonic flame showed up in front of Gu Qing Shan.

It was around 3 meters tall, almost 10 meters long, its eyes were narrowed as it approached Gu Qing Shan closer and closer.

Gu Qing Shan bit his lip.

Ah...

So it was this kind of tiger.

Who would've thought? I actually ran into this fierce creature.

Gu Qing Shan sensed a bit of danger, so his expression became stern.

The thin tiger observed him, then abruptly spat out something from its mouth.

That thing fell to the ground and rolled on the snow.

——-a human head.

Bai Zhuo.

His eyes were opened wide with a faint sense of unwillingness.

The unwillingness to die.

Gu Qing Shan's eyes turned cold as killing intent flowed from all over his body.

"Beast, I'm going to skin you alive"

He raised his swords and slowly spoke.

Immediately, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've officially participated in the battle of Mount Sumeru's destruction, to help you in your battle, and to save itself, the Divine Mountain of Sumeru had provided your {Mahesvara King} realm Thaumaturgy ahead of time according to the epithet drawn from you]

[As you are a cultivator, as your epithet was: [Big Tabby Cat], you've obtained the following Mahesvara Thaumaturgy¹:]

[Evil Suppressor – Orange Lance]

Chapter 1136

[Evil Suppressor – Orange Lance]

[Mahesvara Thaumaturgy, evolution possible]

[This Thaumaturgy must be affixed to a long-handle weapon]

[This Thaumaturgy will help you suppress all evil, forcefully converting them into pure Origin power to provide for the Divine Mountain of Sumeru]

[The more evil you suppress, the more feedback you will receive from the Divine Mountain of Sumeru]

[Specifically, the Divine Mountain of Sumeru will help you evolve your Mahesvara Thaumaturgy bit by bit according to your contributions, gradually becoming stronger]

Gu Qing Shan knitted his eyebrows.

This Thaumaturgy was basically created to save Mount Sumeru, no wonder it was provided ahead of time.

Not only that, but Mount Sumeru would also reward those who eagerly suppress evil.

Seems like the Divine Mountain is indeed in a very critical state.

But I'm a sword cultivator, where do I find a long-handle weapon?

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit.

...I actually have one.

The [True Crimson Demon Spear] was a long-handled weapon!

Those thoughts speed through Gu Qing Shan's mind.

The thin tiger that exuded evil fire lowered its body and abruptly vanished.

This wasn't related to speed, as it simply vanished in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan's eyes dilated and also vanished.

In a split second, he reappeared several dozen meters away from where he stood.

While that thin tiger reappeared where he originally stood.

Divine Skill, [Ground Shrink]!

Both he and the tiger knew this Divine Skill!

The thin tiger was surprised for a bit, then spoke in human language: Γ So there is a human that wields the same Divine Skill as this general, this cannot be \rfloor

It started emanating more killing intent.

A black armor abruptly appeared, scattered into numerous components before attaching to the thin tiger's body.

----it had a suit of armor!

Gu Qing Shan became highly cautious as he observed this tiger.

By common sense, when man and beast were at the same level of strength, beasts would turn out to be more powerful compared to humans.

But humans were capable of leveling the playing field in their battle against beasts.

This was because humans could create equipment and other high-power tools to help them fight.

But now, not only do beasts know how to make armor...

They seem to be even better than humans at it.

Observing the intricate, heavy suit of armor that it was wearing, Gu Qing Shan assumed this.

Not only that, it knows a human Divine Skill as well.

What a strange situation.

Gu Qing Shan focused his mind, pointed his sword at the tiger, and shouted: "What kind of demonic beast are you? State your name, as I don't kill nameless individuals"

———[Azure Dragon Shadow Hex – Binding]!

The thin tiger scoffed: 「You think someone like you deserves to know my name?」

"Deserving or not depends on strength. Frankly speaking, you might be stronger than me, must have killed more people than me, and have more knowledge than I do; but since I know a secret of yours, I'm not afraid" Gu Qing Shan casually replied.

The thin tiger was startled.

[「]You know my secret? What do you know? 」 it couldn't help but question.

Gu Qing Shan chuckled then replied: "Even if you kill me, I won't tell you, unless..."

「Unless what? 」 the thin tiger asked.

"Unless you tell me clearly, why are you so insistent on chasing me?" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The thin tiger paused briefly before laughing: $\[\]$ Insistent on chasing you? You think too highly of yourself J

"If you aren't going after me specifically, then why are you standing in my way?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The thin tiger replied: \lceil I'm just on my way to ambush the human military camp, but felt the impulse to kill a couple of humans to fill my stomach J

Gu Qing Shan: "Ah, so that's what it was"

The thin tiger looked at him.

He kept his mouth shut.

The thin tiger said: 「Your turn」

Gu Qing Shan asked: "My turn what?"

The thin tiger: 「To tell me your secret」

Gu Qing Shan appeared surprised, then replied: "Ah, about that —– I'm not going to tell you"

The thin tiger froze, then abruptly erupted with killing intent.

Roar!!!

It let out a thunderous resounding roar.

A gust of wind suddenly blew in from the forest.

Sword-infused wind ----

It was the Taiyi Sword Array!

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As the sword-infused wind clashed against the roar, it was immediately scattered.

But at the same time, the thin tiger's roar was scattered by Gu Qing Shan.

[¬] A sword array? What feeble strength, I've thought it through, rather than asking you, I'd rather chop your limbs and force you to tell me in your suffering J the tiger muttered.

It shook its body and split into three other identical tigers.

Four thin tigers surrounded Gu Qing Shan and spoke in unison: In consideration that cultivation isn't easy, I shall give you a chance, tell me what you know right now J

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent for a short moment.

[Azure Dragon Shadow Hex – Binding] had restrained 5% of the tiger's speed.

For a sword cultivator of Gu Qing Shan's caliber, this much was enough.

He was thinking about something else.

-----the Taiyi sword array is powerful and can kill a large number of enemies.

But the Taiyi sword array's power comes from scattering the power of sword phantoms into the wind.

Against an especially powerful enemy, such scattered power isn't effective.

Because of this, the only unstoppable strike would be one that converges all scattered power into a single explosive attack.

Swordsmanship might take numerous forms and shapes, but in the end, it would still return to its roots, becoming one ultimate strike.

Convergence realm.

This is the true value of the Convergence realm!

Gu Qing Shan's presence slowly faded away, eventually disappearing entirely.

While standing there, he felt like nothingness.

Killing intent exploded!

The four thin tigers vanished at once.

Gu Qing Shan also vanished.

A sword phantom that pierced the sky abruptly manifested in the darkness.

Secret Art, [Full Moon Consecutive Slashes]!

This sword phantom appeared as a seamless shining full moon that hung on top of the night sky, illuminating the wilderness.

In just a split second, it all disappeared, as if everything was only an illusion.

The darkness once again filled the land.

In the forest.

The four thin tigers once again became one, all four of its claws were cut off, its body pinned to the ground by three swords.

Gu Qing Shan stared down at the thin tiger.

"You... what exactly are you? A demonic beast?" Gu Qing Shan questioned.

□ Ridiculous, I'm the Beast King!]

The thin tiger scoffed and continued: Sword cultivator, I will not accept this! If my movement technique hadn't suddenly gone wrong, victory and defeat would have been different!]

"Movement technique?" Gu Qing Shan shook his head, "It wasn't your movement technique, you simply became slow"

The thin tiger was startled, then slowly realized.

^Г You sly scoundrel, I dare you to win against me in a straight-forward battle! J the thin tiger gritted its teeth.

Gu Qing Shan's expression remained blank as he casually replied:

"I simply didn't want to spend too much effort to kill you. I'm going to test something out instead"

Saying so, he drew a Card and tossed it in the air.

A spear coated in a glimmering crimson glow appeared in his hand.

Gu Qing Shan shouted: "Mahesvara Thaumaturgy, I order you to grant this spear the Evil Suppressing power!"

Immediately, a unique sensation started to exude from the spear.

Gu Qing Shan turned to the thin tiger.

This prideful tiger suddenly appeared fearful as he looked at the [True Crimson Demon Spear].

[¬] No! Don't let me return to the Divine Mountain of Sumeru! J it begged.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "What are you afraid of?"

The thin tiger didn't reply and instead madly struggled.

However, its body was pinned down tightly by the swords, so it couldn't move even an inch.

Gu Qing Shan turned away, picked up Bai Zhuo's head from the snow, and returned to the thin tiger.

"Bai Zhuo, and Chang Yu Li as well, thank you for inviting me to dinner"

The crimson glowing spear abruptly stabbed into the thin tiger's head.

It was unstoppable!

The thin tiger let out a desperate roar.

All of a sudden, a fierce shadow appeared from the thin tiger's body, attempting to escape.

But as it was pierced by the [True Crimson Demon Spear] it couldn't escape no matter how it tried.

The [True Crimson Demon Spear] vibrated.

The shadow immediately shattered and disappeared into the void of space.

At the same time, the thin tiger stopped struggling and laid limp on the ground.

It was dead.

Gu Qing Shan carefully buried Bai Zhuo's head below ground before clasping his hands together and praying.

"Rest in peace, young soldier" Gu Qing Shan whispered.

He cut off the thin tiger's head, pierced it with the [True Crimson Demon Spear], and carried it on his shoulder as he flew towards the human military camp.

Chapter 1137

A large tiger head fell to the ground rolling for 2-3 meters.

Gu Qing Shan put the [True Crimson Demon Spear] away, then clasped his hand towards the void of space: "Corporal of the Southwest 15th observation tower, Gu Qing Shan, reporting for duty"

The void fluctuated.

That tiger head quickly vanished, followed by a low shout: "Come in quickly"

Gu Qing Shan took a few steps forward and entered the formation.

Only to find that there were cultivators all over this military camp, each of them wearing their armor and frigid expressions on their faces.

Several enforcer cultivators were shouting orders, urging squad after squad of cultivators to stand up and enter the warp formations to retreat to the backline.

As Gu Qing Shan entered, he saw some scout-looking cultivators examining the tiger head.

"It has been confirmed, it is the Ghost Feeder Tiger King" a scout stood up and reported.

Hearing that, the General who was standing with his commanders laughed: "How great! I had heard of Corporal Gu's rapid breakthroughs in cultivation, but I did not know that Corporal Gu was in charge of securing the rear today, otherwise, I wouldn't have had to send scouts in search of the Tiger King"

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist and calmly replied: "Chang Yu Li and Bai Zhuo have most likely fallen victim"

The General's smile immediately faded, a sense of sorrow could be felt from his eyes.

Everyone else also went silent.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the group, observing that they all had been injured to some degree, weapons ready in hand, and slightly exhausted spirit.

Seems like this was the final camp responsible for securing the rear as the main army retreated.

A jade tag appeared in the General's hand.

While reading it, he muttered: "Corporal Gu, the war situation is urgent, so I'll make it short"

"Please" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The General continued: "This morning, all posts reported a rumor that the Corporal easily and successfully faced your Tribulation, thus becoming a {Yama King} realm cultivator. Unfortunately, before we could confirm it, the frontline had already collapsed"

Gu Qing Shan didn't reply and simply listened.

The General muttered: "{Yama King} realm... very well, I will now give you three choices"

"First, you may follow the previous plan and retreat to the backline, once your contributions are fully tallied, you will be promoted and would resume duties as ordered"

"Second, official promotions and positions can be left for after the war situation had settled down, I will provide you a group of subordinates in advance, temporarily instating you as a Sergeant; by which you will immediately resume active duty"

"Third, because you were able to eliminate the Ghost Feeder Tiger King by yourself, furthermore, a sword cultivator; in consideration, that commanding troops will affect your strength in combat, I will instate you as a scout. By this, you will gain freedom of movement, your orders will be to scout any information of the enemy, as well as assassinating any powerful monsters that you might be able to"

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then clasped his fist: "This humble one will join the scouts"

——in his original plan, Gu Qing Shan was supposed to immediately move and meet up with his Shifu, but now the situation had changed.

During this defeat, I'm right in the middle of the frontlines, so as long as I go back, I should be able to obtain information directly related to the battle of Mount Sumeru.

Not only would this be more direct, but it would also be easier to reach the turning point of this world.

Gu Qing Shan was also an expert at commanding troops in battle, but after the obtained the cultivation inheritance from the world fragments, his swordsmanship, cultivation, spell techniques, and the six arts had been advancing at a rapid rate through 'enlightenment'.

Right now, whenever he entered the 'enlightenment' state, it would be very easy for him to look past matters in the outside world.

And this was highly inappropriate if he was placed in charge of a team.

So it would in fact be better if he went alone.

Seeing such an attitude from him, the General praised: "Good, for cultivators like us, cultivation level alone doesn't mean much, only those willing to traverse into enemy territory alone can be considered great men!"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "I have a condition"

The General asked: "What kind of condition?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I need supplies, and I'll most likely need quite a bit of supplies of all kinds"

The General's eyebrows relaxed and laughed: "That is no condition at all. A {Yama King} realm cultivator would be allotted more supplies regardless, and since you're going into enemy lines by yourself, this General would guarantee that you have enough even if we're a bit lacking"

"——men, bring me a badge"

Very quickly, a black badge was brought to the General.

The General wrote the military decree on it with red ink before tossing it to Gu Qing Shan.

As Gu Qing Shan received it, he saw the words written: [Roaming Cavalry Independent General]

Everyone was surprised.

Because this meant that Gu Qing Shan had been promoted to the ranks of commander.

Even if the 'Independent' rank was the lowest commander rank, it was still above that of a soldier.

At the same time, Gu Qing Shan noticed a change.

The jade badge that Mount Sumeru provided him that was in his Thought Sea also shook a bit and changed.

Some information was transferred from the jade badge to his Thought Sea.

Gu Qing Shan immediately understood.

Mount Sumeru had borrowed the hands of these cultivators to help him settle his place in this world.

Compared to when he first came in, he now had access to more resources and a certain amount of influence.

This change in status meant that he was gradually being recognized by Mount Sumeru.

The General swung his hand.

"Go, receive your supplies and return to the frontlines, kill as many monsters as you can and report any findings you come across through talisman"

"Sir, yes sir"

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist and left.

An armament officer brought him to the armory, then provided him the supplies in accordance to his Roaming Cavalry Independent General rank: two sets of formation plates, a stack of talismans, five bottles of pills, two sets of armor, a row of ancient coins, and an appropriate amount of spirit stones.

"Only these?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The armament officer carefully replied: "Ah, yes, these are all important items on the battlefield, the last bit of supplies in the camp, do you have any other requests?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I'm not the kind of person who knows only greed, but there are things that I can't use, so I'd like to exchange them for something else"

The armament officer smiled and replied: "That is fine, as long as General Gu is willing to exchange them for the appropriate price, we still have two very good offensive artifacts, I can guarantee their power. General Gu can exchange for either of them"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "I want some ingredients and cooking utensils"

"What? Ingredients, foodstuff?"

The armament officer was surprised, afraid that he might have misheard.

Under Gu Qing Shan's insistence, the armament official took back all of his talismans and one formation plate in exchange for a large amount of cooking ingredients as well as a set of kitchen utensils.

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Everything was properly prepared.

"Thank you for the arrangement"

Gu Qing Shan was pleased as he clasped his fist.

The armament officer also clasped his fist, his mouth opened and closed a few times, unsure of what to say.

He wiped the sweat off his forehead as he watched Gu Qing Shan leave.

•••

The night turned deeper.

At this point, it had stopped snowing, allowing the frigid air to freely permeate everything under the sky.

While flying, Gu Qing Shan touched his face.

It felt completely cold.

His spirit energy barrier wasn't able to block out the natural cold from the atmosphere, this was the first time Gu Qing Shan had ever seen such a thing occur.

In this place, the Earth sword's full power strike couldn't break the earth too deeply.

This Divine Mountain world's Origin must be truly vast and unbreakable.

---Which leads to the Laws and Reality in this place being unimaginably powerful as well.

On the other hand, there was a difference in the Origin of each world in the 900 million World Layers, but it wouldn't be too great.

This was because the Divine race's world creation was stable throughout, making sure not to create any outliers.

Comparing them, Gu Qing Shan had a sudden thought.

Before entering the Divine Mountain, I noticed that the worlds within Mount Sumeru were interconnected.

Could it be—–

Some sort of huge problem occurred as these worlds connected to one another?

Gu Qing Shan abruptly stopped this train of thought, formed a hand seal, and fully concealed his presence.

He leapt onto a high treetop, took out a formation plate, and arranged a camouflage formation in the blink of an eye.

——Gu Qing Shan had been directly 'enlightened' and gained the greatest knowledge of many cultivation worlds, so after his modifications, this formation plate could be used in ways that the cultivators from before couldn't possibly imagine.

He silently remained on top of the tree without moving.

A second later, three flying swords appeared from the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan made a 'careful' gesture.

The three flying swords remain still, circling around him.

A few moments later.

A slight tremble could be felt from the ground.

From the frontlines, a boundless tidal wave was sweeping in across the land.

This tidal wave moved like a tsunami, growing faster and faster as it moved.

Innumerable skeletons moved along the ground, bobbing up and ground while swallowing up everything in their path.

Clack clack clack clack clack!

They swept forward along the ground beneath Gu Qing Shan's feet, giving off a mind-numbingly loud series of repeated noises.

While glancing down at the skeletons, Gu Qing Shan also used the Devil King Warden Rod within his Thought Sea.

The scepter vibrated a bit and remained still.

Then what exactly are these things?

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and glanced afar.

In the darkness of the night, the mountain was so vast that only a small portion of it could be observed through his inner sight.

However, this sea of skeletons eventually covered the entire mountain, and were gradually growing stronger and stronger without any end in sight.

This was such an unprecedented sight; Gu Qing Shan hadn't witnessed such a sea of skeletons even in the 18 layers of Hell.

"How bizarre..."

Gu Qing Shan muttered, taking out the Roaming Cavalry Independent General armor, and put it on.

As soon as he did, he turned around as if sensing something.

A sky-high fire rose from the direction of the military camp.

In that direction, the ground was turning faint and illusory.

At the same time, the faint image of another world appeared to overlap it for a few moments.

Gu Qing Shan narrowed his eyes to look.

He saw various kinds of strange and eerie creatures that he had never seen before in that illusory world.

All of a sudden, the two illusory worlds fully overlapped, and the mirage disappeared.

Everything on top of the military camp, including trees, snow, and grass, disappeared without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed.

I've seen this before.

It was exactly like when that red gate from Huang Quan performed the Divine Skill – [Circulation of Life and Death].

The exact same thing happened back then.

Was everyone in the military camp taken to Huang Quan?

No.

That isn't right.

That world earlier wasn't Huang Quan!

Ah? Did a fish slip through the net? J

A heavy voice resounded.

A giant claw reached out from the sea of skeletons, swiftly went through Gu Qing Shan's formation, and grabbed him.

Chapter 1138

As the giant claw tried to close in, it was stopped by two swords.

The two swords were like strands of hair compared to the giant claw full of boney jagged spikes.

But regardless of how much it tried, the claw couldn't close up.

The voice spoke from within the sea of skeletons again:

[[] Who would've thought, a mere human cultivator had such power?]

Sharp killing intent exuded from within the sea of skeletons.

A faint, terrifying figure could almost be seen moving along the sea of skeletons, as if it could lunge forward at any moment.

"You're looking forward to killing me so much? Aren't you afraid of killing those from the same side?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The large figure stopped and instinctively questioned: 「From the same side?」

"That's right, fool, you still haven't noticed?" saying so, Gu Qing Shan's throat slowly became thicker and eventually grew into a rough and vicious voice: "I merely turned into this human to test out my new Thaumaturgy"

As he stood on top of the tree, his entire visage grew larger.

In just a few moments, a thin tiger that was 3 meters tall and 9 meters long abruptly appeared.

The thin tiger was giving off a greyish white flame as his killing intent sharply skyrocketed.

He roared: "You tried to ambush this general, so I suppose that you want a fight, or am I wrong?"

The boney claw immediately drew back.

The sea of skeleton 'boiled' for a bit.

A wave of something that was of the same nature as inner sight scanned through the thin tiger a few times before retreating.

Right after that, a surprised voice asked: 「Why are you here?」

The thin tiger replied: "Ambushing the human military camp, stopped on the way to eat a few cultivators to fill my stomach"

----and the thin tiger was doing exactly that.

Ro ro ro ro ro—--

The giant moment from before slowly rose from the sea of skeletons.

---human face, scorpion body, bone tail.

This monster stared closely at the thin tiger, half-jokingly, half-apologetically said: \lceil I'll admit I was wrong this time, but that's also because you never said that you had such a Thaumaturgy before J

Its eyes then turned to the two floating swords.

It hesitantly asked: 「Since when did you—– 」

Without waiting for it to finish, the thin tiger tossed one of the swords over.

The monster caught the Chao Yin sword and carefully observed it in its hand.

The Chao Yin sword naturally pretended to struggle.

[¬] My word, so it had an artifact spirit—– no, this is a Divine Armament, you actually obtained a Divine Armament! J the monster couldn't help but exclaim.

The thin tiger also tossed the other flying sword over.

The monster caught it and carefully looked at it as well.

Another Divine Armament!

Detestable Ghost Feeder Tiger King, he actually got fucking fortunate enough to get his hands on two Divine Armaments at once!

The monster gazed at the thin tiger with eyes full of envy.

The thin tiger remained on top of the tree and asked: "What's the current situation?"

The monster held the swords tightly and replied: \lceil No issues, the humans will collapse very easily, the final encampment had also been destroyed, we only need to quickly march forward \rfloor

As the thin tiger was about to continue acting formal, a female voice suddenly resounded in his Thought Sea.

"Gongzi? Where are you?"

The thin tiger was surprised.

This was Shannu's voice.

Shannu was his sword so he naturally could communicate telepathically with her.

But since the distance between them was too great, there shouldn't be any way for her to reach him.

Unless she's using some sort of special means or artifact to communicate with me.

Under normal circumstances, Shannu would never do this.

Because she knows that I would be frequently stuck in dangerous situations that required all of my attention.

——in other words, something very troublesome must have occurred on her side, otherwise Shannu would never bother me like this!

All of this flashed through Gu Qing Shan's mind in a split second.

The Heaven sword had entered Gu Qing Shan's Thought Sea earlier, so Luo Bing Li's cheerful voice resounded: "Shannu, it's been a while, are you ok?"

Shannu replied: "Bing Li, we'll talk later, I have something important I need to tell gongzi"

Gu Qing Shan quickly replied: "Shannu, what is it? Are there any issues?"

Shannu hurriedly explained: "Gongzi, we have a bit of trouble on our side, Laura couldn't help but use a unique artifact for me to contact you"

"The Deity of [Chaos], the Soul Shrieker had discovered that we have all gathered at the Bramble Bird Kingdom without making any moves, so it seemed to have changed its mind and is returning from the past"

"Boss received information from the Abyss that the Soul Shrieker is being accompanied by the Demon Dragon and God of Life, leading the army of [Chaos] to return to our era at noon"

"Their destination is the Bramble Bird Kingdom, they want to surround and eliminate all of us here!"

Gu Qing Shan immediately said: "You need to quickly return—-"

He stopped.

To return to the past, thus avoiding the Soul Shrieker, Demon Dragon, and God of Life, there is only one thing they could do, which was using the three coins and their corresponding powers.

But Little Dusk's power had already been drained and fallen into slumber, while Laura only had access to the Bramble Bird Tree.

----all three coins are currently with me.

If they want to return to the past, they have to use both the power of the [Cherub of Condemnation] and [Demon King Order] that belongs to me.

If I don't return, nothing can be done.

Gu Qing Shan quickly asked: "Who's currently at the Bramble Bird Kingdom?"

Shannu replied: "Barry and Kitty brought a lot of people, Anna is also here, as well as Boss, Zhang Ying Hao, Ye Fei Li, and Laura"

"Gongzi, when can you return—–"

Her voice suddenly became unstable.

A series of electronic noises erupted.

Zi—– zi—- boom!

He could faintly hear Laura's exclamation: "Oh no, the distance is too great, this thing got overloaded and died!"

The voices stopped.

The connection disappeared from his Thought Sea.

Gu Qing Shan froze.

At this point, the monster that came out from the sea of monsters was still mumbling to itself:

^Г General Tiger, I'm the vanguard for this campaign, do you want to join me, or go alone for your pleasure? J

Gu Qing Shan looked at it.

The Soul Shrieker, Demon Dragon, and God of Life.

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Damn it!

Laura's group couldn't possibly handle all three of them!

But since I'm currently in the middle of my Tribulation, if I leave right now, the {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation will fail, and it might even affect Shifu.

It had been a few thousand years since someone managed to pass the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation.

Every supporter that Shifu loses means she has to face more danger.

----how could I just give up and leave?

"War God UI, can I use the three coins to return to this moment?" Gu Qing Shan silently asked.

The War God UI replied: [You cannot. The Divine Mountain of Sumeru does not exist within normal Space-Time, this is Heaven's Tribulation for only cultivators, which houses the foundational secret of cultivators; it is under strict protection that ensures you may not return to this time period once you have left]

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

He turned to the monster below and spoke: "I'll join you"

As soon as he said so, the flying swords in the monster's hand erupted into cold sword phantoms, one of them slashed open its claw, while the other slashed through its neck.

The monster's head flew into the air before falling to the ground.

The two swords returned to the thin tiger.

A crimson glowing spear then stabbed straight into the monster's body.

Immediately, a faint figure flew out from the body and was reduced to dust in the void of space.

The power of Evil Suppressor!

Far within the sea of skeletons, a resounding roar echoed: \[WHO! WHO DARED KILL MY VANGUARD! \]

The thin tiger remained silent and slowly returned to human form.

The Earth sword's heavy mountainous voice asked: T Didn't you intend to infiltrate the enemy ranks and gradually scout the situation? Why did you suddenly attack? J Gu Qing Shan replied: "There's not enough time"

Luo Bing Li then explained the situation in a simple manner.

After saying that, it returned to silence with the other two swords.

On one side, it was his Shifu in the middle of her tribulation; on the other side were many of his comrades in the middle of a dangerous situation.

But Gu Qing Shan currently had no choice but to give up one or the other.

"Shifu took me into Bai Hua sect at my lowest point, and had poured her heart out to teach and shelter me like her own family member, I can't be assured by leaving her here alone" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Earth sword said: 「Then you will have to face the Tribulation first 」

"No" Gu Qing Shan slowly said: "If I don't return, Laura and the rest would have no choice but to flee, but where could they flee? The Abyss is currently at war with the parallel world, unable to guarantee their own safety. Even if they flee to the Abyss, there was a very real chance for them to die in battle"

"Other than the Abyss, they have no other place to turn, nor could they resist against the three Deities"

"Then, we're going to return?" Luo Bing Li cautiously asked.

Gu Qing Shan remained silent for a long while.

A few moments later.

He suddenly smirked with an extremely bitter smile: "I've already understood a certain principle since a long time ago, but couldn't predict that I'd still be bleeding all over because of it today"

「What principle? 」 the Earth sword resounding voice asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "In the apocalypse, being weak itself is a sin"

While saying so, his sleeves began to flutter without any wind as two faint figures manifested behind his back.

The black figure was the power of the Demon Dragon.

The dark blue figure was the power of the Azure Dragon.

The two figures coiled against one another, spiraling upwards tirelessly.

Luo Bing Li suddenly felt cautious: "Gu Qing Shan, what are you trying to do! This won't end well!"

Gu Qing Shan summoned the [True Crimson Demon Spear] and said: "I'm assuming that no matter how strong the monsters within this Mount Sumeru is, they couldn't possibly be too much stronger than Sumeru Lord realm, otherwise, this Tribulation would be impossible for anyone to face"

"In other words—— the power of two dragons should be enough to deal with everything"

Right as he said that, two black and dark blue figures both crashed into Gu Qing Shan's body at once.

Lines of terrifying blood-red text appeared on the War God UI:

[Emergency reminder!]

[You have actively sped up the absorption of both the Demon Dragon and Azure Dragon powers]

[The power of the Dragon race is too great and will put an unprecedented burden on both your body and spirit]

[You will suffer pain worse than being cut by a thousand blades, the likes of which will surpass the limit of what a human can take]

[Even if you are a {Yama King} realm cultivator, you can easily lose your life from this level of torturous pain!]

Gu Qing Shan suddenly uttered a resounding roar of pain and fury:

"AAARRRGGHHHH!"

Hoh——–

An intense gust of wind descended from above, crashing down on his body and spread into his surroundings with him at the center.

The numerous skeletons all over the ground were blown away together with the snow, revealing a huge chunk of the empty ground below.

The sea of skeletons soon noticed the change at this location.

Soon, more skeletons rushed towards Gu Qing Shan and piled up to form a small mountain.

A gigantic figure quickly dived through the sea of skeletons and climbed on top of the skeletal mountain.

A scorpion.

A gigantic pale-white scorpion with a human face.

It observed Gu Qing Shan and shouted: 「I am—– 」

Something flashed in the air and cut it off.

If time could be stopped at this moment, over ten giant sword phantoms could be seen stabbing into the monster's body at the speed of light.

Boom!!

Before this monster could even finish a sentence, it had vanished together with the entire skeletal mountain.

The blinding sword phantoms converged into one, dashing through the sea of skeletons and continued towards the horizon, then kept moving until it left the range of his vision.

Secret Art, [River Traversing Iron Sword]!
[Heaven's Choice], 9 consecutive attacks!

Gu Qing Shan clenched his teeth and endured until fresh red blood started to seep from the corners of his mouth, then finally looked up to the sky and roared again to vent the intense pain from both his body and Thought Sea.

"AAAARRGGGGHH!"

The blue and black shadows erupted from his body in an explosion, turning into violent gusts of wind.

In just a bit of time, the gusts of wind turned into a fierce storm that swept the sea of skeletons back towards him.

The skeletons flowed and crashed against one another like tidal waves, quickly forming into another high wall of bones.

All the skeletons remained still as they observed Gu Qing Shan.

Another line of blood-red text appeared on the War God UI:

[Gu Qing Shan, there's a very real chance that you will die, you must stop right away!]

Gu Qing Shan coughed out a mist of blood and stood up: "From this moment on, stop telling me nonsense"

He leapt forward, crashing with all his strength towards the wall of skeletons!

Chapter 1139

The skeletal wall trembled nonstop, an invisible shockwave blasted the sea of skeletons, manifesting as an intense surging wave.

The entire sea of skeletons were swept backward.

Gu Qing Shan fell down and collapsed.

Hoh—–

Hoh—-

He was panting heavily.

Blood was dripping from every pore on his body but was immediately scattered by the violent air currents around his body into a bloody drifting mist.

No one was crazy enough to directly absorb the power of dragons this way.

But Gu Qing Shan was left with no escape route.

Another fierce howl resounded a considerable distance from within the sea of skeletons.

Gu Qing Shan struggled to raise his hands, then formed a hand seal.

The Heaven sword turned into a streak of light that traveled over a thousand miles in an instant.

That fierce howl immediately stopped.

Secret Art, [Ten Swallows Return]!

——this was a combination of [Heaven's Choice] and his Secret Art, resulting in ten [Swallows Return] at once, practically impossible to parry, if you don't die once, you'll die by the tenth time.

Gu Qing Shan no longer had the leisure to care about the battle, he abruptly looked up, then violently rushed into the ground in front of him.

Boom!

A large chunk of the snow-covered ground caved in; bright red blood plastered all over the newly dug path.

The overwhelming power was essentially destroying Gu Qing Shan's body, inflicting a kind of suffering on him that far surpassed the normal definition of 'pain'.

For some reason, various illusory images suddenly manifested around him.

Falling flower petals, soft and gently female voices sung their aria as their beautiful visage fluttered in the wind.

These women wore skimpy clothing that didn't even serve to cover their bodies, their voluptuous bodies and pinkish-white skin left exposed, leaving very little to the imagination. All the while they were staring at Gu Qing Shan.

Their gazes were filled with desires.

What delectable food!

As the women tried to approach Gu Qing Shan, a glowing red spear manifested behind Gu Qing Shan and vibrated by itself.

Evil Suppressor!

The women uttered desperate cries as their bodies turned into white skeletons one after another, which then gradually faded into the fog and disappeared completely.

Lines of notification appeared on the War God UI.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't have the time to look at them.

He had fallen into a strange state of mind.

Various visions of the past appeared in front of his eyes.

•••

"My father said as long as I get a good score in the university entrance exam, he'll get me my own Mech as a reward!"

"Whoa, nice, my mom said that if I get into the general department, she'll take me to the Fuxi Empire for a trip, where I can observe their Mech's close combat techniques" "Gu Qing Shan, your academic records are so good, your parents——-"

"Shhhh, stop talking, he's the only person in his home ... "

The voices slowly went away.

He looked down at his own personal Holo-brain.

[Your personal balance is: 17,981 Credits. 765 Credits from your tuition fees for the General University Mech Major. 1,815,631 Credits from purchasing a personal assault mech]

•••

Another vision appeared.

"Qing Shan, I know that you were framed during the graduation ball, but there's no other option. Both my family and a few other aristocrats wanted to get rid of you"

On the other side of the screen, a girl was crying.

"It was because I was too naïve that I hurt you like this"

"Qing Shan, go quickly! Remember, you can only survive in another country!"

•••

Another vision.

"If you get your hands on some good liquor, come and find me, I'll be at the 571st encampment"

The red-haired girl's voice was transmitted from a Communication Talisman.

With a bit of boastfulness, she gently said: "I know a place with a really good view that I've never told anyone else. When you come here, I'll show you"

The voice faded.

All of a sudden, an angry voice resounded: "Gu Qing Shan, that encampment is already lost to the enemy, you can't go!"

Another commander grabbed his collar and shouted: "There is a Demon Lord there! You'll just be throwing your life away if you go! Do you understand? Don't you understand!!!?"

But in the end, he still came.

There was no view.

There was nothing.

The world was in ashes.

The vision became dim, then another flash.

•••

By the banks of a great river, the westward wind sorrowfully blew.

"Strategist Gu, there are no other ways, only that technique..."

"No"

Gu Qing Shan heard his own voice.

"Using up my life and yours alone will not be enough for that sword technique to kill this Demon Lord"

Row after row of cultivators knelt down in front of him.

"Strategist Gu, I'm willing to 'return' with you"

"We shall 'return' with you!"

"That's right, I as well, I am willing to 'return' with strategist Gu"

"Return!"

•••

My heart, why does it hurt so much?

Vision after vision appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

Gu Qing Shan gazed above as blood continued to drip from his forehead as he blankly stared forward.

The sea of skeletons had piled upon one another like a mountain, slowly manifesting as a fortress.

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Below that fortress, the skeletons parted to reveal innumerable demons and demonic beasts of all shapes and sizes.

On top of the fortress, several commanding monsters were observing Gu Qing Shan.

Their gazes were either cold, cruel, emotionless, sarcastic, or they simply glanced at Gu Qing Shan before moving away.

They were looking at the vast expanse of ground behind Gu Qing Shan.

The human inner land is right behind this single cultivator.

——kill him!

A demonic beast raised its hand and gestured.

The army uttered a resounding roar and quickened their march.

They turned into an unstoppable iron tidal wave, crashing straight down on Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the demonic beasts in surprise.

He opened his mouth, apparently trying to say something, but the intense pain all over his body stopped him from uttering a single sound.

For a brief moment, another vision appeared.

•••

"War God UI, can I use the three coins to return to this moment?" he asked.

[You cannot, this place does not allow redo...]

Shannu's worried voice said: "Gongzi, they're trying to surround and eliminate us"

Surround and eliminate.

"There's not enough time! Either you stay here to face the Tribulation, or go save Laura and the rest!" After that came the Earth sword's sigh:

 \int At noon... there's definitely not enough time, you will have to choose between one or the other \rfloor

•••

One or the other.

To choose between one over the other.

Gu Qing Shan blankly stared at the approaching army of monsters, then heard his own bitter voice——-

...

"I've already understood a certain principle since a long time ago, but couldn't predict that I'd still be bleeding all over because of it today"

•••

That principle is too painful.

It is much more painful compared to the pain I'm currently suffering.

He held the Earth sword tightly, continuously coughing up a bloody mist.

"Power..."

A hoarse and dry voice resounded from his throat.

Lines of blood-red text were madly scrolling across the War God UI.

Gu Qing Shan paused for a brief moment, then wiped the blood that was obscuring his vision with his hand.

"POWER!"

He howled in his frenzy.

Boom!

The boundless blue and black aura overlapped, twisted around one another and spun around his own body.

The power of two dragons!

A mile-tall sword phantom manifested on top of his swords, pierced through the darkness and illuminated this entire world.

A sword phantom glowed like the blinding sun, as it crashed into the ground, it exploded into a resounding tidal wave.

Secret Art, [Torrent]

Combined with [Heaven's Choice], 9 consecutive strikes.

Gu Qing Shan grasped the Heaven sword tightly.

"AAARRRRGGHH--"

As he uttered a furious roar, his sword swung down from above!

Secret Art, [Ocean Of Ten Strikes]!

Innumerable sword phantoms howled like waves crashing at sea, quickly accumulating into a tsunami that crashed down upon the advancing army of demons and demonic beasts.

It was so easy.

All the demons and demonic beasts were swept away, their bodies either broke apart right away or slashed to dust by the wave of swords as they were sent flying.

The monster commander standing on top of the fortress drew its weapon and shouted: \lceil Detestable, it seems we have to act ourselves! \rfloor

It then noticed something amiss.

----no one responded to it.

The monster commander looked around, only to see the other commanders had been pierced through by a glowing red spear, pinned to the ground.

When it wanted to do something, its entire body suddenly became stiff.

A hand grabbed its neck and lifted it up.

「You damned—−」

The monster was about to curse but went stiff from the scene in front of its eyes.

Bloody mist drifted around the person's body, while he appeared as if he had just been soaked in blood. Behind his back was a glow of both blue and black, which gradually manifested as two dragons that soared around him in the air.

"What exactly are you? Why are you trying to corrode the Divine Mountain?" the man asked.

The monster commander scoffed and said: 「I will never——」

Pop!

Its head abruptly exploded; its body heavily collapsed with a 'thud' to the ground.

Gu Qing Shan pulled the headless body closer and pierced it with the glowing red spear as well.

"I've thought it through"

He watched these bodies and muttered.

"Actually ... "

"Regardless of what you were, it doesn't matter..."

The [True Crimson Demon Spear] vibrated.

All the corpses turned into dust, disappearing into the void of space.

More lines of warning blood-red text were flashing on the War God UI.

Gu Qing Shan didn't bother to look.

He propped the glowing red spear on his shoulder and flew towards where the monsters came from.

Chapter 1140

The sea of skeletons had already been blown to ashes.

Gu Qing Shan quickly made his way forward.

The bloody mist around his body was scattered into the wind as he moved forward, leaving a trail of red on the ground covered in broken bones.

Slash.

Slash.

Continuous slashes.

Any monster that tried to leap forward would be surrounded by sword phantoms that surpassed it by over a dozen times and was killed on the spot.

Only truly powerful monsters could be able to prevent Gu Qing Shan's advance by just a bit.

Without realizing it, he had already returned to the frontline that humanity lost.

Countless humanoid monsters were resting here.

They had human faces, but their bodies were either beastly or insectoid.

While the commanders were the complete opposite, they had demonic heads and faces, while their bodies were humanoid and even had armor equipped.

[[]Who's there!?] a patrolling monster shouted.

No answer.

Gu Qing Shan tossed the [True Crimson Demon Spear] into the air wielding two swords in his hands.

"Yaaa—-aaaarrrgh!"

A battle cry mixed with screams filled with pain resounded from his throat

Like a meteor, he directly crashed in the middle of the enemy's encampment.

Boom!

Sword qi ravaged the land, turning everything on their heads.

The two swords danced and performed seven strikes in a flash.

The void of space trembled, manifesting a lightning dragon clad in electricity.

Behind this lightning dragon were nine other lightning dragons, who all soared through the sky.

Heavenly Dragon soars!

"ALL--- DEATH!"

Gu Qing Shan focused the vitality in his body and uttered those words.

The ten lightning dragons descended upon this call!

Numerous arcs of lightning ravaged the horde of demonic beasts.

Innumerable desperate cries and screams resounded one after another.

Gu Qing Shan put his swords away and raised his hand.

The red-glowing [True Crimson Demon Spear] fell straight into his hand.

He rushed towards the giant demonic beasts that were still under the effects of [Dreamjolt].

A thin line of crimson jetted across the battlefield like an arc of lightning.

Boom boom boom boom!

Wherever the demon spear passed, the giant demonic beasts that were originally meant to be used for siege battles exploded into dust and vanished into the wind.

He was unbeatable!

•••

Within a silent cave at an extreme distance from the frontlines, several of the most powerful demonic beasts were observing this.

A demonic beast commander crushed the skull in his hand and shouted in anger: body is consuming our army, this can't go on, I'm heading to the frontlines!] [Hah!] a mocking female voice spoke up: [That is the mythical power of the dragon race, and two of them at that. You going by yourself will do no good except throwing your life away]

Ukekekeke, such power is such a waste to destroy... let me!

A woman with a beautiful body muttered.

She stood on top of countless skulls, dancing bare-footed while displaying her graceful body.

[I will use the Thousand Demon Dance to lead him into my realm, then destroy his mind, from then on he will be ours to command]

The woman danced while chanting an incantation.

The demonic beast commander from earlier sighed in relief and nodded: \lceil Very well, your dance had never been resisted before, it would be for the best \rfloor

All of a sudden, she stopped dancing.

She seemed to have seen something. Her eyes reflect the scene of Gu Qing Shan officially performing the Dance of Offering for the first time.

Ah... this dance is...]

She immediately knelt to the ground begging: [Forgive me! Forgive me! I will never do it again!]

Before she even finished her words, her body had already turned into a skeleton, then collapsed and died.

This occurrence was too eerie, causing the other demonic beasts to freeze up without having an ounce of understanding of the situation.

If he can kill such a powerful demonic beast from such a faraway distance, then there seemed no meaning in continuing this war.

A voice suddenly resounded from above:

 Γ It is fine, that cultivator just happens to have an ability that counters the Dancer, he cannot actually eliminate us directly \rfloor

The demonic beasts waited for a while.

Sure enough, that cultivator didn't notice a single thing and simply continued his massacre at the front line.

Someone sighed in relief.

 \lceil Release the creature that we sealed — no matter how strong he is, he won't be stronger than that thing \rfloor

[Indeed, that should be how it is]

The 7-8 demonic beast commanders quickly replied, then chanted an incantation at the same time.

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The frontline.

A small black dot suddenly appeared in the sky.

When the demonic beast commanders noticed this, they stopped chanting and prepared to watch a nice show.

The black dot quickly descended from above, crashing into the ground with a resounding sound of impact.

----it was a heavy coffin made of immortal jade!

Faint chanting resounded from within the coffin, almost as if retelling the history of numerous years ago.

The chanting slowly faded, replaced by the sound of knocking from inside the coffin.

Who was inside this coffin?

Why were they knocking on it?

Suddenly, a resounding roar echoed from not too far away.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the coffin as his body was constantly trembling.

He was close to not being able to suppress the corrosive power of the dragons.

The overflowing power caused him to feel nothing but extreme pain, unable to ponder anything else.

The knocking sound kept echoing from inside the coffin as if some sort of unknown entity was trying to probe the situation outside.

It then released its inner sight and locked onto Gu Qing Shan without any reserve.

「Foood—-」

A strange voice emerged from inside the coffin.

Before it could finish its words, Gu Qing Shan wielded the Earth sword and rushed towards the immortal jade coffin.

[Sanctuary], 1001 times the weight!

[Earth's Choice] — 2 million Soul Points!

The light of a sword phantom violently struck the coffin.

The entire immortal jade coffin was sent flying, shattered into countless fragments together with the entity inside, who was killed by a single strike from Gu Qing Shan without even being able to show themselves!

"AARRRGGH!!"

Gu Qing Shan uttered another resounding roar into the sky from being unable to endure the pain.

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The silent cave.

Every demonic beast turned speechless.

Crack!

The sound of another skull being crushed resounded.

The voice from earlier declared: 「 If that's the case, we shall ask Lord Demonic Phoenix to act 」

A demonic beast commander hurriedly shouted: $\[\]$ But once Lord Phoenix acts, we would need to sacrifice 10,000 subordinates to him $\]$

^Г That is fine. As long as there are living beings, we can create more subordinates, but this cultivator must die! J

「… Yes 」

...

A few dozen seconds later.

Gu Qing Shan had killed essentially every monster at the frontlines.

All of a sudden, he felt something and looked up.

A cloud of fire had covered the sky, giving off an eerie red glow.

A lazy voice questioned: [So it was just a small thing like you?]

Gu Qing Shan clenched his teeth, ignoring the blood that had soaked his chin.

His entire body as well as soul hurt so much that he couldn't even muster strength to answer.

----no, there was no need for any small talk in the first place!

He suddenly scattered into black fog that enveloped the entire frontlines.

[Demon Dragon Transformation]!

In a brief moment, the black fog manifested into the form of the Demon Dragon, slowly rising from the demonic beast encampment at the frontlines.

Roar!!!!

A dragon-shaped monster made of nothing but black mist uttered a roar.

This black dragon directly leapt into the sky and entered the cloud of fire!

A surprised and fearful voice immediately resounded from inside the cloud of fire:

『 Bastard—— you—— 』

A long dragon roar drowned out that voice.

The demonic phoenix of flames, and the sleeping black dragon, these two incomparable monsters immediately entered close combat!

Strong wind spread in all directions as red flames rained down.

The sky was constantly flickering between light and darkness.

This battle felt almost like the approach of an Apocalypse.

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In the far away cave of demonic beasts, someone spoke up: \lceil Sir, they seem like they are evenly matched for now, should we—– \rfloor

「No need!」

The voice that gave the order from before replied.

With a tone assured of victory, it spoke: Ferhaps you did not notice. Although that black dragon is getting stronger as he fights, the power is consuming him too rapidly, his mind is already inching towards collapse J

「Once he loses himself, he will become one of us!」

The demonic beasts observed for a bit and all sighed in relief.

That was indeed the truth.

Fortunately, it was.

•••

At another location.

The Ancient City of Immortals.

Other than Gu Qing Shan, the other cultivators who came to face their Tribulation had gathered here.

They stood in front of Xie Dao Ling, preparing to heed any orders from this great cultivator who was preparing to face the Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation.

But Xie Dao Ling didn't say anything, she simply clasped her hands behind her back and silently observed the murals on the walls of the Ancient City of Immortals.

These murals depicted the various myths and legends from distant history.

While observing them, Xie Dao Ling appeared nostalgic.

"I... seem to have some impression..."

She muttered as her spirit energy slowly grew stronger.

Her {Mahesvara King} realm spirit energy fluctuation was gradually increasing.

The other cultivators were shocked.

Just looking at a mural improved her cultivation?

Who exactly is this mysterious sect master Xie?

While they were pondering this, Xie Dao Ling abruptly stopped.

From extremely far away.

A few gusts of wind carried the air from the distant frontlines.

Xie Dao Ling abruptly turned around.

"Sword qi..."

"And so chaotic... Oh no, this is Qing Shan!"

She stopped observing the murals and tossed a coin into the air from her sleeve.

Cling cling cling clang!

The coin fell onto the ground, drawing the Divination results.

Xie Dao Ling glanced through it and shouted: "Everyone prepare yourselves; we're heading to the frontlines to save Gu Qing Shan!"

The cultivators were all hesitating.

lf—--

If Xie Dao Ling continued to remain here and strengthen herself, this Sumeru Lord realm Tribulation should be no issue.

Why does she need to go to the frontlines?

Gu Qing Shan is a {Yama King} realm sword cultivator, he could easily escape even if he couldn't win right?

One of them said: "Fellow Dao seeker Gu is a sword cultivator, so he would naturally be willing to stay in battle at the frontlines, perhaps it would be better to continue observing these murals and strengthen yourself"

"That's right" another person followed up: "The stronger you are, the more hopeful this Tribulation will be"

"As for fellow Dao seeker Gu... forgive me for my words, but you can't always protect him, he also needs to train his swordsmanship"

"Perhaps there was a deeper reason why the Divine Mountain of Sumeru sent him to the frontline observation tower"

Xie Dao Ling shook her head: "Deeper reason? I only know that he's currently in a highly dangerous situation"

Her body slowly grew bigger, turning from a young girl into a mature great beauty.

Even more power exuded from her body.

She had become almost twice as powerful as before!

The cultivators observed her appearance and her power in shock, temporarily forgetting to talk.

Inexplicably, her power had already far surpassed the peak of {Mahesvara King} realm.

"If you won't go, I'll go there myself"

Xie Dao Ling suddenly disappeared in front of everyone.

She took to the sky, flying through the sea of clouds.

In front of her.

At the horizon, the presence of death was growing gradually thicker.

Endless darkness and flames erupted in between heaven and earth, as if it was a hellscape that could swallow up all living beings.

Sensing the presence within, Xie Dao Ling couldn't help but scowl.

Intense killing intent exuded from her body, frightening all living beings around her.

She muttered: "Regardless if it's the Divine Mountain of Sumeru, or those demonic beasts, anyone who touches my disciple will die at my hands"

Chapter 1141

In the sky, the flames and darkness clashed against one another, erupting with great destructive power.

Sand and dust were blown away by the consecutive shockwaves.

The battle between the demonic phoenix and the black dragon was becoming more and more intense.

The residual power of their battle was more than enough to directly erase any normal living being from existence.

Not a single living demonic beast was found on this frontline.

The black dragon was growing stronger and stronger, but its movements were also becoming heavier.

The demonic phoenix gradually refrained from directly clashing with the black dragon, but instead, taking advantage of its speed and mobility to attack the black dragon's openings.

At some point, the demonic phoenix found its chance and pecked at the body of the demon-shaped black mist.

Bang---

A heavy resounding noise echoed throughout the world.

The demonic phoenix had pecked a 7-colored shield.

Svalinn the shield!

Although it couldn't summon Abyssal monsters here, it did not lose its defensive capabilities.

Because of its unique soul protection ability, Gu Qing Shan didn't completely lose his rationality.

Despite blocking the demonic phoenix's blow, the force of the impact still managed to cause Gu Qing Shan to tremble in his confusion.

Gu Qing Shan's human body reappeared and fell down.

The demonic phoenix immediately reacted.

——this is the perfect chance!

As it was about to perform its movement technique to pursue him in full power, it noticed terrifying killing intent.

The demonic phoenix halted, then cautiously looked at Gu Qing Shan—— and the human female that suddenly appeared next to him.

Xie Dao Ling.

Xie Dao Ling had finally arrived.

She put her hand on Gu Qing Shan's shoulder to help him stabilize his body.

"Such massive power... is this the power of the dragon race?"

She pressed one hand against Gu Qing Shan's back, then quickly formed a hand seal with her other hand.

Secret Art, Nine Stars Cleansing Ocean!

"Ah..."

Xie Dao Ling's eyebrows knitted together.

She immediately felt the pain that Gu Qing Shan was feeling.

This was a Secret Art to help another person cleanse and refine their power, which would naturally share a portion of the unabsorbed power when cast.

Fortunately, she was at a higher realm compared to Gu Qing Shan, so the threshold of power she was able to absorb was naturally greater.

Gu Qing Shan slowly regained his senses.

The pain throughout his body subsided, eventually reaching the point that a normal person could endure.

"Shifu? Why did you come here?" he hurriedly asked.

"I sensed your battle, so I performed a Divination, and arrived to take a look" Xie Dao Ling curtly replied.

"What were the results of Shifu's Divination?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Pride precedes a fall, the surplus cannot be handled, disaster strikes as the limit is reached——- and sure enough, that's exactly how it was, who would've thought that my disciple had gotten this desperate when fighting?"

Xie Dao Ling glanced at the broken bones all over the ground of the frontlines and coldly said: "If you're fighting to this degree, as your master, I can't act lazy anymore, can I?"

[「]Cultivators, you're too arrogant 」

A voice resounded from above.

The master and disciple pair turned back.

Only to see it was the demonic phoenix from earlier speaking.

^Г Beat up the younger and out comes the elder? You humans truly are despicable and sly j it stared closely at Xie Dao Ling and provoked her.

Xie Dao Ling didn't care about the phoenix and instead asked Gu Qing Shan: "How many dragons did you kill?"

"Two"

"No wonder it had reached this degree" Xie Dao Ling's expression became stern as she told him: "The power of two dragons is extremely rare, the upper limit of this strength had already surpassed even me. It is truly a great opportunity, but you mustn't be arrogant after you've fully absorbed it—— you should know that there are countless mysteries within the infinite worlds, as well as countless unique abilities. Simply having strength doesn't mean you will always win, so you must remain cautious on your travels"

"This disciple understands your teaching, but if my upper limit of strength had surpassed Shifu, wouldn't that mean that I have already surpassed the realm of {Mahesvara King}? Why am I still here facing the Tribulation?" Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

Xie Dao Ling shook her head and replied: "The Heaven's Tribulation improves a cultivator's total spirit energy reservoir, which is completely independent of the dragon's strength. Not to mention, after the Heaven's Tribulation, you will also earn the {Mahesvara King} realm Dependant Thaumaturgy, as well as your Mahesvara Thaumaturgy. Both of these are unique power of cultivators that are unrelated to the draconic power that you have"

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "So that is how it is, this disciple understands"

All of a sudden, blinding flames started illuminating the sky.

۲ You bastards!]

The demonic phoenix glared at the two of them and cawed: Tou keep talking and talking, are you treating this one as nothing but air!?]

Xie Dao Ling glanced at it a bit, then continued talking to Gu Qing Shan: "The draconic power that you were refining was too violent, but now I have cleansed them, making them pure and neutral sources of power. This way, absorbing them won't place too much stress on your body and spirit"

Gu Qing Shan examined his body.

The speed of absorption didn't change, but it had turned from a violent torrent to a peacefully flowing stream.

The pain continued to subside.

He could even feel the clarity of his mind returning.

"How miraculous, for there to be such a technique" Gu Qing Shan praised.

Xie Dao Ling replied: "I had only just recalled that this Secret Art exists when I saw your state earlier. If you want to learn, I'll teach you"

Gu Qing Shan replied without hesitation: "Yes please, I really need this Secret Art, I'll most likely have use for it in the future"

The Demon Dragon's bloodline power can absorb the various powers of other living beings, so if I have this power cleansing technique, I won't need to worry about the properties of some power causing me harm.

Xie Dao Ling then sent her voice through inner sight in order to teach this Secret Art to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan silently listened, then asked a few questions for points that he didn't understand, and eventually gained a full grasp of this technique.

On the other side, the demonic phoenix finally lost it.

It flapped its wings, preparing to kill these two arrogant human cultivators!

However---

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As soon as it spread its wings, it immediately pulled back.

Because another female cultivator appeared out of nowhere.

It was still Xie Dao Ling!

From the void of space, female cultivators appeared one after another, all of them with the exact same appearance as that human cultivator.

In just a few moments, the entire void of space was filled with the same female cultivator.

---Thaumaturgy, [Thousand Incarnations]!

The demonic phoenix pulled retracted its violent flames and carefully glanced at Xie Dao Ling, reevaluating her: 「So such a Thaumaturgy exists, it seems that you aren't a normal cultivator after all, deserving of my serious attention」

Xie Dao Ling glanced at it briefly and continued talking: "Qing Shan, at the Ancient City of Immortals, I saw a mural, from which I seem to recall some matters that I've never witnessed before"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "How strange, Shifu clearly hasn't ever come into contact with these murals nor this world before. Could it be memories of a previous life?"

Xie Dao Ling pondered: "I do not know, but I can faintly sense something——— if we are able to reach the summit of Sumeru this time around, we might be able to find out something"

She continued: "Last time, when we were at the 900 million World Layers Profession Committee, after you left, there was a girl called Yun Ji among your acquaintances who helped me seal my presence out of goodwill, returning me to my child form"

"I discovered that in this state, I very frequently recalled matters of the past, almost like enlightenment, so I gradually pondered the essence of this technique until I had a grasp of it"

Gu Qing Shan was full of admiration: "Shifu, I remember that Yun Ji wasn't a cultivator, but you still managed to learn her technique, that truly is extraordinary"

Xie Dao Ling smiled, as her eyebrows slowly unknitted.

As the power of the dragons were being cleansed, the pain she had to share for Gu Qing Shan also subsided.

She then asked: "Qing Shan, I can see that you seem to carry worry on your expression still, why is that?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "This disciple made a few friends in the 900 million World Layers, we had an agreement to gather for a fight against another group at the middle of noon, but everyone had already arrived and only I'm still missing"

"The middle of noon? I think that you had still better finish your Tribulation first, after all, the Mahesvara Thaumaturgy is very useful. Even if you won't use it in this battle, it would most likely still be useful"

While saying that, Xie Dao Ling looked up at the sky.

At this point, night had begun to recede, a new day was approaching as the first rays of light were peering in from the horizon.

Dawn was emerging.

Xie Dao Ling quickly calculated and told him: "Qing Shan, once I take the form of a young girl, I would very easily fall into a state of nostalgic recollection or enlightenment, which would cause me to not pay attention to my surroundings—— but I must reach the secret of this Divine Mountain of Sumeru, so ever since the beginning of the Tribulation, I had been acting very careful"

"But now, Qing Shan, once you have absorbed the power of the two dragons, even if you still haven't broken through on your cultivation realm, your non-Cultivation strength will have already surpassed mine. With your protection and support, we master and disciple pair will be able to quickly speed through this Tribulation"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Shifu, how much longer will I need to fully absorb the draconic power?"

"About one minute, more or less" Xie Dao Ling replied.

Gu Qing Shan then felt relieved.

Shifu wanted to search for information on Mount Sumeru, so she needed someone to watch her back.

After one minute, I'll have the full grasp of the power from two dragons, which should be no problem for protecting her.

He then replied: "Shifu, leave the job of protection to me, the only issue now that is this Mount Sumeru is too vast, if we want to quickly finish this Tribulation, we will most likely need to focus on traveling"

Hearing that Xie Dao Ling pondered: "I originally had a peacock as my mount, unfortunately, I did not take her with me during this Tribulation"

Gu Qing Shan also sighed and replied: "During the last spirit beast revolt, I already cut down my mount and my ship is currently docked in the space vortex"

The master-disciple pair both appeared regretful.

Wait—–

The two of them recalled something and both turned to the demonic phoenix at once.

Gu Qing Shan spoke up first: "Shifu, I heard that a phoenix is even faster than a peacock"

Xie Dao Ling nodded and muttered: "Indeed, legends had it that phoenixes are the most stable flyers. Unfortunately, ever since the beginning of my cultivation, your master had yet to ride a phoenix"

"This disciple has not either"

The demonic phoenix was hesitating as it observed the numerous female cultivators in the void of space, then it suddenly noticed their gazes.

Turning to them, it noticed that they were staring at it with strange expressions on their faces.

For some reason, the demonic phoenix felt a chill run through its body, instinctively feeling something wrong.

It cawed with a high-pitched voice: 「You—-- what are you planning?」

Gu Qing Shan didn't care to answer it and told Xie Dao Ling: "Shifu, please look, this phoenix is still full of demonic wild presence, so it would not succumb easily"

Xie Dao Ling thought a bit and replied: "It had already considered you to be its enemy, so it's not easy to tame either... How about this, I'll beat it up once first, if that doesn't work, I'll try a few more times"

Gu Qing Shan wiped the sweat off his forehead, quickly chasing after Xie Dao Ling's train of thought.

"Wait a moment, Shifu, I remember that demonic birds are most afraid of a cultivator's Lightning Tribulation, perhaps using lightning would be more effective"

"Ah... that is true ... "

Xie Dao Ling understood what he was trying to say.

A moment later.

She drew a long whip.

"Demonic phoenix, are you willing to become my mount?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

Mount?

You want this great one to be a mount?

The demonic phoenix was immediately angered, preparing to rain the worst jeers and insults it had in its arsenal.

All of a sudden, Xie Dao Ling flicked the whip in her hand.

Arcs of lightning started to flow along with the whip, crackling as they did.

Mahesvara Dependent Thaumaturgy: [Dreamjolt]!

Following that, the thousands of Xie Dao Ling in the sky also drew their whips.

Each of the whips was wrapped in arcs of lightning.

The countless Xie Dao Ling swung their whips all at once.

Sha—–

Snap!!!

Resounding booms of thunder exploded all around!

The lightning illuminated the entire area, almost like the sun or moon in the sky, but also like a cultivator facing their Lightning Tribulation.

The demonic phoenix froze.

Xie Dao Ling glanced at the demonic phoenix and calmly said: "Think very carefully before you answer"

Chapter 1142

The demonic phoenix's feathers stood on their ends.

Followed by an eruption of flames from its body.

"I ask you again, are you willing to work as our mount?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

The demonic phoenix scoffed: 「Are you seriously asking that with just the two of you?」

As soon as it said that, it turned into a blurred shadow that immediately escaped from the encirclement of the Xie Dao Ling incarnations.

Xie Dao Ling chuckled and abruptly vanished.

Divine Skill, [Ground Shrink]!

Zi zi zi zi zi——-

Flashes of fire and lightning clashed against one another in the air.

Thousands of Xie Dao Ling incarnations were swinging their whips to attack the demonic phoenix.

Outside of the battle zone, Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes, concentrating on absorbing the residue power of the two dragons.

One minute would soon be up.

With Xie Dao Ling's help, he was undergoing a complete reshaping of his strength.

This was a result of misunderstanding and miscommunication.

Xie Dao Ling didn't know that he had the power of two dragons, so she had been on constant guard.

He didn't think that Xie Dao Ling was so careful up to now simply because her goals were secrets rather than passing the Tribulation.

Fortunately, now that the two of them had met up and Xie Dao Ling had taught him her Secret Art, Gu Qing Shan no longer felt any type of suffering or pain as he absorbed the power. After this, Gu Qing Shan would be able to guard Xie Dao Ling while she searched for the secret without worrying about her own safety.

Since Gu Qing Shan's mind was now cleared and he had time to spare, he checked the War God UI.

The numerous notifications on the screen still remained there, only disappearing after he read them, for the newer notifications to appear.

[Attention, please immediately stop this power fusion, otherwise...]

Gu Qing Shan skipped through all the notifications of this nature and checked the other ones:

[You've eliminated a great number of evil entities, forcefully converting them into Origin power for the Divine Mountain]

[Because of that, your Mahesvara Thaumaturgy – Orange Lance had evolved]

[Evil Suppressor – Orange Unseen]

[Mahesvara Thaumaturgy, evolution possible]

[This Thaumaturgy must be affixed to a long-handled weapon]

[While utilizing this Thaumaturgy, the long-handled weapon will obtain the characteristic of 'Unseen', unable to be discovered by enemies weaker than yourself]

[Furthermore, this Thaumaturgy will help you suppress all evil, forcefully converting them into pure Origin power to provide for the Divine Mountain of Sumeru]

[The more evil you suppress, the more feedback you will receive from the Divine Mountain of Sumeru]

[Specifically, the Divine Mountain of Sumeru will help you evolve your Mahesvara Thaumaturgy bit by bit according to your contributions, gradually turning stronger]

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

After [Orange Lance] came [Orange Unseen]

Seems like this evolving Thaumaturgy still has a lot of room for growth.

Unfortunately, the epithet that I happened to be bestowed was something like [Big Tabby Cat].

If the epithet that I got was something at the level of [Wielder of Heaven and Earth] or [Starflame War God], who knows how strong I would have gotten already.

Tch.

Fine, at least having the Mahesvara Thaumaturgy is better than not having it.

Perhaps, when [Orange Unseen] grows, it'll become a decent Thaumaturgy as well.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan no longer felt regret.

He looked at the battle zone not too far away.

Xie Dao Ling was still fighting against the demonic phoenix.

The demonic phoenix had just avoided several dozen whips, tilted its body, and flew above the clouds.

The thousands of Xie Dao Ling incarnations smiled and spoke in unison: "Very decent speed indeed, that should be more than fast enough. I ask you again, are you willing to become our mount?"

The demonic phoenix mockingly shouted: Tsk, damn debauched couple! No matter how many tactics you try, you're still too green to actually defeat me!]

As soon as it said this, Gu Qing Shan felt the atmosphere change.

Xie Dao Ling's smile slowly disappeared.

"This monster, has no one ever taught you how to speak properly?" she lightly muttered.

Gu Qing Shan silently prayed for the demonic phoenix, then quickly retreated.

It's done for.

Shifu is angry.

I should move as far away as possible.

Sure enough, he then heard Xie Dao Ling talking to herself: "Those feathers are certainly very beautiful, I originally didn't want to ruin the pattern and style, but it seems I've been putting the cart in front of the horse. Let's first show this thing what pain truly is..."

Invisible spirit energy fluctuations exuded from her body.

Gu Qing Shan checked Xie Dao Ling's expression, then quickly retreated a bit further.

——-Shifu isn't taking her child form, nor is she concerned with collecting information, she had truly entered a state of battle and decided to pull out all stops against this demonic phoenix.

I should take a bit more distance, just to make sure I don't get involved in Shifu's rage.

He wasn't at all worried about Xie Dao Ling's battle and was now focused on absorbing the cleansed power of the two dragons while browsing through the notifications from the War God UI.

Numerous combat messages remained on top of the UI.

"Wait a minute!"

Gu Qing Shan pointed at a certain message and asked: "Why did I suddenly lose 2 million Soul Points here?"

The War God UI replied: [Because you used Earth's Choice to slay an exceedingly powerful and strange corpse]

"Why don't I remember that?" Gu Qing Shan doubtfully asked.

[You were in so much pain you couldn't even think clearly] the War God UI replied.

Gu Qing Shan quietly pondered and found that it was plausible.

2 million Soul Points!

He smacked his lips, feeling a bit regretful for the loss.

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Fortunately, killing that strange corpse and a bunch of monsters finally settled his total Soul Points to be just a bit above 4 million.

The loss was acceptable.

A new notification appeared on the War God UI:

[You've gained the Thaumaturgy: Demon Dragon Transformation]

[Because you are human, and because you have your own combat style, you will personally decide how you transform into the Demon Dragon]

[You've obtained the full power of the Azure Dragon]

[Your Thaumaturgy: Azure Dragon Shadow Hex – Binding had been strengthened and became harder to detect]

[You've fully absorbed the power of the two dragons]

[Your strength is equivalent to the strength of both the Demon Dragon and Azure Dragon combined]

[According to the Bygone Era human standard, you've become a sturdy young man]

[When your cultivation reach Sumeru Lord realm, you may begin cultivating 'Enemy-killing Sword Technique']

[Please continue to work hard and mature!]

After reading through everything, Gu Qing Shan uttered a long sigh.

[Enemy-killing Sword Technique]!

This was the strongest swordsmanship technique of the Bygone Era humans, one that not even Xie Gu Hong managed to cultivate.

Unfortunately, it will have to wait until I reach Sumeru Lord realm.

Gu Qing Shan lowered his head and silently adjusted the power in his body.

Endless power started to surge within his body, with the slightest thought, it would explosively exert itself like an erupting volcano.

After examining his change, Gu Qing Shan silently judged the Demon Dragon's power.

During the Age of Old, Gu Qing Shan had once transformed into the Immortal Giant to fight against the Demon Dragon and Soul Shrieker.

The Demon Dragon's power alone would not be able to defeat the Soul Shrieker at the time.

But combine that with the Azure Dragon's power and Gu Qing Shan wouldn't be any weaker compared to the Soul Shrieker of that era.

At the moment, the Soul Shrieker had successfully undergone apotheosis and become even more powerful.

---- I might still not be able to win against it, but I now at least have the qualifications for a direct battle!

Gu Qing Shan's fighting spirit boiled.

He turned back to the battle zone.

The demonic phoenix had already been beaten to the ground, its wings now used to cover its head, unable to move a single bit.

Xie Dao Ling held her lightning whip and struck the demonic phoenix's head with a 'sha'.

Followed by a desperate screech, the demonic phoenix's feathers all stood up.

Three Xie Dao Ling incarnations then came forward and attacked at once.

Boom boom——

Lightning struck the demonic phoenix's body, exuding the aroma of cooked meat.

Ten Xie Dao Ling incarnations stepped forward and whipped it again!

Twenty Xie Dao Ling incarnations surrounded the dozen-meter long demonic phoenix and whipped it!

Thirty Xie—--

[「]Wait! 」 the demonic phoenix panted heavily.

"What do you want to say?" Xie Dao Ling curtly asked.

The demonic phoenix caught its breath, and sternly said: \lceil You look down on me too much, forcing me to be a mere steed to be ridden on! \rfloor

Forty Xie Dao Ling walked forward, brandishing their whips——-

The demonic phoenix immediately continued in a single breath: The demonic phoenix immediately continued in a single breath: Tyou underestimate me too much! In truth, not only can I carry you, but I can also serve tea, do your laundry, make pills and even cook, my Divination and talisman creation skills are also top-notch. You can easily see, I'm an all-rounder mount!

Xie Dao Ling paused and didn't swing her whips.

The demonic phoenix sighed in relief and tried to flatter: Sir, no, great ma'am, what are your orders?

Xie Dao Ling thought a bit and turned to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "We can go, I've fully absorbed the power of the two dragons"

Xie Dao Ling then placed her hand on the demonic phoenix's head and placed the strictest lock seals she knew on it.

"Where did the demonic beasts in this world come from?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

The demonic phoenix replied: [[] They were a useless bunch who couldn't achieve anything in the upper realms, so they ran down to the foot of Mount Sumeru. Most likely, they've already peed their pants in fear and ran back to the upper realm]

Seeing how well it answered, Xie Dao Ling tossed something over.

"There, if you're going to follow me from now on, I won't mistreat people on my side, eat"

Since the demonic phoenix was already restricted by lock seals, it didn't have anything else to be afraid of so it swallowed.

Sweet.

Soft and chewy.

---what is this thing?

It glanced at Xie Dao Ling, but didn't have the courage to ask.

However, since it came from such a powerful ene—— no, such a powerful master, it's definitely a good thing.

For some reason, the demonic phoenix felt a bit of gratitude and respect.

Gu Qing Shan silently sent his voice: "Shifu, what did you give it?"

"Jelly beans" Xie Dao Ling replied.

"Jelly beans?"

"Hm, jelly beans. Just earlier, it profanely called us a debauched couple, so how could it actually receive anything decent to eat? Impossible"

Saying so, Xie Dao Ling walked onto the demonic phoenix's back.

The demonic phoenix hurriedly lowered its body, carefully lifting Xie Dao Ling with its wings, afraid that she might lose her footing.

Seeing how flattering the demonic phoenix was acting, he sighed and muttered: "Preferring discipline rather than encouragement, who would've thought that the exact same principle for training people would fit for training demonic beasts?"

He also stepped onto the demonic phoenix's back.

It really must be said, although its skin was a bit charred from being struck by the lightning, it was still soft and warm.

The demonic phoenix cawed out loud before flapping its wings and took to the sky, flying above the layer of clouds.

Chapter 1143

The demonic phoenix continued flying above the clouds.

It was indeed very fast and even possessed a natural-born anti-wind Thaumaturgy, which allowed for a stable flight.

After waiting for a while, Xie Dao Ling and Gu Qing Shan both closed their eyes to rest, letting it fly as it pleased.

The demonic phoenix quickly made its way through the thick clouds until it finally reached a stone tunnel covered in moss.

This stone tunnel wasn't particularly big, and the demonic phoenix could only barely retain flight as it traveled through.

The demonic phoenix continued along the stone tunnel, making its way upwards for about half an incense stick's worth of time when it reached the other end of the tunnel.

[[]Here] the demonic phoenix spoke in human language.

It exited the stone tunnel and slowly landed with the two people on its back.

Xie Dao Ling and Gu Qing Shan looked around.

They noticed that the tunnel from earlier was actually an old well.

The well was located at the center of a temple, which housed a number of statues.

Xie Dao Ling observed those statues, muttered something, then quickly returned to her child form.

She pointed at the statues: "Qing Shan, take a look, these are the statues of the four tribal Kings of the Asura"

Gu Qing Shan turned to look.

The statues had differences, but they all carried solemn expressions with weapons ready in their hands, ready for combat.

Staring at them for a while, Gu Qing Shan suddenly walked up and stopped in front of a certain statue.

The statue had nine heads, a thousand eyes, a hundred arms, eight legs, and a torso that gave off flames that made it unforgettable at a glance.

"Shifu, please take a look at this statue, do you remember something?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Xie Dao Ling blankly stared at that statue and muttered: "I have a Causality Divine Skill from this Vijaydhrana tribe Asura... this Asura King's weapon seems to be a bit incorrect"

In legends, the Asura race were a coalition of four tribes, each of which possessed their own King. Respectively, they were the Mahabali King, the Kharakantha King, the Vijaydhrana King, and the Rahu King¹.

The statue in front of them was of the Vijaydhrana King.

Gu Qing Shan drew his sword and tapped it on one of the Vijaydhrana King's weapons.

"Shifu, this weapon here, isn't supposed to be his"

----it was a scepter with a long handle, the tip of the scepter was a skull with a single horn.

The Devil King Warden Rod!

An Asura was wielding the Devil King Warden Rod!

Xie Dao Ling appeared a bit lost, then slowly closed her eyes, apparently recalling something.

Gu Qing Shan returned to her side, summoning all three of his flying swords to silently protect her.

A few moments later.

Xie Dao Ling started muttering in a trance:

"The Vijaydhrana King, one of the four Asura Kings, came to take on his duty at the Divine Mountain..."

Her voice slowly turned lower and lower, as if entering a unique state.

Gu Qing Shan abruptly swung his sword at the void of space.

Klang!

The sound of weapons crossing resounded.

Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze.

A man was standing on top of the Vijaydhrana King statue.

He wore a heavy suit of armor and wielded a spear in his hand, his face hidden behind a metallic mask, obscured from view.

Gu Qing Shan shielded Xie Dao Ling behind him and shouted his question: "Who are you? Why did you ambush us?"

[¬] Why should you know? [¬] the man slowly spoke, [¬] After all, now that you've reached this part of Mount Sumeru, your only outcome will be death [¬]

Gu Qing Shan was about to say something else when he felt a commotion in his Thought Sea.

The [True Crimson Demon Spear]!

Gu Qing Shan summoned the [True Crimson Demon Spear] from his Thought Sea and allowed it to silently hover in the air.

This spear had been bestowed his new Mahesvara Thaumaturgy – [Orange Unseen] and was now pointing straight at the armored man who also wielded a spear of his own.

It was expressing the desire to kill him.

Gu Qing Shan realized something and recalled [Orange Unseen]'s characteristics.

•••

[Evil Suppressor – Orange Unseen]

[Mahesvara Thaumaturgy, can evolve]

[This Thaumaturgy must be affixed to a long-handled weapon]

[While you are using this Thaumaturgy, your long-handled weapon will obtain the 'Unseen' characteristic, unable to be discovered by enemies weaker than you are]

[Furthermore, this Thaumaturgy will help you suppress all evil, forcefully converting them into pure Origin power to provide for the Divine Mountain of Sumeru]

•••

Gu Qing Shan looked back at the man opposing him.

Sure enough, the man didn't notice at all and continued: 「Enough, I'll send you on your way now 」

He tapped the head of the statue with his spear, creating a resounding chime.

The gate of the temple opened up as numerous armored soldiers poured inside, charging at Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling.

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Gu Qing Shan glanced at Xie Dao Ling.

She still had her eyes closed, deep in her contemplation.

"Calling to fight and kill immediately after meeting, I guess you're better off dead"

Gu Qing Shan wielded the Heaven sword and swung it forward.

A light-blue sword phantom suddenly erupted into a crescent moon that illuminated the entire temple.

Numerous sounds of broken items resounded.

All their armor was cut apart by the sword phantom, the armored men disappeared on the spot.

The entire temple was emptied, leaving on the man who stood on top of the statue that managed to block Gu Qing Shan's attack and remained there.

 $\ensuremath{\,^{\ensuremath{\mathsf{F}}}}$ How surprising, the people who came to face the Tribulation this time were actually a bit potent, I underestimated you]

He casually said.

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

I didn't even use that much force just now.

"Who exactly are you? Why did you attack us without any reasons?" he asked again.

While asking, Gu Qing Shan silently activated a telekinesis seal and coiled it around the [True Crimson Demon Spear].

Controlling it, he tossed the spear forward.

The man didn't notice the spear at all and replied: \lceil Within this Mount Sumeru, my status is incomparably noble, why would I arbitrarily tell such riff——– J

Shuu——

The [True Crimson Demon Spear] pierced his chest.

The Evil Suppressor power activated!

Without leaving him a moment to say anything else, the man was broken into numerous fragments that disappeared into the void of space.

All of his power was forcefully dispelled by the Divine mountain of Sumeru, then converted into its own.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and gazed at the fluttering fragments: "Seems like you needed a promotion"

The [True Crimson Demon Spear] returned to his hand.

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

[The Divine Mountain of Sumeru had absorbed a decent amount of power from this combat, please continue doing your best and use its power to evolve your Mahesvara Thaumaturgy]

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised and examined the War God UI again.

Aside from that notification just now, the War God UI was empty, there were no other notifications.

"Hey, I just fought a battle, why weren't there any combat synopsis? Are you broken?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The War God UI replied: [Firstly, the War God UI only records evenly matched combats or combats against stronger enemies. Your previous action of stomping on an ant can be considered killing, but not a battle. Secondly, I'm not broken]

400 Soul Points was silently deducted.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised even further.

He could feel that the soldiers who came into the temple were at least equivalent to Paragon realm, quite a few could be strong enough to even reach {Yama King} realm.

While the guy standing on top of the statue had already surpassed {Yama King} realm.

He was most likely an entity equivalent to {Mahesvara King} realm.

How could that be considered stomping on an ant?

Wait—--

Gu Qing Shan slowly realized.

Right, I now hold the power of the two dragons; either the Demon Dragon or Azure Dragon alone would have made short work of these guys.

And I have both of their powers combined.

When Shifu said that my strength had surpassed her and could protect her while she scaled Mount Sumeru, I still hadn't fully realized it.

But I finally understand, my current strength has already surpassed the realm of {Mahesvara King}, perhaps surpassed even Sumeru Lord realm.

Gu Qing Shan facepalmed himself.

This was similar to the situation of a homeless man who suddenly won the lottery, counting if he has enough money this month to patch up the holes on his clothes out of habit.

Thinking back, Gu Qing Shan turned his gaze to the [True Crimson Demon Spear].

Due to the power of the Mahesvara Thaumaturgy, [Orange Unseen], everyone weaker than me shouldn't be able to discover this spear.

On Mount Sumeru, there shouldn't be anyone... stronger than me...

At this point, Xie Dao Ling opened her eyes and replied: "Qing Shan, the person you killed just now was the Vijaydhrana King"

"What? Why does he look so much different compared to the statue?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

"The statue was his Dharma form, but before he could reveal it, you already killed him" Xie Dao Ling replied.

"What exactly was he doing here?"

"Originally, on this Mount Sumeru, each generation of Vijaydhrana King would stay stationed on the side of this mountain, eliminating all wicked and evil outer demons, while also guiding the cultivators who came here to face their Tribulation"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "He didn't seem like he wanted to guide us"

Xie Dao Ling slowly replied: "There is a great secret within the Divine Mountain, a secret that's closely associated with us cultivators. We must quickly reach the summit of the mountain to find out everything"

As they said this, they both turned to the demonic phoenix.

"Huh? Why did you stay completely silent up to now?" Gu Qing Shan asked, a bit surprised.

The demonic phoenix couldn't hold its body back from trebling and showed a reluctant flattering smile: Γ Gu Qing—— no, sir Shan, you were too overwhelming just now that I was frightened J

Chapter 1144

The thick smell of blood now soaked the temple.

Gu Qing Shan turned towards Xie Dao Ling, only to find her still a bit spaced out, apparently pondering something.

"Let's go, this is only around the side of the mountain. We'll continue through this world and keep flying towards the higher worlds" Xie Dao Ling said.

The demonic phoenix flew in front of them and lowered itself: Γ Your servant knows the way, let me take you up \rfloor

The demonic phoenix carried the two of them out from the temple and headed towards the sky.

Gu Qing Shan looked down.

Only to find that the world was vast, full of various natural structures like mountains and rivers, but not an ounce of presence of any living people.

"I have a question, why is this world completely empty, devoid of anything but those Asura just now?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

While flying, the demonic phoenix answered: F Every world in the Divine Mountain of Sumeru is interconnected, perhaps those people have already migrated to other worlds J

Gu Qing Shan nodded but didn't prod any further.

He exchanged glances with Xie Dao Ling.

Something seemed amiss.

"It's nothing" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Yes" Xie Dao Ling replied.

The demonic phoenix flapped its wings in full force, flying straight up at the sky.

About 10 minutes later, the demonic phoenix went through the uppermost layer of thin clouds and perched on a tree branch that extended from above.

^r Master, sir Shan, if we follow this branch, we'll reach the world above this one J it reported.

"Let's go up" Gu Qing Shan said.

The demonic phoenix nodded and followed the branch upwards.

It soon left the clouds behind.

Everything around was consumed by darkness.

As the phoenix flew, the void of space slowly turned brighter, before manifesting as the blue sky.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly said: "Shifu, I feel my powers being suppressed"

Xie Dao Ling looked up and said: "Most likely, it's due to that thing"

Not too far away from where they were, a blue transparent lazuli seal hovered silently in the sky.

Invisible power fluctuations were emanating from the seal.

"All non-cultivator powers are being suppressed by this seal; most likely it's suppressing your duo dragon powers"

Xie Dao Ling narrowed her eyes and muttered: "Now why does this feel like a trap?"

"I also feel the same" Gu Qing Shan replied.

At this point, the demonic phoenix was no longer flapping its wings but simply hovered in place.

Behind them, the Divine Beast Qilin reappeared.

The Qilin looked at Gu Qing Shan and spoke in a solemn and loud voice:

^Г Cultivator, the power of the dragon that you carry must be sealed, otherwise, you cannot pass this Heaven's Tribulation J

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: "Why not? This power is already my own, so why can't it be used?"

The Qilin replied: $\[Gamma]$ Because Heaven's Tribulation tests the power of cultivators, the power of dragons isn't part of cultivation. If you continue to carry it with you, the Laws of the Tribulation will not accept it $\]$

As Gu Qing Shan was about to reply, Xie Dao Ling stopped him.

"That's not how it is at all, we're going to continue forward" Xie Dao Ling simply said.

Seeing her like that, the Divine Beast Qilin said: [「]Don't blame me for not reminding you. If you continue to carry other powers outside of your Cultivation, it will be considered cheating, you will not truly breakthrough 」

"Cheating?"

Xie Dao Ling's expression became cold, her anger could almost be seen visibly manifesting around her.

"My disciple traveled to the Age of Old, going through numerous hardships and sacrificed himself to bear the power of the Demon Dragon, achieving a feat that none has ever even tried to attempt and slay a Demon Dragon. Although I do not know for sure what happened with the Azure Dragon, how many people within these infinite worlds can use their own weak power to kill an Azure Dragon vastly stronger than themselves?"

"Not only that, to absorb the power of two dragons, do you know how much inhumane suffering he had to endure? If you Qilin was to suffer that, you would have already gone mad!"

"My disciple Gu Qing Shan accomplished feats that no one could, found a small possibility of survival from a desperate situation, killed an enemy dozens of times stronger than himself, and endured pain that no living being can only then did he obtain such power, and you call that cheating?"

Xie Dao Ling coldly scoffed and continued: "A cultivator takes the wonders of reality, enduring Tribulations one after another, they themselves are the embodiment of going against the flow. And yet, after my disciple achieved so many unimaginable feats and obtain such strength, you had the gall to say that he is cheating"

"Qilin, I ask you: which Law is saying that my disciple isn't worthy of such power, and which Law is preventing my disciple from breaking through?"

"Come on, tell me very clearly, if you can't say anything worth a damn, this Xie Dao Ling will make sure that 'Law' of yours thoroughly vanishes from the infinite worlds"

The Divine Beast Qilin was left speechless.

It couldn't even utter a single word.

Xie Dao Ling scoffed again: "Facing the Tribulation was nothing but a small matter, I merely came here to take a look—— do you really think my Tribulation is actually begging you for something?"

"Because of that, stop forcing my disciple Gu Qing Shan, or I'm going to ignore this Tribulation and destroy that lazuli seal!"

Saying so, a cluster of golden light manifested in Xie Dao Ling's hand.

The Qilin watched that light, took a step backward and muttered: 「You will regret this 」

It vanished.

At the same time, the demonic phoenix also vanished below them.

Its casual laughter resounded across the sky:

^Г Ahahahaha, phoenixes are a race whose everything is destroyed in flames before being reborn from within it. How laughable that you think mere lock seals could actually control me!]

Large numbers of living beings appeared in this lazuli world.

Phoenixes.

Numerous phoenixes.

They surrounded Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling, preparing to attack.

Other than the phoenixes, there were also many Asuras who arrived from every direction, standing in a formation of a gigantic encirclement.

They all had armor and weapons in their hands, ready for combat.

At the moment, Gu Qing Shan couldn't use any non-cultivation type powers.

Xie Dao Ling was powerful, but she still hadn't finished her Tribulation, so she still hadn't stepped into the realm of Sumeru Lord.

Facing so many phoenixes and an army of Asura, the two of them seemed to have only one choice.

The battle began immediately like a strike of lightning.

Thousands of phoenixes spat out their flames at once.

The Asuras also performed a joint magical attack.

At that moment, lights of numerous colors filled the sky.

Xie Dao Ling was about to form a hand seal, but Gu Qing Shan stopped her.

"Shifu, we've already discussed before, I'm your guard here"

Saying so, he drew the Heaven sword.

Numerous tiny sounds of sword phantoms striking against one another resounded in the sky.

Fwoom——–

A surging sea of flames swept into their surroundings.

Divine Skill: [Parting Fire]

This was the Sword of Extinguishing Flames, made to cut all techniques!

Furthermore, Gu Qing Shan didn't rely on it alone and also used [Heaven's Choice] – 9 consecutive strikes.

A total of 10 strikes of [Parting Fire] were performed!

The sea of flames instantly spread, engulfing this entire lazuli world in it.

The attacks of those phoenixes and Asuras were completely nullified, unable to recast another.

At the next split second.

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The sea of flames vanished in an instant.

All living beings in this world were sealed up in frost, unable to move a single bit.

Divine Skill: [Freezing Frost]!

----[Freezing Frost] locks the form, solidifying the body of living beings and stops them from moving, that was the Divine Skill of the Sword of Destroying Frost!

Similarly, it was reinforced with the power of [Heaven's Choice], which allowed it to be performed 10 consecutive times.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and scanned through every phoenix and Asura in the vicinity, saying: "Since Shifu said that you will thoroughly vanish, I'll have to see to it that you do"

An invisible thought radiated from his body, like an unseen shadow that eclipsed this entire world.

-----10 consecutive Divine Skills, Mind Sword, [Eclipse of Sun and Moon]!

As this strike passed, all living beings in the lazuli world went extinct, not a single one of them remained alive.

Strangely, the dead phoenixes and Asuras turned into transparent bodies.

Their expressions all become terrifying, their bodies trembling nonstop as if they had fallen into some sort of unusual state.

"They aren't souls, Shifu, have you ever seen these things before?"

Gu Qing Shan glanced through them and immediately asked.

Xie Dao Ling observed for a bit and replied: "They seem to be the Wraith realm's evil spirit form. It is said that many living beings do not go into Huang Quan as they die, but instead fall into the Wraith realm as evil spirits due to the huge karma that they accrued"

The sound of clapping hands suddenly resounded in the void of space.

"Excellent, how very excellent indeed"

A dozen figures appeared in the sky.

They were all wearing cultivator garb and a yaksha mask on their faces as they observed Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling from above.

Gu Qing Shan narrowed his eyes.

Yaksha masks!

So this was the work of the Wraith realm!

One of them waved his hand and summoned the lazuli seal, slowly enjoying it.

"Tsk, how fortunate that we used the Duo World technique to temporarily stay in another world, otherwise that strike would have cut us down as well" the man mocked.

Gu Qing Shan shielded Xie Dao Ling behind him and shouted: "Are you from the Wraith realm?"

The man lazily replied: "I am. That Azure Dragon you killed was my subordinate"

He sighed, then continued: "At this point, you've already killed two of my subordinates, my personal farm had already been destroyed, care to take a guess how I'm going to treat you right now?"

Following his voice, their figures slowly turned corporeal.

The man observed the [True Crimson Demon Spear] hovering next to Gu Qing Shan and praised.

"Originally, this spear would have been sealed along with the power of duo dragon power. Unfortunately, the power of the Divine Mountain had been affixed to it, so my seal can't suppress that weapon———- but that doesn't matter, because you're still going to die at my hands"

The cultivators around him quickly formed hand seals.

The numerous transparent figures of the Asuras and phoenixes that Gu Qing Shan killed became visible, quickly flying towards the people of the Wraith realm.

Those evil spirits combined into one, uttering a unified yet detached painful screeching.

Gu Qing Shan didn't act and simply nodded: "From how you seem, the Divine Mountain of Sumeru heading towards destruction was most likely you people's doing as well"

The man laughed: "So what if it was? To get rid of you, I've prepared these hundred thousand living beings, transforming them into evil spirits so that they would not be suppressed by you, Huang Quan Devil King"

The cultivators around him shouted: "Sir!"

The man formed a hand seal and casually said: "Let's end the banter here, you may die now"

An immense presence of a spell radiated from the man's body.

Wraith Realm, Nine Serenity ¹Divine Skill, [Dark Wraith King's Life Deprivation]!
Gu Qing Shan still didn't act.

He silently sighed.

Just now, while they were conversing, Luo Bing Li was also talking to him within his Thought Sea----

"It's ok, I've come to understand. This is a war, and one simply does not have the luxury to refuse"

She said.

"Gu Qing Shan, after the Apocalypse is over, it won't be too late for me to slowly rest up and enjoy myself"

"As for right now, since I'm a sword spirit, I want nothing but to focus my everything into combat, meaning that you will not have violated your oath"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I understand, I owe you one"

Luo Bing Li smiled and replied: "A sword spirit and sword cultivator live and die with the same breath. There is no such thing as owing one another, come, let us fight"

Gu Qing Shan finally swung the Heaven sword, manifesting a single sword phantom right before the Wraith realm Divine Skill was about to activate.

This attack wasn't late, nor was it early, but it was extremely fast. It wasn't weak, nor was it strong, simply accurate.

The sword phantom swiftly struck at the hundred thousand souls that were about to fuse.

Heaven sword Thaumaturgy—--

[Chaotic Flow]!!!

In a flash, the entire fusion abruptly stopped.

All evil spirits returned to where they died, regrowing their bodies, hair, clothing, armors, weapons.

However, all living beings were still frozen, unable to move.

——-both the Asura and phoenixes had returned to their state after they were struck by [Freezing Frost].

This way, the so-called evil spirit fusion no longer existed.

The Wraith realm Nine Serenity Divine Skill also lost its driving force.

It could no longer be performed.

This unbelievable sight left the wraiths who had gone through numerous parallel world battles speechless.

The leading wraith went silent briefly because dryly asking: "What was that sword strike?"

Gu Qing Shan looked at him and simply replied: "I'm not going to tell you"

"How self-righteous" the wraith scoffed, but his presence became heavy, both hands quickly forming a different hand seal.

He had gotten serious!

The other wraiths around him also began to form a hand seal.

Gu Qing Shan didn't move, nor try to attack and stop them.

The wraith quickly finished his hand seal, the sense of wariness he felt slowly faded and mocked: "Fool, you've passed on your only chance at survival and would still have to die"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and said nothing.

He stepped aside.

Xie Dao Ling who was standing behind him had already regained her adult form and prepared various hand seals for a long while.

This technique required the use of several dozen hand seals, so it was very impractical to use in combat.

Fortunately, Gu Qing Shan exerted all his strength and bought Xie Dao Ling enough time.

Xie Dao Ling formed the final hand seal and released her hand.

She looked over the group of wraiths and casually said: "You bunch from the Wraith realm aren't the only ones with Samsara Divine Skills"

In a flash, their surroundings changed.

A faint light traversed through the endless Space-Time, arriving from a distant world.

The lazuli world was slowly enveloped in fog and mist.

A large river that stretched across the sky could be faintly seen from within the fog.

The river was silent and unmoving but had no beginning or end.

A small dingy rocked slightly as it flowed from the deeper end of the river, on which a faint feminine figure could be seen standing, gently rowing it forward.

Chapter 1145

Gu Qing Shan moved away, revealing Xie Dao Ling who had just finished casting her Divine Skill.

The entire world was engulfed in a gloomy color.

The boundlessly vast river, a lonely dingy, and a feminine figure slowly appeared.

As the leader of the wraiths glanced over, he immediately exclaimed:

"NO! This is a Huang Quan great realm Divine Skill! Everyone — use that technique!"

He quickly tossed out a round ice-colored glazed mirror.

Over a dozen wraiths chanted the same incantation and formed the same hand seals.

A lanky figure appeared from their bodies to hold the mirror up.

The wraiths all shouted together:

"With my vitality, Samsara Resistance Technique, stop!"

Their vitality was siphoned from the top of their heads, infusing into that figure.

With so much overflowing vitality, that figure slowly solidified and displayed its real form.

It was a woman dressed in a colorful silk dress.

The woman was expressionless, simply holding the mirror towards the Forgetting River in the sky.

A divine lazuli light shined from the mirror towards the Forgetting River.

The entire Forgetting River, the unstable dingy, the feminine figure, all of them were frozen in the sky, unable to fully manifest.

Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling were both stunned.

Xie Dao Ling turned to him and asked: "Qing Shan, you've traveled through the infinite worlds, have you ever seen a technique being frozen by another technique?"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "I've never seen or heard of such a thing before, what about Shifu?"

Xie Dao Ling replied: "I also haven't—-"

She trembled for a short moment.

"I remember now, this seems to be an Immortal Craft, [Thousand Ruler Mirror]..."

"Immortal Craft?" Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask.

"That's right, within the Samsara, the Heaven realm is the highest, and the Heaven realm's Divine Skills are called Immortal Crafts"

Xie Dao Ling whispered as she fell into thought.

Gu Qing Shan also couldn't help but recall the past.

After the battle of Huang Quan, I've met the Heavenly God of the Heaven realm.

It was the first time I've ever seen a technique like [Time Stanch].

However, the Heavenly God at the time didn't seem to be a native living being of the Samsara, but rather descendants of the Deities from the Inner Plane...

In other words, my homeworld was a Samsara created from a fragment of the Huang Quan realm. Among them, only the Huang Quan realm contained actual beings from the Samsara, while the other realms, like the human realm, were comprised of living beings who reincarnated from Huang Quan, and the 9 Lords who came to seek refuge from the Starlight Empire of the Inner Plane.

The wraiths all focused themselves to maintain the Immortal Craft and suspend the Forgetting River in the sky, not allowing it to descend.

The only one who could move was their master.

—-the wraith leader.

He took out a pair of metal gauntlets, slowly walked towards Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling step by step.

"A Huang Quan great realm Divine Skill..."

"Although I have set up a trap and successfully restricted the duo dragon power, I seemed to still have underestimated you"

He started to radiate overwhelming killing intent.

Gu Qing Shan put the now-asleep Heaven sword into his Thought Sea, wielded the Earth sword in one hand and the Chao Yin sword in the other.

Without saying a single word, his figure disappeared in a flash——

And slash!

Countless black sword images appeared around the wraith's body, giving off the sound of numerous clashing weapons.

Secret Art, [Drawn Shadow]!

Gu Qing Shan only performed one attack before retreating.

The wraith simply stood still, parrying Gu Qing Shan's sword shadows while seven shadows appeared from his body, chasing after Gu Qing Shan.

The seven shadows quickly surrounded Gu Qing Shan without leaving a single gap and attacked him at once!

Gu Qing Shan crossed his swords and instantly produced a gigantic sword phantom.

Secret Art, [River Traversing Iron Sword]!

The sword phantom clashed against the numerous metal fists and exploded.

Gu Qing Shan retreated, wielding his sword to face the wraith.

Only to see the wraith standing still without moving.

He said: "This is your swordsmanship? How laughable, you can't even stop my shadows, let alone fight me"

Gu Qing Shan observed his injuries.

There were sword marks all over his body, still bleeding.

These are from my sword phantoms.

Why?

Gu Qing Shan narrowed his eyes and turned to the wraith.

"Shifu, each of their yaksha masks has its own unique ability, called a Guise Hex. I assume that it was the power of Guise Hex at work just now, the shadows were triggered by my sword phantoms, while he used those shadows to attack and return my sword phantoms to me" Gu Qing Shan told her.

Xie Dao Ling pondered and spoke: "It seems his Guise Hex was made specifically to counter cultivators who use cold weapons"

The wraith laughed and praised: "Very good vision, I heard that the Huang Quan Devil King is a swordusing expert, so I specifically chose this mask for the sake of killing him"

The wraith then formed a martial arts stance and slowly said: "Devil King, that was you fighting against yourself just now, I actually still haven't acted yet..."

A plain-white light exuded from his body, focusing on the pair of gauntlets in his hands.

The world began to tremble.

The wraith spoke: "Before you die, you've qualified to hear my name. Remember well, the one who killed you was Cang Wu Zhang of the Wraith realm"

Xie Dao Ling patted Gu Qing Shan's shoulder and said: "Swordsmanship is useless against him, I'll deal with him, you think of a way to dispel that Immortal Craft"

Gu Qing Shan turned to the female figure holding the mirror.

"Yes"

He replied and vanished in a flash.

Cang Wu Zhang smirked: "Dream on!"

His body shifted slightly and returned to the other wraiths to stop Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly turned into Xie Dao Ling.

----[Shadow Shift]!

Xie Dao Ling threw a punch without any hesitation.

Divine Skill, [Skyfall]!

Bam——–

With a loud sound of impact, the two figures took distance, flying in opposite directions.

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However, seven shadows appeared out of nowhere, quickly chasing after Xie Dao Ling while throwing numerous punches against her.

A simple yaksha mask had such a level of power.

The extent of the Wraith realm's power was quite unimaginable!

Cang Wu Zhang only paused slightly before giving chase right away.

"Die!"

He grunted.

Gu Qing Shan was now standing where Xie Dao Ling originally was. Witnessing this, he immediately changed his selection on [War God Titles]

[Starflame War God]

Title Skill – [Conquer]!

Cang Wu Zhang immediately turned his head and charged towards Gu Qing Shan.

He laughed maniacally: "Devil King, I've decided to kill you right in front of your master, this would surely cause her immense suffering, bahahaha!"

Sha—–

Bang!!!

A lightning whip abruptly swung at him from above, causing Cang Wu Zhang to retreat.

Xie Dao Ling stood in front of Gu Qing Shan and whispered: "Careful, besides those seven shadows, he still has another technique affecting him, most likely able to return the same damage to any attackers"

Gu Qing Shan's heart became heavy.

This Cang Wu Zhang is truly sly, knowing not to use this defensive technique during the first time I probed him.

---the Guise Hex can reflect incoming damage to the attacker.

—-and there was another technique that could make the enemy suffer the same damage he does.

"He's only trying to stop [Forgetting River]" Gu Qing Shan commented.

"Hm, because any other means of attack won't be useful against him" Xie Dao Ling continued.

Even if Cang Wu Zhang got hit, his enemy would suffer from the same damage, while most attacks could be converted into seven shadows which would pursue the attacker.

Wasn't this basically fighting a porcupine with bare hands?

Gu Qing Shan exchanged glances with Xie Dao Ling.

Gu Qing Shan retreated.

Xie Dao Ling stepped forward.

But numerous other incarnations of herself appeared in the sky.

[Thousand Incarnations]

Numerous Xie Dao Ling filled the sky, all forming hand seals to unleash various Elemental techniques.

Elemental Metal, [Great Dragon]!

Numerous dragons manifested from Elemental Metal charged towards Cang Wu Zhang.

Cang Wu Zhang retreated in front of the other wraiths as his pair of gauntlets gave off spikey rays of light.

"You dare try to test my mettle with such a weak cloning technique?"

He threw a single punch from afar.

Boom!

The entire void of space was broken through, revealing the dark emptiness.

That emptiness quickly spread like wildfire, swallowing up all the [Great Dragons].

Taking this chance, the numerous Xie Dao Lings drew their whips and swung at once.

Sha———

Snap!

The numerous bolts of lightning descended from the sky, striking at Cang Wu Zhang's body.

Cang Wu Zhang was immediately restrained.

But similarly, all Xie Dao Ling's incarnations were stunned by [Dreamjolt]!

Even a Thaumaturgy could be reflected!

Xie Dao Ling suddenly appeared in front of Cang Wu Zhang.

Putting her whip away, she exchanged hundreds of blows with Cang Wu Zhang in the blink of an eye.

Cang Wu Zhang's blows were violent, Xie Dao Ling's fist techniques were light, putting their exchange into a stalemate.

However, each of Cang Wu Zhang's attacks was followed by seven shadows that helped him attack Xie Dao Ling.

After just a few moments, hundreds of shadows appeared to attack at the same time as Cang Wu Zhang.

Xie Dao Ling finally couldn't handle it and was sent flying backward by one of Cang Wu Zhang's punches.

Cang Wu Zhang smirked: "Seems like... I can already feel your despair"

In the sky.

Xie Dao Ling was caught by Gu Qing Shan and coughed up a bit of blood.

"There's no telling who's going to die in whose hand just yet"

Curtly replying so, she displayed the item in her hand.

A lazuli seal.

Cang Wu Zhang's lazuli seal!

So the reason why Xie Dao Ling risked becoming injured just now by going into close combat was to steal this seal!

This seal was the thing suppressing Gu Qing Shan's duo dragon power.

Cang Wu Zhang swiftly checked his body to find that the seal had indeed vanished!

"You——"

He stared at Xie Dao Ling in shock, speechless.

Such a beautiful woman, a great cultivator who wields a Huang Quan Divine Skill, also has such a ridiculously high level of burglary skills, who could have actually expected this?

Xie Dao Ling tossed the lazuli seal behind her back.

A single sword slashed through it.

The seal shattered to dust.

Oong--

Invisible power fluctuation radiated from Gu Qing Shan's body.

His suppressed powers had been unleashed!

Xie Dao Ling looked at Cang Wu Zhang and curtly explained: "You've set up a trap here specifically to suppress Qing Shan's duo dragon power, so we assume that it was because Qing Shan's duo dragon power is a way to perfectly deal with you somehow"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Otherwise, there would completely be no need to exert so much effort like you had, would there?"

An immense dark aura exuded from his body.

Slowly manifesting as the form of the black dragon.

Roar!!!

A gigantic black dragon soared to the sky, chomping down towards the wraith Cang Wu Zhang.

Chapter 1146

The jet-black dragon soared through the sky.

Cang Wu Zhang donned a suit of heavy armor with a pair of gauntlets on his arms to intercept the black dragon's attack.

"You're only a dragon!"

He roared and used the most powerful technique in his martial arts arsenal.

A barrage of fist shadows struck the black dragon, sending it flying back.

But then the black dragon shook his head in the sky, abruptly turned, spitting out a resounding black and blue flame.

In a split second, Cang Wu Zhang's expression changed as he hurriedly formed a hand seal.

The seal was completed!

[Wraithly Wind]!

Intense howling wind manifested out of nowhere to surround Cang Wu Zhang.

The flames struck the wind and scattered to the sky, almost like fireworks or a meteor shower.

Cang Wu Zhang sighed in relief and retook his stance.

--even Cang Wu Zhang was quite impressed with himself for being able to form a hand seal so quickly.

"Come! Don't think you're actually a dragon just because you can spit some fire" he shouted.

The black dragon looked down on him and spoke in a thunderous resounding voice:

□ I'm going to correct you on something, you did well, don't get me wrong, but that was actually just — — my spit]

[[]Furthermore, I now understand why you had to suppress my dragon powers ahead of time J

^Г It's because after I take dragon form, even if you redirect my attacks, I can endure it just fine, but you won't be able to endure it a single time J

Saying so, he grinned.

Xie Dao Ling frowned: "Qing Shan, you've only just refined that power for yourself, be careful not to let that immense power affect your mental state"

[[]Yes, Shifu] the black dragon's grin immediately faded.

He charged towards Cang Wu Zhang again.

Sure enough, Cang Wu Zhang now only avoided the black dragon without trying to clash directly against him like before.

Indeed, he had a technique that forced the enemy to endure the same damage he took.

But the sleeping Demon Dragon's strongest suit was its body, comparing endurance alone, a cultivator's body paled vastly in comparison to it.

Not to mention, Gu Qing Shan didn't only have the sleeping Demon Dragon's power, but the power of another dragon as well.

The Azure Dragon coincidentally made its way into the Wraith realm and had followed Cang Wu Zhang's orders for the sake of its own goals.

The fact that it was one of the greatest contributors during the war against the Abyss showed just how strong the Azure Dragon was.

The black dragon chased after Cang Wu Zhang, violently charging through the sky, swallowing clouds, and breathing out fire, slowly but surely utilizing his prowess as a dragon against Cang Wu Zhang.

As time passed, he slowly got used to fighting as a dragon.

Cang Wu Zhang was feeling more and more pressured.

He unleashed a huge barrage of blows, but couldn't harm the black dragon at all, the most he was able to achieve was stalling the black dragon's attacks briefly.

"You've forced my hands!" Cang Wu Zhang roared in anger.

He took out offensive treasures one after another, unleashing them on the black dragon.

The black dragon tilted his body and unleashed a dragon's breath to neutralize these artifacts' attack.

"Naïve!" Cang Wu Zhang smirked.

Boom boom boom!

The treasures were triggered to explode right as they unleashed their attacks, causing the lazuli world to shake unstably.

This kind of sacrificial attack that destroyed the treasures could only be used once, but it was certainly powerful enough to matter.

Furthermore, since Svalinn was too small compared to the dragon's body, it couldn't help in defending him at all, so the black dragon finally turned a bit cautious.

While avoiding the treasure attacks, he was constantly looking for a hole in Cang Wu Zhang's defense.

...

On the other side.

After observing for a while, Xie Dao Ling suddenly turned to the other wraiths and muttered: "Although I don't know how to dispel this Immortal Craft, as long as I kill all of these people, the Immortal Craft should disappear by itself"

Hearing that, Cang Wu Zhang immediately panicked!

Taking advantage of his lapse in judgement, the black dragon swung at him from afar.

The sharp afterimage ripped through the sky, striking Cang Wu Zhang directly and gave off a resounding metal chime.

Cang Wu Zhang was sent flying.

「What good armor」 the black dragon praised.

——it was fortunate for Cang Wu Zhang that his armor was among the best quality in the Wraith realm that he managed to endure one of the black dragon's attacks.

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However, the deep marks on the armor really made one wonder how many of such attacks could it actually receive again.

The black dragon naturally received the same damage.

But this much damage was completely negligible to the black dragon, still within the acceptable range.

Cang Wu Zhang quickly retreated and retook his martial arts stance.

He couldn't help but distract himself to pay attention to both the black dragon and Xie Dao Ling.

Indeed.

There was still a giant Forgetting River in the sky.

By relying on his trove of treasure artifacts, he might be able to hold his own against the black dragon for a while; but if that river fully manifested, that would be the end of his life!

----one short statement from Xie Dao Ling had successfully struck him where it hurts!

One of the wraiths who were maintaining the Immortal Craft shouted: "Sir, they're trying to distract you, do not fall for it!"

How could Cang Wu Zhang not understand that?

But what would happen if he didn't pay attention to Xie Dao Ling's actions?

Cang Wu Zhang clenched his teeth, then drew a talisman glowing in clear blue light from inside his chest.

"You pair of master and disciple should be proud to push me to this degree"

Cang Wu Zhang declared.

For some reason, he had a clear sense of reluctance mixed in his voice.

A moment later.

He activated that talisman.

A huge blue glow descended from above, enveloping him.

Cang Wu Zhang's voice resounded from behind his yaksha mask:

"In the past, the Azure Dragon had been able to travel across many battlefields and war but never gotten hurt because it had a certain Thaumaturgy that allowed high-speed travel through space"

"However, while using that Thaumaturgy, it can't attack"

The blue glow became brighter as Cang Wu Zhang's killing intent became immense.

He poured all of his power into the gauntlets and gritted his teeth: "Fortunately, this talisman of mine is more powerful compared to the Azure Dragon's Thaumaturgy, I can attack while traveling at high speed"

"And I want to slay a dragon today!"

Before he even finished his words, the situation had changed.

Cang Wu Zhang turned into an almost undetectable blurred image, constantly attacking while circling around the black dragon.

His speed had reached a limit that the black dragon couldn't react, and had no choice but to endure the hits.

After a few moments, the black dragon struggled a bit while retreating, spitting up some blood.

This time, it was Xie Dao Ling who became anxious.

She charged towards the group of wraiths without hesitation.

Cang Wu Zhang had been paying close attention to her, so as soon as she moved, Cang Wu Zhang immediately went after her.

"Damn woman, using that Huang Quan Divine Skill to threaten me, I'll kill you!"

He roared with killing intent as he charged forward.

Seeing how this wraith leader wanted to kill his Shifu, how could the black dragon stay put?

 \lceil Peh] the black dragon spat out a mouthful of blood, his presence skyrocketed and howled: \lceil You've forced my hand!]

He glanced at the blurred image quickly approaching Xie Dao Ling and spoke in rapid succession at a rate that no one could react, almost like mumbling loudly to himself:

[¬]Yo! This is the first time I rap because we don't got any time and its too urgent so I'm going to talk fast although I'm not used to it to rock you in speedy rhythm listen to me just because you're fast doesn't mean you're actually impressive what kind of man runs away from a battle to hit another man's Shifu if you're so strong go and fucking face me head-on you damn wraith who's always doing something shady first booby traps and deception then flinging a bunch of exploding treasure tools you think I'm scared of you but in the end you still had to use that damn talisman that's nothing different from doping in a competition such non-sportsmanship conduct will follow your reputation for the rest of your life your daughter will look down on you forever I spit on your sorry excuse of a man come back here and face me to clear your sorry name!]

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

[You've activated the Thaumaturgy: Azure Dragon Shadow Hex – Binding!]

[You used incomparable speed to perform this Thaumaturgy]

[Wraith: Cang Wu Zhang's movement speed and attack speed had both been reduced by 10%!]

Go!

The black dragon's eyes became sharp.

——Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift]!

He immediately switched places with Xie Dao Ling.

Roar!!!

He unleashed a black and blue dragon's breath straight at Cang Wu Zhang who had just reached Xie Dao Ling!

---Cang Wu Zhang took the full brunt of the attack as he failed to dodge!!!

Chapter 1147

"Arg—-"

Cang Wu Zhang uttered a short grunt.

Gu Qing Shan didn't let that chance disappear and struck numerous times with his dragon claws.

Clang clang clang clang!

Sharp marks appeared one after another on Cang Wu Zhang's armor creating hundreds, thousands of holes in it, like a tattered piece of cloth that was about to be ripped apart any moment.

Cang Wu Zhang immediately regained his senses.

This is a moment that will decide my life and death!

Without wasting any time for thought, he clasped his hands together and formed a hand seal at the greatest speed he had ever achieved in this life.

---talisman technique, [Wicked Substitution]!

The blue glow, the dragon fire, and all of his wounds vanished without a trace.

He returned to his peak state and maliciously grunted:

"Huang Quan Devil King, I'll remember this. Next time, I will definitely come at you with an entire army, mark my words!"

Right away, the void of space broke apart as Cang Wu Zhang went from the flames into the void of space and vanished.

[「]How is that possible? 」Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Suddenly, various desperate cries resounded from afar.

The group of over a dozen wraiths who were keeping the [Forgetting River] at bay were abruptly engulfed in dragon flames and burnt to death.

They had become the substitute to receive Gu Qing Shan's attacks instead of Cang Wu Zhang.

While helplessly burnt by the dragon flames, followed by a dragon swipe from afar, the wraiths couldn't even utter a single word before they vanished from existence.

□ Did he really run?

Gu Qing Shan released his immense inner sight and scanned through this entire lazuli world.

Xie Dao Ling told him: "No need to look anymore, just now he used a death substitution technique of the Wraith realm, so he should already be back in his world right now"

Both of them felt a bit regretful.

The enemy noticed the turn in the situation too quickly, or rather, his means of life protection was too unexpected.

Xie Dao Ling pondered for a bit then explained: "This type of death substitution technique requires a unique type of curse to be infused into the talisman, then placed into the cultivator's Thought Sea and be refined, so that they can trigger it at any time"

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "To sacrifice the life of other people to save your own, the Wraith realm's techniques truly has opened my eyes"

An Immortal Craft, their Guise Hexes, a death substitution talisman technique——- the Wraith realm truly does have numerous layers of means to employ.

Xie Dao Ling had now put this out of her mind, she looked up at the black dragon in the sky and spoke in an amused tone: "Qing Shan, that type of rapid speaking you used earlier was truly above my expectation"

Gu Qing Shan also felt a bit awkward when his rapid speech was mentioned.

As the black mist scattered, he once again returned to human form and landed next to Xie Dao Ling.

"Hah, that was one of the Azure Dragon's Thaumaturgies that I unexpectedly obtained—— Shifu, I know that this verbal hex is a bit embarrassing, I probably will not use such a thing in normal combat again" Gu Qing Shan explained.

Xie Dao Ling recalled what happened just now, unable to help the corner of her lip lifting up a bit before she said: "As you saw earlier, the Wraith realm's Guise Hexes are extremely powerful, they could also

take advantage of the evil spirits of the Asura and phoenixes to perform a curse, even their life-saving techniques can be fueled by using the life of other people, they are very tough enemies"

"What are you trying to say, Shifu?"

"Qing Shan, when it comes to abilities, you cannot judge them emotionally. Against powerful enemies, you must calmly and rationally choose the most appropriate means to fight against them. Considering how good this verbal hex is, there is no need for you to specifically avoid using it, treat it like any other abilities, and use as you see fit"

Gu Qing Shan replied; "This disciple understands, from now on, this disciple will make sure to train himself in using this skill"

Xie Dao Ling forced her expression to become stern and nodded: "Hm, that is indeed the case, that is how we of Bai Hua sect should act"

-----on principle, her teachings were absolutely correct.

A cultivator must ponder every means they had and utilize the most assured solution to resolve any issues.

That Azure Dragon verbal hex was invisible, unexpected, and cannot be defended against normally, it was by all means a top-notch supportive ability in combat.

However...

Recalling how Gu Qing Shan turned into a dragon and spoke in rapid succession earlier, Xie Dao Ling almost found it impossible to control her facial expression.

All of a sudden, she became a bit stunned, then slowly explained: "I remember now... the power of the dragon race mostly lies within their Draconics¹, and the hexes born from Draconics are able to produce different effects. All of them are very hard to resist, so if you ever run into another dragon, you must make sure to be careful"

Gu Qing Shan helplessly shrugged.

Be careful?

Then, do other dragons fight the same way I did just now?

In other words, if I ever fight against another dragon, then it'll be——-

Two dragons coiling against one another in the sky, doing a rap battle?

That scene is... a bit unbearable...

Gu Qing Shan silently swore to himself, if there was ever a day when he had to face another dragon, he would immediately go in for the kill without giving them the chance to open their mouth.

----this is the correct way to fight against a dragon.

At this time, both of them sensed something and both looked up at the sky.

The woman holding the mirror slowly faded and disappeared.

Xie Dao Ling waved her hand to take back the mirror.

"Who would've thought? An intact artifact from the Heaven realm would fall into the hands of the Wraiths..." she muttered.

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In this battle, Cang Wu Zhang only escaped with his life and fled back to the Wraith realm.

The wraiths he brought were now all dead.

The [Forgetting River] technique was still completed.

The lone dingy slowly floated along the great river and approached them.

The feminine figure stood at the head of the dingy, her visage hidden in the mist as she softly sang:

^Г The path of Huang Quan, far it flows, regardless if they promised you three lives together, a fallen in the Forgetting River never returns J

Xie Dao Ling readjusted her expression and clasped her fist at the dingy: "The matters this time has been resolved; I hope you can forgive making the long trip for no reason"

The feminine figure answered: $\[\]$ That is fine, it is better that I do not show up rather than do, and it is better that I do not act rather than do J

She suddenly turned to Gu Qing Shan and asked: 「Huang Quan Devil King, do you have any plans following this?」

Gu Qing Shan didn't really understand, but also understood a bit as well and replied: "I must first pass this Tribulation, then save a few people. If I get the chance later on, I will definitely clash against the Wraith realm again"

「Oh? Why so? 」 the woman asked.

"I've seen a certain fragment of Huang Quan" Gu Qing Shan appeared nostalgic and replied: "There were quite a few Deities within it that have a relatively decent relationship with me, but this fragment of Huang Quan was being used as a prison to hold their opposers from the numerous worlds—— not to mention, the Wraith realm had more than once sought to kill me and the people I'm close to. Sooner or later, I'll have to settle this with them once and for all"

The woman was silent for a bit before asking: $\[\]$ If you've met those of the Wraith realm, then what of the Tomb of Infinite Beasts? $\]$

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

The woman asked again: 「The Asura Era of Eternal Combat?」

Gu Qing Shan shook his head again.

The woman continued: 「The Heavenly Palace?」

Gu Qing Shan could only shake his head.

The woman looked at Xie Dao Ling, then at Gu Qing Shan.

「You two pitiful people」 she sighed. □

Gu Qing Shan focused his attention.

Pitiful...

No, the tone, the context and the meaning hidden behind it are all very different from when the monster that I saw at the giant corpse said it.

Then, the two of them weren't talking about the same thing.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit lost and asked: "You and I are both part of Huang Quan, so why are you talking to me in such a pitying tone?"

F Because I pity you, as well as all the Deities of Huang Quan J

The woman continued with a very cold tone: [¬] After the Samsara broke, the world of Huang Quan was in shambles, the power of numerous Deities were reduced to their lowest possible point. Until the fragments of Huang Quan are fused together once more, the Deities of Huang Quan will turn into slaves for others sooner or later, as you've already seen J

[[] But you, Huang Quan Devil King, have yet to truly witness this world, as well as the upcoming era]

Her voice became slow and low:

□ From the moment you were recognized by this scepter, you were no longer a mere mortal. As you enjoy the worship and praise of the dead, so must you take on the responsibilities and duties of Huang Quan J

^Г Devil King, your future and mine are intertwined, but at this moment, you cannot use this technique to summon me to your side and help you pass the hardship you face J

 $\[\]$ Because of that, you must try to survive on your own within the Worlds' Apocalypse until the day of the new era $\]$

[「]When that day comes, we shall naturally meet again 」

Gu Qing Shan sharply caught her words and immediately asked: "The new era? What is the new era you spoke of?"

「 The era of the Samsara Clash For Supremacy 」

As she said so, the woman stood up, then lightly moved her oars again.

The small dingy slowly floated above the surging current of the river, then quickly went out of sight.

The great Forgetting River in the sky slowly faded away until it thoroughly vanished from the sky of the lazuli world.

The only people that remained in this world were Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling.

Gu Qing Shan stared for a long time at the sky, a bit at a loss.

Indeed, only a female can use [Forgetting River].

I cannot use any power at the same level as [Forgetting River], nor do I have a way to summon this skeletal woman to help me against my enemies.

This was the regret in the woman's words.

Perhaps there were other reasons as well, but I wouldn't know about them.

Xie Dao Ling watched Gu Qing Shan a bit and cleared her throat: "There is no need to feel regretful about not being female, not all Divine Skills can only be performed by female cultivators"

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Xie Dao Ling changed the subject: "For us, the only regret during this Tribulation is that we let that wraith flee"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Truthfully, I'm thankful for those wraiths. It's a good thing that they used the Immortal Craft to freeze this technique, otherwise, Shifu would have expended your vitality again"

Xie Dao Ling smiled a bit, then said: "This battle went on a bit too long, we need to speed up and quickly finish facing this Tribulation"

They looked around.

Those Asura and phoenixes were still frozen within the frost Gu Qing Shan created, unable to move.

"Does Shifu still want to ride a phoenix?"

"Let's not, that phoenix isn't willing from the bottom of its heart, so there's no need to force it, let us leave"

The two figures flew up, heading above the sky.

Chapter 1148

There were numerous worlds located on the Divine Mountain of Sumeru.

Layer upon layer interconnected, allowing traversal between them from the foot of the mountain all the way to the top without being cut off.

Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling simply flew up following the wind.

Various desolate worlds unfolded in front of them one after another.

Numerous demonic creatures of various shapes and sizes were attempting to destroy each one.

Gu Qing Shan kept the [True Crimson Demon Spear] by his side, whenever he found a target worthy of being killed, he would use the spear to do so.

As he had the duo dragon power, his strength had far surpassed any living beings on Mount Sumeru, even the wraith Cang Wu Zhang had to set up a trap to suppress his powers before confronting him.

How could any of these monsters even survive one hit from Gu Qing Shan?

Because of this, numerous monsters were easily dispatched by his spear, their powers converted into Mount Sumeru's own power.

Finally, when they were about to reach the summit of Mount Sumeru, some resonance could be felt from the [True Crimson Demon Spear].

Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling stopped.

Observing this spear, Xie Dao Ling said: "The will of the Divine Mountain had descended upon this weapon, it seems to want to communicate with you"

Gu Qing Shan turned to the [True Crimson Demon Spear]: "My Mahesvara Thaumaturgy seems to be evolving, let me check what's going on"

He closed his eyes and began to communicate with the consciousness on the [True Crimson Demon Spear].

At the same time, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've eliminated a great number of wicked creatures, forcefully converting them into origin power for the Divine Mountain]

[You will soon complete your Tribulation]

[At this pivotal moment, the Divine Mountain had given you two choices]

[Firstly: If you leave after reaching the summit of the mountain, you will complete this Tribulation, your Mahesvara Thaumaturgy will also obtain two evolutions in a row]

[Secondly: The destruction of the Divine Mountain was a secret, you might have discovered that it was the Wraith realm who were behind it all, but was that really the truth? In reality, not even the will of the Divine Mountain is sure about the complete truth]

[If you are able to help the Divine Mountain discover the true source of destruction and thoroughly save the Divine Mountain from its destruction, the Divine Mountain will aid you in perfectly evolving your Mahesvara Thaumaturgy fitting to your actual state]

[...There is no need to quickly make your decision, you may decide at the very final moment]

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes and was a bit undecided on what to do.

If he didn't have so little time, he would naturally be inclined to stay behind and help the Divine Mountain of Sumeru find the source of its destruction.

But I need to be at the battlefield by noon.

That will be a decisive battle between Order and Chaos, the great battle that will decide the fate of the 900 million World Layers.

I must go, I can't stay behind.

"How was it?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

Gu Qing Shan explained everything.

"So it turns out not even the will of the Divine Mountain understood what truly happened" Xie Dao Ling sighed emotionally.

"There is surely a reason for this, but I don't think we are able to reach it right now" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Xie Dao Ling pondered for a bit and told him: "Qing Shan, truthfully, before arriving here, I've already had a faint premonition. After performing a few Divinations, they all pointed to the answer I need being at the summit of Mount Sumeru"

"I know, Shifu originally could have broken through without facing your Tribulation" Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Xie Dao Ling continued: "That is indeed the truth, and I felt that I must make a trip here in order to recall a few important matters—— let us go, perhaps I'll recall something new once we reach the summit"

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "If not, we can only choose to finish this Tribulation and leave—— for some reason, I also feel like that is what I should do"

Xie Dao Ling nodded and smiled: "Let's go, if it's meant to be, we won't be able to avoid it even if we wanted to"

There were countless secrets within the infinite worlds.

Each secret was associated with a danger or a corresponding heavy price that must be paid.

Although Gu Qing Shan sounded like he was dejected, Xie Dao Ling knew that he was only venting his emotions and reminded her to be careful.

In truth, if such things were to obstruct a cultivator's path, they would surely face it head-on.

Because cultivation itself was the process of overcoming difficulties in order to advance.

The two of them continued flying up towards the summit of Mount Sumeru.

----killed more demonic creatures.

Before Gu Qing Shan's overwhelming power, all enemies were insignificant.

Until finally, the master and disciple pair reached the final world.

This was the smallest world they had seen so far, the only thing present on it was a barren mountain top.

Other than that, it was the endless space vortex.

Is this the summit?

Gu Qing Shan tried looking further away but saw nothing.

He didn't want to admit it and tried to use the [True Crimson Demon Spear] to poke the mountain top, causing a few rocks to break.

"No need to look, Qing Shan, according to the records, this place was originally like this"

Xie Dao Ling had regained her child form, closed her eyes, informing him with her immature voice.

"Shifu, have you remembered something?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I can sense many memories pouring into me... Qing Shan, if I can't actively respond to anything, use your words to guide my answers" Xie Dao Ling said.

"Yes"

A few moments later.

Xie Dao Ling opened her eyes, peering at the endless void of space as her eyes lost their clarity and focus.

She seemed to be observing some unseen images and scenes.

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Her spirit energy fluctuation gradually became wild and chaotic, her body slowly hovered in the air.

She then started whispering: "During an era long ago, the Divine Mountain of Sumeru was actually a treasure tool of the Samsara, an artifact made for the sake of selecting cultivators"

Gu Qing Shan waited for a bit when she didn't say anything else, he tried guiding her: "Why did the Divine Mountain of Sumeru have to select cultivators?"

Hearing these words, Xie Dao Ling's expression became a bit more unfocused and hesitated for a while before slowly answering: "Select cultivators to... climb the Heaven Path..."

Gu Qing Shan's heart jumped.

He suddenly recalled what he witnessed at the cultivation world's semester examination: the broken path to Heaven.

The four cardinal platforms.

A series of tattered palaces.

A stairway that appeared out of nowhere that led up to the sky, but was cut off half-way.

———perhaps this type of selection had already begun ever since a cultivator started their path, during an era long gone.

But then, what is this for?

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and faintly sensed something.

He tried to keep himself composed and asked in a low voice: "Why do cultivators have to climb the Heaven Path?"

Hearing this, Xie Dao Ling's spirit energy started to become even more erratic. She began clutching her head with both of her hands, as if trying to recall something important.

"Cultivators!"

She suddenly cried out and hurriedly continued: "Only cultivators may go through the numerous trials of heaven and earth, thus becoming true heavenly beings and wield the authority of the Samsara in their hands!"

Gu Qing Shan was shaken.

There are as many cultivators who choose to face their Tribulation as there are stars in the sky, but under the countless layers of Tribulations, most of them regretfully lose their lives.

It turns out that cultivators can ultimately become heavenly beings and wield the Samsara!

Everything makes sense now!

No wonder other Professions are able to easily advance without issues, yet cultivators have to face a Heaven's Tribulation whenever they want to break through.

No wonder--

No wonder the Wraith realm wanted to destroy the Yama Heavenly realm, and even Mount Sumeru itself!

If cultivators will ultimately become heavenly beings of the Heaven realm and wield the Samsara as their own, how could those wraiths accept it?

How could they not care about such a thing?

Xie Dao Ling suddenly regained consciousness, her body turned limp, almost fallen to the ground.

Gu Qing Shan quickly caught her.

Xie Dao Ling's expression showed exhaustion, but her eyes were full of clarity, muttering: "Who would've thought... the reason we cultivators have to go through so many trials and tribulations, facing numerous deathly hardship, was because the Laws of the Samsara were using that to select heavenly beings"

Gu Qing Shan was also indescribably moved.

At this point, from above the barren mountain top, a heavenly aria resounded as numerous flowers danced in the air, countless projections of divine beasts and heavenly fairies manifested in the sky.

The Divine Mountain of Sumeru resonated with that power, manifesting even more supernatural phenomena that appeared in front of their eyes.

Gu Qing Shan could sense his spirit energy rising, immediately bypassing the previous bottleneck and speeding towards {Mahesvara King} realm.

He was breaking through!

Xie Dao Ling's spirit energy fluctuation was also rising very slowly.

She was about to become the first new Sumeru Lord realm cultivator among countless cultivation worlds in several thousand years!

A moment later.

The divine beast Qilin appeared before them.

[[] Congratulations, you have successfully broken through]

It continued: 「Not only that, but our new Sumeru Lord had also been enlightened with the secret of the past world, if this is to spread, it would surely encourage all cultivators in the future 」

「You may now leave 」

Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling exchanged glances.

Xie Dao Ling spoke up first: "This is too important, I must quickly return and spread this news to all cultivation worlds"

Gu Qing Shan also replied: "Then Shifu should be on your way, I'm also in a hurry and must catch up with my friends soon"

The two of them stood up and were about to leave the summit of Mount Sumeru.

Just before they left, Xie Dao Ling suddenly clasped her hand at the Qilin and casually asked: "Thank you for following us closely throughout this Tribulation, are you perhaps the artifact spirit of this Divine Mountain of Sumeru?"

The divine beast Qilin curtly answered: 「Indeed 」

Gu Qing Shan looked back at the divine beast Qilin and smiled: "The Divine Mountain was heading to its ruin due to the corrosion of the Wraith realm, but before that, there should have been no issues with the Divine Mountain at all"

The divine beast Qilin watched him closely and replied: $\[Gamma]$ Of course, it was all the fault of the Wraith realm, how detestable $\]$

Gu Qing Shan and Xie Dao Ling slowly stopped and stood still.

They understood very clearly.

The destruction of the Divine Mountain was a secret, one that not even the will of the Divine Mountain felt clear about.

---even the Divine Mountain itself didn't know about this.

And yet the divine beast Qilin immediately said that it was due to the Wraith realm right after they probed it.

If it truly was the artifact spirit of Mount Sumeru, then it was lying.

If it wasn't the artifact spirit of Mount Sumeru, then everything it had said up to now had been lies.

Gu Qing Shan took another step forward.

All of a sudden, everything around him vanished.

Xie Dao Ling, the Divine Mountain of Sumeru, the divine beast Qilin, the space vortex, everything vanished without a trace.

Iris Technique – [Time Recollection]

"Come, lying divine beast, show me what you are hiding in your memories"

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Chapter 1149

The world disappeared from in front of Gu Qing Shan.

At the same time, another world appeared and quickly unfolded in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes.

Light.

Scatter.

Heaven and earth were peaceful.

Lush green forests, clear river streams.

Gu Qing Shan found himself in the middle of a forest, standing on top of a rock by a stream.

The scenery around him was clear and ordinary.

But since this was within the divine beast Qilin's memories, there was no way it would be just some scenery.

Gu Qing Shan silently stood still on top of the rock and waited.

Soon enough, he saw a grey wild dog leading its pack to the stream to drink water.

After quenching their thirst, they didn't immediately leave and instead played in the meadow by the stream.

Everything was normal.

Until—--

Gu Qing Shan abruptly turned back.

An extremely beautiful woman appeared from the void of space, landing by the stream.

Countless stars were manifesting behind her, constantly emerging into existence and being destroyed.

Reneedol!

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

He had seen the scene of her destroying the Samsara fragments back in Heaven Pillar world, but never did he think he would also see her on Mount Sumeru.

Reneedol's appearance naturally drew the attention of the wild dogs.

Having excellent intuition, they seemed to have realized something and quickly fled into the forest.

However, no matter how desperately they ran, they remained in the exact same place, unable to move at all.

Reneedol muttered to herself: "This Mount Sumeru does not have a path to Heaven, completely different from the other cultivation worlds"

She silently pondered for a moment, then glanced at the group of wild dogs below.

"Even if I destroy the sites of Tribulation like the Yama Heavenly realm and Mount Sumeru, after some time passed, they would simply be reborn after a while"

"Destroying these worlds can truly cause them to slowly fall to ruin, but this will require me to constantly be here, which would take a lot of time..."

"Rather... I should leave these sites of Tribulation to exist, but alter them slightly"

Saying so, she blew a breath towards the wild dogs.

All of them turned to dust, vanishing from this world.

Only a single wild dog remained.

It laid flat to the ground, fearfully moaning, begging Reneedol to spare its life.

"Today is your lucky day" Reneedol suddenly smiled.

She raised her hand and lightly reached into the void of space.

A colorful cluster of glowing clouds appeared in her hand.

She looked down on the wild dog and spoke: "This is the mountain guardian Qilin that I just killed. I've fully unraveled its structures and understood the Laws that make up such creatures"

"Do you wish to die, or turn into the mountain guardian Qilin and live?"

The wild dog immediately lowered its head and flatteringly moaned at her.

Reneedol appeared pleased and muttered: "Turning a wild dog into a Qilin, stationing it here to stand watch and search for secrets for me, this should be quite interesting"

The colorful cluster of glowing clouds was tossed into the wild dog's body.

The wild dog laid flat on the ground, uttering moans of pain and suffering.

A few moments later.

The wild dog's body slowly grew, a glowing cloud that signified fortune manifested beneath its feet, followed by an extraordinary aura.

Quite visibly, it was turning into a Qilin!

The power that restrained its body was finally undone.

It lowered itself as much as possible, keeping its body close to the ground as it inched towards Reneedol and uttered a tiny flattering noise.

Reneedol pondered for a bit before ordering: "I have broken a hole through the Divine Mountain's Law barrier, I will now bind the power of this hole to your body, using that to cancel out the Divine Mountain's self-repairing powers"

"Listen well, you will stay here and observe in my stead, then report what state this mountain will ultimately end up in after it falls to chaos"

"But your most crucial role is to search for the path to Heaven during the Divine Mountain's destruction"

"You must destroy the path to Heaven!"

"During the countless years after this, if someone ever comes to save this mountain, then come up with a way to kill them, but if someone wishes to destroy it... then let them. After the Divine Mountain is destroyed, you will enter the newly created Divine Mountain and continue to search for the path to Heaven"

Thinking of something, Reneedol placed her hand on top of the Qilin's head and muttered: "Search for the path to Heaven, then destroy it. This will be the only meaning to your survival, understood?"

Some light appeared in her hand, slowly being absorbed into the Qilin's head.

The Qilin then spoke in a human language: 「Understood, noble Deific King」

After she had finished arranging matters here, Reneedol slowly disappeared.

The forest, the stream, the Qilin, Reneedol, everything suddenly faded away.

The entire world was rewinding in Gu Qing Shan's vision.

He had returned to the summit of Mount Sumeru.

Xie Dao Ling stood next to him, cautiously guarding him.

"How was it?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

"Please wait a moment, Shifu"

Gu Qing Shan's figure flashed and appeared in front of the Qilin.

He caught the Qilin's head in one hand and held the [True Crimson Demon Spear] in the other.

"The Divine Mountain of Sumeru had existed for countless years, gradually falling to ruin, yet it turns out the issue was with you all along"

The Qilin struggled with all its might, but as its head was being held by Gu Qing Shan, it couldn't escape no matter how much it tried.

——Gu Qing Shan currently had the power of two dragons!

He violently pierced the [True Crimson Demon Spear] into the Qilin's body.

At first, the spear didn't react to the Qilin at all, but as time passed, it began to tremble.

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The entire Divine Mountain was trembling.

It seemed to have been greatly angered.

A short moment later.

A vast ray of colorful light descended from above, falling into the [True Crimson Demon Spear].

This was the power of Mount Sumeru!

At this moment, it had finally discovered the source of all the destruction!

「AARRGGHH——」 the Qilin uttered a resounding cry of pain.

Numerous colorful lights appeared on the spear before flying into the Divine Mountain.

Not too long after that, the Qilin's body slowly shrunk until it finally became a wild dog.

The wild dog stood still, its body crumbled into dust and faded away.

Silence, all around.

The sound of loud howling wind began to echo from all over the world.

An invisible fluctuation of power had descended upon the [True Crimson Demon Spear], causing it to vibrate with increasingly high-pitched noises.

Watching this, Xie Dao Ling muttered: "The will of the Divine Mountain seems to be highly agitated, could this mountain guardian Qilin had been behind the destruction of the Divine Mountain from the beginning?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "In reality, it had always been the Wraith realm that was behind the destruction, but this Qilin was being directed by someone else, holding a deeper secret"

He explained Reneedol's actions according to what he saw in the Qilin's memories.

Xie Dao Ling pondered: "So, this individual called Reneedol had been constantly destroying countless worlds, could it be that she's afraid of heavenly beings coming into existence?"

"Regardless of why she did it, from the very start, she had been standing against the Samsara" Gu Qing Shan casually replied.

The noises that the [True Crimson Demon Spear] gave off became louder and louder, almost like it was both delighted and urging him.

Gu Qing Shan slowly closed his eyes and communicated with the will of the Divine Mountain.

As time passed, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You've helped the Divine Mountain discover the source of the destruction, saving it from Reneedol's scheme]

[From this point on, the only hole in Mount Sumeru's protection had disappeared, the Divine Mountain's Law barrier will slowly return to normal]

[Within the Apocalypse of the infinite worlds, the path of all cultivators' Tribulation have been opened once more]

[The Divine Mountain of Sumeru will grant you the ultimate Mahesvara Thaumaturgy in accordance to your epithet as feedback for your actions]

[Your Mahesvara Thaumaturgy: Evil Suppressor – Orange Unseen is evolving]

[Please hold the True Crimson Demon Spear tightly and wait for 10 seconds]

Gu Qing Shan then grabbed the [True Crimson Demon Spear].

"What's the matter?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

"The Divine Mountain said that since I've found and eliminated the source of destruction, it is currently granting me an ultimate Mahesvara Thaumaturgy in accordance to my epithet" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Xie Dao Ling was intrigued and asked: "Oh? What was the epithet that the Dharma Gong picked out when you arrived?"

"...That is a bit hard to say"

As soon as he said that, a resounding chime came from the War God UI.

New lines of glowing text appeared:

[Your Mahesvara Thaumaturgy had finished evolving]

[In accordance with your epithet, the Divine Mountain of Sumeru had created a Mahesvara Thaumaturgy that perfectly suits you:]

[Evil Suppressor – Mountain of Orange]

[Ultimate Mahesvara Thaumaturgy]

[When you use this Thaumaturgy, you will transform into the Embodiment of Evil Suppressor]

[Embodiment of Evil Suppressor: While in the state of 'Mountain of Orange', all power you absorb from your surroundings will be quickly converted into your own powers, unable to be suppressed or sealed by powers similar to the Wraith seal]

[Mountain of Orange: While in this state, you will continuously absorb the scattered power of the soul from the boundless void, countless living beings, and all things in existence]

Gu Qing Shan could hardly contain his excitement.

In other words——

As long as I use this [Mountain of Orange] Mahesvara Thaumaturgy, I will be able to thoroughly convert the duo dragon power into my own, no longer affected by any sealing powers.

And it would be the same when I use the Demon Dragon's bloodline ability in the future to convert an enemy's power as well!

This Mahesvara Thaumaturgy is simply the perfect combination power for the Demon Dragon's bloodline ability!

Not to mention, there was another more important ability----

While I use [Mountain of Orange], I'll be able to constantly absorb Soul Points from the void!

----ever since I obtained the duo dragon power, I haven't gained any Soul Points.

This was because, by the War God UI's standard, I'm stronger than any of those monsters!

However, when it came to a fight of life and death in the infinite worlds, simply being stronger didn't guarantee victory, and there were always numerous strange and unusual abilities that could completely turn the tide of battle.

That was why Gu Qing Shan still required a lot of Soul Points to perform the unimaginable sword techniques and Thaumaturgies that he possessed.

He was still a bit anxious about this issue, but never did he think that the Divine Mountain immediately granted him the most perfect Mahesvara Thaumaturgy to resolve this essential problem just because he caught the Qilin.

What a powerful Mahesvara Thaumaturgy indeed!

Xie Dao Ling had already noticed the change in Gu Qing Shan's emotions and smiled: "Qing Shan, what kind of Thaumaturgy is it? Perhaps you should perform it so that your master can judge for herself"

Gu Qing Shan agreed right away: "Yes. This Thaumaturgy is called [Mountain of Orange], apparently a type of [Embodiment of Evil Suppressor]. I do not know what would happen when I use it either, so please take a look for me, Shifu"

He silently sensed the power he just obtained and slowly grasped how to activate it ---

[Mountain of Orange], activate!

Poof!

Gu Qing Shan vanished without a trace.

What?

Where is he?

Xie Dao Ling's expression changed for a short moment, then quickly returned to normal.

"So... is this it?"

Xie Dao Ling lightly asked as she picked up a big orange tabby cat from the ground.

•••

TN: LMAO!

Chapter 1150

The summit of Mount Sumeru.

A single orange cat and a young girl gazed into each other's eyes.

A cold breeze blew past.

The young girl: "..."

The big tabby cat: "..."

Sensing the confused look in the eyes of big tabby cat's, the young girl maintained a poker face—-

-----she suddenly realized that she had recently been using her great willpower tempered through countless trials of life and death a lot to maintain her poker face.

After a bit of thought, the young girl praised: "Hm, a very decent Thaumaturgy indeed, I can sense infinite power from the void constantly surging into your body; furthermore, the sense of imbalance from absorbing the duo dragon power is also slowly disappearing"

The big tabby cat uttered a single 'meow' in his confusion.

The little girl almost lost her cool, barely able to maintain her serious expression — —

Although the serious expression of the little girl only made her appear cuter, at least her tone was solemn.

"Transforming into the Evil Suppressor beast can also be considered a special form of cultivation, Qing Shan, you must continue doing your best!"

The big tabby cat's confused expression slowly faded away.

He glanced at the War God UI.

Only to find lines of glowing text being displayed there one after another.

[You've entered the 'Mountain of Orange' state]

[The Embodiment of Evil Suppressor had been unlocked]

[In this state, all forms of energy absorbed by you will no longer be able to cause issues and will ultimately be converted into your power]

[You are currently converting the duo dragon power into your own, please maintain this state until the entire process is complete]

[Attention: If you cancel the transformation during this process, you will cut-off the conversion, after which it will need to be restarted from the beginning]

[In the 'Mountain of Orange' state, you will constantly absorb Soul Points from the outside world]

[Soul Points +1]

[Soul Points +2]

[Soul Points +1]

[Soul Points +1]

[Soul Points +3]

...

Gu Qing Shan did some quick calculations.

My Soul Points would increase once every 3 seconds.

The amount received each time isn't much, but it seems consistent, and a gradual accumulation without any expenditure is always going to be beneficial.

With that in mind, it's fine even if I remain a cat for a while.

——Shifu has thousands of incarnations, one of them was a white goose that remained the Eldest Disciple of Bai Hua sect, compared to that, me being a cat isn't that surprising, right?

The big tabby cat nodded in his contemplation, finally accepting this new Thaumaturgy.

Seeing that he had thought it through, the young girl lightly put the orange cat on the ground.

"Keep in mind, from this point onwards, you may take on your own Dependents, from them you are able to borrow a single ability each, just like I was able to borrow your Thaumaturgy [Dreamjolt]" the young girl solemnly explained to him.

The big tabby cat uttered a few doubtful 'meows'.

The young girl solemnly listened to him.

----as a person who could take numerous forms, both human and beast, she was naturally fluent in Cat.

The little girl replied: "Me? Naturally not—– only cultivators that are at the same realm or a realm lower can be taken on as your Dependent"

The big tabby cat sighed dejectedly.

Seeing how disappointed he was, the young girl thought a bit and continued: "The Spirit Tortoise should still be at the foot of the mountain and had already finished his {Mahesvara King} realm Tribulation, you can probably form a mutual Dependent relationship with him, if I remember correctly, he should have quite a decent defensive Thaumaturgy"

The big tabby cat shook his head right away.

He insisted on not using the Spirit Tortoise's [Untraceable Head & Tail] Thaumaturgy.

Transforming into a cat was already the limit of his tolerance, if he also put on a tortoise shell as well, his reputation would probably fall to rock-bottom.

——seems like I'll have to find other people who are cultivators to use a Mahesvara Dependent Thaumaturgy.

The young girl continued to tell him: "There is one last thing, and also the most important thing that you should remember"

The big tabby cat looked at her.

The young girl turned serious as she explained: "You can absorb all kinds of powers, but remember to absolutely, absolutely never eat so much that you become fat"

The big tabby cat was surprised.

The young girl continued to explain: "Qing Shan, you've now obtained the ability to transform into a dragon, but the kind you can turn into is a black dragon. This dragon is generally regarded as outcasts within the dragon race, so you might face a bit of danger in the future"

"Furthermore, although you are able to refine any kind of power as your own by turning into a cat, you should definitely not be greedy, and avoid becoming fat"

"I emphasize this, do not eat so much that you become fat. Once you're fat, even if you turn into a dragon you won't be able to fly or fight at full power"

"The dragons with huge bellies of fat are too ashamed to meet anyone. They have no choice but to find some backwater Magic-type worlds and seclude themselves in some random cave, watching over an insignificant trove of personal treasures"

"They can't even fly anymore, having no choice but to manifest a pair of wings to barely lift their big bellies off the ground"

"They are definitely unable to fight in close combat however they liked as you did earlier, having no choice but to spit on their opponents during battle" ¹

The big tabby cat listened and nodded while committing those words to heart.

Colorful clouds started to descend upon them bit by bit, drifting around the two of them.

Both their {Mahesvara King} realm and Sumeru Lord realm Tribulations had finished.

The pair of master and disciple could now return.

"Qing Shan, everything here should be over, and there's still quite a bit of time before noon, you should be able to make it back in time without any issues" the young girl said.

The big tabby cat asked: "Meow meow meow?"

The young girl replied: "Me? I will also return to Shen Wu world, reporting the information we learnt this time to all Cultivation worlds"

The big tabby cat clasped his paws: "Meow! Meow meow!"

The young girl then acted like a proper master and nodded: "Hm, you should take care of yourself, always place safety above all else, and do not ruin the reputation of our Bai Hua sect"

The big tabby cat let out a short 'meow' before leaving Mount Sumeru in the colorful light.

The only person left on top of the mountain was the young girl.

"Very well, I've learnt a lot this time. It would be best to quickly return and gather everyone to spread this information"

The young girl muttered to herself.

For some reason, she recalled the matter that Gu Qing Shan explained earlier.

The Path to Heaven.

Why did the woman called Reneedol want to destroy the Path to Heaven?

Is she so afraid of heavenly beings from the Heaven realm?

Fortunately, she never managed to find the Path to Heaven on this Mount Sumeru.

As she thought of that, the young girl's expression suddenly turned blank.

"The Path to Heaven ... "

She muttered, then immersed herself in recollection.

Countless mixed images manifested one after another, quickly flashing through her mind.

"The Divine Mountain of Sumeru... the hidden path..."

Xie Dao Ling appeared distressed, unable to help herself from muttering.

All of a sudden.

She returned to her original form, crouched down, and started to pant heavily.

"That was too dangerous, there are some secrets that my current self cannot ponder right now, or else it can turn out to be a huge problem"

Xie Dao Ling rested for a bit before standing up.

"However, I've remembered what happened here..."

She walked to the back of the mountain, in front of a single rock at the edge of the mountain.

A few moments of silence.

Xie Dao Ling took a step forward.

She stepped onto the void of space, but her feet remained in mid-air as if being supported by something.

"This is the place... the hidden Path to Heaven..."

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Xie Dao Ling took another step forward.

At this point, she was already outside Mount Sumeru, standing on top of the bottomless unseen void.

She continued heading upwards and soon disappeared from the summit of Mount Sumeru.

•••

At another location.

The Wraith realm.

A jet-black temple that was surrounded in silence.

Countless wraiths stood in formation, protecting this temple.

This was the center of the Wraith realm.

The orders to invade the infinite worlds, fight against the Abyss, collect the fragments of the Samsara, all of them were made in this place.

At this point.

A man wearing a yaksha mask stood at the gate of the temple, silently waiting.

A few moments later.

A crimson red dispatch badge suddenly appeared in front of him.

Followed by an announcing voice:

"Sir, the meeting of the three Wraith Lords will soon be over, please make your way to the western Heaven Hall and wait"

The man received the badge with both hands, then replied: "Thank you very much, I shall be on my way"

This was Cang Wu Zhang's voice.

He received the badge, walked through the gate of the temple, and headed straight towards the western Heaven hall.

Every wraith who walked by him respectfully bowed, only a few who didn't even bother to give him a single glance, boastfully passed him by.

"Ahaha, look at him, unable to guard even a prison"

"Not only that, but I also heard ... "

Although they had suppressed their gossiping voices, how could any cultivator not hear when they were spoken at such volume?

Cang Wu Zhang angrily snorted, but didn't say anything and instead walked faster.

"Sir"

The two wraiths who stood guard at the western Heaven Hall bowed to greet him.

Cang Wu Zhang didn't bother to glance at them and walked in.

The inside of the Heaven Hall was gloomy, with only two female servants standing guard in front of a wraith statue.

Seeing him approaching, the two female servants curtsied to greet him.

Cang Wu Zhang hurriedly responded in kind, his rage from before also gone without a trace.

One servant walked up and presented a stick of incense to Cang Wu Zhang.

Cang Wu Zhang respectfully received it, put it into the incense pot in front of the wraith statue, then stood waiting respectfully.

The two female servants also waited on the left and right of the statue.

Neither side spoke a single word.

After waiting for a few moments.

The incense stick started to burn and gave off faint drifting smoke.

Cang Wu Zhang immediately bowed down in front of the wraith statue and spoke: "Greeting, Wraith Lord"

[Hm]

A curt voice sounded from the wraith statue, one that didn't contain any emotions.

[There is too much to do. I originally did not want to summon you back, but this place is still our center, and if you do not make your way here once in a while, you'll eventually be pushed out completely without knowing it]

Cang Wu Zhang remained silent.

The voice continued: [The Huang Quan fragment was originally our prison, under your management to contain convicts, but it seems some chaos had occurred recently]

Cang Wu Zhang replied: "I have sent my men to suppress them"

The voice continued: [There is something else, I heard that the Yama Heavenly realm had disappeared from our surveillance]

Cang Wu Zhang replied: "That is the truth"

[There was also another report I just received, the Mount Sumeru that we had been managing for a very long time suddenly sprouted a layer of a heavenly barrier to block off the path we used——- in other words, the huge amount of resources and men we've committed to this mountain might have already been for naught]

Cang Wu Zhang went silent.

The voice also didn't continue.

After a long while, Cang Wu Zhang struggled to give his answer: "That is also the truth, Wraith Lord"

The voice seemed regretful: [I originally placed quite a bit of hope on you, considering how well you fight against the Samsara fragments, and even managed to recruit an Azure Dragon that greatly contributed to our campaigns against the enemies of the Abyss, how unfortunate...]

A black blade abruptly descended from the hand of the wraith statue, hanging right above Cang Wu Zhang's neck.

Cang Wu Zhang knelt on the ground, remained with his back straight and unmoving.

The blade also didn't move.

A few moments later.

The voice sighed and continued:

[I know that you've always performed excellently, so be it. I ask you one final thing]

It was only now that Cang Wu Zhang clasped his fist, bowed, and replied: "Thank you, Wraith Lord"

The voice questioned: [Was it due to your own negligence, or was that Huang Quan Devil King really that tough to deal with?]

Cang Wu Zhang took out a jade badge and crushed it.

Countless images appeared from the jade badge to form a complete moving scene in the air.

Xie Dao Ling quickly formed a hand seal.

Her Divine Skill was completed.

The world became gloomy, the great river hung in the air.

A single small dingy and a lone feminine figure.

This was such a moving scene that the two female servants also had to look up.

A long sigh emerged from the wraith statue.

[So it was her, I will have to tell the others later — now, tell me, how did you deal with it at the time?]

Cang Wu Zhang replied: "At the time, I used the vitality of 18 wraiths to perform the Immortal Craft [Thousand Ruler Mirror], temporarily halting this Huang Quan Divine Skill"

The voice from the wraith statue suddenly laughed:

[Your choice was indeed correct. However, did you really believe that the vitality of a mere 18 wraiths was able to stop her?]

Cang Wu Zhang was silently surprised.

The voice seemed to have gained some emotions as it continued: [Using the power of wraiths to perform an Immortal Craft was originally something doomed to fail, let alone against an entity of her level]

[It was merely because she felt that you were not worth her effort that she stopped]

[If the woman who summoned her paid an appropriately great price, she would have moved a single finger and killed you all, because this was the rule that she herself established]

[On the other hand, if she really wanted the life of someone, she would have even moved on her own accord without any demand for payments and take their everything away]

Cang Wu Zhang's yaksha mask suddenly cracked.

Following that, the entire mask broke in half and crumbled, revealing a gloomy dark expression and the pair of cold eyes below.

A new mask manifested from the void of space.

Compared to the previous one, this mask was painted with more red streaks, which appeared much more terrifying.

The voice continued: [This matter cannot be attributed to your fault——- after all, the only people in the entire Wraith realm that can fight against her are us old fogeys]

[However, the fact was that you, the mastermind behind this entire affair, failed. I shall now strip you of your Wraith Might mask and demote you to a Wraith General, do you have any objections?]

Cang Wu Zhang's heart finally relaxed.

ľm.

Not dead.

He clasped his fist: "Wraith Lord sir, this subordinate has no objections"

The voice was pleased: [That is good, after all, this is an age of war where good generals are always hard to find. Following this, you will head into the space vortex and participate in the campaign against the Eternal Abyss]

"Understood"

[According to our newest intelligence, the Huang Quan Devil King seemed to have allied himself with the Eternal Abyss. As he is male, he cannot summon the Forgetting River]

[I shall grant you 300 wraiths and 100,000 ghost soldiers. Find a chance to kill him and take his head back to me, I shall reward you with the Wraith Might name once again]

Cang Wu Zhang silently listened to everything and bowed: "I understand, thank you, Lord"