Apocalypse 160

Chapter 160

Seeing that the three Saints of humanity have entered battle with the six Beast Saints and started to cast their spells, Venerable Xin silently took a step back.

This is his only chance.

At this very moment, the three Saints' inner sight were locked onto the six Beast Saints, unable to divide their attention elsewhere.

Venerable Xin quickly tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a certain item.

It was a dusty old ceramic vase, unassuming at first glance.

But if you carefully look, you'd see the top of the vase was covered in a thin layer of smoke, there seems to be countless beings within that smoke, emitting a mourning air.

Looking at this item, Venerable Xin eyes couldn't help but become frenzied and boiling.

This was a demonic treasure that the Demon Lord left to him before leaving, solidifying his current status within the ranks of demons.

The main reason why all the demons and demon beasts on this world accepted him as the supreme commander was this thing in his hands.

Venerable Xin coldly grinned, holding the vase close to his chest while pointing the opening of the vase towards the six Beast Saints and the three Saints of humanity.

"By the power of the million demonic souls under my control, [Stop]!"

Deep inside Demon Clouds River, countless dark lights flew out of the current, turning into strange and eerie runes atop the water surface.

It was like the entire river had turned into a giant talisman, but the power it emits is that of endless evil.

As the dark light became stronger, the demonic essence rose all the way up to the sky.

This giant talisman had been activated.

Everything above the river was stopped in place, even invisible things like the wind and waves were frozen in place, unable to move a single bit.

The surprise and anger that appeared on the three Saints of humanity's faces were also frozen.

They could not move a single muscle.

And the six Beast Saints that were fighting against them were the same.

"Ahahaha, using this river as a talisman and the power of Tianma as the trigger, finally, after 60 long years it has been completed, showing its magnificent prowess!" Venerable Xin laughed in a frenzy as he savored the taste of victory.

A second later, all the runes dissipated as a circular dark light shot up from the Demon Clouds River, enveloping the three Saints of humanity as well as the six Beast Saints.

The dark light swallowed them all.

9 Sainted realm powerhouses couldn't move even an inch inside that dark light.

———this was an extremely strong sealing technique, but it hasn't directly harmed the three Saints of humanity even at all.

Yet Venerable Xin's eyes only showed a frenzied joy as he spat out some bright blue blood, he crazily shouted, vaguely chanting some sort of spell.

"The ten corners of the world"

"In this endless world of mortals"

"Thousands of millions of peace all taken by this practitioner"

"Oh countless Tianma of Liberation, come surround this endless world"

As he was chanting, the entire Demon Clouds River flow stopped, no matter if it was the waves, the current, the whirlpools or the water bubbles, everything stayed absolutely still.

Venerable Xin laughed loudly, then lifted the vase above his head, shouting: "[Receive]!"

The raging Demon Clouds River folded upon itself, turning into a ball of water surrounded by endless mist and flew into the vase as was commanded.

After losing its water, Demon Clouds River became nothing but yellow sand, as if it was a dead and desolate desert.

The entire Demon Clouds River lost its other-worldly appearance from before, no longer teeming with spirit essence.

Venerable Xin spat out more blue blood, infusing all his spirit energy into the ceramic vase, then suddenly shouted: "Tianma, [Manifest]!"

A dark light shot out from inside the vase, hitting the layers of sand of what used to be Demon Clouds River.

All the sand instantly disappeared.

The true appearance of Demon Clouds River was hidden beneath the layers of sand from the very beginning.

And now, thanks to Venerable Xin's spell, the true face of Demon Clouds River has shown itself for all to see.

Countless black statues filled the bottom of the once-river.

Every single statue was a female of stunning beauty and allure, wild and captivating.

They all wore thin as veils palace maid clothing, revealing their stunning figures, leaving nothing to imagination with their numerous gestures and postures.

Looking at these scantily clad female statues, Venerable Xin couldn't help but show fear despite his frenzied eyes.

He tried his best to regain his composure, shouting at the remaining Beast Saints behind: "My beast energy is used up, come here and help me!"

Seeing that it was a crucial moment, the six other Beast Saints all quickly placed their hands on his back and transferred their energy over.

Receiving the full power of six, Venerable Xin's face lit up.

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He made hand seal after hand seal towards the ceramic vase, then pointed at the multitudes of black female statues below.

He shouted: "Realm of Liberation, Grand Realm of Liberation. Corrupting the Realm of Liberation, Tianma Enchantresses of the worlds, [Return]!"

The vase shook.

The countless statues below were also shaking.

Klong!

A fragile ring emitted from the vase, shaking heaven and earth.

Following this ring, some sort of force seems to have acted on the countless statues.

The outer black layer began to break off piece by piece.

And the female statues returned to life.

Misty white skin, enchantingly beautiful faces, their blank eyes began to regain their former luster, entrapping anyone that looks at them straight, unable to move on.

But their bodies remained transparent and misty, without true form.

The thousands of millions of female palace maids flew up and filled the sky, as if the maids of Heaven's Palace had descended on the realm of man.

Two particularly beautiful maidens flew out and nodded at Venerable Xin.

They both kept their mouths closed and said nothing, yet billions of voices rang in Venerable Xin's ears at the same time.

The previous group that arrived had to possess spirit beasts, finally their time of salvation has come, your contributions are great.

"I can't accept such an honor, it was all thanks to your hard work" Venerable Xin clasped his fist, showing a stiff smile on his face.

As the two female saw his expression, they said nothing else, only turned around and flew to either side of the ceramic vase.

Venerable Xin very quickly retreated backward.

One on the left and one on the right, the two female held the vase, slowly flying towards the three Saints of humanity.

As they flew, the vase became bigger and bigger.

When they reached the dark ball of light, the vase was already big enough to contain all three Saints of humanity as well as the six Beast Saints.

And then, a crack opened in space, revealing a deep yellow evening glow.

Inside that glow, countless screams of horrific torture and agony was heard, as well as the occasional scary and angry figure that appeared and disappeared right after.

The two females collected the dark light containing the three Saints of humanity and the six Beast Saints, then entered that evening glow.

As soon as they went in, the glow disappeared, the crack in space also slowly sealed itself.

The breath that Venerable Xin was holding in was finally released as he couldn't help but laugh triumphantly.

"Ahahahaha, they all left! All left! From now on, this world shall never see the figures of the three Saints again!"

Just like that, as simple as turning your own hand over, the three Saints of humanity no longer have any way to return.

He was crazily happy.

"Venerable Xin, pardon me asking, but where did the six other Beast Saints go?" a Beast Saint asked with extreme care.

While Venerable Xin's mood was still good, he very nonchalantly answered: "They left for the Tianma's Realm of Liberation. Don't you worry, the three Saints of humanity are permanently dead, while our people will get the chance to cultivate with the Tianma's scripture, their strength will quickly increase, becoming stronger than you and I"

As the Beast Saint listened and thought about it, he swallowed back the words he was about to say next.

Seeing his reaction, Venerable Xin know that his excuse was accepted and was even happier.

Whoever they are, do you really think they'll be able to leave the Tianma's Realm of Liberation alive?

Not just their bodies but their souls will also be eaten without leaving a single scrap behind.

They lost six Beast Saints, but in exchange, the three Saints are no more, this was a profitable deal for them.

And if the remaining Beast Saints are smart enough to read the mood, they'll be able to keep being his subordinate and live lavishly from now on.

"Now, it is our time to harvest the spoils of victory"

He licked his lips, staring at the army of humans standing across.

What expressions would these humans have when they find the spirit beasts that they trust so much attack them from behind?

Revealing a cruel smile, he turned to look at the countless Tianma Enchantresses in the sky.

One of them lightly nodded at him.

Then the entire sky of beautiful women disappeared without a trace.

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Hearing that, one Beast Saint waved the army commanding flag and shouted: "Advance!"

All the demon and beast soldiers roared in excitement.

They moved so quickly it kicked up a torrent of dust, assaulting the human's army.

At the same time, within humanity's own ranks.

Countless spirit beast bags that were hung next to cultivators' waist suddenly blew up, as the spirit beasts inside jumped out and began attacking their master with reckless abandon.

Many human cultivators had already fallen from their own spirit beast's attack before the demons even reached.

A few particularly strong spirit beasts took the chance to move towards the defensive formations set up around the camp, breaking them after two to three attacks.

They moved from one place to another, breaking all the defensive formation plates to ensure that when the demon army comes, the humans would have already lost all means of protection within the camp.

Inside of humanity's camp, countless lights suddenly lit up flashing brightly in their eyes, then quickly dissipating into particles of light and disappeared.

This was the scene of defensive formations breaking one after another.

At this moment, it was only a few breaths until the demons broke into humanity's ranks and begin their bloody and merciless massacre.

Without the large-scale defensive formations, the demons would only need to press their attack at a single point to break apart humanity's ranks and pick them off.

The demons and spirit beasts' attacks were perfectly coordinated.

This campaign is already as good as won.

Venerable Xin joyfully declared: "Brothers, advance forward, feast on these humans, and the world shall belong to us beasts!"

The demons and demon beasts roared again to answer his declaration, then successfully broke apart humanity's ranks.

The one-sided massacre had begun.

Humanity's fate was sealed.

Beasts will finally rule this world.

Venerable Xin clasped his hand behind his back, then ordered the ones behind: "You lot also move out, no need to have the little ones die too much"

"Yes" all the remaining Beast Saints replied.

Turning into afterimages, they quickly assaulted humanity's camp.

Venerable Xin nodded in satisfaction.

This was the proudest day of his life.

When the Demon Lord returns, he'll surely be praised very highly.

He could possibly even get to go with the Demon Lord during the next world invasion.

Apparently, conquering an entire world brings a lot of benefits.

The next time he has the chance, he'll have to look into this mysterious phenomenon carefully.

While he was thinking, a small problem seems to have erupted at the frontline.

Venerable Xin glared intensely.

———no, that doesn't look like a small problem at all.

As the large-scale defensive formations all broke down, the demon army successfully entered humanity's ranks, but then something unexpected happened.

A chilling, dull light emitted from inside humanity's camp.

The light was as thin as a thread, but sharper than any knife. Within a single second, one split into two, two split into four, multiplying exponentially into countless blades of ice, attacking anything and everything inside humanity's camp.

In a single moment, humans and demons alike were shredded to pieces, raising agonizing screams of pain.

The entire camp was covered in a white layer of frost mist.

When the cold essence subsided, a bright red glow instantly followed, which also covered humanity's entire camp.

The overflowing flame essence erupted like a torrent of magma, bathing all the spirit beasts, demons and even human cultivators in the scorching heat.

And then came a brilliant yellow light that manifested as countless Swords and Blades, rampaging inside humanity's camp, slicing and dicing anything and everything without resistance as streams of blood rose all the way to the sky.

Suddenly, as the thunder roared and the wind of storm screamed, a literal meteor shower descended upon them as thousands of millions of creatures caught inside couldn't do a thing to stop it and died.

Furthermore, dust was kicked up from all around as a tsunami of yellow sand rose up and struck the camp from all sides, burrowing the remaining bodies of flesh that were still in one piece into a grave of earthen spikes below, before quickly being covered with sand again.

Venerable Xin felt his heart went cold.

This was... humanity's large-scale attack formations!

But the most unbelievable thing for both the Beast Saints and Venerable Xin was that, these large-scale formations doesn't attack the outside of humanity's camp like they always do.

———-they were all directed inside humanity's camp instead!

The attack formations activated one after another, as the humans, demons and spirit beasts inside were killed so thoroughly that even the luckiest ones are the ones that managed to keep their bodies in large pieces.

Humanity's attack formations were directed at themselves instead of their enemy, this was so unbelievable because it has never happened before.

It was as if the humans had made the preparations to sacrifice themselves to kill the demons from the very start.

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The few demons that were lucky to be outside humanity's camp before the formations activated were running away, but most of them had already died in the layered large-scale suicidal attack formations.

The three Saints were successfully sent away, the demons held such an overwhelming advantage of number, together with the spirit beasts' betrayal, and yet humanity still managed to decisively mount the final resistance by giving up their own lives.

The amount of casualties for both demons and spirit beasts was devastating.

Countless Tianma Enchantresses appeared from the bodies of dead spirit beasts, faces cold as ice and flew towards the Demon Palace temple on the other side of what used to be Demon Clouds River.

"Humanity, really were respectable..."

Venerable Xin sighed and could do nothing but accept the fact that a "sure-win" battle become a "barely won" one.

Although most of humanity's elites have entered and died in that battle just now, there's definitely a few people remaining in the larger sects.

Humanity's sects all have their own protection formation, so any future battles will be exceptionally hard.

With so many subordinates dead, when the time comes for them to attack the sects, he might have to do it himself.

To break through those defensive formations or sects with thousands of years of tradition, even he will feel deathly exhausted.

But there's no way around it now.

Let's just quickly conclude this battle before thinking about whatever comes next.

Together with Venerable Xin's sigh, the countless attacks formations also slowed down and stopped.

Everything was over.

Suddenly, Venerable Xin's eyes opened wide.

He saw over a hundred thousand demon and spirit beast corpses in humanity's camp.

But all the humans had disappeared.

There's no active invisibility formations, no stragglers trying to run for their lives, no screams of despair as the human try to blow themselves up.

Every single human cultivator, even their corpses, disappeared without a trace.

They disappeared in the truest meaning of the word, there wasn't even a hair left.

"What's going on? Where are all the humans? Quickly look for them!"

Venerable Xin unconsciously shouted.

He quickly flew towards the camp, searching for them together with the other Beast Saints.

All the demons still alive just stared at each other on both sides of the battlefield, not knowing what to do.

The lucky spirit beasts that were still alive fell down on the spot and breathed their last.

More and more Tianma Enchantresses let go of the spirit beast corpses and took to the sky.

They seem to have noticed something and ignored helping the Beast Saint, only flying as fast as they could towards the Demon Palace temple.

As the Tianma Enchantresses flew, they were chanting: [Zhuo zhi zha zha luo zhuo zhi, lu he li, Mo He lu he li, A Luo, Zhe Luo, Duo Luo, Sha He] (1)

A mystical light emits from the Demon Palace temple, manifesting itself into a transparent palace, accepting the Tianma Enchantresses inside.

On humanity's camp, a thin layer of spirit residue was being blown away by the wind.

"This spirit residue..."

One Beast Saint suddenly realized something and muttered.

Venerable Xin grabbed this Beast Saint, shouting in frenzy: "What's wrong with this spirit residue? Quickly tell me, or I'll kill you!"

The Beast Saint was shocked and quickly spoke: "This spirit residue looks very much like spirit energy that's left behind after undoing a spell"

Venerable Xin let him go and shook his head: "No, it can't possibly be"

A spell...

Ridiculous, what kind of spell would enable almost a hundred thousand cultivators to instantly disappeared?

In this world, there's no way humans actually have such a spell.

Even if the three Saints were still here, they wouldn't be able to do something like that.

Venerable Xin forced himself to calm down and carefully thought about it.

The Great Monk of Sorrow is a Buddhist cultivator, even though they're experts in dealing with Tianma, such perfect hiding and presence concealment techniques aren't his expertise.

Xuanyuan Tianzun is an expert in talisman and 5-Elemental attack spells, but as far as he knows a talisman can't produce such an effect unknowingly.

Not to mention, Xuanyuan Tianzun had never shown to be capable of such a miraculous feat like this in the past few hundred years.

Bai Hua Fairy couldn't possibly have done it either, aside from her overwhelming Martial Thaumaturgies and her multitudes of attack spells, she only knows ———-

She only knows ——-

In the split second that he realized, his entire body shook uncontrollably and coughed up blood from rage.

"Xie Dao Ling!"

She ———

His eyes shed tears of blood, shouting in extreme unwillingness to accept the truth.

Note:

(1): it's not gibberish, but there's literally no way to translate this, or any of the Tianma's incantations. So if there are any more in the future, I'll just keep them as is.

Chapter 162

A woman wearing a bright green feather coat silently hovered.

The fierce wind that blows here all became breezes as they passed her by, making her sleeves lightly flutter in the wind, giving her a dreamy, mystical look.

She wore a thin silk veil on her face, covering up her brilliant beauty, only showing a pair of crystal clear eyes that occasionally moved about like she was deeply contemplating something.

Suddenly, she seems to have felt something as her lips lifted upward into a smile, then the smile became brighter and brighter.

"Who would've thought, he's a schemer as much as he's a swordsman..."

While smiling, she shook her head and muttered.

From the look on her face, she still seemed to be in disbelief of what had happened.

——-the Thaumaturgy [One Becomes Millions] was only ever used for her personal enjoyment.

She couldn't believe it was able to be used for such an important matter as suggested by her disciple.

And this matter was even directly connected to the life and death of humanity itself.

Feeling the situation below, and since time was almost up, Bai Hua Fairy swung her sleeves forward.

Instantly, a red-faced Daoist and an old monk appeared.

"How is it? What do you think of my disciple's tactic?" Bai Hua Fairy lifted her chin and asked, full of pride.

The Great Monk of Sorrow deeply sighed, then replied: "Luring 6 Beast Saints away from this world, revealing and killed a couple ten thousand spirit beast, as well as over 100,000 demons without losing a single person on our side. This humble monk has not seen such a brilliant display of wits over my entire life"

"A great tactician indeed" Xuanyuan Tianzun also praised him.

"If so, what about the matter with my disciple?" Xie Dao Ling glanced at Xuanyuan Tianzun, almost provoking him.

Xuanyuan Tianzun was stunned for a moment, then begrudgingly answered: "We'll talk about that when the battle is over"

Xie Dao Ling smiled and said nothing else.

The three Saints released their inner sight at the same time, scanning the battlefield below.

"Let us begin" the Great Monk of Sorrow said.

"It's indeed our turn now" Xuanyuan Tianzun nodded.

"Hm" Xie Dao Ling also agreed.

She was looking at a certain high ground.

That place was much higher than the rest of the battlefield, easy to defend and difficult to attack, the designated area for the army's camp that the three of them had agreed on.

She swung her long sleeves again.

Divine Skill, [Sleeves of Holding]

Cultivators appear in large amounts all over the high ground.

Having prepared for this, as soon as their legs touched the ground, they quickly went and arranged formations, distributed talismans and pills, forming attack formations, busy without a single moment of rest.

Ding Yuan General Gong Sun Zhi and Ming Hui monk were also there, directing the cultivators to set up formations at the correct places.

But the last Ding Yuan General Wu Xing Wen was nowhere to be seen.

In just a couple dozen seconds, multiple large-scale defensive formations had been raised, as the overflowing light they let out reached all the way towards the sky.

And then a dozen more colorful glows appeared, blinking non stop ---the attack formations were also being activated one after another.

This time, the direction they are attacking is the outside of the camp.

The human army very quickly got ready for war.

One Beast Saint moved up to test the water, activating a few dozens devastating attack formation traps.

The multitudes of different colored lights hit his body as he roared in both pain and anger.

But thanks to him holding up the human's camp, the remains of the demon's army was able to retreat without being killed.

As the Beast Saint endured the pain, but was unable to get any closer to the formations, it gave up enduring and wanted to retaliate with its full power.

But when it lifted its head, it saw the three Saints of humanity was already closing in.

The Beast Saint was so scared it gave up attacking altogether and turned to run back to the demon's army ranks.

The three Saints didn't give chase, only exchanged glances before lowering the cloud and stood before humanity's high ground.

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"Tsk, tsk, what a great bet indeed, fellow Dao seeker Xin, with your head, that probably took over a thousand years to come up with" Xie Dao Ling smiled and spoke.

Venerable Xin's eyes and mouth were spewing blood, glaring intensely at the three Saints, wanted to say something but was unable to speak at all.

He lost all that preparation, as well as six Beast Saints, but achieved nothing.

At this moment, Venerable Xin was extremely miffed that he couldn't kill even one of the three humans standing there.

"Which one of you noticed?"

Finally, he couldn't help but ask.

"This saint's disciple did" Xie Dao Ling pridefully answered, then continued: "What does total defeat taste like? How about you just surrender right now, that way you lot can at least keep your lives"

"Amitabha, since you've already lost six people, the rest here won't be able to pressure us at all" the Great Monk of Sorrow smiled as he spoke.

Xuanyuan Tianzun didn't bother to say anything and just tapped his Inventory Bag to take out a Divine Talisman.

100,000 demons dead, all the spirit beasts dead, and there's only half the Beast Saints left.

Whether it's the battlefield or the top-level battle, humanity is standing at an unbeatable position.

Under such a situation, if the other side still doesn't know their place, then a battle they shall have.

Venerable Xin sighed, about to speak.

Suddenly, a hand appeared in front of his chest.

A slender, white, feminine arm had pierced through his chest.

The hand was also holding a still-beating heart.

"Ah...ah..." Venerable Xin opened his eyes wide, then coughed up even more blood.

This scene stunned everyone.

It happened so suddenly that neither the Beast Saints or the three Saints of humanity were able to react in time.

"Invisible Tianma Saint King, you... why..." Venerable Xin couldn't accept it, turned around and asked.

Behind him, a female wearing thin palace maid clothing coldly spoke: Because you wasted such a good chance, and completely threw the Demon Lord's preparations for the past dozen years down the drain

Saying so, she squeezed and crushed the heart.

Such a fool like you doesn't deserve to lead the demon army, you don't even deserve to be the Demon Lord's follower the female retracted her hand, then placed it on Venerable Xin's forehead.

"I've already done my best———" Venerable Xin's eyes were boiling with rage.

The price to pay for your failure is soul possession, become our Blood Slave for eternity, never to escape the female spoke.

Then her hand lightly struck Venerable Xin's forehead.

Venerable Xin's head exploded with a bang, red white blue green substance flew everywhere, then quickly dispersed.

The headless corpse fell down, hit the ground with a 'thud' and stayed that way.

A Saint Beast King, murdered without resistance so nonchalantly.

After doing so, the female looked down at her body.

———-her body was slowly becoming transparent and incorporeal.

Invisible Tianma Saint King swung her hands behind her back.

On the other side of Demon Clouds River, inside the Demon Palace temple, the sound of Tianma Enchantresses chanting became louder and louder.

In that moment, it sounded like over billions of female voices chanting at the same time: [Zhuo zhi zha luo zhuo zhi, lu he li, Mo He lu he li, A Luo, Zhe Luo, Duo Luo, Sha He]

Following this chant, Invisible Tianma Saint King's body became solid again.

She lightly laughed: [What a joy-kill, the fool ruined our preparations, even my time on this world has been reduced to much.]

Staring at her, the three Saints all had strange looks on their faces.

They were looking at Invisible Tianma Saint King as if looking at a living miracle.

"Did you notice?" Xuanyuan Tianzun was the first to speak in a low voice.

"I did, her spirit energy wave feels stronger than mine, even though it isn't much. But she's definitely no longer only a Sainted realm" Xie Dao Ling evaluated Invisible Tianma Saint King from head to toe and softly replied.

"Amitabha, sure enough, there is another realm after Sainted" the Great Monk of Sorrow's eyes that are usually so calm showed clear excitement.

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Large ripples appeared in the sky, as if a giant boulder has been dropped into water.

Right as the Tianma began making hand seals, Xuanyuan Tianzun tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a bronze-colored turtle shell as big as his hand, then threw a coin into it.

One of the 6 arts, Divination.

Formless Tianma Saint King is a creature that the three Saints has never faced before, not to mention her cultivation being stronger than themselves, so Xuanyuan Tianzun took the chance to do a Divination and look into the future.

Of course, the price you have to pay to learn the future is exceptionally steep, but it's still much better than dying.

The coin rolled inside the turtle shell as both of them hit the ground.

"There is a fire, fanned inside the furnace, yet there is only fire without any wind ————she's summoning something, when she gets it, we will die" he frowned looking at the turtle shell and quickly said.

Bai Hua Fairy was also counting something with her finger, another two breaths later, she and Xuanyuan Tianzun spoke at the same time: "The ceramic vase!"

As soon as they say that, Formless Tianma Saint King's spell also finished casting.

A dull-grey color glow broke through space, as a dirty, dusty ceramic vase few out.

This was the demonic treasure that Venerable Xin was using earlier.

The mysterious pot that showed unimaginable power slowly floated above Demon Clouds River.

It appeared in the same place that it left with the three fake Saints and the six Beast Saints before.

"We definitely cannot let it get that demonic treasure, otherwise it'll be like a tiger that sprouted wings, all of us will die" Xuanyuan Tianzun spoke with an extremely solemn expression.

The three Saints all looked at the sky.

Formless Tianma Saint King's smile disappeared, staring intently at the three Saints.

Divination? To peek into the future so arbitrarily, humanity deserves to die

Saying so, her body shifted, moving towards the vase floating above Demon Clouds River.

She was already standing on Demon Clouds River's banks, extremely close to the vase, while the three Saints were all standing a few hundred feet away, guarding humanity's camp, clearly they wouldn't make it.

Xuanyuan Tianzun yelled out: "I won't be able to get there in time!"

"I will!" Xie Dao Ling replied.

Suddenly she disappeared without a trace. Already striking Formless Tianma Saint King's face with her fist when she reappeared.

Martial Thaumaturgy, [Sky Fall]!

With a single strike, her martial prowess overflowed, the pressure feels like it could really break a hole in the sky.

This wasn't the fake attack that she used to hit Blade Emperor back then with her incarnation, this was the actual Bai Hua Fairy Xie Dao Ling's full power strike!

Being hit by this attack head-on, the Formless Tianma Saint King was knocked flying. She flew so fast she turned into nothing but a shadow, instantly passing the entire width of Demon Clouds River and straight into the black temple.

Boom!

The sound of the impact reverberated, as half the temple was broken.

Xie Dao Ling stood hovering in the air, scoffing: "You're only a realm higher, win and loss in a real battle is never so cut and dried"

Then she flew to the vase, lightly slapping out and sent it to the direction of humanity's camp, squarely landing in Xuanyuan Tianzun's hands.

Xuanyuan Tianzun breathed out in relief, quickly stowed it away in his Inventory Bag.

The three Saints all stared at the Demon Palace temple cautiously, but Formless Tianma Saint King had yet to appear again.

After waiting for a bit more, something seemed to be moving inside the temple.

"What are you doing? Too scared to get out here?" Xie Dao Ling squints and eyes and provoked her.

But the only reply was a loud chanting from inside the temple

¶Bo bei ye, bo bei mian, bo xun yu, bo xun ye

↓

The sound of chanting quickly spread out everywhere.

Asides from the chanting all other sounds had disappeared.

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No matter how the cultivators tried to speak, shout, or even clap their hands, nothing made a sound.

Sound itself has been erased from heaven and earth.

Xie Dao Ling's face became serious, her hands quickly made some hand seals.

Since the beginning of her cultivation until now, never has she faced such a sight and such a strange incantation.

Xuanyuan Tianzun once again threw another coin into his turtle shell.

The coin rolled around the turtle shell, flipped then stopped.

"Great peril" he sent his voice to the other two Saints, "if we don't deal with that as soon as possible, we might be able to live, but this world will face a great catastrophe"

Hearing that, Bai Hua Fairy raised her brows.

She has never been afraid of Tianma, but this was the first time she met such a strange creature like the Formless Tianma Saint King, as well as her first time dealing with the Tianma incantation.

If that's the case, she could only ———

A bright green glow emits from her body, then her hands started to make the hand seals necessary.

This Divine Skill needs a few dozen hand seals to activate, so it'll take time.

She spoke: "Buy some time for me"

Seeing her use this spell, Xuanyuan Tianzun felt goosebumps all over his body.

He opened his mouth, but said nothing and went to shield Xie Dao Ling in front of her.

"Benefactor Xie, this spell of yours takes too much life span to use, please stop your hands" the Great Monk of Sorrow suddenly sighed and sent his voice.

"Why?" Bai Hua Fairy was surprised.

The Great Monk of Sorrow sent his voice: "According to our ancient Buddhist scriptures, what they are using is a type of Tianma Divine Skill"

"Tianma doesn't know how to fight, but they have the ability to summon countless Tianma from other worlds"

"A Tianma's nature loves to eat human souls, even if they don't have any way to kill us right away, they would still hide in plain sight, waiting for any human cultivators to slip up even once and kill them" "The more Tianma there are in a world, the less people there will be, the less intelligent they'll be, finally indistinguishable from beasts and cattle"

"And if that continues on, the world will be destroyed"

As Bai Hua Fairy and Xuanyuan Tianzun heard the Great Monk of Sorrow, they finally understood just how serious the situation was.

"The wretched Tianma are our Buddhist sworn enemies, and only the compassion of Buddha will be able to suppress these demonic beings"

"This battle, as fate has it, is my role to play"

Saying so, the Great Monk of Sorrow walked forward one step at a time, crossing the Demon Clouds River and headed towards the Demon Palace temple.

"Monk..." Xie Dao Ling muttered.

Xuanyuan Tianzun also spoke: "Buddhists does hold the authority for dealing with demonic beings, you and I should back him up, we'll change the plan if needs be"

Xie Dao Ling slowly nodded, undoing her hand seals.

While the Great Monk of Sorrow was halfway there, countless brilliantly beautiful enchantresses flew out from the temple and headed towards him, laughing.

Wearing scantily clad veil-like clothes, their faces were tempting to the mind, each of their gestures and expressions tempted the body.

『Te li xi na, luo di na, luo jia ye』

The enchantresses' soft voice softly chanted, they showed off their alluring bodies, wildly dancing as they surrounded Sorrow.

Each and every Tianma Enchantress is a female of absolute beauty by humanity's standards, able to lead any cultivator's Dao heart astray.

15 kinds of string emit from their bodies, tying Sorrow up.

All sorts of unsightly images appeared around him, each of them seems to be shrouded in a living mist, pushing, pulling, racing to envelop the Great Monk of Sorrow.

The originally calm and gentle Great Monk of Sorrow suddenly opened his eyes wide, as he chanted in a thunderous voice

"Ohm, bo luo mo lin tuo ning, suo po he!"

"Ohm, qin xi re zha hong, weng, pa la ma ni, da zha, hong pa suo ha!"

This was the Buddha's Dalani, specially created to counter Tianma.

As soon as the Dalani appeared, space itself seemed like it was hit by a sledge hammer, the newly erected cage of thread was broken into pieces.

Heaven and earth itself was shaken nonstop, the thick black clouds were swept away by the fierce winds, revealing the moon and stars far above the dark blue sky.

The beautiful enchantresses let out an ear-piercing screech, falling from the clouds, struggling to fly back into the temple.

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 $\llbracket \mathsf{Pu}$ luo wei mo po she ba ti, bo bi yuan bo, bo bing bei xun bo bi, bo bi mo bo xun!floor

After this incantation, all the Tianma Enchantresses seemed to have received some sort of power, and they stabilized their bodies and once again floated in the air.

Countless Tianma Enchantresses filled the sky, as illusions of flowers and leaves covered them, making them look like fairies descended from heaven.

They once again surrounded the Great Monk of Sorrow, circling him, then turned into a swirling tornado that entraps the Great Monk of Sorrow.

Standing alone in space, the Great Monk of Sorrow droops his eyes, chanting the Dalani to protect himself.

Suddenly, the thousands of Tianma Enchantresses surrounding him chanted.

『Te li xi na, luo di na, luo jia ye』

Their combined incantation interrupted the Great Monk of Sorrow's chanting.

Humanity's camp was quite far away so they couldn't hear it well, the effects it had were limited.

The demons who were hiding close to Demon Clouds River on the other hand, were writhing in pain, screaming from the chanting.

It was like they were being gnawed at by something, rolling on the ground trying to shake it off, but couldn't do it no matter what.

Very quickly, those demons lost their lives.

But their bodies didn't have a single wound.

The Tianma Enchantresses continued to chant.

" [Bo bei ye bo bei yu bo xun ye, te li xi na, luo di na, luo jia ye]

A black smoke rose from their bodies, concentrating on one spot in the air.

This black smoke seemed to be their concentrated essence, as the Tianma Enchantresses looked visibly exhausted after it left their bodies.

The black smoke swirled in the air and slowly started to form a shape, a dozen-feet-tall Tianma avatar. (1)

This demon avatar had three heads, on each of the heads was a different expression. One showed anguish, one showed hatred, while the final one showed pain.

The avatar had six arms, each of them held a strange looking weapon, as the weapons weren't a solid shape but constantly shifting, one moment it was a sword, the next became a sledge hammer, then a halberd.

Holding the weapons, the avatar looked at the Great Monk of Sorrow, then moved towards him.

"Amitabha, demonic flames fill the sky, but what good will it do?" the Great Monk of Sorrow shook his head.

He closes his eyes again, suddenly clapped and spoke: "May my future reach the realm of Bodhi, my own light shines upon the countless despair of the world. I sacrifice my 32 great deeds and 80 trials to forge this solemn self, may all beings gains their feelings, not unlike me"

While he was chanting, the Great Monk of Sorrow's body was already turned into a golden bright light, as an endless torrent of Buddhist chants filled the air.

Xuanyuan Tianzun sighed as he saw that, saying: "The old monk is getting serious"

Xie Dao Ling also nodded.

But the three-headed, six-armed avatar wasn't stopped, it moved to and attacked the Great Monk of Sorrow.

Kling Clang!

The demon avatar was knocked back one step by the recoil.

While the Great Monk of Sorrow was covered in solid golden light, unscathed from top to bottom.

The demon avatar roared in anger and kept up its attacks on the Great Monk of Sorrow. Its attacks made sparks fly everywhere, but was unable to leave even a scratch on the Great Monk of Sorrow.

"Unbreakable Diamond" Xie Dao Ling praised.

The Great Monk of Sorrow kept his eyes closed and slowly circled around the three-headed, six-armed demon avatar.

Although he looked slow, the monk's speed was extraordinarily fast, having already circled around the demon avatar once in the blink of an eye.

Wherever he walked, golden lotus flowers sprouted in the air, connecting into a circle.

After circling it once, the Great Monk of Sorrow stepped back.

Sweat beads as large as beans were rolling down from his head, his stature looked considerably exhausted, about to fall over at any time.

Then he made a seal with his hands, shouting: "Ohm! Ah! Hoong!"

The golden lotuses let out a bright golden barrier of light.

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The demon avatar roared, wanting to move, but seems to hit something in the sky and forced to step back.

It immediately tried to rush forward again, once again hitting something and was forced back again.

The demon avatar turned to one side, flying towards another direction.

——-but it was once again forced back, unable to take even one step.

From all sides, no matter where or how it moved, it couldn't escape the circle of golden lotuses drawn around itself.

"Drawn Grounded Prison" Xuanyuan Tianzun praised. (2)

Then the Great Monk of Sorrow made another hand seal, chanting: "Namo he luo da na luo ye ye namo ali ye po lu ji di shuo po luo ye suo po he"

The golden lotuses in the air bloomed, letting out a more intense golden light that reached all the way to the sky.

"Roaarrgggg!!" the demon avatar roared with agony.

Under the golden shower of light, all three of its head were like snow under the intense sun, very quickly melted into nothingness.

After that, the demon avatar's weapons, arms and body also dissipated.

As soon as the demon avatar dissipated, the countless Tianma Enchantresses in the sky screamed in pain at the same time, black smoke surrounded their bodies.

In a matter of seconds, all the brilliant beautiful Enchantresses' clothes and flesh melt away, turning into white skeletons with glowing lights of hatred in their eye sockets.

The skeletons were pushing, rushing each other to try and get back into the black temple.

"Let me help out the monk a little bit" Xuanyuan Tianzun noticed a problem, thus he took a yellow talisman in hand, lightly waving it.

The yellow talisman began to burn.

The flames started to take shape, as a Divine Phoenix spread its wings and flew out from the flame.

"Another"

Xuanyuan Tianzun looked at the black temple and lit another yellow talisman on fire.

From the second burning talisman, a Divine Kirin made of flames jumped out and stepped on the air.

"Fly!"

Xuanyuan Tianzun shouted, sending both the Phoenix and Kirin speeding towards the black temple.

"How could I possibly miss grabbing the snake by its head!" Bai Hua Fairy laughed and spoke. (3)

She also noticed that the Great Monk of Sorrow stood still in the air in such a crucial moment, obviously having used too much power to pursue.

The Buddhist's Dalani is powerful, but the energy cost isn't something a normal cultivator can just shrug off

But this was a crucial moment that absolutely cannot be missed, otherwise the battle might take a turn for the worse.

Bai Hua Fairy quickly made a hand seal.

A giant phantom creature appeared in the sky, casting a giant shadow over the earth.

It was a 9-clawed Great Dragon, from head to toe it easily stretched over a few miles.

Metal Elemental Secret Art, [Great Dragon]!

"Go!" Bai Hua Fairy declared.

The Great Dragon moved with great vigor, swung its tail to propel itself towards the black temple.

In just a few moments, three Divine creatures had already made it to where the black temple was, about to descend and attack.

Bo bei ye bo bei yu bo xun ye!

The sound of Tianma chanting once again emits from inside the black temple.

As the chant finished, over a hundred thousand phantoms of weapons manifested: swords, blades, bows, crossbows, halberds, javelins, hooks, staves, maces, hammers, wheels, nets... too many to list them all. Each and every weapon was emitting a menacing blue glow.

The weapons seemed to have a will of their own, as they flew outwards and attacked the three Divine creatures.

And the Phoenix, Kirin and Great Dragon all seemed very cautious of these weapons, dodging their attacks on one side while blowing out flames to attack the black temple.

A blue-glowing hook connected with the Kirin then disappeared without a trace, taking with it half of the Kirin's claw.

Note:

- (1) Avatar: lit. Tianma Demon God, but that's just bad naming convention, since the thing is nowhere near as strong as a god
- (2) Drawn Grounded Prison: lit. drawing on the ground to make a prison.
- (3) Grabbing the snake by its head: an idiom, meaning to strike the danger at its weakest point, also means to take advantage of the situation to profit off something/someone

Chapter 165

They flew towards Demon Clouds River, wanting to enter the battle.

Xuanyuan Tianzun looked at Xie Dao Ling.

Xie Dao Ling swung her sleeves and retrieved the Great Monk of Sorrow.

"I'll kill them first; you deal with that demonic creature" Xie Dao Ling said.

"Very well" Xuanyuan Tianzun nodded.

Xie Dao Ling immediately disappeared, then reappeared behind a Beast Saint.

Her hands moved so quick they turned into afterimages, striking the Beast Saint over a hundred times in a single breath.

The sound of impact rang out again and again, then the palm strikes became a fist, striking at his neck.

Martial Thaumaturgy, [Sky Fall]!

The sound of something breaking was heard as the Beast Saint's neck snapped at a strange angle.

"Die"

Xie Dao Ling only spat out one word before she struck behind her opponent again with her palm.

The Beast Saint was sent flying, turned into a shadow descending downwards, letting out a resounding impact like a meteor when he hit the ground.

In the huge crater, the Beast Saint was seen no longer breathing.

It was then that the other Beast Saints were able to make it to where she was.

Xie Dao Ling flew backwards, touched her pointer finger together with her thumb, put it at her lips and blew like a whistle.

Then a colorful cloud quickly flew towards her from afar.

The cloud then turned into Peacock Beast Saint, standing before Xie Dao Ling.

"Fairy summoned me?"

"Hm, let us fight together" Xie Dao Ling very calmly said.

"Yes" Peacock Beast Saint replied.

The rest of the Beast Saints stopped their feet, hesitating.

Of the 13 Beast Saints, 6 of them were transported away, Venerable Xin was killed on the spot, Xie Dao Ling easily killed another, so there were only 5 of them left.

The opponent they were facing is Bai Hua Fairy Xie Dao Ling herself, now there's also a Peacock Beast Saint with her, so they weren't quite sure of their chances of victory.

How sharp are Xie Dao Ling eyes, she instantly recognized their unease with a single glance.

She stepped forward, looking at the 5 Beast Saints with cold eyes.

"Live or die, your choice" She spoke.

"Yo-you really think the 5 of us are afraid of a single one of you?" one of the Beast Saints mustered all his courage, gritted his teeth and snapped back.

But when recalling how Xie Dao Ling so easily killed a Beast Saint just now, he was still shaking in fear.

"What do you all think?" another more practical Beast Saint asked in a low voice.

The Beast Saints exchanged looks, after using inner sight to communicate with each other, one of them stood out as leader and spoke: "If you want us to leave the battle, we can, but we have a condition"

"Don't misunderstand" Xie Dao Ling squints her eyes, but still spoke very casually, "I'm only giving you a choice between living or dying. If you stop here then you get to keep your life, aside from that, there's no other conditions to be discussed"

The Beast Saints all went silent.

"Decide quickly, my patience is running thin"

Xie Dao Ling frowned and spoke impatiently.

The Beast Saints emotions swayed between anger, confusion, and unwillingness, but they all sighed at the end.

"I'll give up"

"I also give up"

"I'm not fighting"

They answered dejectedly.

"That's good then, you lot go and hold the reins on the demon army for me, if anyone dares to even think about harming humanity, I'll make sure to ask you about it later" saying so, Xie Dao Ling left together with Peacock Beast Saint.

All the Beast Saints exchanged looks, temporarily unable to think of any words to say.

After a long while, one of them asked: "Are we really just going to listen to her orders?"

Another Beast Saint coldly laughed: "Sorrow and Xuanyuan are fine, but this is Xie Dao Ling we're talking about, it wasn't easy for me to get to Sainted Realm, I still want to live for a couple hundred years more"

Saying so, he flew downwards, loudly shouting for the demon army to organize itself.

The rest of the Beast Saints thought about it, then sighed and descended as well.

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They can't help it, truthfully speaking, if it weren't for the fact that they outnumber her, not a single one of them would dare to even talk carelessly in front of Xie Dao Ling.

"Fairy, they've already surrendered, why don't you make them attack the black temple as well?" Peacock Beast Saint asked.

"There's a limit to everything, past that and it'll backfire instead" Xie Dao Ling answered.

"Peacock, the battle ahead is too dangerous, you don't need to join me, just help me supervise those Beast Saints"

"Yes" Peacock very happily accepted.

Nodding, Xie Dao Ling once again flew next to Xuanyuan Tianzun.

She looked at the black temple.

The countless blue-glowing weapons were still manifesting from the black temple, stopping the Divine creatures' attacks.

"You're done?" Xuanyuan Tianzun asked in surprise.

"They chose to surrender" Xie Dao Ling answered.

Xuanyuan Tianzun let out his inner sight to see the Beast Saints were very sincerely controlling the demon army, not letting them run wild.

"That's fine then, this Daoist has yet to do anything of note, let this old man deal with that black temple"

Xuanyuan Tianzun spoke.

He tapped his Inventory Bag, very carefully took out a blank piece of yellow talisman.

Biting his finger, Xuanyuan Tianzun used his own blood to draw mystical runes and symbols on the yellow talisman.

After that was done, he held the yellow talisman in hand, folding it.

His hands were moving very quickly, but with expertise and precision, having folded the talisman into the shape of a mountain in the blink of an eye.

Xuanyuan Tianzun held the mountain-shaped talisman and flung it outwards.

As soon as the mountain left his hand, it silently flew right above the black temple.

"Transform!" Xuanyuan Tianzun made a hand seal and muttered.

Instantly, the talisman was no longer seen.

Instead, a giant mountain that blocked out the sky appeared!

Daoist Divine Skill, [Great Mountain]!

The magnificent mountain only floated in the air for a short few breaths before descending with Xuanyuan Tianzun's hand seal.

Heaven and earth shook, the stars disappeared, the sun and moon lost their lights.

All the demons and humans that were near also lost their footing from the tremor, unable to stand up properly.

Being crushed under, the black temple was now very deep inside the mountain.

Xuanyuan Tianzun took out another blank yellow talisman and used blood to draw something else.

As soon as he finished, he lightly tapped the talisman and shouted: "Subdue the Demons!"

The talisman flew towards the mountain, then melted into it.

Heaven and earth went silent for one breath.

Suddenly tens of billions of ear-piercing screams went past the giant mountain and filled the air.

The screams were both painful and agonizing, as if they were receiving the cruelest forms of torture in existence, unable to hold it back.

Rivers of blood oozed out from inside the mountain, soaking it in a foul stench of red blood.

Kadooooooooo ———

The mountain was broken into pieces as the black temple turned into a streak of light, about to escape to the sky.

[Just you wait, I will definitely bring back over a billion Tianma to kill you all!]

A blurry, unclear voice carrying a deep sense of hatred echoed from the black temple.

Xuanyuan Tianzun coldly laughed: "You broke my mountain and you'd still think to run away?"

Tapping his Inventory Bag, he places a jade flute on his lips.

A melancholic melody was heard.

Listening to the melody, Bai Hua Fairy sighed: "It has been so many years, the only remaining song of the Mountain god left over from the Age of Divinity"

Together with the melody, a great mountain suddenly turned into a gigantic hand, suddenly appeared from the earth and grabbed at the sky.

The black temple flew very fast, but still wasn't as fast as the earthen hand.

The giant hand extended upwards, all the way until where the fierce winds blow, finally grabbed the black temple.

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The giant hand slowly pulled back, having grabbed hold of the black temple.

[No!]

A voice will of unwillingness and agony was heard from the temple.

The temple was still trying its best to fly out to space, while the giant hand made of earth grabbed hold of it tightly, pulling it down.

While the two forces struggled against each other, the black temple once again manifested countless weapons around it and attacked the giant hand made of earth.

Under the constant attacks of the weapons, the hand was very quickly being eaten away, about to collapse.

Seeing that, Xuanyuan Tianzun infused more spirit energy into the jade flute, the melody became louder, as if it was ringing through space itself.

The ground heaved as more earth and rock slithered up the arm, restoring the broken hand back to normal.

The weapons pressed on their attacks, while the earth continued to repair the hand, as both sides entered a stalemate, unable to decide on a winner.

A layer of sweat started to form on Xuanyuan Tianzun's forehead, as the sound of the flute started to become slower.

Seeing that, Xie Dao Ling suddenly spoke: "Let me help you"

She lightly tapped the earth with her foot, as her slender figure turned into a streak of light heading towards the sky.

Very quickly, she passed both the hand and the temple, flying even higher.

Standing in the blue sky where fierce wind blows, she stared straight at the black temple below.

"All three of us had to give our all, if you're still able to get away, wouldn't that make us a joke then?" she muttered.

Tilting her body downward, Xie Dao Ling descended like a falling meteor.

Her flying speed was already fast, but she was still speeding up more and more until all that could be seen was a green shadow.

The green shadow-like figure was falling at an increasingly rapid speed.

The overflowing power of Thaumaturgy solidified and slowly covered the green figure, manifesting into a certain shape.

It was a giant person-shaped monster.

To be precise, it's not actually human-shaped, because only its face was barely visible as being human, while its body was a long snake-like body.

This was an ancient mythical creature of legends, who knows what sort of Secret Art Xie Dao Ling used to be able to manifest such a thing.

The monster seemed to carry an endless rage, tightly surrounded the green figure, heading straight toward the black temple.

The temple seems to noticed something wasn't right, then a figure got out, wanting to escape.

"Where do you think you're going!?"

The green figure shouted as she sped up again, then suddenly disappeared from where she was.

Divine Skill, [Ground Shrink]!

In a single moment, the green figure had reappeared, directly striking the figure that was trying to escape, pushing it back into the black temple.

There wasn't any action.

No techniques.

No back and forth.

No attacking weaknesses.

Only overwhelming Martial Thaumaturgy power all turned into an impact.

Martial Divine Skill, [Unbreakable Mountain Range]!

Boom--

The invisible shockwaves ripple across the sky.

The sound of the impact was like an army of millions, so powerful it blew apart the clouds.

Under this immense impact, the entire black temple as well as the earthen hand was broken into millions of pieces, falling to the ground.

Half of the Formless Tianma Saint King's body was broken, barely able to keep itself afloat.

In the next moment, it couldn't do anything but flew down, trying to catch up to the half of its body that was falling down.

This can't be right, how could there possibly be such a powerful Sainted realm!? It spat out green blood, shouting in disbelief.

But Xuanyuan Tianzun was already waiting for it to show itself.

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The melancholic melody of flute once again echoed.

The ground once again formed into a hand, extended to the sky, grabbing the Formless Tianma Saint King tight.

No matter how much it tried to struggle, the hand was already retreating back into the earth, taking the Formless Tianma Saint King with it.

Xuanyuan Tianzun did not stop playing the flute.

The ground was trembling intensely, as if something was trying its hardest to struggle.

In the intense wind, the once-stifled sound of the flute travelled to both the human and demon's camps.

Every single creature that hears it couldn't help but became silent, unable to utter even a single word.

It wasn't until half an incense stick's time later that the tremor in the ground stopped.

Xuanyuan Tianzun finally stopped playing.

He spoke with a tired face: "Dead"

Bai Hua Fairy was already standing next to him, nodded: "It's been hard on you"

She swung her sleeves, releasing the Great Monk of Sorrow.

The three of them stood side-by-side in the air, looking at the ground below.

"We've won" Xuanyuan Tianzun breathed out in relief.

"Amitabha, it wasn't easy, but we finally won" the Great Monk of Sorrow also exclaimed.

"A win is a win" Xie Dao Ling smiled, "both the Demon Lord and numerous strong demons are not here, so our victory is only due to taking the opportune moment, we definitely cannot let our guard down, especially in the next short time period"

Hearing that, both the other Saints also became serious again.

"Let's go, first we'll have a talk with the Beast Saints, then we return to humanity's camp" Xie Dao Ling started descending after saying so.

About an hour later.

The 100 or so spirit beasts that managed to survive were captured.

They were possessed by Tianma for a few dozen years, now that the Tianma were dead, all the spirit beasts seemed to have lost their consciousness, attacking anyone they see as if they were in a frenzy.

After the Great Monk of Sorrow take a look, he concluded.

———if they didn't volunteer to, the Tianma wouldn't have been able to possess them so easily.

In order words, for this matter, the spirit beasts were convinced by the Tianma into betraying humans.

Both they and the demon beasts wanted to defeat humans and make humans their slaves, their cattle, while they become this world's master.

Of course they were also victims, as the longer they let the Tianma possess them, the more their own consciousness got affected.

But they didn't know that.

Humanity's camp.

All the great cultivators had gathered under one roof, sitting in the commander's hall.

Under that, regular cultivators were openly cheerful, congratulating each other for their victory.

Wu Xing Wen stood up and began to calculate their Military Merit.

He didn't participate in the battle just now, but he looked more exhausted than anyone else here.

A Tianma had snuck into his Thought Sea and controlled his thoughts, he felt goose bumps all over his body as he recalled that.

Luckily the Great Monk of Sorrow is an expert in dealing with Tianma, so he only needed one strike to kill it.

Otherwise, once the Tianma went into a frenzy, his own life would also have been forfeit.

"Zhen Wei Chaplain Li Cha, you contributed to investigating the enemy's situation, you contributed to killing demons, since your Merits are enough, promoted to Zhao Wu Chaplain"

"Captain Sun Ming, you contributed to killing demons, since your Merits are enough, promoted to Major"

"Soldier Wang Fa, you contributed to rescuing comrades on the battlefield, since your Merits are enough, promoted to Lieutenant"

He continued to read out, not noticing how the gazes of the three Saints looking at him was exceptionally complicated.

"You Ji General Ning Yue Xi" Wu Xing Wen looked at the jade tag in his hand and muttered, "participating in the decisive secret battle plan, contributed to reinforcement on the battlefield, promoted to Ding Yuan General"

Ding Yuan General!

The 4th Ding Yuan General of humanity!

Everyone went silent, pointing their gazes at the beautiful girl donning a set of golden armor.

Chapter 167

Gu Qing Shan was standing behind Bai Hua Fairy, sending his voice to her: "This is the Saint's will"

"But I didn't do anything" Ning Yue Xi sent her voice back.

"What do you mean nothing? You saved me. If I had died, who would tell the Saints about the truth?" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Ning Yue Xi was still a bit hesitant.

"However, since you've been promoted, you have to treat me to a meal" he added.

"That's fine" Ning Yue Xi answered.

"A meal you cooked yourself" Gu Qing Shan took it a step further.

"Do you want me to feed you as well?" Ning Yue Xi squints her eyes.

"Ahaha, no need, don't joke about that" Gu Qing Shan's inner sight quickly retreated.

"Hmph" Ning Yue Xi scoffed.

Another Ding Yuan General, Ming Hui monk asked: "What secret mission and who did she save that she got so much Merit?"

Wu Xing Wen replied: "The mission that found out the truth about the spirit beasts' betrayal"

Ming Hui monk showed an expression of understanding and didn't ask anymore.

The sudden attack of this battle devastated the number of demons and even got their generals to surrender. You could even say this was the battle to end all battles, going above anything that anyone expected.

If Ning Yue Xi really did participate in the mission that found out the truth about the spirit beast, then her being promoted a rank isn't something to be surprised about.

Wu Xing Wen continued: "Zhao Wu Chaplain Leng Tian Xing, participated in the secret decisive battle mission, contributed to finding out the truth. Because your original Merit was high to begin with, you have enough to be promoted to You Ji General"

Another General!

The crowd was in an uproar.

It must be because of the spirit beasts' betrayal, only this mission that decided the entire outcome of the decisive battle is enough to let Leng Tian Xing immediately become a General!

Leng Tian Xing nodded at Gu Qing Shan, and Gu Qing Shan also nodded back.

They both didn't need to say anything, having been through enough together.

Wu Xing Wen voice became smaller and smaller, but still had to say it: "Investigation of Bai Hua Sect's Gu Qing Shan's case has finished. The spirit beasts spoke ill of him on purpose while he has not framed to kill a comrade, his original rank is kept"

All the cultivators listened and nodded.

Who would've thought, the spirit beasts that have always been known for being loyal and truthful would lie, and would even betray them?

This matter was too much outside of everyone's expectation and Gu Qing Shan himself was simply unlucky. However, after this battle, his reputation has been restored to what it was before.

Wu Xing Wen as also silently regretting.

After spending so much effort, Gu Qing Shan is still unharmed, not to mention he has personally offended Bai Hua Fairy, so this was a very unprofitable venture.

Even though he was being influenced by a Tianma, he wasn't completely clean either.

From now on, he has to be more careful.

Suddenly, someone yelled out: "I don't believe it! He must have lied!"

Everyone looked towards the voice to see it was a Spirit Beast sect's adolescence disciple.

The boy was Li Chu Chen's little brother, Li De Wen.

Li De Wen angrily pointed at Gu Qing Shan and asked: "Do you dare to accept a Soul Reading?"

The crowd was noisy.

The spirit beasts have been proven to be the traitors of humanity, Gu Qing Shan himself was a Saint's direct disciple, and Bai Hua Fairy did not look the least bit happy right now.

Under such circumstances, Li De Wen still dared to jump out like that, is he tired of living?

Wu Xing Wen was silently cursing him.

This type of hot-headed youngster is easy to provoke and take advantage of, but when the situation changes, they're also the most troublesome type to clean up after.

Sure enough, Bai Hua Fairy asked him

"Why do you want to have him go through Soul Reading?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

"He killed my brother!"

Under the scrutinizing eyes of the Saint, Li De Wen's body shook, but still declared very confidently.

Both Spirit Beast sect's master and Elder had to go to bring him back.

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But Bai Hua Fairy had already raised her hand then slowly lowered it, signaling them to stop.

"No need, let him stand there, this Saint was already about to ask about this" Xie Dao Ling spoke.

Oh no, everyone in Spirit Beast sect felt a shiver down their spine at the same time.

"It's you! You spouted false words wanting to fool this General, according to military law, you should be executed!" Wu Xing Wen took out a talisman and was about to do it.

"I said. To let him stand there" Xie Dao Ling coldly spoke.

Wu Xing Wen gritted his teeth, but didn't dare to do anything reckless. He held the talisman in his hand tight, then finally pulled back.

The talisman was already scrunched up very badly.

"He killed your brother because your brother disobeyed orders" Xie Dao Ling stared at Li De Wen and spoke.

"But who can prove that? If he has wicked thoughts while doing it, how would anyone know?" Li De Wen insisted.

"He has gone through Heart Appraisal, the cultivators of Yao Guang sect and Heaven's Limit sect has also went through Heart Appraisal. As far as the regulations of our humanity's military goes, he has been proven innocent" Xie Dao Ling continued.

"That can't be true, it just can't! General Wu told me, he definitely lied!" Li De Wen still insisted without letting go.

As soon as he said so, the whole crowd went into an uproar.

"YOU DARE TO INVOLVE ME IN THIS!" Wu Xing Went instantly went mad and threw out a talisman.

"Stop!"

"General, please be calm!" the guard cultivators all shouted.

"General Wu!?" the boy opened his eyes wide, looking at Wu Xing Wen in disbelief.

"Stop your hand!" Spirit Beast sect's master instantly jumped out, blocking in front of the boy.

In that moment, the entire scene became chaos.

Yet Bai Hua Fairy sat still and didn't move one bit, only silently watched what ensued.

However, Xuanyuan Tianzun who was sitting next to her couldn't sit still and grabbed the air. The talisman that was flying towards the boy instantly stopped and flew into his hand instead.

"Hopeless disciple, what are you doing!" He shouted.

Wu Xing Wen tried to stay strong-headed, and yelled back in anger: "Shifu, he's only a mere soldier, yet he dared to badmouth me in front of everyone"

"He's only a mere soldier, yet he dares to badmouth you?" Xuanyuan Tianzun repeated his words one by one.

The look in his eyes as he looked at this disciple contained nothing but disappointment.

Xuanyuan Tianzun sighed, then order: "Men, come. Heart Appraisal"

Bai Hua Fairy stayed silent.

Two cultivators went and stood opposite of Wu Xing Wen.

They both clasped their fists: "The Saint has ordered, please pardon us General"

Wu Xing Wen half-opened his mouth, but couldn't say a thing.

He can't disobey Shifu's orders, but if the truth gets out...

The two cultivators waited for a bit, exchanged looks, then one of them spoke: "General, please tell us everything you know of this matter from start to finish, so that we can get this over with"

"I" Wu Xing Wen started to speak, "felt that Li Chu Chen's death was a bit strange"

Both cultivators nodded.

Wu Xing Wen continued: "So I had some people go call people from Spirit Beast sect, to ask about Li Chu Chen's spirit beast bags, and trusted the words of the spirit beasts"

They nodded again.

Wu Xing Wen: "Then I called Gu Qing Shan and the people of Spirit Beast sect over to have them cross-check each other's stories"

Both cultivators shook their heads.

The look in their eyes when looking at Wu Xing Wen changed.

One of them turned to the three Saints and reported: "The general is lying"

Xuanyuan Tianzun's face was heavy as water.

He sighed, then asked: "Disciple of mine, do you know why Tianma was able to get into your Thought Sea, yet Gong Sun Zhi and Ming Hui was fine without any problems?"

"I don't know" Wu Xing Wen answered.

"Because you had malice, you wanted to harm another person for unjust reasons. When this malice became an obsession, you gave the Tianma an opening into your mind"

"Despite being one of three Ding Yuan Generals of humanity, you showed an opening for the Tianma, if you weren't discovered so fast, you would've caused the death not just yourself, but many more of your fellow cultivators"

Xuanyuan Tianzun shook his head as he spoke.

Chapter 168

From the way things went, if it weren't for Gu Qing Shan discovering the truth of the matter and forming such a brilliant tactic, he would've very easily been caught off-guard, possibly even sent to the Tianma's world and lose his life.

He already owes Gu Qing Shan a great favor, yet his disciple had tried to frame him.

Even though part of it is due to the Tianma's influence, but if Wu Xing Wen himself doesn't already want to do so, the Tianma wouldn't be able to influence him in that direction.

It's because his mind is muddled and borne malice that the Tianma was able to sneak into his Thought Sea.

All the events that happened after was from the Tianma's manipulation, but Wu Xing Wen cannot escape the blame.

If this isn't done right, even my own Dao heart will be affected.

Thinking so, Xuanyuan Tianzun took out a black talisman and threw it.

"Put that on your forehead" he spoke with a heavy voice.

Wu Xing Wen accepted the talisman, noticed the look on his Shifu's face, gritted his teeth, but had no choice except to do as ordered.

Xuanyuan Tianzun tapped the talisman from afar, then spoke: "Go"

The talisman turned into black smoke and entered Wu Xing Wen's ears.

Instantly, Wu Xing Wen's eyes became blank and stood dead still on the high platform.

"Soul Reading Talisman?" Bai Hua Fairy asked.

"Hm, my Blue Clouds Pass has always condoned justice and fairness, if there's ever a fault, then it shall be judged in front of everyone. He will get what he deserves" Xuanyuan Tianzun spoke.

Bai Hua Fairy nodded in satisfaction.

"Ask again" Xuanyuan Tianzun ordered the two cultivators responsible for Heart Appraisal.

"Yes sir" the two cultivators don't dare to disobey, quickly came up and asked again: "What exactly did you do in Gu Qing Shan's matter"

Wu Xing Wen spoke in monotone: "Spirit Beast sect's Li De Wen is young, his thoughts are simple, he felt his brother's death was underserved and was angry, so I manipulated him with words to help ruin Gu Qing Shan's reputation"

Li De Wen was stunned to know that matters was not as he had initially thought.

"To me, this matter was nothing but a small passing action, but once I did it, my consciousness seems to be blurred, unable to judge things properly anymore"

Wu Xing Wen kept on going in a monotone voice.

"During my blurriness, thought after thought kept coming up in my mind, directing me towards a certain direction and finally it became unstoppable. I had forgotten everything about the decisive battle and started to concoct a plan to kill him"

All the cultivators gasped as they heard it.

Wu Xing Wen wanted to ruin Gu Qing Shan's reputation, but got taken advantage of by the Tianma, provoking the entire army to isolate Gu Qing Shan.

Luckily the three Saints had appeared when they did, otherwise he would've been able to execute his plan to kill him.

And now, not only did he got possessed by a Tianma, he was also being Soul Read by his own Shifu, dropping his reputation to rock bottom..

This was karma that couldn't be blamed on anyone else but himself.

Li De Wen watched this scene in shock, muttering: "Why... why did you have to fool me..."

He finally understood that he was just being taken advantage of.

In other words, his brother really did disobey military orders and was killed by Gu Qing Shan.

Li De Wen whimpered, then slowly fell to his knees, crying loudly.

The two questioning cultivators exchanged looks and reported: "The Soul Reading results is true"

Xuanyuan Tianzun shook his head and released his hand seal.

Wu Xing Wen's consciousness finally returned.

He was actually awake during the entire process, but unable to do anything or control what he spoke.

I'm really done for.

He stood alone on the platform.

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The looks that cultivators gave him was no longer of admiration, respect and closeness. They all turned into coldness and condemnation.

Before the decisive battle, he was still thinking about how to badmouth someone else. How could someone so petty and weak-minded like that ever control an army properly?

Wu Xing Wen could feel his own heart sinking into the abyss without any way back up.

Xuanyuan Tianzun didn't even bother to look at him again, only turned to ask Bai Hua Fairy: "How do you want to deal with him?"

Bai Hua Fairy then turned to look at the Great Monk of Sorrow, asking: "I don't know the military very well, so let just do as the monk judge best"

"Amitabha, he's clearly no longer fit to be a General" the Great Monk of Sorrow spoke with a solemn expression: "From regulations, he shall be stripped of his General rank and have to climb once again from the position of soldier"

Seeing Bai Hua Fairy about to frown, the Great Monk of Sorrow quickly added: "Also, for sullying a Saint's disciple's name, he will go through the same humiliation and receive the 300 strikes punishment"

Hearing that, Bai Hua Fairy's expression loosened.

All 300 strikes of the punishment are infused with spirit energy, the person being punished must receive them while topless, and they're not allowed to use any sort of scripture to resist the pain, each time they do, they'll receive an extra 10 strikes.

Not only does the person being punished lose any semblance of respect and admiration they had before, they also have to endure the pain.

This punishment is light, not enough to take Wu Xing Wen's life, but his dignity as a cultivator will be completely lost.

Bai Hua Fairy was very pleased with Xuanyuan Tianzun's attitude, so she left the punishment entirely for the Great monk of Sorrow to decide.

That way, this matter is being dealt with completely by the book, the two Saints doesn't have to face off each other, and they don't infringe on each other's dignity.

And since this punishment doesn't kill Wu Xing Wen, it doesn't only relieve Bai Hua Fairy's anger, it also respects Xuanyuan Tianzun's feelings.

Sure enough, Xuanyuan Tianzun's expression loosened a bit when he heard that.

Xie Dao Ling turned around and asked Gu Qing Shan: "What do you think?"

Gu Qing Shan thought about it and replied: "I want to say something to him"

"Then do so" Xie Dao Ling told him.

In front of the three Saints, in front of all the cultivators there, Gu Qing Shan went in front of Wu Xing Wen and stopped.

Wu Xing Wen scoffed, then turned to face Gu Qing Shan.

Fucker, it's all your fault.

"Are you here to humiliate me?" He held his anger back, staring a hold into Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan answered: "No, I'm only here to ask you one thing"

"It's already come to this, what else do you need to ask?"

Gu Qing Shan looked Wu Xing Wen straight in the eyes and asked: "As a Ding Yuan General, before the decisive battle between the demons and us, yet you wanted to take your grudge out on me alone, what were you thinking?"

Wu Xing Wen stared at him, gritted his teeth and answered: "I am the eldest brother of Blue Clouds Pass, and my youngest brother was killed in the semester examination by you"

Gu Qing Shan doesn't dodge his stare, instead returned it very seriously: "During the entire semester examination, our Bai Hua sect was only there as spectators. But Lee Chang An provoked over 20 people, not only to attack me, but also tried to slander our sect, whose fault is that?"

Wu Xing Wen didn't reply.

"If you truly care about your junior brother, you should've cared for him when he was still alive. Educate and teach him yourself about how he should act around other people and not slander other people's sect's reputation"

Gu Qing Shan received his looked, very solemnly continued: "You are the eldest brother of your sect, yet

you didn't teach your juniors well. You let him act arrogant as he pleased, ridiculing another person's sect only to get killed. You think this isn't your responsibility?"

Gu Qing Shan slowly: "Before your junior brother died, you didn't even bother to teach him correctly. Yet after he died, you wanted to frame another person and ruin their reputation, justifying this as avenging your junior brother"

"As the eldest direct disciple of a sect. Do you really think this was actually my fault, and not yours?"

Wu Xing Wen was stunned, unable to say anything back at all.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and returned.

Xie Dao Ling slightly smirked, but felt that it wasn't quite the right time to do so, so she quickly regained a blank expression.

Then she ordered: "Carry out the punishment"

With her swift order, Wu Xing Wen's General armor was taken off by two enforcer cultivators and shoved onto the punishment rack.

Wu Xing Wen began to receive his punishment, whipped in front of everyone there.

His screams of pain echoed around the camp.

Chapter 169

She glanced at the Great Monk of Sorrow and Xuanyuan Tianzun, smiled and asked: "Shall I?"

The Great Monk of Sorrow: "Amitabha, then we'll trouble you, benefactor Xie"

Xuanyuan Tianzun also nodded.

Xie Dao Ling stood up, walked to the platform then declared to the cultivators below: "This battle's victory is attributed entirely to a single person's plan. Since we have yet to mention his due Merit and rewards, that is what I shall announce right now"

Hearing that, all the cultivators had the same thought

Just how exactly did this campaign's victory come to be?

It was completely shrouded in mystery, one that no one here could lift.

Before the decisive battle, the three Saints suddenly arrived and declared they were able to track the traitor of humanity.

After that, everyone went into the General's tent one by one.

All they remembered is that they went inside, felt disoriented, then arrived at a subspace.

There, Xuanyuan Tianzun and the Great Monk of Sorrow arranged the roles and tactics they had to follow, saying that they must be ready to fight as soon as they leave this subspace.

And when they left, they were already near Demon Clouds River.

On a battlefield not too far from there, the demons and spirit beast had nearly all died out.

Everyone was shocked, but didn't have time to think too much about it, only followed the three Saint's orders and quickly prepared to fight.

———after that, the Three Saints themselves entered a hard battle with the Tianma, and the demon beasts surrendered.

Everyone only managed to control the large-scale attack formations to attack a Beast Saint a few times, stood and watched the intense fight between the Saints and the Tianma, then the battle was suddenly won.

No one got hurt, no one died, they simply won.

Everyone was still in disbelief.

It wasn't until after the campaign was over that it was widely known that the spirit beasts had betrayed them.

Everyone gasped.

If while they were on the battlefield, fully concentrated on killing the demons and suddenly got attacked from behind by the spirit beasts, the results would've been frightening.

Just who found out about this unbelievable truth?

Without this crucial piece of information, humanity would've been caught in a pincer attack between the demons and spirit beasts and lost without any doubt.

And then, how did the Saints manage to win?

Quite a few people here know that there are a total of 13 Beast Saints.

Their number has been the biggest reason why they are able to keep the three Saints at a stalemate; just how did that suddenly get resolved?

So many matters were shrouded in mystery, every cultivator was extremely curious about it, they wanted to know.

But no one dared to openly questioned the three Saints about it.

And now, Bai Hua Fairy is finally going to reveal the truth behind it all.

Facing the anticipation of everyone, Bai Hua Fairy Xie Dao Ling smiled, then spoke.

"One person found out the truth about the spirit beasts' betrayal after infiltrating the demon's territory"

The entire area started to become rowdy from the sound of discussion.

Sure enough, it was about this matter!

Bai Hua Fairy continued: "This person had suggested their own tactic for this decisive battle" "Through much discussion by myself, Xuanyuan Tianzun and the Great Monk of Sorrow, we had concluded that this tactic was a brilliant battle plan"

"Regarding the results of that plan, you can all see with your own eyes"

"Six Beast Saints had left for another world, unable to ever return"

"Tens of thousands of spirit beasts, as well as over 100,000 demons were ambushed by us and nearly all died out, the few of them that remains can no longer fight against humanity"

At this point, Bai Hua Fairy stopped a bit before continuing: "But when I arrived at the frontline, I found that he was framed for abusing power to bully the weak, to kill an innocent, and was isolated by all"

Many gasps of surprise came from the cultivators below.

Quite a few quick-witted cultivators had noticed who Bai Hua Fairy was talking about.

But they still couldn't believe it.

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Then, Bai Hua Fairy declared: "Xiao Qi Chaplain, Gu Qing Shan"

"Here"

In front of everyone, Gu Qing Shan once again stood out.

"You found out the truth about the spirit beasts' betrayal, preventing the loss of life of many cultivators here, a great contribution"

"You suggested a brilliant tactic that prevented the three of us from being taken to unknown lands, using the demon beasts' preparations against themselves, eliminating 6 Beast Saints in the process, a great contribution"

"In this battle, your many contributions had proven that you are a talented General"

"The merit gained from your contributions had exceeded the amount that's required for the Chaplain rank"

Bai Hua Fairy stopped again and looked at her disciple with extreme satisfaction.

She declared: "After discussion between the three of us, you are now promoted to the rank of You Ji General"

"Roger"

"Men, present him with the golden armor and change his badge"

"Thank you, Saints"

Following Bai Hua Fairy and Gu Qing Shan's conversation, the entire army went into an uproar.

It was him!

So all of this was done by him!

Thinking about it carefully, they realized ————no wonder the spirit beasts badmouthed him, it's very possible that the Tianma had found out that he might have already noticed the truth!

Unfortunately, Wu Xing Wen knew nothing about this and even helped the spirit beasts to try and push him down.

If Gu Qing Shan had not been able to report the spirit beasts' betrayal to the Saints...

Many people unconsciously reached for their waist, imagining the scene of their own spirit beast suddenly jumping out and attacked them.

Everyone shivered in fear!

Just like that, they all owe him a great favor.

Many people were still in disbelief, looking at the other two Saints for confirmation.

The Great Monk of Sorrow and Xuanyuan Tianzun were both smiling and nodding in praise.

They were no longer in disbelief.

If the other two Saints also reacted like this, then this matter really isn't just something the master and disciple pair of Bai Hua sect orchestrated by themselves.

The way cultivators looked at Gu Qing Shan had changed.

A few were of admiration, a few were of shame, but most of them were thinking about how to apologize to him.

A main point of cultivation is to cultivate the mind, even though they were fooled, the fact that they had coldly rained him with jeers still put them in the wrong.

If they don't do anything, their Dao heart wouldn't be able to settle down, which is detrimental to themselves.

While the painful cries of Wu Xing Wen's punishment still continued, the few people who were discussing in empathy of him has now all stopped and no longer bothered with him.

It was like they had ignored both his existence and his screams.

"Very well, next, I have two things to announce" Bai Hua Fairy spoke.

"The first, from now on, all spirit beasts must swear on their inner demons before they are allowed to serve humanity"

"A spirit beast that doesn't want to swear on their inner demon is not allowed to interact with humans" "Anyone that violates this rule shall be killed without question"

Hearing that, everyone went solemn, but no one dared to say anything back.

No extraneous explanations, no mincing words, simply declaring that they shall be killed.

This was Bai Hua Fairy Xie Dao Ling's style.

"The second, everyone shall stay in place and began preparations, three days from now --"

She stopped for a bit for everyone to become silent.

A few cultivators gulped anxiously, others only stared at her without making a sound.

The entire camp very quickly went silent, no one made a sound, no one even dared to move.

A complete silence.

Xie Dao Ling glanced over the entire camp as her voice raised and declared: "We shall attack Shen We world!"

The cultivators suddenly burst into a blasting response and continued on for a while after.

Chapter 170

Gu Qing Shan was sitting in his tent.

In front of him was a jade tag, a golden armor and two quivers of black arrows.

The jade tag was from the Great Monk of Sorrow, a reward to thank him for his brilliant tactic.

Gu Qing Shan had suggested Bai Hua Fairy to turn into the three Saints and purposefully triggered Venerable Xin's trap.

If not for that, even the Great Monk of Sorrow would've been caught off-guard and taken to the realm of Tianma.

After all, Venerable Xin had planned it for a very long time, while the three Saints knew nothing about what was going to happen.

Gu Qing Shan took up the jade tag.

A small line of text appeared on the War God UI.

[Discovered Great Soul Vessel Protection Secret Technique, would you like to spend 30 Soul Points to comprehend it?]

Gu Qing Shan contemplated whether or not to learn this.

According to the Great Monk of Sorrow, after learning this technique, all outer realm Tianma's hypnosis and temptation won't be able to unknowingly affect him.

After thinking, Gu Qing Shan picked [Yes]

[Great Soul Vessel Protection Secret Technique has been comprehended, remaining Soul Points: 270]

A warmth flowed from the jade tag into Gu Qing Shan's hand and into his Thought Sea.

Gu Qing Shan immediately understood all there is to know about this technique.

A spell that's able to protect the soul vessel from all temptation and resisting the Tianma's manipulation is very rare, they're usually only available for Buddhists.

If it weren't for his great contributions this time, together with the fact that the Great Monk of Sorrow likes to support the younger generation, he wouldn't have been able to get this technique.

"It's very potent indeed..." he muttered.

The practitioner doesn't need to care about this technique after they successfully learn it, as it's usually useless in daily life.

But when the soul vessel is under attack, or a Tianma gets close, the technique will automatically activate.

After activating, if a Tianma gets close or some sort of secret technique is used to affect the soul, the technique will create a protection avatar to protect the practitioner's soul vessel from being affected.

This is a very good means of protection.

Gu Qing Shan is extremely pleased with it.

Then he turned to look at the golden armor.

The armor contained a breast plate, shoulder pads, wrist guards, gauntlets, a belt, knee pads and armored boots. All of them brand new and of great quality, completely unscathed from attacks by regular weapons.

Gu Qing Shan even saw a silver mask as part of the armor set.

The first time he met Ning Yue Xi, she was wearing such a silver mask.

At the time, Gu Qing Shan thought it was Ning Yue Xi's own thing, but it turns out to be a part of the General's armor set.

Taking the silver mask in hand, he evaluated it.

The mask was as thin as an insect's wings and just as light, but when applying force to it, the shape didn't warp a single bit, and inner sight is completely unable to penetrate it.

"What a good item!" he praised.

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Since this is a You Ji General armor set, every single piece of the golden armor is supposed to be completely covered in runes, but once you look at it, the runes all disappeared without a trace.

This set of golden armor probably cost a lot, each one requires the hard work of 5-6 Grandmaster smiths working their fastest for three months straight to complete.

Having this, a cultivator's defensive capabilities will be immensely increased.

And on the battlefield, defensive capabilities mean your life.

As a sword cultivator, he already has overwhelming attack capabilities. Having this armor means he can just forget about defending and use everything he has to attack.

And that's a very scary thing for a sword cultivator's enemy.

Next to the golden armor was two quivers full of black arrows.

These are all Demon Slaying Arrows.

After checking out the General's armory, Gu Qing Shan found that items available for Generals to use are quite good, but none are as good as the Earth Sword and the Night Rain.

The majority of those weapons are Law-grade, but his Earth Sword has been passed down for a very long time, and its strength hasn't even been fully released, according to Shifu.

And the Night Rain is Ning Yue Xi's family heirloom bow, not only is it powerful, it also carries a unique sentiment.

Gu Qing Shan has no intention of changing these two weapons.

And so, he exchanged his quota for two quivers of Demon Slaying Arrows.

He now has armor and arrows; Gu Qing Shan is very pleased.

But more importantly ———-

Opening the War God UI, Gu Qing Shan took a look at this Quests.

[Destiny Quest: Decisive Battle (1)]

[Quest Objective: Only when standing high enough will you be able to efficiently affect the direction of this war. You must increase your Military Rank to Zhao Wu Chaplain before the war reaches its halfway point]

[If the Quest fails, the reward shall be rescinded, and the user will not be able to increase their cultivation in the span of 3 years]

After he finished reading, the Quest details turned into light particles and disappeared.

Instead, a few different lines of text showed up.

[You've completed the Destiny Quest: Decisive Battle (1)]

[Currently, you'll be able to keep the temporary right to use War God Title, until the Quest is finished] [Because you completed the Quest above the requirements, receiving exceptional reputation during the process, you've received a new title]

[Because you completed the Quest above the requirements, the time you're able to remain in Reality has increased to be 7 days (Note: After 7 days when you return to the cultivation world, you'll arrive at this same exact moment in time)]

Gu Qing Shan ignored the last line of the message and quickly tapped the "War God Title" icon.

[As the name of War God is renowned across all the lands, your title is the manifestation of your will] [User Gu Qing Shan current owned titles: 3]

[Notice, you can only equip one title at a time"]

[Title 1: Sword 15]

[Description: On the day of the semester examination, you used one sword strike to blow away 15 of the top cultivators there. So many sect's newcomers have started to spread the name of Sword 15] [Equipping this title grants you the specialist skill: Sound Shock]

[Sound Shock: when attacking, you'll deal many minor damage to the opponent's soul vessel]

[Title 2: You Ji General (Note: Xiao Qi Chaplain title has been overwritten)] [Description: Within the Humanity's Alliance army, this is the 4th General rank from the top]

[Equipping this title grants you the specialist skill: Quick Attack (Intermediate)]

[Quick Attack (Intermediate): The user's attack speed is increased by 15%]

[Title 3: Talented General]

[Description: Because you managed to perceive the flow of war; grasped the chance to use the enemy's preparations against themselves; devastating the demon's ranks and placed the foundation for victory, one of the three Saints, Bai Hua Fairy had praised you to be a talented General in front of everybody.

This praise has been accepted as truth by the cultivators of the land]

[Equipping this title grants you the specialist skill: Rampaging Sword Qi]

[Rampaging Sword Qi: Your sword is filled with countless fine and minute sword qi, whenever you activate this Skill, that sword qi shall concentrate to become phantoms and attack an extra time. (Note: This title Skill is limited to activation while you're using Swords)]

Looking at the two titles Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but praise them.

Rampaging Sword Qi is ridiculous, and Quick Attack became more ridiculous.

With his swordsmanship, whether it's an extra attack or 15% more attack speed, the effect would still be exceptional.

With the Xiao Qi Chaplain title from before, it only increased the speed by 10% and he was already able to instantly assassinate Flame-cloud Chasing Sky Crane. No need to mention now that You Ji General increased that to 15%.

For powerful sword cultivators, if your sword is faster even if only by a little bit, the battle would have drastically different results.

Looking at the two title Skills, he felt a deep sense of accomplishment.

Chapter 171

Drawing his sword, he infused his spirit energy

A misty fog enveloped the blade of the sword.

This fog was made entirely out of minute and fine sword qi, completely hiding the blade of the sword inside.

Gu Qing Shan swung his blade, practicing the Kai Shan Style.

As the sword moved, so did the fog.

This way, his opponents won't be able to accurately gauge where the blade is, as well as quick sort of strike Gu Qing Shan is using.

"What an unexpected harvest" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He pulled the sword back, then thrust it forward.

When the thrust reached its maximum range, he activated [Rampaging Sword Qi]

Suddenly, all the fog on the sword turned into a phantom sword, repeating the thrust.

"Yep, a very pleasant surprise indeed" Gu Qing Shan commented.

After trying it out, he equipped [You Ji General].

The fog on his sword immediately disappeared.

After feeling his strength, Gu Qing Shan swung his sword, this time using Wind Slash Style.

Inside the General's tent, Gu Qing Shan moved nonstop, as the sword in his hand turned into a blurry shadow, giving people the impression that the sword he held wasn't real.

Even the air itself couldn't take it, as the sword ripped through and created sharp and sorrowful screeches.

This was due to the sword moving too fast.

Gu Qing Shan stopped.

The General's tent regained its silence.

Gu Qing Shan smiled.

He's very pleased with these title Skills.

Then he checked the War God UI again ——because it has yet to say anything after announcing he had new titles.

This was very strange.

[Decisive battle (1)] is clearly only half a mission, but now that he's finished it, the second half has yet to be seen anywhere.

Could it be he has to wait until the appropriate situation and reach the necessary trigger to have the next Quest show up?

That's probably it.

The trigger must be when the cultivators of cultivation world move to attack Shen Wu world. Which is three days later...

Gu Qing Shan checked the hourglass.

There was only a few minutes left until the hourglass becomes empty.

He sat down silently.

Then as the light flashed, he disappeared from cultivation world

...

It was raining very heavily.

In a pile of corpses on the road, a hand reached out.

A sword slash came, cutting into the pile of corpses and decimated the Man Eater Fiend that was hiding in there.

Pulling his sword back, Gu Qing Shan silently looked up.

There's no wind, only endless black clouds pouring down a never-ending torrent of rain.

The entire city was silent, the only sound came from the rain hitting the buildings and what remained of them.

Gu Qing Shan reached out his hand, felt the rain and just stared at it blankly.

From standing in the rain for just a few breaths, Gu Qing Shan was already soaked all the way through.

But he seems to haven't regained his senses, only stared straight at the rain water on his hand.

This was rain.

It is raining.

Gu Qing Shan's heart slowly sank.

He opened War God UI and glanced at the System notification column.

Nothing.

"Before, you made me go and avoid the change in space-time. But I've returned now, what is the change?" he asked.

[Ting!]

War God UI answered him: [The change has completed, but with current information, War God UI has not detected any storyline triggers]

Gu Qing Shan went silent for a moment.

Suddenly, a small-sized shuttle descended right in front of him.

When it opened, there was no one inside.

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[Come in, staying in the rain is not good for your body] Impartial Goddess' voice was heard.

"Thanks for your worry. I want to ask, has anything strange happened in the world?"

[The sea creatures have continued to invade and attack coastal cities; Man Killer Fiends are still in the process of evolution; many countries in the world have gathered at the Confederate to discuss some matters]

"What else?"

[Saint Orlank Holy Empire had split into factions: the revolution army, the royal's supporters and the Church had formed their own frontlines]

"What else?"

[The rest are things that sir Gu Qing Shan wouldn't be interested in]

"I'm asking you ——-this world, has something new happened? Something that is completely and utterly unbelievable?"

[No anomalies of such weight has been detected]

Gu Qing Shan stopped a bit.

He let go of the rain water in his hand, sighed and entered the cabin.

The shuttle door quickly closed.

The small-sized lifted up and flew towards somewhere far away.

Inside the shuttle, a brand new set of clean clothes was left next to the pilot seat, as well as a cup of juice.

[Rare fruits juice mix, I made it tailored to your taste]

"Thanks"

Gu Qing Shan changed his clothes, sat onto the pilot seat and started thinking.

With the rain, the unstoppable Apocalypse was slowly coming closer.

But from the current situation, most things that happened in the past life would not repeat itself in the same order this time around.

Then what will it be?

The situation right now is very much similar to a tense bowstring that hasn't been let go, since things are completely different to what happened during the past life, he doesn't know anything about what will happen next, which means he can only wait.

If [Worlds' Apocalypse Online] is to launch half a year early, Gu Qing Shan would welcome it with open arms.

Ever since he returned to this past, in the span of no more than a few days, Gu Qing Shan had been through way too many things.

A single person fighting against countless demons, that's nothing but a pipe dream.

Nothing would make him happier right now than to hear that everyone is able to enter the cultivation world.

"How are Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao?" he asked.

A screen turned on to show the scene at another place.

Ye Fei Li, Zhang Ying Hao and another unfamiliar man was sitting around a table, enjoying a lavish dinner.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the unfamiliar man to see that he had a square-shaped face and a mustache, holding an antique smoking pipe in hand.

He was eating very slowly, his gestures as graceful as any high-ranking aristocrats.

This was a dandy middle-aged man.

The only problem is that his overly sharp eyes ruined the gentle and graceful gentleman image he has.

"Peh! Peh! Fucking spicy chicken, bastard, don't you have anything milder?" the man cursed.

As soon as he opened his mouth, his image completely shattered.

Gu Qing Shan frowned and questioned: "Who is this?"

[Liao Xing, scientist, inventor of warp technology]

"He doesn't look at all like I remembered"

[You ordered for him to get total face surgery after he returned, sir]

"Ah, I remember that ———but how did you fix him into this appearance? He looks so different"

[He drew the portrait himself]

"...Fine then"

[When he returned, you weren't here so I brought him over]

"Hm"

As Gu Qing Shan said so, he began to hear the conversation on the screen.

"Dude, why are you wearing sunglasses while eating? The ladies won't like it even if you act 'cool' like that" Liao Xing stared at the young man before him.

Hearing that, Ye Fei Li lifted his sunglasses to reveal a pair of bright red eyes: "Because I'm a Man Killer Fiend"

Then he decided to leave his sunglasses on one side and concentrated on the lobster on his plate.

"My god!" Liao Xing was shocked, quickly glancing at Zhang Ying Hao.

Zhang Ying Hao shrugged, showing that he had nothing to say to that.

Liao Xing very quickly recover from his shock, then thought about something and muttered: "A Man Killer Fiend... A hitman association's head... That brat who stole Impartial Goddess for himself... Plus myself as an expert in explosives and warp technology..."

He suddenly became excited and shout: "Which means, our mission is to destroy the world!?!"

Chapter 172

"Fine, fine, you're the one paying so I'll listen"

Liao Xing went silent, but was still scanning Ye Fei Li with his eyes nonstop.

After a while, he couldn't help himself and asked: "Man Killer Fiends still need to eat?"

Ye Fei Li didn't really care, but still answered: "I can't sate my hunger no matter what I eat, only killing will"

"But I still have a sense of taste" he put down his utensils and wiped his mouth with a cloth, "I eat these things because they are still delicious, and I couldn't afford them before"

"You're quite the interesting little fella" Liao Xing rolled his eyes, then spoke: "I like people like you, how about you work for me from now on?"

Ye Fei Li replied: "You're not qualified for that"

"Bullshit, I'm the Confederate's number one scientist! And you're still saying I'm not qualified to be your friend?"

Ye Fei Li glanced at him, face full of disdain and shook his head.

Suddenly, the Holo-Brain in his breast pocket lit up, together with an electronic voice.

"Target detected, Southeast 357km away, currently moving towards the capital"

Hearing that, Ye Fei Li took half a lobster in hand, stood up and left the table.

Suddenly, a pair of terrifying bone wings sprouted from his back.

"What are you doing?" Liao Xing stared at the pair of bone wings and spoke with an extremely nervous tone.

"I'm going to sate my hunger" Ye Fei Li answered, jumped out of the window, turned into a streak of blood red light and flew away.

..

"Who is Ye Fei Li's target?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[The Man Killer Fiend with the ability to spread plague] Impartial Goddess replied

"That's reasonable, it should be dealt with quickly, otherwise more and more people will die" Gu Qing Shan agreed.

[Sir, where are we headed now?] Impartial Goddess suddenly asked.

"Let's go to where Zhang Ying Hao is ———Right now, I have something very important I need to ask you"

[Please speak, sir] Impartial Goddess replied.

Gu Qing Shan became very tense as he asked: "This rain, did you notice something inappropriate about it?"

•••

Another side.

Ye Fei Li stopped his flight and let himself descend, moving through the thick layers of black clouds and finally landed on a desolate empty area.

A skeleton covered entirely in rotting flesh and a yellow mist was slowly moving forward.

As the skeleton saw him, it stopped.

Using a raspy, hardened voice, it spoke word by word: I already gave you city, why are you still chasing me? I

"You've already killed everything in there, what use is that do me?" Ye Fei Li answered.

The skeleton's voice became sharper: I already made compromise, what else you want?

I not know why you need chase me it continued: I There countless beings on this world to kill. You and I highly evolved kin. No need to kill each other i

"Kin? Kill each other?"

Ye Fei Li tilted his head and threw half the lobster in his hand over.

The skeleton unconsciously caught it, only glanced slightly before dropping it.

¶ Give me this unusable thing, what you mean?
↓ it asked cautiously.

Ye Fei Li stared at the dropped lobster, then answered regretfully: "Such delicious food, and yet you didn't even notice"

He raised his hand.

An endless torrent of blood red glow flowed to his hand, dancing like a flame.

"It seems that we are not kin after all"

Flapping his terrifying bone wings, Ye Fei Li smirked as he flew forward.

...

On the small-sized shuttle.

[Sir, which type of inappropriateness do you mean?]

"How it affects this planet"

[Except the fact that rain water had increased, there has been no anomaly so far]

"Rain water increased..." Gu Qing Shan mumbled.

War God UI doesn't tell lies, so if it said there's a huge change in space-time, there probably is.

But what change would that be?

"The rain..." Gu Qing Shan mumbled on.

Then he suddenly: "Impartial Goddess, show me all the locations that are raining right now"

[Please wait. I will require 7 seconds to connect to and extract the weather satellite around the world] Impartial Goddess replied.

A screen then showed the map of the world.

"Use a red color to show places that are raining right now" he spoke.

Immediately, the entire map became covered in red.

Aside from the ocean, most places on the map was replaced with the color red.

Only a few very remote places without people are still sunny.

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As the dim red light showered Gu Qing Shan's face, his anxiety was seen very clearly.

Every place with human inhabitants are raining at the same time, how could that ever be normal?

Seems like he didn't make a mistake.

This rain really is the rain of the Apocalypse.

The best way to penetrate into this world is to use the weather to slowly seep power in from outside.

And the rain is the best choice for doing that, since it will seep into anything and everything, including very deep underground.

Gu Qing Shan quickly ordered: "Report this to the weather and biology department, have them put out some experts to analyze the rain water's content"

[Very well sir]

The screen shut off, the world map disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan thought a bit more, then asked: "Have any locations in the world showed a change in temperature?"

Impartial Goddess stopped for a second, then replied: [There aren't any clear signs]

Gu Qing Shan loosened himself a bit, muttering: "It's raining, but it's not that calamity..."
"Keep a close eye on the situation, report to me as the biological reports come"

[Understood] Impartial Goddess continued, [according to recorded logs, while you weren't here, a certain person had requested to meet you 5 times]

"Who?"

[The President]

"While I wasn't here?"

[This is now the 6th time]

"Seems like it's urgent... how much is the distance between us?"

[He's currently residing at a city's military airport, 173km from where we are sir]

"Reply to him that we're coming to meet him right now" Gu Qing Shan spoke.

[Understood]

Gu Qing Shan holds a positive attitude towards the President.

This President has always worked for the sake of the Confederate's citizens, no matter if it's the previous life or this life, his actions have always made Gu Qing Shan respect him.

The small-sized shuttle drew an arc in the heavy rain and headed towards another direction.

The meeting place was an office.

After going through layers and layers of security measures, when Gu Qing Shan came to the office, the secretaries were sitting on the sofa discussing something.

The President was sitting behind a wooden desk, working.

He was now wearing prescription glasses, his back arched as he had to use his arms to brace on the desk, he was moving constantly reading document after document, occasionally marking them with his pen.

Gu Qing Shan noticed there were a few more liver spots on the President's face.

His back was also no longer as straight as it was before.

"Mr. President, I'm here" Gu Qing Shan said.

When the President lifted his head, he recognized Gu Qing Shan.

"So you're finally here" he smiled and put his glasses on the table.

"You seem to be in a hurry looking for me, sir" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Right, yes, there's something that I've been thinking about, but I feel I need to talk to you about it first" the President took his hand to stand up and said.

"I'm honored" Gu Qing Shan smiled.

The President ordered his secretaries: "All of you leave first, I have something personal I have to talk about"

The secretaries all stood up, smiled at Gu Qing Shan and left.

The door closed.

The President became strangely silent as he walked.

"Tea or coffee?" he asked.

"There's no need for you to do that sir"

"No worries, I've put off having a meal with you for so long since I don't have the time, but I still have time to at least make some tea"

"Then tea please"

"Very well"

They both sat down and took a sip.

"I know everything about what you've been doing" the President said.

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

"I'm probably the only President in the history of the Confederate that shares his highest authority with someone else"

"I'm sorry about that, I ———"

"No, no, no, don't misunderstand. I'm not saying that's a bad thing" the President continued: "This way, I won't have to do everything alone all the time"

"Whenever I have the time, I've been using my highest authority to see what you've been doing, not only does that bring me pleasant surprises, it also brought me hope for the future"

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"That's right, politics is politics, you can't just do things as you like simply by being the President. There are too many gains and losses to consider, the good of the people is always put to one side. All the parties try to consider their own benefits first. An opposing party, no matter if it's right or not, will always disagree first, there are so many shackles that tie me down ——but your methods, they have really showed me hope"

"You regard me too highly sir"

After a bit more chatting, the President went into the main subject: "Actually, there's something I want to ask your opinion about"

"I'm all ears"

"I'm thinking about loosening the right of usage for the Genetic Optimization Elixir" after saying so, the President glanced over to check Gu Qing Shan's expression.

"Martial artist potential enhancing drug? I have to say, this is a very wise choice" Gu Qing Shan rubbed his chin as he commented.

"Do you really think so?"

"Of course" Gu Qing Shan answered, "everyone should have an equal chance to obtain usage of Genetic Optimization, increasing their chance to become a Professionist"

"With the spread of Genetic Optimization Elixir, everyone will at least become a 1* martial artist, that way, when facing Man Eater Fiends, their chance of survival will increase, that's a great thing"

The President continued: "But then there are people ——-you know who I'm talking about, they are worried that spreading Genetic Optimization will make society become loose, law and orders will be no more"

Gu Qing Shan answered: "The amount of Professionist in Fuxi Empire is 3 times ours, but the Empire is still thriving and powerful with no effects on law and order"

He continued: "If we're talking about Genetic Optimization Elixir specifically, then we have the Martial Artist potential enhancing drug, Fuxi Empire has the Elementalist awakening drug, while the Holy Empire has the God's Chosen awakening drug ——in order words, even if every single person in the Confederate uses the drug to modify their genetics, Confederate citizens aren't even considered to have an advantage over any of the other two countries"

"Then why should we not do it?" he concluded.

"You mean; you're supporting my decision?" the President asked for confirmation.

"Of course I'm supporting it, with how tense the current world situation is, this is a good thing for Confederate citizens as a whole ———although the 9 Lords will probably not be too willing"

"Ignore them" the President gladly smiled, "there's a United Nations conference meeting coming up, specifically to discuss this matter. At that time, many countries' leaders will be there"

"Ah?" Gu Qing Shan was a bit intrigued, asking: "The other countries also want a hand in this?"

"They do, at that time, I want to ask you to make a speech"

"Me?" Gu Qing Shan was a bit shocked.

"That's correct, right now, you're no longer a secret ——-the inventor of the Blazing Angel, the one who discovered the Man Killer Fiend Virus. As a scientist, you are very well-known and your words carry a lot of weight right now" the President said.

"You really think so sir?"

"That's right, Fuxi Empire's emperor is a practical person, no matter what anyone else thinks, he'll still listen seriously" the President said.

"If you're able to gain his support, then this matter is as good as done"

Gu Qing Shan thought about it for a bit, then nodded: "Very well, Impartial Goddess please record the time and location, remind me when the time comes"

[Very well sir] Impartial Goddess answered.

The President stood up, extending a hand: "I'm very grateful for your help"

Gu Qing Shan also stood up and shook the President's hand: "I'm honored"

The President took Gu Qing Shan all the way to the gate, talking while walking until they reached the small-sized shuttle.

After they left, a President's secretary came into the room.

This was the President's most loyal aide, he's been following the President ever since before he won the election, taking care of numerous matters, a person that's dubbed as "the President's right hand".

Everyone trusts him.

While staring at the door, he quickly took out a miniature glass bottle.

The cap was very quickly removed and the yellow liquid inside all got dumped into the President's tea.

After the deed was done, no one has entered the room yet.

He sighed from relief, fixed his collar a bit and walked out of the office.

•••

An hour later, Gu Qing Shan came to Zhang Ying Hao's place.

This was a mansion built on top of a mountain, a single building without any other structures around it.

The mansion had everything, even a boxing ring.

Zhang Ying Hao had already received Impartial Goddess' notification and was waiting for him at the door.

"You sure are relaxed, leaving the Man Killer Fiend brother to me while you happily ran away" Zhang Ying Hao was displeased.

"My bad, I had something else more important to do at the time" Gu Qing Shan smiled, "you two getting along fine?"

"If I had to say, Ye Fei Li isn't that bad, but who's this old guy that came afterwards?" Zhang Ying Hao pointed behind himself.

Gu Qing Shan looked over his shoulder into the room.

Liao Xing was sitting on the sofa, holding a pipe in one hand and a beer in another, staring intensely at the projection screen on the wall.

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On it was an idol drama that's been popular this year.

"Ah, just look at that chick, her body is so fine, I gotta find a chance and take her in" he muttered.

Gu Qing Shan patted Zhang Ying Hao on the shoulder, answering: "An old pervert, but quite reliable when it comes to scientific research, you don't need to take notice of him too much"

"Fine then" Zhang Ying Hao spoke, "I already helped you with winning over the No.1 Man Killer Fiend in the world, so you've got to help me a bit"

"What is it?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"So I did something a few days ago" Zhang Ying Hao replied.

"Speak"

"...It's kind of hard to say" Zhang Ying Hao was frowning hesitantly.

"If you're not gonna say it, I'll leave" Gu Qing Shan headed inside.

"Fine then, fine then, I'll speak it" Zhang Ying Hao quickly pulled Gu Qing Shan back and began to speak.

"Hm —-you know about my God's Chosen Skill, the black cat"

"I know, to look for things, very useful"

"Recently, the world situation hasn't been well, so my old man is nervous about my personal relationships and rushed me to find someone"

"And then?"

"So out of boredom, I called the black cat out"

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised: "You used the black cat to find someone?"

"That's right, I originally only wanted to relieve some boredom, so I spoke about finding a girlfriend, the black cat instantly ran outside, so I can't help but follow it ——-it'll get angry if I don't"

"So you followed the black cat, and found the lover of your dreams?" Gu Qing Shan was even more surprised.

Gu Qing Shan arranged his words carefully and said: "Listen, God's Chosen Skills sometimes aren't very trustworthy, you don't have to —-"

Then he saw the look on Zhang Ying Hao's face and shut up.

Zhang Ying Hao was smiling ever so slightly, his eyes blurred, as if staring at some sort of a faraway place.

"I already knew about her, but it was the first time I ever saw her in person" he muttered in a low voice.

Recalling the scene at the time, he cleared his throat: "She's not really a dream lover, just, love at first sight, yeah, love at first sight"

"Then just go and court her, what does this have to do with me?" Gu Qing Shan asked, confused.

"The problem is that it's a bit hard" Zhang Ying Hao sighed.

"With the power of your Zhang family, what problem could possibly be hard" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"It's because the 9 Lords and her father don't really get along well, but your relationship with her father is, that I need your help"

"What do you need me to do?"

"Just bring me along to meet with her father first, to change his impression of me"

Gu Qing Shan smiled mischievously: "You keep being mysterious, who is it really?"

"The President's daughter"

"...So that's why"

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit, then said: "That's fine, I'll be joining a United Nations conference later on. At that time, I'll just bring you with me and introduce you to the President"

"Nice!" Zhang Ying Hao happily exclaimed and put his hand over Gu Qing Shan's shoulder: "What a brother you are indeed!"

Right then, the gate opened.

Turning around to look, they saw Ye Fei Li was retracting his bone wings and landed on the ground.

His body was covered in scratches and slash marks, but all the wounds had clearly been dealt with, not bleeding anymore.

Impartial Goddess' voice came from a Holo-Brain: [The Plague Man Killer Fiend has been eliminated by Ye Fei Li]

"Thank you" Gu Qing Shan smiled as he spoke.

"Nothing to it, I can evolve quicker from killing it, not to mention Impartial Goddess is there to heal and help me"

After saying so, Ye Fei Li suddenly looked surprised, and stared at Gu Qing Shan.

"You became stronger" He said.

"You as well" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Chapter 174

"Be assured, I'm very happy with my life right now" noticing his gaze Ye Fei Li retracted the blood glow around himself before entering the room.

The three of them went to and sat on different sofas.

"As our partner, I of course welcome Ye Fei Li" Zhang Ying Hao then pointed at Liao Xing and asked: "But do I really have to take a guy like this in as well?"

Liao Xing stopped watching his idol drama and glared: "What do you mean? What do you mean by 'a guy like that', let me tell you, when this man was still making it big in the Confederate ——"

[Please remember the agreement of secrecy] Impartial Goddess' voice suddenly came.

"Fine, fine, damn Nano bombs" Liao Xing scornfully mumbled.

"It's fine, he's Liao Xing, the inventor of warp technology" Gu Qing Shan introduced him.

[Sir!] Impartial Goddess protested.

"No need to worry, the two people here don't have any intention of leaking this information" Gu Qing Shan consoled her.

Ye Fei Li doesn't know what the name is supposed to means at all, but Zhang Ying Hao opened his eyes wide, staring at Liao Xing, speechless.

"You're not dead... 30 years... that's impressive indeed..." he muttered.

Liao Xing then looked to Gu Qing Shan and asked: "Brat, you brought me back here, so what do you want me to do?"

"Please wait a bit first" Gu Qing Shan took his personal Holo-Brain out.

Impartial Goddess' voice came from the Holo-Brain: [Sir Gu Qing Shan, I've received the biological analysis of the rain, no problems were found]

No problems? That can't be right.

He was a bit shocked.

After the Man Killer Fiend virus, every single time that the demons penetrated into this world, they always used rain as a catalyst.

The rain carried with it an other-worldly power, seeping into every inch of the world and concentrated everything deep underground.

The world will be silently and gradually changed by the rain, until a certain point is reached and the rain stops.

When it does, whatever change it brought will manifest.

All sorts of strange phenomenons.

Because of that, during the apocalyptic age of the past life, whenever there's rain, everyone will be in an uproar.

Gu Qing Shan thought hard about this.

If there's nothing strange about the rain, then it's probably not those events...

Suddenly, Impartial Goddess spoke: "Sir Gu Qing Shan, 1 second ago, all the rain in the world stopped at the same time"

Already?

Gu Qing Shan was slightly surprised, then realized.

Oh no, during the 10 years of the apocalypse, the shortest time it rained was ———
That incredibly cruel thing!
No, I can't stop it!

Right at that moment, a voice was heard.

I Our dear friends, the Game of Eternal has officially begun I

From the voice, you'd imagine the one speaking to be a dignified old man.

But the strange thing is that the voice isn't close or far, not too loud and not too soft, as if it was spoken from inside yourself.

"What is this?" Liao Xing was surprised.

"What trickery is this; it sounds like it came directly from inside my head" Zhang Ying Hao looked around cautiously.

Ye Fei Li squints his eyes as if to feel something, then spoke after a while: "It's directly transmitting to my mind, what a powerful ability"

Gu Qing Shan sighed and dropped down onto the sofa dejectedly.

"It really was this dirty piece of shit"

He reluctantly accepted it.

Facing such strange circumstances, while everyone was still stunned and didn't have time to think yet, the voice had already spoke again.

People of the world, I am your friend

The Apocalypse has come, calamities erupting all over the world, your fate is no better than an ant in a tsunami. Insignificantly small and not in your control

■ Do you want to change your fate?
■

Struggle, keep on moving forward among the bloodshed, as only the strong has the right to survive

Gu Qing Shan angrily smashed the table, breaking it.

"FUCK!" he shouted.

This was a dirty, lying "Death game".

During the apocalypse, the entire human civilization lost 60% of its population because of this game.

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In the span of only 10 days, it drove every person on the planet into madness, then to ruin.

"What happened?" Zhang Ying Hao asked with a very serious face.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the three of them and solemnly replied: "No matter what, you can't choose [Yes], do you hear me?"

As soon as he finished, the voice had continued.

The first ever Game of Eternal, will now accept your entrance!

As soon as that was heard, a line of text appeared in front of the four of them.

[Do you want to receive eternal life, becoming an existence that will never die?] [Yes][No]

This line of text very lightly floated in the air, waiting, inviting.

And it appeared in front of every single person on the planet.

Gu Qing Shan's face paled, sighing even more heavily.

That's right, the only thing that can make every single person go mad and forget everything to chase after it: eternal life.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly raised his voice and spoke loudly: "Listen closely, everyone picks [No] right now, whoever picks [Yes], don't blame me when I cut ties with you"

The three of them glanced at him, then exchanged looks.

Both Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li chose [No] at the same time.

Liao Xing saw their choices, hesitated a bit, then also chose [No]

"Just what the hell is going on?" Zhang Ying Hao asked again.

"I have a bad feeling about this, just keep on watching" Gu Qing Shan spoke.

Zhang Ying Hao nodded and didn't continue to ask.

A "feeling" is a very hard thing to judge, a normal person's feeling is basically never right, but as a Professionist become stronger, they are able to occasionally peer into the cracks of fate, manifesting as a hunch, which usually turns out to be correct.

The old man's voice was then heard again:

The first group that wants to receive eternal life has been chosen 1

 ${
m \emph{l}}$ The amount of participants randomly selected from this world is: 17961 people ${
m \emph{l}}$

 \llbracket After the fierce battle, we shall see who is the final winner \rrbracket

The winner shall receive the right to an eternal life 1

 \llbracket Bystanders, you may watch the battle unfolds in this arena by closing your eyes \rrbracket

Now, let the exciting battle, BEGIN!

Everyone couldn't help but close their eyes from curiosity.

A scene silently appeared in front of their vision.

This was an ancient-looking arena.

At first it was silent, then over ten thousand people suddenly appeared on the stone platform of the arena at the same time.

They were all gathered in the same place, but only took up not even 1/3rd of the arena.

And below the arena was a bottomless pit.

There's not a single person on the spectator seats.

```
"Ah?"
```

"It's true"

"What's going on, did I really enter the selection battle?"

"I only pressed it to try it out..."

"Whoa, so cool"

"That's strange, I can't leave after entering"

"Can I really gain eternal life here?"

"I want to go back"

```
"It's so scary here"
"What the hell"
```

Everyone was discussing between themselves, a few were scared, but most of them were full of excitement, feeling an Adrenaline rush from their new experience.

After all, the apocalypse has come, the world itself has already changed.

The governments were reporting news predicting where the sea creatures would arrive on land every day, there would even be footage of dozen-stories tall sea creatures on the news.

There's also Man Eater Fiends and Man Killer Fiends that appeared suddenly and openly killed people, fighting against Professionists and Mechs every day.

Now that another strange thing appeared, they couldn't help but get used to it.

In the arena, there were policemen, doctors, gangsters, housewives, students, Professionists, etc. there were almost 18,000 people, so all sorts of people are here.

Everyone stood there, gather into groups and exchanging glances while waiting for whatever happens next.

The old man's voice was heard once again.

The game's rules: Survive to the end, become the one and only King of the arena

As soon as they heard that, a few of them fell into thought, while more of them became pale.

"What do you mean? Are you saying there can only be one survivor?" someone shouted.

But the old man didn't reply and only continued to speak.

```
The game's time limit is 1 hour 
Have fun, all of you 
As of this moment, the competition has begun!
```

The old man's voice disappeared.

A few of the sharper people had already separated from the crowd and ran far away.

But more of them were naïve and just stood still in place, not knowing what to do.

Chapter 175

They were all sorts of armor and weapons.

Daggers, long swords, short swords, sabers, scimitars, great swords, halberds, spears, sledge hammers, war axes, iron poles, throwing knives, helmets, armor, visors, armguards, war boots...

The items littered the entire giant arena.

A few quickly picked up what they could, and others began to imitate them.

More and more people were picking up the items.

A few were simply picking them up to imitate others and have something to use, others were specifically looking for things that they can use.

A Professionist first picked up a shield, then reached for a cold-looking Blade.

He was originally a Blade user, so he was able to tell that this Blade was quite a good weapon.

But when he reached out, it was already taken by another person.

Looking up, the Professionist noticed it was only a fat old man.

With a kick, the Professionist knocked the old man down and stole the Blade.

He was about to leave, but then remembered something

"The only King..." he muttered.

Then he drew the Blade and slashed.

The old man was only able to raise a scream before dying.

This action sparked a chain reaction, as everyone here stopped their hands and silently stared at him.

Being stared at so many people, the Professionist nervously stepped back.

But the old announcer voice was suddenly heard again, praising him.

The first point of our entire arena, scored by Professionist Chen Qi. Let us see what reward shall he receive!

He got a reward for that?

Everyone was stunned, staring at the Professionist called Chen Qi.

Chen Qi's expression was cold, but you could almost tell he was also a bit excited standing there.

Suddenly, a flame rose from his Blade.

It was like the flame had bounded itself onto the Blade itself, not dissipating no matter what.

The old voice spoke again: $\[$ Congratulations! Due to him being the very first challenger to score, his weapon has received the blessing of fire ———he's now in the lead! $\[$

Chen Qi swung the Blade, the flame on it spreads out.

A middle-aged man who was standing too close to him got caught in the fire, screaming.

The middle-aged man had to drop down and roll for a while for the fire to be put out.

But at that point, his arm had already been burned off while he himself was already close to death, not able to do anything but lie on the ground breathing his last.

"Ahahaha, such a powerful Blade!" Chen Qi's face showed madness.

He stepped forward and slashed towards the middle-aged man.

Another scream, blood splattered everywhere.

The second point! If the old voice was heard again, Chen Qi had scored the second point! If Let us see what reward he shall receive again! If

Chen Qi's shield that he picked up before suddenly sprouted sharp spikes emitting intense cold.

Chen Qi excitedly laughed, then suddenly raised his shield and attacked another person beside him.

The person was pierced by the spikes and immediately lost their lives.

The old voice couldn't wait to speak again.

[Chen Qi! What a true warrior! He's getting closer and closer to becoming our King of the Arena!]
[Take a guess, what equipment shall he received this time?]

But at this moment, no one could sit still to watch anymore.

There could only be one survivor in this challenge.

And Chen Qi is becoming stronger by the second.

Occasional screams were raised from all corners of the arena.

A few Professionists were quickly moving around killing people, as if they were tigers being whipped and provoked by someone.

A young girl was crying, begging: "Please don't kill me! I don't want to die, I thought this was only a game!"

Rip!

A flame rose up, the girl's body was bisected with a single slash, dropped to the ground and died.

Chen Qi held his flaming Blade, passing her corpse and went towards the next frightened middle-aged man.

The screams of terror and pain were getting louder, spreading around the entire place.

Corpses littered all over the arena and blood soaked the ground red.

"Bastard!" Zhang Ying Hao opened his eyes.

"What kind of fucking game is that, even the art of killing is being turned into nothing but a pointless slaughter!" he cursed it loudly.

"This thing, if the final reward truly is eternal life, then it will certainly make everyone go mad without a doubt" very rarely, Liao Xing was being serious.

"That's right, there would always be some people who are at the end of their ropes, some who thinks they're more special than anyone else, they want to use this shortcut to make themselves eternal" Gu

Qing Shan replied.

"The stronger someone gets, the bigger their desire is to become more powerful, not to mention the ultimate lure as eternal life"

He sighed, dejectedly shaking his head: "This is irresistible, you can never remove the people's desires to receive eternal life"

"This arena is also untraceable, unless you specifically sign up to join it, you can't even enter it no matter what you do ———there is no method to destroy it"

Gu Qing Shan's mood was becoming worse.

The Game of Eternal can eat people's souls to make itself stronger.

Even though that's the case, because it had to cross worlds to get here, the game cannot interfere with the world's Laws so quickly, it can't directly harvest the power of souls from this world yet. (1)

But when the arena extends invitations to everyone before, those invitations are actually Contracts in disguise.

To accept entering the arena is the same as signing a contract with your soul, if you win, you get to leave with your rewards, if you lose, you lose your soul.

In the arena, the souls of every single person who died in battle were eaten by the game.

Then as the game became stronger and stronger, it will gradually change its rules, to make the maximum amount of participants grow larger and larger, the killing and deaths in the arena become more and more gruesome, until the end, when it turns the planet itself into a giant arena.

Fighting and killing will break out everywhere.

And the "eternal life" that it promised ———is a simple play of the word.

If a human is slowly turned into some sort of demon, their lifespan will naturally increase, a few of them actually has almost infinite lifespan.

But demons are a war-mongering species, this is a nature that's already carved deep into their souls. What demon is able to keep its life long enough to live an eternal life in all that warring?

In the past life, so many people went mad for that fake eternal life because the people who received the gifts of eternal life really did stop aging, a few of them even became visibly younger.

Within 3 years, the demonic seeds had already silently changed everyone who carried them without anyone knowing.

For the first 3 years, all winners of the Game of Eternal felt no change and no difference.

Everyone country poured all the resources they had into verifying that. Even after using the Holy Church's God's Chosen Skills, they found no anomalies.

It was then that everyone was sure that this was eternal life in the truest sense.

And in those 3 years of madness, countless people went into the game, only to get killed by people stronger than they were, and their souls eaten by the game.

Not only Professionists but even normal people, all the politicians and aristocrats, everyone thought of countless methods just to get their hands on an "Eternal pills".

In the face of eternal life, nothing else matters, even their country is only second in priority!

Three years later, when the winners of the Game of Eternal started to demonize, when the truth was finally known, the world population had decreased to be a mere 1/3rd of what it used to be.

This was partially due to Worlds Apocalypse Online already existing in those 3 years, so people were able to travel to the other world and gain a steady method of becoming more powerful. A few people saw hope in that, so they stayed calm, limiting the amount of people who entered the Game of Eternal.

But right now, Worlds Apocalypse Online is still nowhere to be seen, only the Game of Eternal had shown itself.

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Does he have no choice but to wait half a year for Worlds Apocalypse Online to launch? But that's too late, once the Game of Eternal life had eaten enough human souls, it will start to evolve again and again.

At that time, it will come up with innumerable ways to tickle human desires, so that more and more people are lured to and die on the arena.

Human civilization will collapse under the lure of eternal life.

Is this world finished?

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent.

"Hack, the fuck is you thinking about, just look at yourself!"

Liao Xing looked at him and scoffed.

"Hm? What?" Gu Qing Shan didn't raise his head and only replied.

"Look at yourself, what kind of a man are you supposed to be?" Liao Xing scoffed again.

"What a dog shit mouth, if you've got nothing better ——-" Zhang Ying Hao couldn't help but want to shut him up.

"Let him speak" Gu Qing Shan raised his head and stared at Liao Xing.

Liao Xing then stood up, walking in front of Gu Qing Shan and looked down on him.

"He called me dog shit" Liao Xing glared, "but I feel like you're more dog shit than I am"

Ye Fei Li frowned, stood up and asked: "So you're looking to die huh?"

"No, just let him speak, I want to hear what he has to say" Gu Qing Shan stopped Ye Fei Li by raising his hand.

"You dog shit, I don't know what you want to do, but as soon as a problem occurred, you instantly became so dejected and disappointed ———what part of you is a man?" Liao Xing kept going.

He grabbed Gu Qing Shan collar and lifted him up.

"I escaped from the coldness of space to return here and look for a place to sponge off, but you instead showed me this damn funeral of a facade?"

"Looking at you, if I didn't know better, I would've thought you've already went through countless apocalypses or something! What a joke!"

"So what if the apocalypse is here, we're all men, if we die then we die, what use does showing that wet rag of an appearance does?"

"I!" Liao Xing slapped his chest, "I fought again an entire nation by myself, lived in the coldness of space for over 30 years, but I'm still here, living happily, but what about you!"

Gu Qing Shan grabbed and pushed his hand away, smiling wryly: "Mr. Liao, we're different"

"What do you mean different!?"

"You escaped for 30 years, but I've not been able to escape for even a single day"

Gu Qing Shan kept smiling, but seems to have regained his spirit.

He put his hand on his shoulder and said: "But anyways, thank you"

"Peh" Liao Xing scoffed, "if my wives and kids weren't dependent on your Merits to live, I wouldn't even bother with your sorry ass"

He spat, then went back to lie on the sofa.

Gu Qing Shan still insisted: "Mr. Liao, thank you very much"

Liao Xing waved his hand impatiently, saying: "If there's a problem then think of a solution, if you need my help and say it, don't just show that damn funeral face. If everything goes wrong, then we can only die once anyways, what is there to fear!"

"Well said" Gu Qing Shan agreed, then quickly left the room.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li exchanged looks, then also left.

Gu Qing Shan didn't stop, walking all the way until the top of the mountain outside the mansion.

The rain has stopped falling for a while.

The night sky was filled with stars, similar to a vast and ever-extending river of fate within the darkness.

Looking downwards, the light of the capital city was shining, as the entire place emits a warmth of vitality.

In the dead of night, the wind was blowing through the leaves, the sound of waves crashing into shore, occasionally there was even a sound of flying vehicles passing through the sky, but they were all heard very clearly.

Gu Qing Shan just stood silently atop the mountain.

Zhang Ying Hao approached and threw a bottle of wine over.

"That thing is already over 30 years old, I feel like you need it right now" Zhang Ying Hao said.

"Thanks" Gu Qing Shan opened the bottle and took a big gulp.

Then he gave it to Ye Fei Li.

Taking a sip, Ye Fei Li frowned: "I still like juice better"

"If you're not drinking then give it" Zhang Ying Hao took back the bottle and took a big gulp himself, glaring: "This is very precious, this bottle here costs over 100,000 Confederate Credits"

"Ah? That expensive?" Ye Fei Li lifted his eyebrows in surprise, "give it, I'll take another sip"

Zhang Ying Hao mumbled while he passed the bottle over and turned to look at Gu Qing Shan.

"Back to business, this unknown son of a bitch that successfully lured people's desires ———the 18,000-ish people in there right now are definitely dead, but I don't believe in what it's saying, because paying for your own eternal life by sacrificing others, that doesn't make sense" Zhang Ying Hao said.

"This is eternal life we're talking about here and you can still stay that calm?" Ye Fei Li was a bit shocked.

"When facing life and death, a hitman must stay absolutely calm, not to mention the hidden boss behind all those hitmen" Zhang Ying Hao puffed his chest.

Ye Fei Li thought about it, then spoke: "If that's the case, we can just ignore it and watch things play out"

"We can't" Gu Qing Shan smiled wryly, "once the world's civilization collapses, more and more cracks will form in the minds of people, and when that happens, it'll be too late to stand up again, the world can only fall into the abyss"

"But it's such a strange thing, we can't even touch it, let alone fight it, how do we deal with something like that?" Zhang Ying Hao said.

"Not to mention, eternal life is the ultimate goal and desire for everybody, you can stop 1 person, but how do you stop everyone?"

"That's exactly why I felt helpless" Gu Qing Shan felt his head hurt so took the bottle and drank another gulp.

Ye Fei Li was still not used to the taste, puckering his lips as he spoke: "Don't feel down, you seemed to deal with the Man Killer Fiends well enough"

"And how exactly did I deal with Man Killer Fiends?" Gu Qing Shan casually asked.

"You used a Man Killer Fiend to deal with Man Killer Fiends" Ye Fei Li pointed at himself and laughed.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

"What... did you say? Can you repeat it again?" He slowly turned and looked at Ye Fei Li.

His eyes look like it saw some sort of rare treasure, but also like he was looking at some benevolent god.

Ye Fei Li was a bit scared by the look in his eyes, so he unconsciously took a step back: "I said, you dealt with the Man Killer Fiend, quite well"

"Not that"

"Ah, I said you used a Man Killer Fiend to deal with Man Killer Fiends"

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

Then he kept nodding, his eyes lighting up.

He bit harshly at his lip, as if thinking about something extremely important.

Both Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao just stared at each other, a bit unsure of what's happening.

Suddenly they heard Gu Qing Shan slowly muttering to himself.

"Right... it can be done..."

"If the game isn't here to do that, then I will stand against it myself"

He raised the bottle of wine, raised his head and drank it all down in one breath.

Seeing him like that, Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao both loosened a bit.

When Gu Qing Shan put the bottle down, they can still hear him mumbling.

"That's right... we can't let it grow... we have to stunt its growth"

"I have to do this, otherwise humanity will all die"

After saying so, Gu Qing Shan's air seemed to change.

He seems to have gotten an indescribable fighting spirit.

Just like how he was in the cultivation world, taking a sword in hand, ready to wrestle for his life with the unknown.

"Impartial Goddess, where is the S.W. Divine Temple?" he asked.

[Currently above capital airspace] the Holo-Brain lit up as Impartial Goddess answered.

"Very well, bring me up there"

[Sir, do you have something to do?]

"No, YOU have something to do"

[What are your orders?]

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "Follow my lead, let the two of us create a new era"

(1)Laws: as in common laws of the universe, things like "fire is hot" or "the speed of light is constant"