

Apocalypse

Chapter 1751 Parasite

In the mountain valley.

Gu Qing Shan said: "Actually, I also have something I need to ask you"

"Then you can go first" Ye Ru Xi smiled and replied.

"Back then, in order to bring everyone with me and flee, the (Order) had to put all of its carriers into slumber—— did you also fall into slumber?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I did not, this was what I wanted to tell you as well" Ye Ru Xi replied.

"Why was this the case?"

"Because I was and am still a Deity of [Chaos], the power of [Chaos] flows through me, being imbued with [Order] was only a temporary adaptation"

Hearing her, Gu Qing Shan pondered: "All the Awaitings of the (Order) faction followed me here, so where have the Awaitings of the (Chaos) faction gone to?"

Ye Ru Xi then showed a complicated expression.

She looked as if she had gone through so many things and had a lot to say, but didn't know where to begin.

So Gu Qing Shan decided to just relax and handed her a bottle of alcohol.

"Want something to drink?"

"Sure"

Ye Ru Xi began drinking straight from the bottle.

"No need to rush" Gu Qing Shan said.

"I'm fine, I just wanted to drink"

Ye Ru Xi then began tilting her head back and started chugging until the whole bottle was empty.

Gu Qing Shan silently observed her.

This girl was granted too much excessive power, treated as a treasure by (Chaos) for as long as she existed, and during the (Chaos) apotheosis battle, she played a critical role.

At the time, both the Soul Shrieker and I had to locate and protect her. [Chaos] then judged the outcome of the apotheosis battle in accordance with the efforts of both sides.

So what is it that she wants to tell me?

While he was thinking that, Ye Ru Xi asked:

"Do you have any more alcohol?" "...Yes" Gu Qing Shan replied. "Give me another bottle"

“Alright”

Gu Qing Shan handed her another bottle.

—these were all Qin Xiao Lou’s treasured brews of the highest quality, Gu Qing Shan initially took them with the intent to slowly enjoy them by himself, but now he had nothing else to take out.

After finishing another bottle, Ye Ru Xi turned to Gu Qing Shan again:

“Give me another bottle”

“You’ll get drunk if you continue” Gu Qing Shan said.

“One last bottle”

“...Fine”

Ye Ru Xi got another bottle of alcohol.

This time, she didn’t chug it down like she previously was doing, and was only drinking it sip by sip.

“Now I can talk, I’ve got a bit of courage to talk” Ye Ru Xi said.

Gotten a bit of courage— in other words, she didn’t have the courage before.

She’s afraid of something.

Gu Qing Shan silently thought, but showed a smile on his expression and said: “Talk, I’m listening”

“...Gu Qing Shan, you’ve saved so many

many dangers, so have you ever run into such a situation before?” Ye Ru Xi said.

“What kind of situation?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“—You originally thought that you were doing the right thing, but one day you suddenly discovered that the world was much too grand, and you’re only an ant— compared to the world, you’re only as heavy and as significant as a speck of dust”

Ye Ru Xi continued: “You notice that the line between right and wrong is extremely blurry, some of the things you used to insist on turned out to be exceptionally laughable as you looked back at them, perhaps even discovering that you had always been wrong”

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Gu Qing Shan didn’t think that she would say something like that and answered her after giving it some clear thought: “The Void is boundless, it contains countless worlds, and the comprehension of living beings towards everything is always limited, I’m not sure which part of this you’re talking about”

After a moment of silence, Ye Ru Xi softly replied: “The Awaitings of the (Chaos) faction are already dead”

“What?” Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

“That’s right. When you fought against the Heavenly Emperor’s clone at the bottom of the Eternal Abyss, the entire Space Vortex was disturbed. This caused all the Awaitings of the (Chaos] faction to awaken” Ye Ru Xi explained.

“And then what happened?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“They had all become extremely weakened, but unlike the Awaitings of the (Order] faction, they didn’t have lady Darksea to help them regain their power, and they weren’t willing to join (Order)—— they’d sworn to always stand against [Order], you see” Ye Ru Xi replied. “So they committed suicide?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Ye Ru Xi answered: “They saw the approaching Apocalypse and knew that they wouldn’t be able to escape no matter what, so they transferred the last of their knowledge and power to me, urging me to evacuate with everyone— I don’t know what happened to them after that, but the Apocalypses had already surrounded the Space Vortex, and there wasn’t anywhere within the Reality Gate that they could hide—”

“Which means, it’s definitely impossible for them to escape” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Ye Ru Xi lightly nodded.

Both of them fell into silence.

Gu Qing Shan then smiled and asked: “When you evacuated, which (Order] did you carry?”

Ye Ru Xi stared straight at him for a long while before answering: “[Worlds Apocalypse Online – Magical Girl]”

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

He thought briefly before consoling her: “The Awaitings of (Chaos]’s main doctrine was to eliminate all living beings and use that destruction in order to deceive the Apocalypse” “That’s right” Ye Ru Xi affirmed.

“The power of (Chaos] was so great that it destroyed your life” Gu Qing Shan continued.

“Indeed” Ye Ru Xi affirmed again.

“Even though they all died in the end, you still inherited the last of their power and all of their knowledge, so you feel grateful to them, as well as pained due to their deaths?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“No, I just feel despair” Ye Ru Xi replied: “In truth, it was only after I inherited their knowledge that I found out that (Order) was actually a kind of Apocalypse”

“That’s correct” Gu Qing Shan admitted.

“Even entities as powerful as the Awaitings could only choose to divide themselves into two factions, one faction attempting to copy the Apocalypse, while the other attempts to deceive the Apocalypse through destruction— in the end, neither of them could actually win against the Apocalypse” Ye Ru Xi concluded.

Her expression was filled with dejection as if she had lost all of her fighting spirit.

Gu Qing Shan was also someone who emerged from countless impossible situations, so he fully understood her current mentality.

He said with a gentle tone: "It's not completely hopeless, the Samsara is our opportunity. It has always continuously evolved and it is the ultimate weapon of living beings"

Ye Ru Xi appeared to have awakened from her rut and sighed: "I can sense the power that this world holds, but what kind of person would be able to obtain it for themselves?"

—tsk, not only did you not die, you're thinking of going after the Samsara as well?

How interesting

Unfortunately, your acting skills are terrible, trying to slander the [Order] faction even at this point in time.

But it makes sense.

—they'd rather destroy the entire Space Vortex so that a few individuals can avoid the Apocalypse Sequences.

"All Chosen Saints of the Samsara are qualified to do so" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"If that's the case, what should we do now?" Ye Ru Xi asked.

Gu Qing Shan then explained the Elements Purgatory to her.

Hearing that, Ye Ru Xi happily commented:

"I currently have all the powers of a (Chaos) Deity, so I can directly take you to the very bottom, but..."

She appeared a bit hesitant. "The power of (Chaos) is still as powerful as ever, so you're still unable to control it, right?" Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

"That's right, the power is still too powerful for me to control" Ye Ru Xi sighed emotionally.

—-we'll see how true that is.

"No worries, just continue to dig straight down until you can't dig anymore, just don't stop half-way" Gu Qing Shan said.

"That should be ok" Ye Ru Xi replied.

She then chanted something unknown, abruptly summoning a bronze arm so large it practically connected heaven and earth behind her back.

"Come" Ye Ru Xi told Gu Qing Shan.

The two of them stepped onto the bronze arm.

The bronze arm gently held the two of them in its grip, then silently began sinking into the ground.

In front of the arm, dirt and ground were like soft tofu.

Neither hard mineral deposits nor soft mud managed to stop the bronze arm at all.

Gu Qing Shan and Ye Ru Xi stood together, silently listening to any changes that might occur outside.

As the bronze arm continued to sink down, some muffled noises could be heard.

A few moments later.

The sound of battle could be heard outside.

“It seems we’ve entered the Elements Purgatory” Gu Qing Shan commented.

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“Yeah, but I can’t retract my power, so we can’t stop yet” Ye Ru Xi worriedly said.

“It’s fine, just continue heading downwards, we need to head deep into the ground, since that’ll allow us to avoid useless battles” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Ye Ru Xi then relaxed a bit.

The bronze arm continued carrying the two of them deeper into the ground.

Gu Qing Shan continued to remain silent.

Within the shrinking dark space, lines of bloody red text began to appear one by one:

(Currently heading downwards]

(You’ve reached the entrance of the Elements Purgatory]

(You’ve entered the first layer of the Elements Purgatory: the Wind Prison]

(You’ve left the Wind Prison and entered the Lightning Prison]

(You’ve entered the Lightning Prison, this is an extremely dangerous Purgatory] “Wait a moment, Sequence, I have something to tell you” Gu Qing Shan silently said.

(Speak] the Sequence answered without hesitation.

“Have you examined any of the lower Sequences for any issues?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[I have not. My energy had always needed to be utilized carefully, so there was no priority to manage the lower Sequences] the Sequence replied.

“There might be some sort of parasite inside (Worlds Apocalypse Online – Magical Girl), see if you can get rid of it” Gu Qing Shan said.

[Are you sure there is a parasite? My energy is in an extreme state of deprivation, if I examine a lower Sequence bypassing its security measures, I will need to expend energy and enter hibernation again—unless I actually find a parasite and absorb it to replenish energy) the Sequence warned him.

After a bit of silence, Gu Qing Shan replied: “I’m sure that there is one”

[The Sequence will bypass the Magical Girl Sequence’s security to directly search for, eliminate, and absorb the power of the parasite, converting it into Apocalyptic power for you. You must come into direct physical contact with the target for this process]

[Attention, I only have enough energy to attempt this operation once, please confirm again that you indeed want to do this]

“I confirm, get ready” Gu Qing Shan said.

[Preparations ready) the Sequence replied.

At this point, the bloody red text was still continuously popping up in front of Gu Qing Shan’s eyes:

(You’ve reached the Sound Prison, this is the final layer of the Elements Purgatory]

[Attention, you are still sinking down)

Gu Qing Shan glanced at Ye Ru Xi.

The power of [Chaos] really is going out of control, we’re about to go through the entire Elements Purgatory already.

Noticing his gaze, Ye Ru Xi apologetically said: “Not good, I can’t control it”

“It’s ok” Gu Qing Shan consoled her.

The giant bronze arm was sinking downwards increasingly faster.

A few moments later.

A line of bloody red text abruptly jumped out:

(Special warning, you’ve exited the Elements Purgatory] (You are ascending]

(You are about to break through some sort of limit to arrive at an unknown place]

Gu Qing Shan immediately grabbed Ye Ru Xi’s hand and shouted: “Careful!”

Ye Ru Xi had also noticed that and nervously asked: “Where did we arrive at?”

“Not sure, an unknown place”

Bam——

A loud explosion was heard outside.

Followed by the sound of howling wind.

This feels very similar to flying in the sky.

Strange, how could there be another sky under the ground?

“Try and have the bronze arm open its palm, we can take a look outside now” Gu Qing Shan said.

Ye Ru Xi was surprised.

S si

The bronze arm’s hand then slowly opened to reveal the scenery outside.

In that instant, Gu Qing Shan silently said in his mind: “Supreme Sequence, activate” Lines of bloody red text began scrolling rapidly in the void of space, displaying new notifications one after another:

(Connecting to Worlds Apocalypse Online – Magical Girl]

[Examination begins!]

(Discovered 25 parasites: Void Awaitings]

[After elimination, they can provide energy for the Sequence to evolve]

[Elimination initiated!]

Chapter 1752 An unknown place

The Human realm, Luo Shui city.

A small alleyway.

The Green Building.

Two uninvited guests had made their way in front of its closed doors.

“Finally... we’ve found the place” one person commented

“That’s right, according to the divination results, the world’s best as well as second best diviner both reside here!” the other exclaimed.

The two human cultivators both appeared excited.

One of them held his fists tightly: “As we discussed, no matter how hard they try to chase us away, we should still refuse to leave!”

The other clenched his teeth and nodded: “That’s right, even if the two experts use whips to try and chase us away, we shall still insist on remaining here until they agree to be our masters and teach us their divination methods”

“That’s right, big bro, we will definitely never give up!”

“Hm, lil’ bro, we must learn it no matter what!”

After psyching themselves up, the two knocked on the door.

“Excuse me, is anyone there?” one of them asked.

Creek—

Unexpectedly, the doors weren’t locked and opened without trouble.

A lazy voice sounded from inside the main hall:

“What business do the two of you have here?”

The two people both looked inside while standing at the door.

They saw something that they wouldn't forget for the rest of their lives.

One of them couldn't help but asked: "Sir, what are you——"

"Cultivating, can't you see?" Qin Xiao Lou couldn't help but reply.

He then clenched his buttocks, trying to squeeze the chopstick a bit tighter to make sure that a certain accident didn't occur due to him talking.

Both people at the door were cultivators of high caliber, so they naturally sensed and understood what his tiny movements were meant to do.

"Do you really have to cultivate that way?" one person couldn't help but asked.

Qin Xiao Lou puffed up his chest and answered with a stern expression: "This is an advanced secret cultivation method, and there's no need for us cultivators to fear such difficulties in our cultivation. Alright, now talk, what are you here for?"

The two of them stared blankly at him and remained silent for a long while.

One of them suddenly said: "...Ah, we don't actually have any business..."

The other quickly followed up: "That's right, we just entered the wrong place, my apologies..."

"Then hurry up and leave!" Qin Xiao Lou waved at them with his hand.

Slam!

The doors immediately closed again.

The two people stood silently in front of the closed doors and remained there for another long while.

"Big bro, I don't feel like studying first-rate divination methods anymore..."

"I... as well..."

At another location.

After passing through the Elements Purgatory, at an unknown location.

A dark spot appeared in the sky.

It was Gu Qing Shan.

He was descending towards the ground like a falling star with Ye Ru Xi in his arms.

——as soon as the Sequence initiated its elimination process, he felt like he heard numerous screams filled with pain and fear at the same time.

Immediately as that occurred, the giant bronze arm also vanished and Ye Ru Xi fell unconscious.

Seeing how fast they were descending, Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to take out the divine sword fragment and equip it as a gauntlet again.

After a strike at himself.

His descent started to slow down.

“Sequence, what’s going to happen to her after we eliminate the parasitic (Chaos)?”

Gu Qing Shan observed Ye Ru Xi with a bit of concern.

(She will retain her natural talents and abilities, unaffected by us] the Sequence replied.

“That’s good— right, what are the results of the elimination?” Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

(Their biggest mistake was to become parasites within a Sequence, as their lives are perfectly within my control]

“So they’re all dead?”

[Correct, I’m currently absorbing their immense amount of energy to prepare for your Apocalyptic powers to evolve] the Sequence explained.

“I’ve troubled you” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He looked back at Ye Ru Xi in his arms.

She’s still unconscious, but she has finally escaped from those fellows and will never fall under their influence ever again.

Gu Qing Shan looked around.

Then, what should I do now?

—-or rather, I should ask what is this place?

There was nothing as far as his eyes could see in every direction, the only thing that he could sense was the faraway horizon.

There wasn’t anything at all in this place.

“I clearly went through the entire Elements Purgatory... so there was another sky below the ground...?”

Gu Qing Shan silently felt surprised and began to head in a random direction.

Not too long later.

He stopped.

About ten meters from where he stood, there was a large deep hole.

—-this was the hole from which the giant bronze arm had exited earlier, carrying Gu Qing Shan and Ye Ru Xi with it to the sky.

Gu Qing Shan gently placed Ye Ru Xi on the ground while he crouched down at the edge of the hole to take a look below.

It was completely dark.

Some faint wind could be felt blowing up towards him.

—-the wind contained weak traces of the mutated Five Elements, proving that the Elements Purgatory was indeed located in the ground below him.

Gu Qing Shan silently stood there sensing it for a while before looking up.

There was a vast open sky above him.

—-there was both the sky and the ground here.

“I’ve never heard of it...”

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

—-this unknown location was completely unheard of, even the evil creatures he met up with before had never heard of an entirely different world below the Elements Purgatory.

This is completely unexpected.

—-the combined power of 25 Awaitings of [Chaos].

They unexpectedly went all the way through the Elements Purgatory to enter this unknown world.

If I follow this hole through the Elements Purgatory and continue heading upwards again, I’ll return to the other ‘surface’, which is the Human realm.

“Then, the Elements Purgatory is sandwiched in between two separate worlds... Why does this structure seem a bit like... some sort of meat burger?”

Gu Qing Shan thought to himself.

He was feeling a bit hungry.

—-but this is not the time to eat.

After all, the situation was so out of the ordinary that it might be related to some sort of secret of the Samsara.

And secrets are always the most precious. Silently gazing down the bottomless hole, Gu Qing Shan gradually felt more interested.

Regardless of what I do, I’ll need a bit more power...

“Sequence, help me equip the Title: [Pure Love Gang]”

Lines of bloody red text appeared:

[Title equipped]

[Activating Title Skill: Going Cold]

[Choosing between abilities of the Pure Love Gang’s members]

[You may choose one displayed ability from members who had been summoned before]

Gu Qing Shan said:

“I want to choose the frozen corpse and temporarily gain his power: (Seeding Silence)”

The bloody red text paused briefly before displaying again:

[Choice unavailable!]

[You have chosen this ability before, so it will temporarily become unavailable]

[You may only choose this ability again once you’ve resummoned the frozen corpse and only after he has redisplayed this ability]

Gu Qing Shan shrugged, but still felt a bit regretful.

—how great would it have been if I could keep using the frozen corpse’s ability?

He sighed, then began to make some considerations.

I’ve used [Moon Invitation] a total of 6 times.

The first time I used it, I summoned Liu Xing—

Let’s not take that skirt-chaser into account.

(Pure Love Gang) only began to take shape after I summoned Ye Fei Li.

The only members in it so far are Ye Fei Li, Zhang Ying Hao, Shroud, and Ye Ru Xi.

The abilities Ye Fei Li displayed were flight and his canned drinks.

Zhang Ying Hao had displayed the black cat.

I’ve used Shroud’s Apocalypse ability already, so I can’t choose it again.

Ye Ru Xi—

The ability she showed was the uncontrollable power of (Chaos).

Should I choose her ability?

—no, I can’t.

Regardless of how strong an ability is, it’s no different from a ticking time bomb if I can’t keep it under control.

The Samsara had only just reset, which means it’s currently at its weakest.

If I somehow manage to cause too much damage, my Chosen Saint qualifications might be stripped away by the Samsara and I might be kicked out.

If that happened, I wouldn’t even be able to cry about it.

So let’s skip Ye Ru Xi.

The only other choices are Zhang Ying Hao’s searching ability and Ye Fei Li’s flight.

Flight... let’s skip that too.

Gu Qing Shan looked down at his fist.

With a single thought, the gauntlet disassembled itself into a few dozen pieces before reforming into a sword fragment and falling into his hand.

I have a method to mimic flying.

Then the only choice left is the black cat.

But I need to feed the black cat——

Touching the bag hanging on his waist, Gu Qing Shan felt perfectly confident.

Before he left, Qin Xiao Lou had provided him with a lot of ingredients as well as ready-made dishes that he had prepared.

There should be enough to make any normal dishes and desserts.

With that in mind, Gu Qing Shan spoke: “I choose Zhang Ying Hao’s Mystic-type ability, (Summon Black Cat)”

Lines of bloody text appeared following his words:

[Choice confirmed!]

[Attention, this is an extremely rare sentient searching ability, you will temporarily gain access to it and suffer a certain degree of torture]

Before the notifications finished showing, Gu Qing Shan could already feel a prickling pain all over his body, almost like he was being stabbed by a thousand needles.

He didn’t even twitch.

——compared to the pain from (Seeding Silence), this much was nothing.

Gu Qing Shan took a few steps back, then crouched down and knocked on the ground with his hand.

“Come out, precious”

He called.

Two breaths’ worth of time later.

A deep round hole silently opened up on the ground.

A purely black cat poked its head out from the hole, looked at Gu Qing Shan, and then gently called out to him.

Hearing it, Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied: “Ah, yeah, Ying Hao isn’t here today, I’m taking you out to play by myself”

The black cat jumped out from the hole, shook its body, and then walked close to Gu Qing Shan’s leg.

Meow meow meow meow meow.

The black cat called out again.

“Oh? So you want some broiled fish today?” Gu Qing Shan asked with some interest.

Meow!

“It’s going to be quite spicy, can you handle spicy food?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Meow meow meow!

The black cat waved dismissively with its paw.

“Just a little bit spicy is ok? Alright, it’ll be quick” Gu Qing Shan rolled up his sleeves. Very quickly. The broiled fish was ready.

After having its fill, the black cat called out to Gu Qing Shan with a satisfied tone.

“Ah, what do I want to search for? Right, what do I want to search for...?” Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

Meow?

“I want to find... this world’s secret”

Hearing him, the black cat’s expression became solemn.

It looked around, displaying a look of focus that one only possessed during a hunt.

After a long while.

The black cat pointed in a certain direction with its paw.

Meow meow!

“That way?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Meow!

“Alright, let’s go!”

The black cat began leading the way while Gu Qing Shan followed closely behind it with Ye Ru Xi on his back.

They slowly proceeded through the barren land towards the secret of the unknown location.

Chapter 1753 Head-hunting deal

The black cat continued to run.

While carrying Ye Ru Xi on his back, Gu Qing Shan closely chased after it.

There was still nothing in front of him as far as his eyes could see, completely barren land without a single noteworthy structure.

After running for a while, the black cat suddenly slowed down.

“What’s the matter?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The black cat fully stopped and pointed at the void of space in front of it, then called out to him:

Meow!

Gu Qing Shan appeared surprised.

He reached his hand out trying to search the void.

There was clearly nothing in front of him, but he still managed to get hold of a doorknob.

——this was all thanks to the black cat, as nobody else would have ever been able to locate this place.

Gu Qing Shan continued to touch around the air and quickly found a cold metallic surface, which was most likely a door.

“I can’t open this?” he looked at the black cat.

The black cat meowed at him with some disdain in its voice.

Gu Qing Shan looked back down and tried to move the doorknob again.

——although he couldn’t sense anything particularly powerful about it, he still couldn’t open the door.

“Hoh—— not possible, I can’t open it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Meow meow?

The black cat narrowed its eyes and called out again, seemingly scoffing at him.

Gu Qing Shan also narrowed his eyes and tried examining the doorknob more carefully.

A very sturdy material.

With an intricate design.

There is some power emanating from it, but not too much.

Regardless of who they are, being able to come here and place a concealed door and doorknob is already quite a considerable feat. After all, everyone’s powers are still sealed.

COF.

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and focused his mind.

——[Heavenly Decree – Initiate Tribulation]!

Tribulation Lightning manifested in the void of space as bolts of lightning gradually condensed one after another.

The numerous bolts of different Tribulation Lightning eventually formed the shape of a sledgehammer, along which black crackling arcs of electricity slithered.

This was the combined power of all Tribulation Lightning, which had surpassed all known Heaven Tribulations!

Boom—

The lightning sledgehammer was violently slammed towards the doorknob.

Gu Qing Shan then tried moving it again.

This time, the door finally opened, displaying what was hidden behind it.

—it was the warehouse of a fortress.

There were numerous sets of armor, weapons, rations, spirit stones, immortal jades, raw materials, talismans, formation plates, as well as various rare treasures, too many to count.

Gu Qing Shan took a short walk around the warehouse, spending an entire minute to list every unique thing it contained.

Under the current circumstances, these supplies and funds should be more than enough to start a war.

A jet-black badge was lying on the table in the center of the warehouse. The badge read in large and bright characters: (Human realm 27th]

Gu Qing Shan silently observed it, then gently placed Ye Ru Xi on one side before he began picking out supplies for himself.

He first chose the set of armor of the highest quality.

The set of armor could be separated into almost a hundred components each of which were made with relatively great intricacy, being both tough and flexible.

Most interestingly, this set of armor had various points where one could adjust as they wished, making it bigger or smaller.

After donning the armor, Gu Qing Shan began to check out the weapons.

—there was at least one copy of every kind of common weapon here.

Although they couldn't be considered treasures per se, they were still miles better than any mortal weapon.

Under the current circumstances where all the Samsara Divine Artifacts had been taken away, they were practically the next best thing.

—perfect for a Chosen Saint whose abilities had been sealed to use.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

What exactly were the people who left these supplies here planning?

While he was in thought, the black cat's fur all started standing on their ends as it turned towards the ground just a bit away from where he was standing: Meeoow!

Gu Qing Shan immediately snapped out of his train of thought, grabbing a metal bow and a quiver full of arrows from the shelf, as well as a blade.

A few moments later.

The ground began turning loose.

Two hands emerged from underneath, followed by a head, a neck, then shoulders—

A cultivator had emerged from the ground, bringing in a lot of loose dirt with him.

As soon as he saw Gu Qing Shan, he was stunned for a brief moment before speaking cautiously:

“I was the only one—”

Gu Qing Shan shouted: “I’m the emergency mobilization officer, I’ve seen your picture before—- are you Human realm 27th?”

The man was stunned.

—-emergency mobilization?

While he was still, Gu Qing Shan had thrown the badge toward him.

The man caught the badge, examined it closely, and then carefully put it away.

He then clasped his fist: “This subordinate is indeed Human realm 27th, sir, you— Gu Qing Shan began explaining with a solemn expression that forbade all questions: “The situation has changed, a powerful Apocalypse has suddenly emerged. I’m asking you right now, do you want to continue working as you have been, or participate in the sudden mission to fight against the Apocalypse?”

The Tomb of Myriad Beasts was being assimilated into the Samsara before it was reset, which was why the Samsara War General’s grave existed, as well as the amalgamation void monster.

Even they managed to survive, so of course the numerous terrifying Apocalypses from the past would also survive.

Aside from them, there was also the summoners of 99 Apocalypses—

The Apocalyptic Envoys!

Meaning, it was absolutely normal for an Apocalypse to randomly emerge at this point in time.

—the issue is how powerful the Apocalypse would be.

The man was stunned for a brief moment before he took a closer look at Gu Qing Shan.

From Gu Qing Shan’s demeanor, he did indeed look like a seasoned commander.

Just as the man was about to talk, Gu Qing Shan suddenly continued: “This abrupt Apocalypse will be very difficult to deal with, it may affect the entire plan, so if you participate in the battle against it, you will be given appropriate rewards for your efforts”

The man's train of thought was once again disrupted, so he couldn't help but ask: "Sir, would that Apocalypse affect my original mission?"

— not asking about anything except his own business.

Seems like he's quite the interesting person.

"From our assessments, we suspect that it will surely affect all of our original arrangements" Gu Qing Shan answered with a slightly worried tone.

This was, of course, complete bullshit, but it made sense in this context; after all, Gu Qing Shan had to personally arrive to mobilize manpower, so who wouldn't think that it would affect them?

But his tone also affected the man.

The man asked nervously: "Sir, the Apocalypse wouldn't affect this location here specifically, right?"

— asking the same question again, it seems he's a selfish person.

Furthermore, he prefers to not be adventurous.

Gu Qing Shan answered without changing his expression: "This location in particular won't be affected, and that's why I came to seek you out"

He moved out of the man's vision and pointed at Ye Ru Xi who was lying on the floor: "Take a look, the location of another secret mission that she was a part of had been affected, that's why I hurriedly came here to find someone to take her place after I finally managed to rescue her"

The man observed Ye Ru Xi.

Ye Ru Xi was lying unconscious on the ground, completely defenseless.

— some more of the man's doubts were cleared off.

Seems like the superiors are really short on manpower for them to find a replacement as soon as they manage to rescue someone.

No wonder an officer of emergency mobilization had appeared.

And most importantly—

That Apocalypse must be extremely dangerous.

Even if there are rewards, there is no need for me to risk my life, is there?

While the man was thinking, Gu Qing Shan had already continued: "The rewards for battling against the Apocalypse are quite exceptional, but you can also choose to stick to your original mission—"

"I'll give you a few minutes to make your decision, then explain the mission you've chosen in details"

The man thought to himself for a short while before clapping his fist towards Gu Qing Shan and answered apologetically: "Sir, I will now make my report— I choose to continue replenishing my supplies and sneak back into the 27th node within the Elements Purgatory, silently looking for a chance to eliminate any Chosen Saints who had not pledged their allegiance to the Heavenly Palace"

Bullseye.

Now I know what these people have been doing.

It makes sense as well, considering how far ahead the Heavenly Emperor is compared to everyone, the only person within the Samsara who could make such preparations was him.

While everyone has not been able to reclaim their powers—

This is the perfect chance to eliminate any opposition.

Hearing his explanation, Gu Qing Shan's expression did not change at all.

No.

If one took a closer look, a faint look of displeasure could be discerned from Gu Qing Shan's expression.

The man had noticed that as well, but he chose to pretend to not notice it and kept his head down, maintaining this reporting posture.

"Are you absolutely sure you want to choose this mission?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Yes I am, sir" the man answered.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and said: "Very well, I won't force you, then—".

In an instant, a change had occurred!

Millions of bronze daggers abruptly manifested around the man and started slashing him without any warning.

All the blood was scattered into a thick bloody mist that wafted into the air.

Gu Qing Shan covered his mouth and took a few steps back, asking in surprise: "You're awake?"

A female voice answered him: "I am, I really have to thank you, I've finally escaped from those bastards"

Ye Ru Xi slowly stood up.

"How are you feeling?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I'm free now, I now wield the power of a Deity of (Chaos)... without being under the control of any Awaitings..." Ye Ru Xi replied.

Bronze arms of various different forms appeared from behind her back, all of which emanated the presence of (Chaos).

"You're stronger than I am" Gu Qing Shan judged.

"Of course, your powers have been sealed, while I'm currently about as strong as the Soul Shrieker used to be" Ye Ru Xi smiled and replied.

Gu Qing Shan also smiled.

It's such a joy to have someone like her as a supporter.

"I'll help you kill anyone you want to kill" Ye Ru Xi said.

"I just need you to guard this place, after all, there is so much supplies here that it'll be a shame if someone came to steal it" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Alright" Ye Ru Xi answered.

Gu Qing Shan went outside and stood in the middle of the barren wasteland again.

—[Initiate Tribulation]!

Wind began to blow.

The sky suddenly became gloomy, the void of space itself grew dim, dust and sand was blown all over the place.

Various scratching noises could be heard.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly shouted: "Stop probing already, I'm the one facing the Tribulation!"

All the scratching noises immediately stopped.

It's old Gu

[So it was old Gu]

[Damn, why didn't you tell us sooner

If old Gu is calling us, it must mean he has a deal for us

With hearty laughter, various evil creatures emerged from the void of space.

And then they all fell silent.

[So many treasures!]

One of the evil creatures exclaimed.

More and more evil creatures stared straight into the large warehouse behind Gu Qing Shan with eyes glowing red with greed.

At the moment, the Samsara had only just been reset, so all weapons and armors were valuable, not to mention these were of the highest quality.

Old Gu, you have so much good stuff by yourself? Jan evil creature asked.

Its eyes were unfocused, cautiously darting between the mountain of supplies in the warehouse and Gu Qing Shan.

A dangerous atmosphere was silently brewing.

Gu Qing Shan shrugged and turned around to give Ye Ru Xi a look.

Ye Ru Xi slightly raised her hand——

A gigantic bronze arm that appeared to connect heaven and earth fell down from the sky, slamming the ground a few thousand meters away from the door of the warehouse.

Bam!

The thunderous noise reverberated from the distance, the terrifying presence emanating from it caused all the evil creatures to snap out of their trance.

Such power was more than enough to remove all unnecessary thoughts.

Once everyone had calmed down, Gu Qing Shan pointed at the warehouse behind him.

“Everyone, there is indeed a deal”

“Don’t say that this old Gu isn’t considerate of you all, now let’s begin. I want everyone to enter the Elements Purgatory and hunt for some heads in exchange for these supplies”

One of the evil creature commanders couldn’t contain himself and called out: Old Gu, whose heads do you want?]

Gu Qing Shan shrugged and answered with seeming indifference: “I’m not picky, as long as the head belongs to a heavenly being, I’ll take it”

Chapter 1754: Words of a head

Not a single figure could be seen in any direction within the empty barren wasteland.

Gu Qing Shan was seated while leaning on a chair with a blade right next to his seat, making himself comfortable.

Ye Ru Xi was seated on a chair right next to him, excitedly fumbling around with an intricate set of female armor.

——the evil creatures had all left.

They were all cheering and clapping excitedly as they made their way into the Elements Purgatory with unceasing vigor.

The Elements Purgatory was already a dangerous place, and since the evil creatures were all experts at concealment as well as at ambushes, there would always be a chance for them to catch the heavenly beings off-guard.

The head of one heavenly being could be exchanged for quite a bit of supply.

Just as Gu Qing Shan had said, this was a good deal.

That was why they had all gone out.

At the entrance to the warehouse, aside from Gu Qing Shan and Ye Ru Xi, the only one remaining was a white-haired rat.

This white-haired rat was walking back and forth around the entrance of the warehouse while scratching its head, occasionally taking a glance at Gu Qing Shan as well as the mountain of treasures behind him with an animated expression.

Gu Qing Shan knew that it had something to say, but didn't bother to ask. Instead, he only spoke to Ye Ru Xi from time to time.

The white-haired rat finally couldn't endure it anymore and loudly called out:

『 Old Gu, how did you find this place? 』

Gu Qing Shan casually explained: "That's a secret, but if you pay me enough, I'll tell you"

The white-haired rat awkwardly laughed, then tried asking something else: 『 Old Gu, do you have any other deals aside from head-hunting? 』

"What kind of deal would you like to make with me then?" Gu Qing Shan grinned and asked.

The white-haired rat climbed up the back of his blade, stood firmly on the blade's guard, and spoke in a tone that suggested it was hiding something precious: 『 Us Windy Demonic Rats can't really fight very

well, but we're all first-rate information collectors. Whenever the other demons and devils want to know something, we are the first ones they contact 』

“Oh?” Gu Qing Shan appeared intrigued and asked: “So what do you know about the Elements Purgatory?”

『 That depends on what old Gu wants to find out 』 the white-haired rat slyly answered.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't be bothered to play the roundabout game with it, so he told it in a straightforward manner: “How about this— with every piece of information you tell me, I'll pay you an amount that corresponds to how valuable it is”

The white-haired rat jumped in joy: 『 Deal! 』

It then thought briefly before telling him: 『 The Elements Purgatory was comprised of the mutated Five Elements, which included various trials established by the Samsara. Only the most exceptional Chosen Saints would be able to exert their talents in it 』

Gu Qing Shan signaled to Ye Ru Xi with his eyes.

Ye Ru Xi waved her hand, summoning a piece of green Immortal Jade the size of her hand from the warehouse.

“Take it”

Ye Ru Xi placed the Immortal Jade in front of the white-haired rat.

The white-haired rat appeared disappointed: 『 Only one piece of Immortal Jade this size? 』

Gu Qing Shan lowered his gaze and earnestly replied: “Brother, what you just told me is something that everyone already knows about, it's practically useless information. I only paid you a piece of Immortal Jade for it in consideration of our relation”

His tone then became a bit colder: “Brother rat, if you want to actually earn big money, then tell me something crucial, otherwise, I don’t need your next piece of information”

The white-haired rat immediately put the Immortal Jade away and hurriedly spoke: 『 Don’t— old Gu, I’ll tell you a real secret, the Chosen Saints of the Beast King realm have already pledged their allegiance to the Heaven realm, all the Divine Beasts are already acting as the Heaven realm’s claws and teeth 』

“Is that true?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 It’s the truth! 』

“Then swear on it”

『 This is already a tacit understanding between the Heaven realm and Beast King realm, I’m definitely not trying to deceive old Gu, I swear on it! 』

The white-haired rat then made a Samsara vow right in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan rubbed his chin.

—back in the Elements War Zone, that Qilin was indeed a Divine Beast, but it said that it came on orders from the Heaven realm in order to kill me.

Furthermore, the original members of the Beast King realm wanted to eliminate the humans of the Beast King realm.

Shan Hai Qi Xia’s group was clearly under such threat.

Seems like this really is true.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Have the humans of the Beast King realm also pledged their allegiance to the Heaven realm?”

The white-haired rat coldly chuckled: 『 Humans? The Beast Kings wants them dead, and the Heaven realm also think that the Beast Kings are easier to control, so they've allowed the Beast Kings to try and eliminate them all 』

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

He didn't touch any of the treasures in the warehouse, instead signaling to Ye Ru Xi with his eyes again.

Ye Ru Xi stood up and carried a large chest full of spirit treasures out from the warehouse.

She then firmly placed the chest in front of the white-haired rat.

The white-haired rat examined the chest briefly before nodding with satisfaction.

『 Old Gu, I'll tell you an even more important secret 』

“Go ahead”

『 The heavenly beings actually have a crucial plan to carry out during this Elements Purgatory campaign 』

“Go on”

『 Old Gu, they're carrying out something big for the Heavenly Emperor— after all, everyone knows that the Heavenly Emperor is currently the number one Chosen Saint, the common ruler of the six realms who has left everyone else far behind; the reason that the heavenly beings had entered the Elements Purgatory this time was to help the Heavenly Emperor further expand his advantage 』

Gu Qing Shan's gaze was fully focused and asked: “What exactly are the heavenly beings planning?”

『 I don't know—— if I knew such a secret, I would have already been dead 』 the white-haired rat shrunk back and said.

“Then what meaning is there in you telling me this?” Gu Qing Shan tiredly sighed.

The white-haired rat lowered its voice: 『 Old Gu, although I'm the best among the Windy Demonic Rats, I have no one but myself so I don't have the courage to investigate secrets of this level—— but you do 』

Gu Qing Shan appeared surprised.

He then leaned back on the back of his chair and silently pondered for a while.

Observing him, Ye Ru Xi spoke up: “You can do as you see fit, if anyone tries to mess with you, I'll kill them”

Gu Qing Shan nodded and silently remained still.

Suddenly, heaven and earth turned dim.

Another sandstorm had descended, ravaging the empty wasteland.

Various eerie noises reverberated throughout the void of space.

The Wind Tribulation had appeared!

Gu Qing Shan slowly stood up and raised his voice: “Did any Tianma arrive?”

All the noises in the void of space stopped.

A voice replied: 『 So it was old Gu, I don't think anyone from the Tianma race came this time 』

“Then let's disperse, I'm going to give this another try” Gu Qing Shan said.

『 Got it 』

Numerous voices replied from the void of space.

In an instant, the brewing sandstorm vanished and the world returned to normal.

Gu Qing Shan focused his mind.

—to once again trigger a Wind Tribulation!

Powerful wind began to manifest!

Gu Qing Shan waited for a few moments before asking again: “Is there anyone from the Tianma race here?”

The void of space shifted.

Several delicately beautiful girls descended from the sky and lowered themselves to greet him: 『 Young master Gu, did you need something from us? 』

“Go to Li An and tell her that there's an emergency, the next time a Wind Tribulation occurs, tell her to come and see me” Gu Qing Shan replied.

『 Understood 』

The Tianma girls swiftly moved and flew back into the sky, vanishing without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand towards the void of space: “Everyone, you’re all dismissed, I have something private to discuss”

The wind calmed down once more.

After waiting for a few moments.

Gu Qing Shan triggered another Wind Tribulation.

The void of space shifted, from which a solemnly stunning beauty emerged, slowly and gracefully making her way in front of him.

『 I heard you were in a hurry to find me? 』 she asked.

“I was” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The void of space shifted again.

This time, a group of devils emerged with a single severed head, throwing it in front of Gu Qing Shan.

『 Master Gu, we got what you asked for! 』

They called out loudly.

Li An turned around and asked in surprise: 『 Are you in the middle of killing the garbage of the Heaven realm? 』

“It’s actually something more important than that” Gu Qing Shan said.

He then explained what he had found out so far.

Li An silently listened, then walked up to the severed head and placed her hand on it, whispering an incantation.

The severed head suddenly came back to life.

『 Speak 』 Li An urged.

The severed head looked at her in fear while struggling to speak: “The Heavenly Emperor... wanted us to... excavate...”

Boom!

A bloody mist suddenly erupted from the severed head, after which it no longer moved.

“What’s going on?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 That was the Heaven realm’s Soul Chain, it prevents them from revealing that secret 』 Li An explained.

“In other words, there’s no way around this?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 Indeed, this is one of the Heaven realm’s most potent means—- under the effects of a Soul Chain, no heavenly being would be able to utter a complete sentence 』 Li An replied.

At this point, the severed head on the ground began to shift and change into the head of a green-faced creature with horrible yellow fangs.

Ye Ru Xi asked with intrigue: “It can still transform after death?”

Li An chuckled and explained: 『 This was its true appearance—— it was originally a Wraith that took on the appearance of a heavenly being. In reality, there are no longer any real heavenly beings in this era, all of them are already dead 』

Gu Qing Shan glanced at her.

——the only race of heavenly beings remaining is the Tianma.

Is that why Shifu had Li An stay close to her?

That's probably the case.

While thinking that, Gu Qing Shan asked her with a cautious expression: “Li An, are you sure that no heavenly being would be able to utter a full sentence of info?”

『 Indeed, I can specify the exact information I want them to reveal, but they will surely die after saying only half a sentence at most 』 Li An regretfully answered.

“But they would still be able to say something, correct?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 That's right, so you still haven't given up on this idea? 』 Li An was surprised.

Gu Qing Shan hesitantly answered her: “I have an idea...”

...

A few hours later.

Within the barren wasteland.

This was relatively far away from the warehouse.

『 I can't be sure that your idea would work, but we can give it a try 』 Li An said.

“Alright, let’s begin” Gu Qing Shan told her.

In front of the two of them, over a dozen severed heads had been laid neatly in a row.

Ye Ru Xi wasn’t here.

—she was looking after the warehouse, in charge of paying the evil creatures.

Li An took in a deep breath and muttered: 『 I’ve never thought about doing this ever before 』

She flew forward, tapping her finger on each of the severed heads while rapidly chanting an incantation under her breath.

The severed heads began to speak:

“The Heavenly Emperor... wanted us... to excavate...”

“The Merit Stones... inside the Elements Purgatory...”

“... It is used to build... a Five Elements city...”

“The Samsara is nearly... unable to suppress the Apocalypses...”

“...A Five Elements city... will be able to shelter...”

“Chosen Saints...”

“The Heavenly Emperor... already has...”

“One city... he needs...”

“...More Merit Stones...”

“Being the city’s ruler... will grant... the best chance...”

“To evolve”

The severed heads took turns explaining the secret, each exploding with a mass of blood after saying a few words.

But the next severed head would continue from the previous one.

The line of severed heads exploded in sequence up until they finished the final words—

And delivered the complete information.

Chapter 1755: A tale of two cities

『 Soul Return Dispersal! 』 Li An loudly declared.

All the bloody mist was then scattered by the wind.

Over a dozen terrifying severed heads of wraiths laid motionlessly on the ground, all of which were gradually turning pale white as they lost any signs of vitality they had within them.

“I’ve troubled you” Gu Qing Shan said.

『 It’s indeed difficult to control several souls to such a precise degree— but as long as it’s for the sake of fighting the Heaven realm, we Tianma are always willing to give it a try 』 Li An replied.

She then said with a bit of worry in her voice: 『 They said that the Samsara is nearly unable to suppress the Apocalypses, what does that mean? 』

Gu Qing Shan replied: “I suspect that it is because the Samsara had just been reset and it is currently at its weakest that this place exists”

『 What do you mean? 』

“—This place is the underside of the Human realm, separated from it by the ground itself, a place specifically created to fight against the Apocalypse and maintain peace within the Human realm” Gu Qing Shan replied.

Li An muttered: 『 How strange, even if the Samsara had only just been reset, it shouldn't be so acting so cautiously... Are there perhaps some particularly powerful Apocalypses among them? 』

Gu Qing Shan sighed and nodded.

He couldn't help but think back to one particular Apocalypse he witnessed when he used [Night Cruiser] to travel along the river within the great tomb.

—-a thin elongated skull manifested from water vapor.

Any entities that came into contact with it would be stripped of their Time and Space, falling into endless nothingness without being able to escape, with death being their only form of release.

It was practically impossible to attack it as well, since it didn't exist within Space-Time.

An unresolvable Apocalypse.

And it wasn't the only Apocalypse that existed within the great tomb.

So it was natural for the Samsara to deal with them cautiously.

—-not to mention how there are still Apocalyptic Envoys lying in wait.

The only good news is that the Samsara had already escaped from the previous Reality Gate and has now entered a completely new reality.

It's possible that the Apocalyptic Envoys might have lost some sort of ability due to this, which explains why they haven't been able to summon the Apocalypses from outside the previous Reality Gate.

“Let's go, we're heading back” Gu Qing Shan said.

『 Back to the Green Building? 』 Li An asked.

“No, back to the warehouse, our business here had only just begun, it's not yet time to return” Gu Qing Shan replied.

As the two of them were about to set out, the severed heads on the ground suddenly took flight in unison.

They flew into the sky and exploded into a pale yellow circle in the air.

『 That's the seal of a Reversal-type Immortal Craft! 』 Li An's expression changed.

“What does it do?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

『 It records light and images—— the events that transpired here have already been exposed! 』 Li An explained.

Exposed?

In other words, the Heavenly Emperor already knows what happened here?

In an instant, lines of bloody red text quickly appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan:

[Attention, a certain Phase Realm is attempting to intersect with the present world]

[It is about to manifest in front of you]

Gu Qing Shan quickly skimmed through it and shouted: “Ye Ru Xi——”

In an instant, a woman dressed in simple military clothing appeared.

It was Ye Ru Xi.

“What's the matter?” she cautiously asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Someone is coming”

As soon as he said that, an illusory image of a gigantic city began to manifest on top of the vast barren wasteland.

It was a dream-like city glowing in colorful divine light, despite how large it was, it was stably hovering in the middle of the air.

Numerous supernatural phenomena representing good luck were hovering around the gigantic city, accompanied by a wondrous heavenly aria and layers upon layers of shifting clouds. It appeared to be some sort of eternal city, or a city of Heaven that one could only dream of.

A solemn voice called out from the gigantic city:

「 Gu Qing Shan, being able to discover my plan, you can be considered quite a character indeed, but your loss is already determined 」

The Heavenly Emperor!

This was his voice!

Without waiting for Gu Qing Shan to answer, a dazzling heavenly light was shot out from the city, which instantly traversed the lengthy distance to reach Gu Qing Shan.

How fast!

Right as Gu Qing Shan was about to react, Ye Ru Xi had already stood in front of him.

She grumbled: “Shelter!”

Bam———

A bronze wall that was hundreds of meters in length suddenly manifested on the ground in front of the three, perfectly shielding them.

The heavenly light violently struck the bronze wall, which caused a deafening thunderous echo.

Heaven and earth almost appeared to dim from the impact.

Everything became a blur.

It wasn't only until a while later that the aftermath of the impact had subsided.

"This level of power... should be one full-power strike from that city, it's a bit troublesome" Ye Ru Xi commented.

Her hand that was placed against the giant bronze wall was trembling a little.

Li An couldn't help but click her tongue when she saw that.

—this girl has retained her full strength!

Where did Gu Qing Shan find such a ferocious person, not only is her strength not sealed at all, she also managed to block an attack from the Heavenly Emperor that was meant to kill!

"Troublesome?" Gu Qing Shan snapped out of his shock and asked.

"If this continues, I won't be able to defend you" Ye Ru Xi replied.

『 Then we need to hurry up and flee 』 saying that, Li An held onto Gu Qing Shan's sleeve.

"Wait a moment, let's not go just yet" Gu Qing Shan stopped her.

At this point, the Heavenly Emperor's voice reverberated again:

「 Being able to stop that attack, it seems you aren't fated to die today, very well, I shall let you go for now 」

Gu Qing Shan's expression appeared strange.

“Let me... go?”

He mumbled to himself, then took a deep breath and suddenly shouted: “Heavenly Emperor, you shameless son of a bitch! Come and fight me to the death if you dare!”

1

His voice reverberated throughout the empty, silent world.

Li An was almost scared stiff by his actions and hurriedly grabbed his hand, already rapidly chanting an incantation to flee.

Gu Qing Shan quickly covered her mouth.

“Wait a moment” he whispered.

The silence persisted for a short moment.

The Heavenly Emperor's chuckle was then heard: 「 What an impudent lone wraith without even a place to belong, this emperor shall tell you the harsh truth: an insect like you isn't worth the time of this emperor or the heavenly retainers as we are busy fighting the Apocalypse 」

「 Gu Qing Shan, you haven't even gone through the Elements Purgatory, but this emperor had already established an Immortal City, being bestowed unparalleled Merit and the favor of the Samsara. This emperor is already an Immortal City Ruler who had obtained an unrivaled Divine Skill 」

「 Once this emperor finishes fighting the Apocalypse off, this emperor shall lead the myriad heavenly beings back to the Human realm to search for you. Your body shall be flayed and butchered, your bones

broken down and grinded, your soul will be banished into the Nine Serenities of Huang Quan, never to escape from infinite torture! 』

The Heavenly Emperor's voice was filled with his fury and killing intent, once again reverberating throughout the entire world.

Li An's expression became completely pale, her heart dropping all the way down.

Who could have imagined that everything the Heavenly Emperor had done up to this point had been a smokescreen?

His true goal was always to establish an Immortal City!

Possessing such an Immortal City, he had gone extremely far ahead compared to any other Chosen Saints!

It's nothing but a pipe dream for those behind to try and catch up to him now!

Li An's muttered with a completely stunned expression on her face: 『 ...What now... the difference is too great... 』

Gu Qing Shan, on the other hand, immediately turned to Ye Ru Xi: "Ye Ru Xi, don't worry about my safety, go ahead and destroy that Immortal City"

Ye Ru Xi was surprised and said: "I don't think I can take down that city by myself"

"Then just attack it, destroy as much as you can— they're in the middle of fighting against the Heavenly Emperor, not having the manpower to even deal with me. Your job is just to disrupt them and further divide their attention, ensuring that they wouldn't be able to interfere with me" Gu Qing Shan explained.

"Hm" Ye Ru Xi replied.

"And also, I've given you the authority for [Moon Invitation], so if you think that your life might be in danger, you can dispel the summoning and return at any moment you wish" Gu Qing Shan added.

“Got it” Ye Ru Xi said.

She then leapt into the air and flew away.

From the void of space behind her, two gigantic bronze arms then manifested.

From the distance, the Heavenly Emperor spoke up again: 「 Who are you? 」

Ye Ru Xi began to emanate a sense of utter vicissitudes and raised her voice: “You don’t need to know who I am, I just want to see how strong you bunch from the Heaven realm actually are!”

「 There is no need for such a thing, join my Heaven realm and I will grant you a main Deity position within Heaven! 」

“Main Deity? I am the Deity of [Chaos], I don’t need your lousy main Deity position” Ye Ru Xi scoffed and thrust her hand forward.

The two bronze arms flew straight towards the Immortal City, completely eclipsing the world below along their path.

Right as the earth-shattering battle was about to begin, Gu Qing Shan turned to Li An and said: “Now, let’s go!”

『 Where to? 』

“Where can you take me?”

『 As I came here in response to your Wind Tribulation, I can only return to the Green Building 』

“Then let’s return there!”

As Li An finished her hand seal, their figures disappeared.

...

Back in the Green Building.

Xie Dao Ling was sitting at the host seat to silently listen to Gu Qing Shan’s report and asked: “If that’s true, then the Heavenly Emperor has already surpassed all other Chosen Saints and established an Immortal City before anyone could?”

“That is the case” Gu Qing Shan affirmed.

Xie Dao Ling sighed: “He really has a huge advantage over everyone else— as far as I understand, the Samsara Divine Skill obtained by an Immortal City Ruler is stronger than anyone else’s, this is considered a type of recognition by the Samsara”

“Shifu knows about that as well? Then it seems when I slandered the Heavenly Emperor, his pride made it so that he didn’t lie— with his position, it would certainly have damaged his reputation if he lied at such a public occasion...” Gu Qing Shan muses.

Xie Dao Ling asked: “You need to first go through the Elements Purgatory, then establish a city to fight the Heavenly Emperor. It isn’t feasible to establish an Immortal City in a short period of time either— — this is so-called ‘being one step behind means being every step behind’, a difference that practically cannot be overcome, do you have any ideas what you should do now?”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “There’s just have one thing I’m unclear about”

“What’s that?” Xie Dao Ling asked.

“If a city... doesn’t have only one owner, how would the Samsara see it?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Xie Dao Ling understood what he meant right away.

She then grinned: "If there are several owners, then the city would be equally divided between every owner. The Samsara would also take one's contributions in the fight against the Heavenly Emperor into account as well, the more contribution one makes, the more powerful their Samsara Divine Skill would evolve to be"

Gu Qing Shan nodded and turned to Li An: "We have an emergency on our hands. I remember that the Tianma race has relations with all the evil creature clans, is it possible for you to invite the leaders of the evil creature clans to the Green Building for a discussion?"

『 With my reputation and your name, it would naturally be possible to invite them 』 Li An answered.

"Then please invite them right away!" Gu Qing Shan said.

...

Not too long after that.

The Green Building was completely filled with guests.

Evil creatures from every race had gathered under one roof, each of them having a title of Demonic Saint, Demon Beast Lord, Devil King, and so on and so forth.

Seeing so many monsters gathered here, Qin Xiao Lou appeared a bit surprised and silently asked Gu Qing Shan: "These guys have some level of strength, but they pale in comparison to the Heavenly Emperor, what do you intend to do with them?"

"I'll be using them" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"What?" Qin Xiao Lou didn't quite understand.

"I'm going to use the power of the masses" Gu Qing Shan explained.

At this point, Li An approached and invited him to come up to speak.

Gu Qing Shan walked up to the center stage and cleared his throat: “Everyone”

“I have a huge opportunity here that I’d like to discuss with you all”

“It’s like this, I have an Immortal City, but I’m still missing a few Merit Stones to complete...”

“...That’s right, my city would be able to help you all evolve your Samsara Divine Skills...”

He slowly explained the details, occasionally answering some questions from the group below.

“Indeed, this Demon King is correct... this would be an extremely profitable venture...”

“Of course I’m not trying to deceive you all, I can make a Samsara vow to that... I can draft up a document as well, this is everyone’s profit after all...”

Some fluctuations could be felt from the world around them.

A Samsara vow had been made.

The atmosphere of the Green Building gradually became heated from excitement.

Gu Qing Shan continued to answer a few questions and finally concluded:

“That’s right, of course we aren’t going to be under the Heaven realm’s control, we’d be completely unrelated to any Samsara realms”

“...This will be a city of none other than ourselves”

“A city of us evil creatures!”

“Alright, now I’ve told you everything— who wants in?”

He finally finished.

Silence filled the room.

Followed by—

Resounding and chaotic shouts of unanimous agreement.

A few moments later.

Gu Qing Shan took out a white cloth to wipe his sweat as he walked down the stage.

Pulling Li An aside, he whispered and asked: “Can you find the humans of the Tomb of Myriad Beasts?”

Li An was a bit surprised, but answered: 『 As long as they are living beings with emotions and desires, we Tianma would be able to find them, but why do you need them? 』

“Invite them during the next session— they know me, so contact them as soon as you can”

『 That soon? 』

“Ye Ru Xi is currently stalling the Heavenly Emperor’s Immortal City, we need to seize every moment”

...

A while later.

Gu Qing Shan was standing on the stage as he spoke to Shan Hai Qi Xia and the others who accompany her: “Everyone, considering our close relationship, I will skip the formalities”

“It’s like this, I have an Immortal City, but I’m still missing a few Merit Stones to complete...”

He slowly explained.

Backstage, Li An took out a small piece of paper.

It reads:

[When this session is about to end, I want you to contact the beings of Huang Quan, telling them that the Devil King of Huang Quan has a great opportunity he'd like to discuss with them. You should search for the ferrywoman of the Forgetting River, she's one of the people in power who has relations with both me and my Shifu, so it'll be easy to convince her]

Reading the message on the paper, Li An then glanced back at Gu Qing Shan and sighed: 『 You... are you really a human? 』

1

Chapter 1756: I'm not worthy

Time slowly passed.

Li An finally returned.

She brought with her a person dressed in all black clothes and a wide-brimmed hat as she returned to the Green Building.

As they entered, Gu Qing Shan was eating noodles, it was so hot that he was sweating, but he couldn't stop himself at all.

This was a bowl of noodles that Qin Xiao Lou personally made for him, it was truly delicious.

"This personage is?"

Gu Qing Shan placed the bowl down and asked.

Li An didn't say anything and simply stepped aside.

The person sat down directly in front of Gu Qing Shan and very slightly tilted their hat up to show their face.

A pair of indifferent eyes directly faced Gu Qing Shan's gaze.

"Demon Dragon?" Gu Qing Shan whispered.

"I can't stay here for too long, so I'll make this quick" Demon Dragon replied.

"The Chosen Saints of Huang Quan don't want to join my Immortal City?" Gu Qing Shan sharply asked.

"Huang Quan doesn't need to join any Immortal City— the Chosen Saints of Huang Quan are different from you all, we have other missions so we don't need to face the Apocalypse" Demon Dragon answered.

"What's the mission for you guys in Huang Quan?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"To look after the Divine Artifacts" Demon Dragon replied.

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed: "All the Divine Artifacts of Samsara are currently being looked after by Huang Quan?"

"That's right, as Huang Quan is the most secretive location within the Samsara, there are very few particularly powerful Apocalypses that can ignore the limits of life and death to directly attack Huang Quan. For that reason, the Divine Artifacts of the Samsara have all been hidden deep within Huang Quan, silently waiting for the Samsara's Deific Authorities to be reestablished" Demon Dragon explained.

"—That's why the only responsibility for us Chosen Saints of Huang Quan is to defend Huang Quan"

Gu Qing Shan sighed, feeling a bit disappointed, then asked: "You arrived in Huang Quan so late, how did you manage to become a Chosen Saint?"

Hearing that, Demon Dragon appeared a bit awkward.

“I naturally had my own circumstances, you don’t need to know about that”

He stood up and continued: “In summary, Huang Quan will not get involved in the matters of the Human realm. Only after your powers have been reclaimed would Huang Quan once again show itself and allow travel between the worlds of life and death”

“—That would also be when the Deities of the Samsara have been re-established, and each Deity would once again obtain their respective Divine Artifacts”

“Gu Qing Shan, all of us will be waiting for you at that moment”

Demon Dragon slowly faded into the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan remained still for a few moments before picking up the bowl of noodles and started eating again.

Qin Xiao Lou muses from the side: “Currently, the heavenly beings of the Heaven realm, the original Beast Kings of the Beast King realm, as well as the majority of the Human realm’s Chosen Saints are under the Heavenly Emperor’s command, while we only have the evil creatures and the humans of the Beast King realm, this is a bit difficult”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Shifu, can the Asura race...”

“You shouldn’t try to get the Asura race involved. Very few members of this race would align themselves with evil creatures, while the others can’t participate at all, this is a fact recognized by the Samsara itself” Xie Dao Ling replied.

“—What has the majority of the Asura race been doing?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“After the Samsara has been reset, the Asura clans of each world fragment would be reunited, what do you think they would do?” Xie Dao Ling asked him in return.

“Search for their relatives?” Qin Xiao Lou randomly guessed.

Li An chimed in: 『 No, they will challenge the clansmen they haven't met ever before to a battle, day-to-day, every day, every moment of the day, up until they have a King to rule the entire Asura realm, only then would they finally take a short rest 』

1

Everyone fell silent.

The Asura race's culture is... truly impressive in its own way...

Suddenly, a shadowy devil appeared from the void of space.

It excitedly handed something to Gu Qing Shan and said: 「 We of the Deep Shadow race found a few rocks, can you take a look and see if this is it? 」

Gu Qing Shan picked up the rock and examined it, noticing a natural heavenly aura drifting from the rock.

Lines of bloody red text appeared in the void of space:

[Merit Stone]

[After collecting 1000 Merit Stones, you will gain the qualifications to establish an Immortal City of your own on the underside of the world to fight against the incoming threat of the Apocalypse]

Gu Qing Shan put the rock away and spoke to the shadowy devil: "This is indeed the kind of rock we need, have your kin speed up a bit more, whether or not we evil creatures can establish a city of our own will depend on you all!"

The shadowy devil chuckled and replied: 「 Don't worry, my kin are experts in the Elements Purgatory, so we're already headed out in search of these rocks as fast as we can. The other evil creatures, on the other hand, are floundering around without actually doing anything 」

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and said: “Li An, help me send a few words to everyone. Once the Immortal City has been established, the races that haven’t contributed any Merit Stones will have to wait until everyone else has evolved their Samsara Divine Skill before they get a chance to”

『 Very well 』 Li An replied.

“And also—— the more Merit Stones that a race contributes, the more support the Immortal City will provide for them to evolve as thoroughly as they could” Gu Qing Shan added.

『 I will send my people out immediately 』

Li An signaled with her eyes to those behind her.

A group of Tianma girls then faded into the void of space.

Observing the entire process, the shadowy devil nodded in satisfaction and said: 「 I’ll be heading back out in search of these rocks 」

After saying that, it also faded into the void of space and disappeared.

A few moments later.

The Green Building became thoroughly rowdy.

Occasionally, an evil creature would appear out of thin air and hand their Merit Stones to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan then decided to just put up a large wooden board, clearly listing the contributions of each race on it so that all the evil creatures could check as they pleased.

Those who hadn’t contributed would be immediately revealed, while the races earnestly searching for the Merit Stones were also shown.

“Will this be useful?” Qin Xiao Lou asked.

“It’s just a way to keep track, it’s open, public, and fair” Gu Qing Shan casually replied.

He climbed up a ladder and wrote a few large words on a wooden plank at the very top:

[Evil Kings Ranking]

[First place will be granted the Immortal City Title: King of Ten Thousand Evils, as well as the corresponding rewards and privileges]

[Second place will be granted the Immortal City Title: Master of Thousand Evils, as well as the corresponding rewards and privileges]

[Third place will be granted the Immortal City Title: Evil Lord, as well as the corresponding rewards and privileges]

[There are still many other benefits up for grabs— generous treatments in exchange for Merit Stones!]

[Have you gotten any Merit Stones today?]

After writing it, Gu Qing Shan read through it one more time before nodding with satisfaction and climbing back down.

“Hey, third brother, you only wrote these awesome titles and rewards for others— what about yours?” Qin Xiao Lou worriedly asked.

『 Your third brother doesn’t need any of that, he is the Immortal City Ruler 』 Li An casually replied.

With this board here in the open, any evil creatures that come to turn in their Merit Stones would see it.

— the competition had already begun.

The inward flow Merit Stones started becoming increasingly larger.

Suddenly, the Green Building's main gate was opened.

Shan Hai Qi Xia and her followers then entered.

“Didn't you head out to collect Merit Stones? Why did you return?” Gu Qing Shan asked with surprise.

Shan Hai Qi Xia whispered to answer him: “Within the Beast King realm, we had good relations with some of the original Beast Kings, so they were willing to join our side”

“Oh? Is that true?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

That's a good thing!

If that's really the case, our forces would be bolstered a bit more!

“If you don't feel safe, you can have the Tianma examine them— but they had a condition for joining your side” Shan Hai Qi Xia replied.

“What's the condition?” Gu Qing Shan asked again.

“They wanted to speak to you directly” Shan Hai Qi Xia answered.

「 Indeed, there are certain things that can only be said directly 」 a voice spoke up from behind her.

Several muscular figures emerged from behind her, although they had hidden their faces with large-brimmed hats, it's clear at first glance that they were Beast Kings from their physique.

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan heard Xie Dao Ling's voice in his mind:

“Be careful, dear disciple, the Beast King realm prefers the most primitive method of communication, so you must be careful to not get caught up in their pace”

Gu Qing Shan hesitantly asked: “The most primitive method? What is that?”

Xie Dao Ling didn’t answer.

Not receiving a response, Gu Qing Shan naturally remained cautious.

“Esteemed... Beast Kings, what is your condition?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 To better trust one another, we want marriage 」 one of the Beast Kings said.

“Marriage?” Gu Qing Shan repeated in surprise.

It really is the most primitive method!

Shan Hai Qi Xia appeared shocked and hastily said: “Gu Qing Shan, I didn’t know about this either”

Gu Qing Shan shook his head to signal her not to say anything, then asked again: “What kind of marriage do you want?”

The Beast King from before explained: 「 Gu Qing Shan, we’ve heard many stories about you from Shan Hai Qi Xia, you are a decent talent who has achieved many great feats, that is why we have decided to offer this special privilege of marriage 」

The Beast Kings then quickly split up into two rows to reveal a stocky figure to Gu Qing Shan.

The stocky figure took off their wide brim hat.

Prickling wild charm.

Indeed, this was a legendary, renowned female pig demon!

A muscular and powerful waistline full of unique charm;

A pair of pig's legs as tough as blades;

A dumbly cute pig's snout;

All of this proved just how welcomed it was within the Beast King realm!

The Beast King from before was still talking: 「 Gu Qing Shan, only you are worthy of our Beast King races' respect, only you are worthy of being with our most beautiful princess, now let us consolidate this marriage 」

Gu Qing Shan looked back, only to see the pig demon was three meters tall and three meters thick, its weight was unknown, but the floor was already cracking.

“No, I'm not worthy” Gu Qing Shan sternly refuted.

The atmosphere immediately changed.

「 Huh? You said that you aren't worthy? Do you not want to accept the friendship of us Beast Kings? 」 the Beast Kings roared in question.

Without waiting for Gu Qing Shan to speak, Xie Dao Ling spoke up again:

“Dear disciple, there are only two methods to make the Beast Kings accept you, the first is marriage, and the second is to beat them into submission”

Gu Qing Shan then sighed in relief and complained: “Why didn’t Shifu say that before, I was worried for nothing”

“In the past, I was in charge of only the important matters of the Samsara, standing at the peak of the Heaven realm, so I’ve never had the free time to look into the mortal realm. I’ve heard stories about the other realms, but have never truly seen them with my own eyes—— it was only now that I see what their marriage is actually about” Xie Dao Ling explained with a voice full of satisfaction.

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

——so it turns out you were already prepared to see me turning into a joke just now.

That’s a bit much.

Hah, why is Shifu’s past life incarnation so mischievous, only ever being halfway reliable.

As expected, Shifu’s present life incarnation is still the most reliable.

Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

...

At another location in the Human realm.

In another city.

In another restaurant.

“Shifu, how long will it be until we find our senior brothers?” a gentle female voice asked.

“The presence of the Apocalypse is growing increasingly thicker, it’s already enveloped my senses” a childish female voice replied.

“Then... what do we do now?” another female voice filled with the vitality of youth asked.

“There’s no hurry, we need to collect some information in this city first—— Wan Er, go downstairs to that old man at the corner of the street, I feel that he might be suspicious. Buy a skewer of his candied haws and use that opportunity to ask for his background”

“...Shifu...”

Chapter 1757: Tribulation Lord

“Let us spar, if I win, don’t mention another word about marriage, but we will be fighting by one another’s side from now on, what do you say?” Gu Qing Shan suggested.

「Hmph, very well, we Beast Kings are the most adept when it comes to our instincts, let us judge how you actually are as a person through this battle」 a Beast King replied.

“Who’s going to fight me?” Gu Qing Shan grinned and asked.

「Of course we’d all be fighting you, one of us against you at a time」 the Beast King solemnly replied.

“That doesn’t seem fair” Gu Qing Shan commented.

.

「To us Beast Kings, it’s always been appropriate to use anything and everything in battle, there is no such thing as fairness!」

The Beast Kings all responded.

“Alright then” Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Everyone then stepped out to make room for a battle.

Standing in the very middle of the battleground, Gu Qing Shan donned his armor and picked up his blade.

“Who’s first?” he asked.

A muscular Beast King that was about four meters tall stepped forward to face Gu Qing Shan.

「 Me 」 he breathed out through his nose and answered with a healthy voice.

“Very well” Gu Qing Shan brandished his blade and prepared himself.

The Beast King had also readied himself and uttered a resounding battle cry to initiate the battle.

Suddenly——

Gu Qing Shan’s heart jumped.

He just felt some sort of unusual commotion.

Everyone else noticed that as well.

Xie Dao Ling was originally sitting on the sideline to watch, but suddenly stood up and said with a solemn tone: “Such power... who exactly is it, their powers haven’t been sealed!”

Boom!

An intense crashing sound was heard from the roof of the Green Building.

Seemingly recognizing something, Gu Qing Shan called out: “They’re an ally! Don’t attack!”

A single figure landed on the ground.

It was Ye Ru Xi.

Her body was riddled with wounds, her military uniform was torn in several places, and she landed on one knee.

Gu Qing Shan quickly came forward to help her up.

Ye Ru Xi told him with a casual expression: "I could have stalled for a bit longer, but I think my time is almost up"

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed.

——that's right, [Moon Invitation] can only summon one slumbering person at a time, and only for 24 hours straight.

It's been almost 24 hours already.

Ye Ru Xi will soon return to the Sequence and fall back into slumber!

"How are things on the Heavenly Emperor's side?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Ye Ru Xi replied: "He managed to defeat the Apocalypse with his army of heavenly beings, but because of me as well as the Apocalypse, his Immortal City suffered quite a bit of damage"

"However, I could also sense his fury, I suspect that he will be coming to capture you no matter the cost"

"I suspected as much as well" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Ye Ru Xi quickly continued: "I can still hold them off for five minutes—— the final five minutes"

"I understand, it'll be my turn after five minutes!" Gu Qing Shan said with a heavy tone.

Ye Ru Xi gave him a look of worry that suggested she was unconvinced.

“It’s ok, he’s been after my life since a while ago, of course, I’ve already made the preparations” Gu Qing Shan assured her.

“—That’s good to hear, then I’ll do my best to stop him for a little bit longer”

Ye Ru Xi nodded and pressed her hand on the ground.

A bottomless hole was suddenly created.

Ye Ru Xi jumped down and quickly vanished.

— the Heavenly Emperor was coming to capture him!

Xie Dao Ling stood up and asked: “Do you need me to take you and run?”

She was the current wielder of the Wind Saint Pillar Soul Artifact, the Key of the Wind.

“No, now that he’s no longer caught up by anything, he would definitely continue his pursuit until I’m caught, but I can’t keep running away”

After saying that, Gu Qing Shan told the members of the Beast King realm: “There’s an emergency, give me a few moments?”

He turned around and began to tally up the collected stones as listed on the large wooden board.

—they’d collected a total of 990 Merit Stones.

“Who else has Merit Stones to turn in? We’re about to determine the top three!” he loudly declared.

The void of space shifted.

A shadowy devil emerged from between Gu Qing Shan and the Beast Kings.

It was the same evil creature who turned in the very first Merit Stone.

The shadowy devil tossed a small bag to Gu Qing Shan and said: 「 I heard that everyone is still trying to dig for more stones—— I've gathered the remaining Merit Stones we currently have to hand them in all at once 」

A few more evil creatures also came out after it, hastily handing their Merit Stones to Gu Qing Shan.

“Well done, everybody!”

Gu Qing Shan received all the Merit Stones without hesitation.

Instantly, lines of bloody red text appeared in front of his eyes:

[You've collected a total of 1003 Merit Stones, the second Chosen Saint to have collected over 1000 Merit Stones]

[The Samsara has bestowed you the qualifications to establish an Immortal City on the underside of the Human realm]

[Three, two, one!]

[—You will enter a protected Phase Realm]

His surroundings suddenly became void.

There was nothing but strong winds that continuously blew.

While Gu Qing Shan was standing absolutely still, he could feel himself traveling forward at extreme speeds.

This was a particularly miraculous experience.

At the very next instant.

He appeared in a vast barren wasteland.

——the underside of the Human realm!

It was currently nighttime.

A wondrous sensation danced around the atmosphere as it circled around him, which finally manifested into a mass of heavenly light under his feet.

[Attention, the Samsara is currently resonating with your spirit to facilitate communication, it will manifest a city in accordance with your spirit to fight the Apocalypse!]

Gu Qing Shan felt a sense of realization.

The will of the Samsara was urging him—— telling him to quickly provide specifications for the construction of the Immortal City.

“What kind of city do I want to construct...”

Gu Qing Shan scowled in thought.

The Samsara established the Immortal Cities because it can no longer suppress the Apocalypses, so it wanted to use the power of the Chosen Saints to fight them.

The Heavenly Emperor created an Immortal City that floats in the sky.

Then what about me?

...If I want to construct a city, I would want it to at least provide some basic means of survival.

The thoughts in Gu Qing Shan's minds became increasingly clearer.

As he began to make specific considerations, the heavenly light under his feet also began to expand in every direction.

Lines of bloody red text appeared:

[The Samsara is currently compiling the achievements of the Samsara's previous civilizations and gathering power to manifest the city in your mind!]

[This process will require an hour to complete]

Gu Qing Shan's heart sank.

He could sense that Ye Ru Xi had already left the current world.

Her five minutes were already up!

Damn it!

I didn't have enough information and didn't think that an Immortal City would require at least an hour to construct!

If that's the case—

He turned his attention towards the distant horizon.

From beyond the horizon, a seemingly eternal mass of glorious light suddenly manifested.

—The Heaven realm's Immortal City!

Although it was still quite a distance away, it was practically rushing in this direction.

The Heavenly Emperor is coming!

Gu Qing Shan stomped his feet and shouted: “There’s no need to do everything right from the get-go, just make the most basic form of a city first, then gradually build upon it until we have a complete fully-functional city!”

The heavenly light under his feet blinked a few times.

A jet-black motorcycle then suddenly emerged from the ground.

Gu Qing Shan jumped onto the motorcycle and pressed the ignition without hesitation.

Brrrr— broooooom—

The motorcycle let out a thunderous noise and jetted away on the vast barren wasteland like a blurred shadow.

The distance between two sides that had only just been closed was now widening again.

From far away, the Heavenly Emperor’s voice reverberated:

「 Gu Qing Shan, you won’t escape! 」

Groups of heavenly beings started flying out from the city, aiming straight for Gu Qing Shan as they unleashed various attacks.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan noticed something.

—more Samsara origin power was flowing into the motorcycle from the ground.

He patted the motorcycle, causing metallic structures to emerge from all around it and transformed into a teardrop-shaped sports car.

Readjusting his seat, Gu Qing Shan slammed on the acceleration.

The sports car gave off a stifled engine roar before kicking off a thick cloud of dust and speeding off, leaving the heavenly beings' attacks behind.

Suddenly, the Heavenly Emperor's voice echoed again:

「 A panicked fleeing rat, he's already reached the end of his ropes 」

The world became illuminated.

A ferocious and blinding white ray of light streaked through the void of space, shooting straight at Gu Qing Shan at an almost unpredictable speed.

Almost at the very same time, the white light struck the ground.

An entire region had been engulfed in boiling magma.

The world was now a sea of fire!

Gu Qing Shan slammed his feet on the acceleration pedal again—

“Continue the derivation!” he shouted.

In an instant, the entire sports car transformed into a mobile mech suit that manifested closely around his body.

Two bursts of flames erupted from the back of the mobile mech suit.

At the very moment before he entered the sea of magma, Gu Qing Shan leapt into the air and left the ground.

Through the night sky, Gu Qing Shan continued to fly at maximum speed, once again distancing itself from the Immortal City.

The Heavenly Emperor's voice became harrowing:

「 So... you were actually attempting to establish an Immortal City as well... then there are no other choices... 」

His voice vanished.

The brilliantly shining Immortal City also slowed down, and the heavenly beings who took flight earlier began to retreat.

They seemed to be preparing something.

While Gu Qing Shan was feeling confused about their actions, a notification popped up in the void of space:

[The other party had requested to continue the campaign]

[Attention, the Samsara will release another Apocalypse]

[Both Immortal Cities must participate in the battle against this Apocalypse, as this is a battle for the sake of the Samsara]

Gu Qing Shan's eyes widened.

The Heavenly Emperor has the support of his heavenly beings' army, as well as a completed Immortal City.

Meanwhile, I'm still by myself, and my Immortal City is still in the middle of construction and hasn't fully manifested.

How am I supposed to face an Apocalypse?

Suddenly——

Lines of bloody red text began to scroll across his vision:

[In accordance with your Samsara vow, your Immortal City jointly belongs to all Chosen Saints who had formed a contract of alliance with you]

[Each individual's Samsara Divine Skills will undergo different levels of evolution]

[You are the Ruler of the Immortal City]

[You are the inheritor of the Heaven realm's Dharma]

[The Heaven realm's Origin will supply additional power for your Divine Skill's evolution]

[You are the only successor of the Wraith realm]

[The Wraith realm's Origin will fully support you to complete your Divine Skill's evolution]

[The Samsara is imbuing power to complete your Divine Skill's evolution in five seconds]

[5]

[4]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[Samsara Divine Skill: Heavenly Decree – Tribulation Lord, has completed its evolution]

[You've obtained a new Divine Skill: Heavenly Decree – Tribulation Lord]

[Heavenly Decree – Tribulation Lord: You become the incarnation of the legendary Samsara Ancient God, wielding the power of Heaven Tribulations, greatly boosting the power of all Heaven Tribulations]

[—All things within the realms are judged at your will]

Gu Qing Shan finally felt relieved.

[Attention! The Apocalypse is about to arrive]

[Attention! The Apocalypse is about to arrive]

[Prepare to face the enemy—]

Gu Qing Shan quickly skimmed through the warnings and stood up from his pilot seat.

“The Immortal City... can slowly manifest itself now...”

“There’s no need to hurry anymore”

He opened the door of the cockpit and jumped out directly descending towards the vast barren wasteland.

Strong wind howled in his ears.

He continued his descent.

Down.

And down some more—

Gu Qing Shan then focused his thoughts.

Samsara Divine Skill: [Heavenly Decree – Tribulation Lord]!

In an instant, countless spheres of lightning manifested out of thin air.

They were Tribulation Lightning!

These spheres of lightning manifested a brilliant screen of light, all of them flying through the air like a great tornado as they continuously circled around Gu Qing Shan.

Until finally——

They all entered Gu Qing Shan's body.

All the noises suddenly vanished.

Gu Qing Shan stopped descending altogether and turned his gaze in every direction.

In front of him, at a distant horizon, a destructive presence could be felt.

Immeasurable darkness was boiling, swelling, and devouring everything as it passed through like a capricious wave of destruction.

——an Apocalypse.

The unknown Apocalypse had appeared.

Gu Qing Shan only took a glance at it before turning around.

The Immortal City belonging to the Heavenly Emperor continued to give off its dimming colorful light, now slowly approaching him from afar.

The Heavenly Emperor seemed like he wanted to just stand there and watch.

In front of Gu Qing Shan was an Apocalypse of unknown nature, behind him, thousands of pursuing heavenly beings.

——nobody should be able to escape from such a two-pronged attack.

The world was now completely silent.

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and chanted: “I am the judge of all things within the realms”

Boom!

Numerous bolts of lightning emanated from his body.

He had transformed into a giant that connected heaven and earth, his body continuously releasing innumerable and immeasurable bolts of lightning upon this dark world.

Chapter 1758: Mutual probing!

A line of bloody red text appeared in the void of space:

[In three minutes, an unknown Apocalypse will descend]

The giant silently read these words and turned around to look behind himself.

Only to see the Immortal City giving off an even more radiant colorful glow, countless heavenly beings were busy running around inside the city, seemingly in preparation for the Apocalypse.

The Heavenly Emperor’s voice reverberated from the distance:

.

「 Gu Qing Shan, the Apocalypse is coming, what do you say we deal with the Apocalypse first before resolving our differences? 」

The giant silently listened and finally answered: 「 I agree 」

He took out a large axe from the void of space and began to swing it towards the void of space behind himself.

A silent dark shadow had just appeared there.

The shadow rapidly expanded in an attempt to rush towards the giant, but it was stopped by numerous bolts of lightning.

The lightning bolts coiled around one another, forming a transparent wall of lightning.

——-[Domain of the Tribulation Lord]!

This was a mythical skill of relatively high level among the Samsara Divine Skills.

The giant was capable of using the Laws of Heaven Tribulation to construct a wall of lightning capable of blocking everything outside.

Only an attack that was 20 times stronger than the giant himself would be able to forcibly destroy this wall of lightning and destroy it!

As soon as the wall of lightning manifested, the shadow's attack was stopped.

Then came the giant's axe——

Crimson lightning arced from the blade of the axe, crackling thunderously as it struck the shadow.

The shadow only managed to let out a curt shriek before instantly turning into smoke.

Complete silence.

The giant lifted the axe on his shoulder and displayed a look of absolute mockery.

「 You got so used to being a wraith that even after you crawled your way up to the position of Heavenly Emperor, you still don't know how to be a person, do you? 」 the giant asked with a booming voice.

A solemn voice answered from the Immortal City: 「 ...The Samsara is watching us, and my attack was merely to probe you and see if you are qualified to fend off the Apocalypse with me 」

「 Congratulations, Gu Qing Shan, you are now qualified to face the Apocalypse by my side 」

The giant silently listened and appeared impressed.

Regardless of who they were, being shameless to this degree means they were already a cut above the rest.

At this point, a booming echo could be heard emerging from the far side of the horizon.

——the mass of darkness was creeping towards the giant and the Immortal City.

Wherever the darkness passed, everything on the ground was devoured by it with a series of creaking noises before vanishing without a trace.

——so then, this is a devouring-type Apocalypse?

The giant's expression became stern and spoke to the Immortal City: 「 This Apocalypse isn't easy to deal with, let's cease our fighting and eliminate this Apocalypse first 」

「 Very well 」 the Heavenly Emperor answered.

The giant nodded and stretched his body——

Arcs of lightning emerged from his body before being condensed on top of the giant axe.

With a resounding howl, the giant raised the axe up high and threw it towards the shroud of darkness with all his strength!

The axe spun outward like a glittering blade that slashed through the air.

——it then drew a perfect arc and began to fly straight towards the Immortal City!

Everything happened in a mere split second, but right as the lightning axe was about to strike the Immortal City, a ferocious wraithy hand appeared out of thin air.

The wraithy hand wielded a shield that perfectly protected the Immortal City.

Bam!!!

The lightning axe struck the shield with a thunderous impact that rocked heaven and earth.

The Heavenly Emperor angrily shouted: 「 You despicable bastard—— 」

The giant waved his hand.

The lightning axe swiftly returned to him.

The giant clicked his tongue and nodded: 「 ...The Samsara is watching us, and my attack was merely to probe you and see if you are qualified to fend off the Apocalypse with me 」

Boom!

Countless bolts of lightning emerged from his body.

He grew into an even greater giant whose body constantly emanated countless bolts of ferocious lightning that stood firmly on the ground.

The giant began to speed up.

Ignoring the creeping darkness behind him, he started to rush towards the Immortal City.

Suddenly, lines of bloody red text appeared in front of the giant's vision:

[Attention!]

[The Heavenly Emperor has used the Pendant of Fire]

[The 'Effect' of Miracle has manifested]

[Once you attack the Immortal City, you will receive the undivided attention of the Apocalypse, unable to escape from it until you die]

[This is an unstoppable power, a peerless Law of the void!]

The giant's eyes flickered briefly.

So the Pendant of Fire was this powerful.

If I didn't have the Supreme Sequence's advice, I would have fallen for the Heavenly Emperor's traps several times.

The giant felt a bit irritated.

If this keeps happening again and again---

Wouldn't that mean I wouldn't be able to fight the Heavenly Emperor at all?

“Sequence, is there no way to counteract the Pendant of Fire?”

The giant complained.

He didn’t actually hope for a solution, but unexpectedly, the Supreme Sequence answered him:

[You currently possess only one unique power that can resist the power of Miracle, but not completely dismiss it]

[You can only make yourself temporarily unaffected by the power of Miracle]

[That power is the Living Being Sacrificial Dance]

[—While you are dancing, you will be temporarily exempted from the influence of Miracles]

The giant quickly skimmed through and felt annoyed again.

If I want to destroy that Immortal City, I would need to use the axe to hack and slash it to bits.

—-but the Living Being Sacrificial Dance is a very strict dance, every single movement has meaning behind it, so I definitely wouldn’t be able to dance while also using the axe.

If I dance, I wouldn’t be able to hack at it.

At this point, he was already in front of the Immortal City, almost colliding with it—

But the Immortal City was still only giving off layers of defensive heavenly lights, seemingly making the preparations for crashing with him, but didn’t attempt any sort of attacks.

Once the giant crashed into it, the power of Miracle would take effect!

「 What a scoundrel! 」

The giant silently cursed.

Since he couldn't stop his charge anymore at this point, he decided to lower his posture and simply slid by the Immortal City.

The ground was unable to endure the giant's slide, which caused a thunderous impact.

Dust and dirt filled the air.

「 What? So you don't even have the courage to attack me? 」

The Heavenly Emperor's mocking voice echoed from the Immortal City.

The giant slowly stood back up from a few hundred meters away, staring closely at the Immortal City with a solemn gaze.

—up until now, the Heavenly Emperor has only attempted ambushes and tried invoking a miracle with the Pendant of Fire.

The Heavenly Emperor hasn't unleashed his Samsara Divine Skill.

And the Immortal City hasn't shown what it's truly capable of.

—the Heavenly Emperor is truly maliciously sly, having no intentions of revealing his true capabilities to me!

The shroud of shadow at the horizon was still rapidly creeping at an increasingly fast pace.

It was traversing large distances, quickly approaching both the Immortal City and the giant.

The giant glanced at the Apocalypse, then at the Immortal City.

「 Come, let us discern one another's true strength 」 the Heavenly Emperor laughed.

The giant coldly scoffed and shouted: 「 I'll admit that you're impressive! 」

He turned around, no longer looking at the Apocalypse and Immortal City behind him.

Then started to run——

Thump thump thump thump!

The giant moved his legs with all his power, rapidly heading in the opposite direction of the Apocalypse.

He was literally as fast as a bolt of lightning, traversing the extreme distance in a short span of time and disappearing into the far horizon.

The giant had run away!

The Immortal City remained completely still for a long while, almost as if they hadn't processed what just happened.

Eventually, another voice spoke up: "Your Majesty... what should we..."

The Heavenly Emperor remained silent for a bit before answering: "We most likely won't be able to catch up, but it's no matter. We're going to run as well"

"What about the Apocalypse?"

"We've been fighting for a while already, not only was the previous battle very tough, we even had to deal with an interfering Deity of [Chaos]. What we need to do now is to temporarily distance ourselves from the Apocalypse and seize that time to reorganize. Once we've regained our footing, we will attempt to deal with this second Apocalypse"

"Wise is his Majesty!"

The Immortal City began to move.

It determined its heading and immediately began to try and escape from the shroud of shadow.

Right at this moment, a flash of lightning could be seen at the horizon.

The lightning was rapidly approaching the Immortal City.

It was the giant!

With every step he took, he moved an extremely far distance and quickly arrived in front of the Immortal City again.

「——didn't you run away? Are you trying to surrender by coming back? 」 the Heavenly Emperor mockingly spoke.

「 I simply wanted to see what choice you'd make 」 the giant spoke with a thunderous voice.

He raised his hand——

Overwhelming lightning power emerged from the palm of his hand, which then formed a great wall of lightning that connected heaven and earth.

[Domain of the Tribulation Lord]!

——a legendary ability!

The Immortal City was immediately halted, unable to escape from the Apocalypse.

The shadowy Apocalypse continued to silently approach it.

「 Damned brat, you think you can just sit on the sidelines and benefit! 」

The Heavenly Emperor angrily shouted.

An unfamiliar fluctuation began to radiate through the void of space to envelop the giant.

On the other hand, the giant wasn't panicked at all, in fact, he was smiling eerily.

——the Heavenly Emperor's mistake lay in the fact that he schemed and plotted too much without taking any decisive moves.

[Domain of the Tribulation Lord] was an obstructive Samsara Divine Skill, so it was not considered an attack on the Immortal City.

For that reason, the previous miracle established by the Heavenly Emperor wouldn't be able to trigger.

And now, even if the Heavenly Emperor attempted to establish another miracle to trap the giant, it would already be too late.

After all, the Living Being Sacrificial Dance could grant temporary immunity to the power of Miracles!

Just like... this...

Standing in the barren wasteland, the giant suddenly began to shift his body to take an extremely amorous dance posture.

Lines of bloody red text appeared in the void of space:

[You've triggered the Living Being Sacrificial Dance]

[While you are dancing, you are temporarily immune to the power of Miracles]

His stance was firm.

At that moment, heaven and earth were empty.

Suddenly, the sound of merry music could be heard.

Dum tsh dum tsh, dum tsh dum tsh~

Yaaaaahhh!

The giant pursed his lips and stylishly pointed his finger into the sky.

Instantly, from the gloomy grey sky, two glittering balls of lightning manifested.

Blue light began to flash erratically throughout the dim world, gradually riling up the atmosphere!

The giant began to bob his head to the rhythm.

More bloody red text popped out in front of his vision.

[You're immune to the power of Miracles!]

[This immunity will persist until the Dance is over!]

The giant curtly glanced through the messages before turning his gaze to the opposition.

——the Immortal City was still being trapped inside the [Domain of the Tribulation Lord], which was now just a few inches away from the shroud of shadow.

The battle was now inevitable!

Chapter 1759: The Heavenly Emperor's Divine Skill

Music reverberated.

The giant continued to dance, guaranteeing that he was immune to the power of Miracles.

Up until the shroud of shadow filled his vision with only a small cluster of heavenly light remaining—

The Apocalyptic shroud crashed down upon the Immortal City.

The giant briefly paused his dance while still snapping his fingers to the beat, silently observing the Heavenly Emperor's reaction to the situation.

.

—his Immortal City had already fought an entire battle against the Apocalypse, coupled with Ye Ru Xi seizing the opportunity to rampage in the immortal City, it should have already suffered considerable damage.

Ye Ru Xi was a Deity of [Chaos] at the height of her power, similar to the Soul Shrieker at their peak.

—within the Space Vortex at the time, the Soul Shrieker was a top-tier entity that won every battle they were a part of!

Meanwhile, the Heavenly Emperor was busy dealing with the Apocalypse, and the other Chosen Saints still had their powers sealed, having access to only a single Samsara Divine Skill at most.

—they were all powerless against Ye Ru Xi at her peak.

And now, I've pushed the Heavenly Emperor face-to-face with Apocalypse.

Regardless of what the Heavenly Emperor was trying to hide, this is the moment when I'll be able to witness it!

A second later—

Layers upon layers of transparent yellow barriers began to manifest out of thin air to block the shroud of shadow outside.

This was the Immortal City's defensive system!

After that, clusters of light emerged from the Immortal City one by one until they covered the void of space.

Each cluster of light was a heavenly being.

These heavenly beings quickly unleashed their respective Samsara Divine Skills.

The shroud of shadow became illuminated.

Numerous dazzling lights from the Divine Skills shot towards the shroud of shadow in the sky.

Resounding explosions reverberated as they merged into a singular mass of sound that became so loud it had looped around and plunged the world into what seemed like absolute silence.

The air within the world itself began to tremble.

This was the combined power of all the heavenly beings in the Heaven realm!

Even in his giant form, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help squinting his eyes and avoiding the residual shockwaves from the attack.

The intense shockwaves warped everyone's visions.

But the shroud of shadow wasn't affected by it at all, only continuing to crash towards the Immortal City at a slow but persistent pace.

A heavenly being wearing what looked like an official's clothing screamed out in a frenzy: "Your Majesty, it's not good! The Apocalypse is too powerful this time!"

The Immortal City remained unresponsive.

The Heavenly Emperor seemed to be worried about something, so he didn't answer right away.

The giant closely observed this scene.

—up until this point, the Heavenly Emperor has not acted even once.

The Immortal City should have retaliated with attacks, instead of just putting up defensive barriers.

Could the Immortal City have suffered too much damage from the previous battle?

What about the Heavenly Emperor?

Has he really lost the ability to resist the Apocalypse?

The giant silently observed everything.

Suddenly, a solemn voice declared from inside the Immortal City:

「 Send out another group and condense all of your attacks again! 」

Even more heavenly beings poured out from the Immortal City to participate in the battle.

The giant was a bit surprised.

This isn't the kind of Apocalypse that sheer numbers could fight against.

Does the Heavenly Emperor not realize this?

The giant's gaze landed inside the city, only to see many busy heavenly beings standing in the depths of the Immortal City, casting their techniques and refining various materials.

It seems the Immortal City had indeed suffered too much damage.

— if the Immortal City isn't able to repair itself, the entire city will be destroyed by the corrosion of the Apocalypse.

Isn't this too simple of a victory?

The giant was very surprised.

If the Heavenly Emperor is defeated here, I would be able to focus—

That can't be right!

The Heavenly Emperor had utilized the Pendant of Fire a lot of times.

Facing such an emergency, he should still be able to use the power of Miracles through the pendant again!

"It's no good! The defensive formation won't be able to hold!"

"Is it not done?"

"Oh no, full-frontal attack!"

"The super-distance transportation formation— still can't be used—"

The giant's pupils become dilated.

The Immortal City should have a large-scale transportation formation, but it was most likely damaged.

If they can't repair it...

All of a sudden, the barriers around the Immortal City were swallowed by the darkness.

— the city's defenses were completely destroyed.

The shroud of shadow immediately crashed down without hesitation.

The Immortal City's fate seemed to have been determined, all the heavenly beings, the Heavenly Emperor included, appeared as if they would be consumed by the Apocalypse.

In that instant, an extremely unnatural scene occurred.

The heavenly beings suddenly stopped attacking, their expressions became frozen stiff as if they had forgotten what was happening around them.

Several delicate black threads emerged from the Immortal City and flew into the air, instantly piercing the backs of several heavenly beings.

Those heavenly beings immediately snapped out of their stupefied states and screamed in horror:

“Uuo... aaarrghh!”

“What is t——”

“Save me!”

“I beg...”

Unable to finish their sentences, those heavenly beings started to melt like candle wax and shrunk down until they eventually faded into nothingness.

The black threads immediately pulled back.

Almost at the exact same time.

All the heavenly beings returned to normal.

Meanwhile, a voice cheered from inside the city: “Your Majesty, our formations have been repaired!”

「 Send out my orders, immediately activate the warp 」 the Heavenly Emperor's low, harrowing voice reverberated.

“Understood!”

In an instant, space around the Immortal City began to fluctuate.

— a transportation formation of extremely large scale had just been activated!

At the very moment that the shroud of shadow finally collapsed, the warp was also completed.

The entire Immortal City vanished.

It had escaped this place!

The shroud of shadow descended upon the space that the Immortal City originally occupied, then silently continued until it reached the isolating [Domain of the Tribulation Lord] that the giant had set up.

After a few seconds, the [Domain of the Tribulation Lord] thoroughly collapsed into electrical sparks.

The Apocalypse continued to encroach upon the land.

The giant stared closely at the Apocalyptic shroud of shadow.

— I've seen everything I needed to see.

He turned around and left.

...

A few thousand kilometers away.

Behind a large boulder.

Gu Qing Shan leaned on the boulder and pulled out a black-cover book.

The Book of the Sea.

He was also holding a golden coin in his hand.

The Coin of the Earth.

“Hey, I have something to ask the two of you, how come the Heavenly Emperor can exchange other people’s souls and lives for a miracle?” Gu Qing Shan asked with an irritated expression.

The Book of the Sea replied: [Please pay one year’s—]

Gu Qing Shan cut it off: “Cease! We both saw what happened just now, I’m not asking you about some random knowledge, we’re discussing the matter of the Four Saint Pillars here!”

He emphasized that, then coldly sneered: “I’m the one who brought you all out of that Reality Gate in search of the Pendant of Fire, and you goddamn lousy book of plagiarized knowledge still dares ask me for money?”

The Book of the Sea paused briefly, then grumbled: [Fine, you are the Earth God, so it’s only right to tell you]

“Speak” Gu Qing Shan said.

[Do you really not realize it? That army of heavenly beings are actually in a relatively loose dependent relationship with the Heavenly Emperor] the Book of the Sea answered.

“What do you mean by that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Let me ask you, to any living being, what is the most precious thing?]

“Delicious food?”

[What is even more precious compared to food?]

“Money?”

[Try something more precious than that!]

“Weapons?” Gu Qing Shan tried thinking and asked.

[...Bro, can you just tell me what you think is more precious than anything else?] the Book of the Sea said tiredly.

“A life?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Book of the Sea confirmed: [Correct, the basis of all is their life and soul, so by sacrificing all of these to the Pendant of Fire, a miracle would occur— this is actually quite a strict condition already]

Gu Qing Shan thought about it and agreed: “If that’s the case, the Pendant of Fire shouldn’t be able to exert its powers under normal circumstances?”

[Indeed, after the owner of the pendant offers up their soul and life, a miracle would occur, but the price to pay would be the complete vanishment of the individual] the Book of the Sea answered.

Gu Qing Shan muses: “Then the Heavenly Emperor—”

The Book of the Sea continued: [Whenever necessary, he would become an amalgamated being with those heavenly beings, thus whenever he offers up the lives and souls of those heavenly beings, he would also give up a portion of his own soul and life, enabling him to invoke the Pendant of Fire's power of Miracles!]

Gu Qing Shan muttered: "So miracles wouldn't occur out of nowhere and requires some prerequisites, but even so, it's still very impressive"

[Correct. Whenever a miracle is invoked, the Heavenly Emperor would immediately discard those heavenly beings and let them disappear completely, which would not affect his own soul and life] the Book of the Sea concluded.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and commented: "What a malicious ability, no wonder he managed to become the previous Wraith Ruler, then later went on to steal the position of Heavenly Emperor"

Is this the Heavenly Emperor's Samsara Divine Skill?

Was this ability of his not sealed away by the Samsara because he was the Heavenly Emperor?

Once he becomes even stronger and receives the Samsara's support, what form would this ability take?

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but sigh again and asked: "Is there a way to win against the Pendant of Fire?"

[There isn't] the Book of the Sea resolutely answered him: [In fact, you've already done quite well. There were many times I thought you would have died during the confrontation]

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

Among the Four Saint Pillars, the Book of the Sea is a miser that will take every penny it could, the Key of the Wind needs vitality, and the Pendant of Fire wants the most precious thing one has, the only one that doesn't need any payment is the Coin of the Earth.

—-but each time I use the Coin of the Earth, I need to wait for 30 straight days before I can use another one of its abilities.

This cooldown period is too long, so just sitting around waiting for it could lead to someone's death.

Perhaps this is the price of being free?

If things were to stay as they are, the Heavenly Emperor would have infinite chances to invoke the power of Miracles.

———-as the Earth God, how should I go about defeating the Heavenly Emperor?

[Alright, now let's get to the main topic]

The Book of the Sea's tone became a bit urgent.

Huh?

Didn't we already finish talking?

Gu Qing Shan looked at the Book of the Sea in surprise and asked: "Was there another issue?"

The Book of the Sea quickly explained:

[Using the Pendant of Fire at such high frequency is actually a very serious problem. The power of Miracles is extremely rare, and continuously invoking it would cause its unique fluctuations to persist, which could draw the attention of unpredictable entities]

Gu Qing Shan was shocked: "But we've already left the world inside the Reality Gate, we're currently inside a Boundless Void without any Apocalypses, so all the wars should be over as soon as we deal with all the Apocalypses still inside the Samsara"

The Book of the Sea remained silent for a long while.

Up until Gu Qing Shan's patience nearly ran out, it spoke up again: [There are no Apocalypses... that much I agree with, but how do you know that aside from the Samsara, there aren't any other beings within this Boundless Void?]

Gu Qing Shan trembled.

The Book of the Sea continued: [Within a Boundless Void free of any Apocalypses— — there are two possible implications of this: the first is that the Apocalypses haven't discovered this place; the second is that the Apocalypses couldn't win against the entities that already exist here, understand?]

3

Gu Qing Shan was now completely stunned.

Chapter 1760: Immortal City

Luo Shui city.

The Green Building.

In the largest, highest, and most luxurious private room of the entire building.

There were three pots of tea, four sets of fruits, eight savory dishes, and twelve beautifully carved decorations. The room was also installed with a Spirit Funnel formation, Focusing Incense, and colorful talismans, making the room dimly lit with heavenly light and mist almost like a scene of a dream.

If there was anything one needed, they would only have to tap the Communication Talisman on the table to summon an employee.

.

And Xie Dao Ling was the one staying in this room.

—Although Qin Xiao Lou was usually unreliable, he was completely capable when it came to respecting his master's wishes.

Xie Dao Ling also felt satisfied, so after thinking briefly, she ordered Li An to inform Qin Xiao Lou to take some rest.

Cultivation did indeed require effort and persistence, but there was also such a thing as being overachieving, and it was necessary to have her disciples feel the care of their Shifu.

Xie Dao Ling casually leaned on her chair and began playing with the Key of the Wind while having some desserts.

[Whoa, you're really impressive, your lifespan is practically infinite, how did you achieve this?] the Key of the Wind carefully flattered her.

"I was the previous Heavenly Emperor, so my lifespan is naturally synchronized with the Samsara itself" Xie Dao Ling smiled and replied.

[Hm, I really do like you as a wielder] the Key of the Wind happily said.

—its ability required vitality as a fee to invoke.

"Your ability can access any location, how is that achieved?" Xie Dao Ling asked.

[That is very complicated to explain, not even your disciple had ever asked me about this yet] the Key of the Wind said.

Xie Dao Ling replied: "He's too busy, so it's likely that he didn't have the time to ask, so now I'm asking you"

The Key of the Wind answered: [You are a being of the Samsara, then I'll explain to you like this—]

[When movement comes into existence, it is called 'wind'. Wind is shapeless, existing but also not at the same time. It appears in all times and all places, it exists in all vastness of the universe, and manifests in all ten directions of heaven and earth. Even an empty void that no being, living or dead, can arrive in, as long as movement exists, I can reach it] the Key of the Wind said.

Xie Dao Ling pondered: "If it's as you said, the power of the Four Saint Pillars has already transcended that of Laws and Mysteries"

[That is how it always was] the Key of the Wind confirmed.

“You said that you can appear in all times and all places, then does that mean I can use you to return to the past?” Xie Dao Ling asked.

[I have always had the ability to travel through Space-Time—— in the past, someone had used my broken body to forge three coins with the specific ability to return to the past and alter events] the Key of the Wind answered.

“If I remember correctly, such matters should be taboo” Xie Dao Ling questioned.

The Key of the Wind sternly replied: [Indeed, especially under the current circumstances where the Pendant of Fire is continuously unleashing the power of Miracles—— this would’ve resulted in powerful fluctuations that surpass Laws and Mysteries, which is why we remaining Saint Pillars are trying to stay as restrained as possible in fear of releasing fluctuations of similar power]

Xie Dao Ling silently listened.

The Key of the Wind continued: [And so, you cannot use me to distort history—— if the power to distort history and the power of Miracles were to exist in the same Boundless Void, it would be too eye-catching and immediately draw the attention of certain unknown entities]

Xie Dao Ling pondered: “I’ve seen the power of Miracles, and you have the power to distort history. If that’s the case, the coin and book that my disciple have should also possess abilities of similar depths”

The Key of the Wind sighed: [That is indeed true. All of them should have only been used once we four have been reunited for a very specific purpose—— it’s unfortunate that they are being utilized prematurely]

Xie Dao Ling remained silent for a few moments and asked: “There’s something I don’t understand, can you bring me back to the past to observe some of the things that have occurred?”

[Are you sure you want to return to the past? Then like we discussed earlier, you can only go as an observer without distorting history, otherwise, there would be very serious consequences] the Key of the Wind replied.

“No problem, I merely wanted to investigate the origin of a certain matter” Xie Dao Ling smiled and said.

[What is that?] the Key of the Wind asked.

Xie Dao Ling replied: “The current Heavenly Emperor had once sworn loyalty to me, so I want to know what happened to him... and how he became the way he currently is...”

The Key of the Wind agreed: [Constantly invoking the power of Miracles using the Pendant of Fire the way he is, it would only be a matter of time before this results in great troubles— it’s certainly good to know everything there is to know about such a dangerous character sooner rather than later]

Xie Dao Ling stood up and declared: “Let’s go”

[Hm, it has also been a while since I’ve met the Chrono race, let us go!] the Key of the Wind said.

It jumped onto Xie Dao Ling’s hand.

Holding the Key of the Wind, Xie Dao Ling pointed it towards the void of space.

A green gate of wind opened up, revealing the infinite River of Time inside.

“Such power...”

Xie Dao Ling sighed and looked into the River of Time.

Countless visions of history appeared above the river, occasionally accompanied by unknown creatures that leapt out of the river in search of eerie shadows, almost as if they were hunting.

Time, so mysterious, so grand.

Xie Dao Ling put the key away and slowly stepped through the gate.

Right as she did so, the entire gate vanished from the void of space as if it never existed in the first place.

...

“Hey, plagiarizing book, I want to ask you something, do you think the Heavenly Emperor knows about the issue with the Pendant of Fire?”

Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Book of the Sea answered: [Of course he knows, the Pendant of Fire would definitely tell him—— and don't call me a plagiarizing book!]

Gu Qing Shan appeared to be deep in thought as he muttered: “If the Pendant of Fire had already told him and he's still invoking the power of Miracles in such an unrestrained manner...”

[That is indeed very strange] the Book of the Sea's cover curled a bit like it was nodding and replied.

“No...”

Gu Qing Shan muses: “If a person knows that there was a cliff right in front of him and still jumps down, he must have already been prepared”

[By that you mean?]

“...He's looking forward to the dangerous consequences”

Gu Qing Shan's tone became harrowing: “Right, he's actually trying to summon something”

The strong wind suddenly felt like they were howling louder than ever before.

The night deepened.

The presence of destruction was blowing against his face from a far distance.

The shroud of shadow continued to encroach upon the land, turning everything it passes through into dust.

Gu Qing Shan's statement seemed to have made the situation even eerier.

Who knows what the Heavenly Emperor is trying to summon?

This is something I can't deduce.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and couldn't help but stand up again.

There were only a few kilometers left before the shroud of shadow swallowed him up as well.

But at this very moment, Gu Qing Shan felt certain ideas that he wouldn't normally come up with suddenly popping into his head.

—sometimes, I really just want to be a chef, feeling genuine happiness whenever people honestly praise my food.

But this simple goal is so difficult to achieve.

Gu Qing Shan donned his set of armor again, readjusted his bow, and fastened his blade—

These were all the best items he could find within the warehouse, so there wasn't anything better he could use, for now.

[What do you intend to do now?] the Book of the Sea asked.

“I’m just waiting for my city” Gu Qing Shan replied.

From the void of space, lines of bloody red text appear one after another:

[The Samsara’s manifestation is about to finish]

[After the countdown, your Immortal City will appear]

[Attention, the Immortal City will become a common fortress for you and your collaborators, providing you support against the Apocalypse]

[5]

[4]

[3]

[2]

[1]

[It has arrived]

The ground under his feet began to tremble, resulting in a loud rumbling noise.

Something was traveling through the world, gradually but surely moving along a specific trajectory to approach Gu Qing Shan.

The shroud of shadow was approaching closer and closer.

It was now only a few hundred meters away from Gu Qing Shan.

Thud!!!

A metallic surface suddenly emerged from below Gu Qing Shan’s feet.

The gigantic and ferocious metal body lifted him and took to the sky.

— it was a city forged completely out of metal!

— no, rather than calling it a city, it would be more accurate to call it an interstellar warship!

Its cold and mechanical appearance perfectly showed that it was born for war.

An indifferent electronic voice spoke up from inside the interstellar warship.:

[Following the demands of the City Lord, this vessel isn't equipped with a central AI, now temporarily utilizing a war support interface]

2

Gu Qing Shan stood on the deck of the interstellar warship and quickly spoke: "Prepare to warp in three seconds, the target is 10,000 km to the Southeast, get ready!"

The indifferent electronic voice answered:

[Warp prepared]

[Initiating!]

In an instant, the gigantic interstellar warship vanished in front of the shroud of shadow.

...

10,000 kilometers from that location.

In the sky.

The interstellar warship reappeared without a pause.

[A technological war fortress? Why did you think of using technology?] the Book of the Sea asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Because I’ve thought a certain thing through——”

[What is that?]

“If my Shifu’s previous life incarnation had appeared, as well as the past Heavenly Emperor and the army of heavenly beings, there’s no reason for her to not appear as well”

[Who is ‘she’?]

“——Hm, a friend of mine, a companion who has fought by my side for as long as I can remember”

Gu Qing Shan replied.

It wasn’t just in his home world.

During the Age of Immemorial, he had seen her with his own eyes.

At that time, an interstellar warship from the Human realm had crashed through the Reality Gate, but it had been thoroughly damaged with only her remaining.

——and it’s now the time to look for her!

Gu Qing Shan excitedly thought to himself.

Suddenly, some lines of bloody red text appeared again in front of his eyes:

[Your Immortal City has been fully constructed]

[Please name your Immortal City]

Gu Qing Shan's expression froze, then suddenly recalled something.

She also told me to name her.

I didn't manage to come up with anything for an entire day...

What am I supposed to