

Apocalypse 301

Chapter 301

A visitor to the tombstone

[I agree with your conjecture sir, but we are unable to extract the item] Impartial Goddess spoke.

“That’s right, his God’s Chosen Skill only activated for an instant, he’s definitely here with other motives” Gu Qing Shan spoke.

[According to my calculations, to be able to affect the energy pool, it has to be a Nano bomb]

“I’m sure that’s what it is” Gu Qing Shan smiled and continued: “Fortunately, all that is nothing but an illusion that we made, no matter what kind of sabotage he did, it won’t affect your actual energy pool”

[Following this, what should we do?] Impartial Goddess asked.

“What does your procedures say?”

[Contact the three Generals, arrest him in accordance with Confederate laws and have him trialed at the military court]

“I bet you we won’t be able to get any information, and he’ll disappear before we even manage to catch up”

[Then your opinion sir?]

“Use the highest grade of anti-shock material to quarantine this area”

[And then?]

“We’ll wait to see what their motives are” Gu Qing Shan answered.

[Sir Gu Qing Shan’s suggestion has been accepted, currently being carried out] Impartial Goddess replied.

Gu Qing Shan nodded: “It’s already quite late, send me home”

[Yes sir, on the other hand, Zhang Ying Hao, Liao Xing, Ye Fei Li and Anna all left messages for you]

Gu Qing Shan didn’t expect that.

Right, I used a whole day to breakthrough, then took 4-5 hours monitoring that guy. I had my phone turned off the entire time.

“Alright, let me hear it”

Liao Xing’s loud voice came first: “Boss, I don’t quite understand these scriptures, can you go back and give me a few tips before I categorize and record them into the System?”

Gu Qing Shan skipped to the next message.

Within a commotion, Zhang Ying Hao was shouting at his phone: “What the fuck happened to Ye Fei Li? Killing people without any finesse or method, causing so much commotion right on live national television! I couldn’t help but return early to help cover his tracks”

——even Zhang Ying Hao didn’t know the exact situation, it seems the Martial Saint and the Confederate covered up the fact that the Murder Clown appeared very well.

This is likely to stop society from going into an uproar.

After the Game of Eternal, the Murder Clown had become a subject of fear for humanity as a whole.

Clowns are no longer able to make anyone laugh.

Numerous clowns of circuses in the world already had to change their jobs.

Gu Qing Shan muses over it a bit: “What did Zhang Ying Hao do?”

[He convinced the Confederate’s secret services as well as several senators to propose an official government resolution]

“What resolution?”

[To avoid wide-spread panic, the government had declared during the morning of the following day that what happened was only a drill for a Man Killer Fiend attack]

“Who would believe that?”

[Many governmental departments jointly announced that, furthermore requesting me, so I had stood witness]

“...With your words, the masses will probably believe”

[Wang family is going mad trying to find Ye Fei Li]

“Do they have any leads?”

[Currently no]

“Then that’s fine”

Gu Qing Shan skipped to the next message again.

Anna’s voice came: “I’m still doing fine over here; the journey is only a bit far. Take care of yourself and wait for my return”

The next message.

Ye Fei Li’s voice: “During the hour, I actually did manage to hear a few other souls’ voices. But I can only hear what they’re saying if I consciously want to hear them”

“It’s quite complicated, we’ll take in details when you return”

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan’s expression became serious.

He definitely cannot ignore anything that might be related to the wandering souls.

Being able to confirm for sure what happens to people after death will be a great milestone in human's understanding of the world.

One thing keeps coming after another, making Gu Qing Shan unable to leave Reality to go to the foreign other world.

Checking these messages, even the most recent one was sent half a day ago.

After thinking for a bit, Gu Qing Shan decided to put it off.

Since there were so many things happening right now, he might as well take the time before the rain truly stops and deal with all the issues in Reality.

He can only leave without worry after the disaster had struck and he's dealt with it.

Not to mention, there are a few things he had to prepare before going to the other world anyways.

He contacted Zhang Ying Hao first.

"What is it? If it's nothing important I need to sleep first, I just got done with work and I'm exhausted right now" Zhang Ying Hao mumbled sleepily.

"I need to go learn something at your hitman association" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"What!? You want to join my association? Are you serious!?" Zhang Ying Hao was so shocked he was fully awake.

"That's right, I need to learn a skill or two, Ye Fei Li will also be joining" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Then return first, I'll be waiting for you in the living room" Zhang Ying Hao said.

"Alright"

He hung up.

"Impartial Goddess, I'll probably need some genetic-level appearance restructuring" Gu Qing Shan said.

[The same kind as Liao Xing?]

"That's right, but not permanent, I'd prefer to be able to get back my original look"

[That is simple. What do you want to look like?]

"Like this"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan made a hand seal.

It's the most basic image projection spell that any cultivator knows how to use, holds no attack power.

A light manifested into the Virtualized realm cultivator Qi Yan.

This was a fully 3-dimensional image, with Qi Yan's every little detail, almost authentic at first glance.

Impartial Goddess spoke: [I've recorded it, beginning calculations of genetic-level appearance restructuring matrix]

“I’ve troubled you”

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[Anything for you sir]

...

Gu Qing Shan returned to the mountaintop mansion.

When he walked in, all three people were there.

Liao Xing was sitting on the sofa, watching the news while drinking beer.

Zhang Ying Hao was scolding Ye Fei Li.

“That was national live TV! They were broadcasting the congressman election speech, yet you just barged in, captured a guy and started rending his flesh off while crying. Do you think everyone in the world is blind!?”

“Do you have any idea how big an issue you’ve caused!?”

Zhang Ying Hao was so angry that his face was red: “Brother, can’t you at least kill him a bit more discreetly? Wait until the broadcast is cut off, or destroy all the cameras on the scene before killing him, is that so hard to do?”

Ye Fei Li lowered his head without saying anything back.

Gu Qing Shan patted Ye Fei Li shoulder then sat down on the sofa.

“Forgot to ask if you felt good” he said.

“Very!” Ye Fei Li smiled in response.

Zhang Ying Hao swallowed back the words he was about to say: “The hell... YOU’RE are the one that encouraged him to do that?”

“Sorry about that, I’ll pay attention in the future” Gu Qing Shan smiled apologetically.

“Stop everything, I need to complain about something first!” Liao Xing raised his hand.

Gu Qing Shan looked at him.

“This guy actually moved an entire tombstone into his room, can you imagine that? I can still feel the chills right now” Liao Xing still had an expression of disbelief and said.

“Not the coffin?” Gu Qing Shan turned and asked.

“She’s only attached to the tombstone, so when I move the tombstone, she moves as well” Ye Fei Li replied.

“Then what about her body?”

“I cremated and saved her ashes, it’s also in my room right now” Ye Fei Li explained.

Zhang Ying Hao opened his mouth wide, still unable to process what these two are talking about.

Liao Xing silently moved further away from them on the sofa.

“That’s good, this place is much more scenic than the graveyard, and since there’ll be people to talk with her, she won’t be feeling lonely” Gu Qing Shan agreed.

Ye Fei Li smiled, looking very satisfied.

The other two were stunned.

This time, even Zhang Ying Hao was slowly moving away.

“I’m gonna go to the bathroom” saying so, Liao Xing stood up, wanting to escape.

“Wait a minute, it’s not quite what you think” Gu Qing Shan hurriedly said.

Liao Xing observed him carefully to see that he still had a very calm expression and tone, not at all possessed.

Gu Qing Shan had always been a trustworthy ally so Liao Xing can still believe him, slowly regained his composure.

Zhang Ying Hao was the same.

“Then what’s going on?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

Before Gu Qing Shan could even speak, Ye Fei Li hurriedly explained: “After she died, I could still hear her cries, so I went and took her tombstone back here together with her soul”

Died... Cries... Soul...

It almost felt like a cold chill just swept through the room.

Ye Fei Li then continued: “Maybe she’s right here with us right now, but since I can’t see her, I can’t confirm. Just wait until I can hear her again, I’ll introduce you to her”

This time, never mind Liao Xing, even Zhang Ying Hao couldn’t sit still anymore.

Zhang Ying Hao lightly coughed: “I just remembered, I still have something that I have to take care of —”

He was grabbed by Gu Qing Shan.

“You’re a killer, how many people do you kill every day? Why are you scared of some ghost?”

“I have numerous methods to kill a person, but I can’t kill a ghost” Zhang Ying Hao wiped the cold sweat on his forehead.

“No worries, she’s Ye Fei Li’s girlfriend, nothing to be scared of”

“”GIRLFRIEND!!!?””

Zhang Ying Hao and Liao Xing shouted at the same time.

They were trembling inside.

A living person and a ghost being together?

——no wait, in this case, a Man Killer Fiend and a ghost being together.

They both have the word “ghost” in the name, but this still a combination of the living and the dead. (1)
No way, this is too eerie, completely out of the ordinary.

“What exactly happened?” Zhang Ying Hao mustered his courage and asked.

Gu Qing Shan then began to tell the story from start to end.

After knowing about the girl before her death together with the truth, the other two finally calmed down.

Zhang Ying Hao mused: “If that’s the case, then that Wang Ming Ze truly deserved to die”

Liao Xing suddenly shouted excitedly: “So souls are a thing that actually exist! This is the greatest discovery in science, we should form an official scientific team to closely study more about the souls!”

Ye Fei Li glared at him.

He then placed his hand on Liao Xing’s shoulder and asked: “That’s my girlfriend, you sure you want to study her?”

The blood-red glow began to appear, slowly creeping towards Liao Xing’s body.

This type of red glow had killed all the Champions from the Game of Eternal.

Knowing what it is, Liao Xing immediately tried to back off.

But he was held down by Ye Fei Li, unable to run away.

Seeing the glow got closer and closer, Liao Xing repeatedly spoke: “Ahaha, it’s a joke, not serious, not serious, really”

“If there’s a one in a million chance that you ever have that thought again, make sure to not tell me” Ye Fei Li very lightly said.

“Don’t worry, really, I definitely won’t” Liao Xing felt cold sweat all over his body.

After dealing with the old guy, Ye Fei Li clasped his hands together and bowed sincerely: “I just want to be with her, please just give us a chance”

Gu Qing Shan looked at Zhang Ying Hao and saw Zhang Ying Hao was also looking at him.

“I have no problems with it” Gu Qing Shan spoke up first.

“There’s quite a few hitman secrets in my room that I can’t let anyone know about” Zhang Ying Hao crossed his arms.

Ye Fei Li was practically begging with his eyes.

Gu Qing Shan silently winked at Zhang Ying Hao.

Zhang Ying Hao couldn’t help but say: “But it’s fine if she’s a soul, since she won’t be able to reveal anything to people alive”

Ye Fei Li appeared glad, looking at Liao Xing.

Seeing both of the bosses say that, Liao Xing understood this matter was already determined.

He could only advise him seriously: "Tell your girlfriend not to run around wildly at night, otherwise I won't be responsible if she sees something frightening"

"Don't worry, your little tools won't scare anyone" Ye Fei Li said.

Note:

(1): the common word that they're referring to is "鬼", which means ghost by itself, but can also mean fiend, ghoul and other types of undead creatures when combined with other characters.

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"Can't scare anyone? Brat, my miniature warp devices are connected to space itself, if your girlfriend unluckily gets sucked in and disappears who-knows-where, I'm not responsible" Liao Xing replied.

"Alright, I'll make sure to tell her" Ye Fei Li agreed.

Just like that, it had been decided.

"Thank you, everyone!" Ye Fei Li happily jumped.

"And so, Ye Fei Li, I'm going to ask you to listen to me" Zhang Ying Hao said.

"I'm all ears" Ye Fei Li's attitude was much better than before.

"There's a reason why you wanted to kill him, so I won't say anything about that"

"Hm"

"But every job has its own taboo, these taboos are the culmination of countless years of experience by seniors who went before you, to help avoid danger and roundabout methods, so you're coming with me to learn them" Zhang Ying Hao said.

"I'm a Man Killer Fiend, do I really need to learn assassination?" Ye Fei Li asked.

Zhang Ying Hao said nothing and only stared at him.

"Alright fine" Ye Fei Li compromised.

Zhang Ying Hao then looked at Gu Qing Shan and asked: "You told me to have him learn some things, then what about you?"

"I'm going to join you as well, and will probably need your full support" Gu Qing Shan said.

Zhang Ying Hao sat straight up, asking: "What happened? I haven't seen you this serious ever before"

Gu Qing Shan answered: "I have to perfectly impersonate someone else to accomplish my goal"

"Do you have this person's personal profiles and details?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

"I do"

“Your appearance can be changed with genetic technology, but a person’s voice, including tone, accents, emotions and personal habits, have to go through professional training to achieve success” Zhang Ying Hao commented.

“That’s why I came to you” Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

Zhang Ying Hao continued: “No problem, I’ll arrange it”

“What do I need to do?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“You can try some self-training first, learn to control your tone, gestures, facial expression, make sure that your every movement is exactly as you want them to be”

“Alright”

“After that, you can try replacing that person, to have others believe that you are him”

Zhang Ying Hao continued: “I’ll arrange it right now; we’ll start training tomorrow”

“Thank you very much, this is a very crucial matter to me” Gu Qing Shan very sincerely said.

“We’re all family here, no need for thanks, if anything happens to my group in the future, just make sure to give me a hand”

“Of course”

Suddenly, Liao Xing spoke up: “Hey, take a look at the news”

The three of them turned to look at the screen to see that an emergency situation was being broadcasted.

The President was hosting a grand banquet to gather support from his party before the election, during the banquet, he was suddenly met with a powerful assailant.

Luckily the assailant was caught in time, after going through medical examinations, the President was found to be fine.

The President expressed his desire to keep running for the next term of presidency.

Although there was a problem in yesterday’s congress election, the Confederate Presidency Grand Election will still continue as normal.

The election is currently the Confederate’s most crucial matter, unless a force majeure happens, it will not be postponed.

“Another assassination, seems like our Mr. President has been through a lot of them lately” Liao Xing commented.

“Why is that though?” Ye Fei Li was curious.

Zhang Ying Hao replied: “He keeps insisting on the decentralization of Genetic Modification serums, giving the entire population the chance to use them and become a Professionalist”

“And the rights to the Genetic Modification serum belongs to the 9 Lords” Gu Qing Shan followed up.

“So him being met with frequent assassinations isn’t something to be surprised about” Zhang Ying Hao finished.

Ye Fei Li commented: “Truthfully speaking, I really hate the 9 Lords”

“But the entire Confederate was built by their hands” Zhang Ying Hao shrugged.

Gu Qing Shan pulled the curtain, staring at the rain shower outside.

Impartial Goddess was still silent.

Which means everything is still normal, there aren’t any anomalies or unprecedented disasters happening anywhere on the planet.

—perhaps that time the rain stopped truly was just a coincidence.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

It’ll be good if that’s really the case, since I’ll have more time to prepare.

Gu Qing Shan was thinking about his own matters, not paying attention to the raining scenery outside.

And he definitely didn’t take any notice of the expressions of the people inside reflected on the dark window pane.

Liao Xing had a strange look on his face.

He was staring at the President on the TV screen, squinting his eyes so closely it was almost a small string.

“Did I see that wrong?” Liao Xing muttered in a low voice.

After the news, the President began to give his speech on live broadcast, garnering more excitement towards the election.

Gu Qing Shan closed the TV.

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“Now, let us talk a bit business” he said to everyone.

A few scripture books were on the table.

“Here are your scriptures, do your best to learn them” Gu Qing Shan said simply.

“If I learn this, can I fly like you do?” Zhang Ying Hao was intrigued and asked.

“You can” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Zhang Ying Hao instantly picked up his scripture.

“If I learn this, can I see her like you can?” Ye Fei Li asked with a look of desires in his eyes.

“You can” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Ye Fei Li instantly picked up his copy and began to read on the spot.

“If I learn this, can I gain abilities?” Liao Xing glanced at the scripture book on the table and asked.

Gu Qing Shan answered: “Of course, this is evolution on the most basic scale, you might be able to gain ability”

Liao Xing picked up his copy, carefully flipped over the first one.

“I specifically picked these ones out for you guys, so make sure to pay attention. I’ve written notes all over to make it easier for you, but if there’s something you don’t get, just come ask me” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Thank you”

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li said in unison.

“Learn them quickly, no one knows just what kind of future awaits us, so you guys have to become stronger faster” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Liao Xing said you prepared over thousands of these” Zhang Ying Hao asked, “what are you planning to do?”

“I want to look for a chance and put them out together with our bracelets for the entire humanity” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Then wouldn’t it be people flying around all over the sky from now on? Who would use shuttles anymore” Zhang Ying Hao commented.

“That’s misguided thinking, flying by yourself is nowhere near as comfortable as using a shuttle, not to mention cultivation isn’t easy, not everyone will be able to reach the point of being able to fly” Gu Qing Shan refuted.

Everyone silently nodded.

“Heh, these things are quite simple aren’t they, not even half as complicated as my warp technology”

Liao Xing glanced over his scripture and sneered,

“There’s barely a few hundred acupoints on the picture drawn here, one glance and I already remembered them all” he proudly declared.

“You’re a scientist so of course your thinking abilities are much more potent, but your body is a bit drained so your cultivation process will definitely not be fast” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Drained? But I haven’t done anything yet, it’s been a very long time since I even touched a woman” Liao Xing was unconvinced.

Gu Qing Shan seriously looked at him, then mumbled: “That’s strange, I can clearly see you’re quite empty right now”

Liao Xing remembered something.

He silently took the scripture book, stood up and returned to his room.

“What do you mean empty! I’ll recover everything after a good night’s sleep” Liao Xing suddenly shouted.

Clack!

He slammed the door.

The three other exchanged looks then continued talking.

“Ye Fei Li, how long until you can hear your girlfriend again?” Gu Qing Shan now asked.

“That’ll be tomorrow” Ye Fei Li answered.

“Then can you hear other sounds?”

“I can” Ye Fei Li said, “during that hour, as long as I’m willing, I can hear any soul’s voice”

“Before, since I only thought of her, I subconsciously ignored all the other voices”

“So that’s what happened, then are there many souls in the world?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“That’s the strangest part, there’s one I don’t understand at all, like ——” Ye Fei Li was speaking.

“Wait a minute” Zhang Ying Hao cut him off.

They both looked at Zhang Ying Hao.

“It’s the goddamn middle of the night, you’re scaring me with your little talk over there, how about we get something to drink first” Zhang Ying Hao complained.

“You’re a hitman aren’t you? What are you afraid of ghosts for” Ye Fei Li asked.

“I’m not afraid, just can’t help but feel a bit uneasy” Zhang Ying Hao refuted him.

“Yeah let’s get a drink” Gu Qing Shan agreed with him.

Zhang Ying Hao quickly went and got three shot glasses and opened a bottle of strong liquor.

“Cheers”

They knocked glasses and gulped it down all at once.

The sting went all the way from their throat to their chest.

Gu Qing Shan breathed out deeply.

Zhang Ying Hao savored the taste.

Ye Fei Li frowned.

Zhang Ying Hao topped them all off again.

Ye Fei Li continued where he left off: “I’m supposed to be able to hear the sound of ghosts, so when I purposefully want to, there should be a lot of voices that rush to me at once”

“Of course you would” Zhang Ying Hao downed another shot, “how many years do you think have passed, how many people have died, if you can hear the voices of all the dead people, you’d probably be drowned to death by the sheer number of voices”

“But then, I don’t actually hear a lot of voices” Ye Fei Li spoke, confused.

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“I can hear very few voices, unbelievably few” Ye Fei Li said.

“How many exactly?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“In the entire graveyard, I can only hear about 7-8 souls” Ye Fei Li replied.

“That can’t be right, that place is an old public graveyard with a few thousand graves, where did all the other souls go?” Gu Qing Shan wondered.

“That’s the part I don’t understand” Ye Fei Li took a sip of liquor.

Gu Qing Shan contemplated for a little bit, then asked: “What I asked you to ask your girlfriend, what did she say?”

Ye Fei Li answered: “She said after she died, something was guiding her, pulling her towards a certain direction”

Zhang Ying Hao and Gu Qing Shan exchanged glances.

Ye Fei Li continued: “But for some reason, the guiding power was suddenly cut off, and since she didn’t know where she could go, she stayed at her tombstone”

“The guiding power... was cut off...” Zhang Ying Hao unnaturally started cracking his neck.

All three of them fell silent.

They knew nothing about the world after death.

There’s no knowledge or examples for them to use as reference, so they can’t even tell what this is supposed to mean.

Gu Qing Shan just held the shot glass without drinking for a while.

*If Ye Fei Li only knew that much, then there’s no real meaning in asking her further.
Are there any other information?*

“Did your girlfriend say anything about the situation of the other souls in the graveyard?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Ah, she did mention that, but all she knew was that they were all people who recently died” Ye Fei Li replied.

“Recently died!?”

Gu Qing Shan’s expression changed.

It's very rare for him to show such a clear fluctuation in emotion, Zhang Ying Hao was a bit surprised when seeing that so he asked: "What happened? Did you think of something?"

Gu Qing Shan mused: "Let's say after death, people will be led by a force towards another world" "But very recently, that force was cut off, which is why the souls of everyone who died recently all stayed behind in the human world" "Does that theory make sense?" he asked.

"It makes sense" Zhang Ying Hao very seriously thought about it, then spoke: "If that's the case, it would explain why Ye Fei Li was only able to hear a few souls"

Ye Fei Li still didn't understand: "Then why did that guiding force suddenly disappear?"

Zhang Ying Hao shrugged: "Maybe some sort of strange thing happened in the world again"

Gu Qing Shan sighed and spoke: "Not yet, but I truly hope that the problem is actually on our world"

"Why?" Zhang Ying Hao was surprised.

"Because that way, we can at least think of a solution" Gu Qing Shan downed his glass in one gulp, then continued: "If the problem occurs in the world of the dead, then there's nothing that we can do to solve it as living people"

The world of the dead.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li both went silent.

A problem occurred in the world of the dead...

It was too much of a wild guess that made it hard to accept.

Gu Qing Shan silently recalled the previous life.

There weren't that many calamities that were related to the dead.

If he seriously thinks about it, the only one would be the Frost Calamity...

It occurred during the last stretch of the Apocalypse, demons and ghosts had already taken over the world, humanity itself had already collapsed.

It was a disaster with no hope of resistance for humans at the time.

Gu Qing Shan clenched his fists tight.

Luckily, right now there's only a few souls stuck in the human world, not at all like that event.

I hope...

I just hope that it really isn't that.

He silently prayed.

...

Liao Xing's bedroom.

He looked through the cultivation scripture again, memorizing it.

Truly, a few people's ability to comprehend and think was miles above others.

Throwing the cultivation scripture to one side, he closed his eyes and began to try sensing spirit energy again.

A few moments later.

Liao Xing was smiling.

"Such a wonderful power..."

A light breeze blew around his body, but didn't dissipate.

This is the sign of spirit energy gathering.

"I want to... increase my constitution!"

The wind suddenly dispersed.

"Ah, damnit!"

Liao Xing opened his eyes again.

He felt a slight aching on his body.

This is the reaction of acupoints being too stressed.

If this happens, he can't keep trying anymore tonight.

"What the hell, was this the thing called being 'too obstinate' that the scripture book mentioned?"

Liao Xing turned on his computer, leaned back on the bed and began to search for a few documents.

Then his hands stopped.

"Feeble body..."

He begrudgingly switched tabs to a recorded news channel.

On the screen, the President was standing in front of a grave, giving a speech.

[I believe, that everyone here mourns the passing of the founder of modern genetic sciences, Genetic Expert – Professor Tang Jun..."

The President was slowly speaking on the TC.

"Old Tang is dead? No, I know that mad man is still alive, how could a good person like him die so soon?" Liao Xing begrudgingly complained.

He took out his Holo-Brain and began to search for the corresponding news.

"Founder of modern genetic sciences, Professor Tang Jun, a few days ago after a meeting with the President, suddenly had a heart attack and passed away, unable to be saved in time"

Slight sorrow appeared in Liao Xing's eyes, then was suddenly replaced by something else.

He put down the Holo-Brain and began to stare at the computer screen.

The President was still talking.

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Liao Xing turned his head sideways, but still didn't put his eyes off the screen for a single moment.

...

Living room.

"Alright, it's no use thinking about these things right now, let's just go back to rest first" Gu Qing Shan said.

Zhang Ying Hao also reminded: "Ye Fei Li and Gu Qing Shan, both of you will be joining me at my company to learn a couple of new things"

Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li nodded.

They left one by one.

Zhang Ying Hao were making call after call to arrange for the details of tomorrow.

Gu Qing Shan returned to his room.

As a Man Killer Fiend, Ye Fei Li doesn't need to sleep so he threw himself onto the sofa.

It's not yet time to hear the souls yet so he doesn't have anything to do right now.

Ye Fei Li wanted to play some games, but then thought about Gu Qing Shan's scripture book.

He pulled it out and flipped through.

A nice smell of new ink passed through his nose.

"Newly printed..." Ye Fei Li muttered.

He read the first page.

At the very top of the first page, printed in triple big letters: "Do you want to see ghosts?"

See ghosts!

Ye Fei Li instantly sat up straight and seriously studied it.

Returning to his room, Gu Qing Shan sat cross-legged to meditate while taking out Qing Rou's jade tag.

Scanning the jade tag, he carefully memorized all of Qi Yan's personal information.

A few hours quickly passed.

At midnight, Gu Qing Shan put the jade tag down.

He then began to circulate his Dantian's spirit energy to get used to Ascended realm.

They had no idea how Liao Xing was staring closely at the President's recorded speech for a second time.

The night went by.

Morning of the next day.

Zhang Ying Hao had already left earlier.

Liao Xing used a small-sized Interstellar Warship to head to the S.W. Divine Temple to continue the categorization and recording of the scriptures.

Impartial Goddess brought a prototype temporary genetic appearance reconstruction serum.

Thinking about it, Gu Qing Shan had Ye Fei Li use it first.

Ye Fei Li quickly took on Qi Yan's appearance.

"Looks exactly like him, seems like Man Killer Fiends can still use appearance reconstruction" looking over Ye Fei Li from head to toe, Gu Qing Shan commented.

"But my eyes are still blood-red"

Impartial Goddess' voice came: [After 7941 experiments, final conclusion drawn: Man Killer Fiend's signature characteristics cannot be changed with genetic modification]

Hearing that, Ye Fei Li appeared a bit lonely.

"How are you?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Ye Fei Li squeezed out a smile and said: "It's fine, how long will I remain in this appearance?"

"5 days"

"That's quite a while"

"You're still a wanted person outside, so looking like this is actually safer"

"Alright then"

Outside, a shuttle was ready for them.

Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li went out and got on the shuttle together.

They left the mountain top mansion.

"Where are we going now?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"The capital, Zhang Ying Hao arranged some people waiting for us there" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Where is he?"

"He already went ahead to prepare"

Ye Fei Li commented: "Seems like it'll be quite the welcome, I didn't think he'd be that serious about it"

Gu Qing Shan agreed: "Yeah, I feel the same"

"Then what exactly are we learning?"

This is something that Gu Qing Shan was also wondering.

He only knows that Zhang Ying Hao will create a special learning problem for things that they have to learn.

As for what exactly, he doesn't know.

"I probably will have to learn how to disguise myself, you will probably be the same" Gu Qing Shan said.

A few minutes later, the electronic voice of the shuttle announced that they were above to arrive.

"I want to return home to her at night" Ye Fei Li said.

"Your time, you manage it" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Ye Fei Li put on a cap and a pair of sunglasses.

"No need to wear sunglasses"

"Hm? Why?"

Gu Qing Shan suddenly took out a well-decorated box and put it on the table.

"For you" he said.

"What is this?" Ye Fei Li was curious.

"I promised that as long as you're able to restrain your desire to kill, I'll make sure you're able to return to a normal daily life"

"This is the latest cutting-edge technological product, a perfect bionic optical supplement" Gu Qing Shan explained: "I specifically bought this for you to return to a normal human life ——perhaps even after this training, you can go meet your mother"

"Really!?" Ye Fei Li became very excited hearing that.

"That's right, you no longer need to stay in one place all day. If you're free, try and catch up with daily technological advances, it's slowly but surely changing our daily lives" Gu Qing Shan very sincerely spoke.

Ye Fei Li stared at him for a while: "I'll make sure to keep that in mind"

He quickly opened the box.

There was a pair of optical contact lenses inside.

Chapter 304

Wearing the contact lenses, Ye Fei Li found himself looking at a complete stranger in the mirror.

But this is only the genetic modification serum's effect, it's not very important.

The crucial point was that his eyes had become black again.

Gu Qing Shan's voice came from behind: "If you don't like black, we can just change it to a different color instead, how about blue?"

...

The shuttle arrived.

As they got off the shuttle, an acquaintance was already there waiting for them.

Tong Tong.

The young girl Tong Tong once cooperated with them to kill the Game of Eternal's champion Liu Shi Man.

She's also the 11th ranking assassin in the Hunter Association.

"Mr. Gu, Mr. Ye, please come this way" Tong Tong smiled and greeted them.

"Hello again, thanks for your help last time" Gu Qing Shan greeted.

"To be able to kill someone with Mr. Gu and Mr. Ye is my honor" Tong Tong smiled in response.

Her tone showed how great she regarded that matter.

After a bit of chatting, the three of them went down the main road following Tong Tong's lead.

"Where are we going now?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"Mr. Ye Fei Li will be entering the underground black market to learn a few basic rules and survival skills" saying so, Tong Tong nodded to greet a black man.

They talked for a bit, then the black man gestured for Ye Fei Li to come with him.

"Alright" Ye Fei Li sighed helplessly and followed the black man.

"What about me? Where am I going?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Please follow me sir" Tong Tong said.

They walked for a bit more, reaching the front gate of a certain building.

Tong Tong stopped and turned around, smiling: "Mr. Gu, we're here"

"This place?" Gu Qing Shan looked up.

A large stone sign was right next to the front gate.

「 Capital Academy of Theatre Arts 」

Gu Qing Shan muttered: "So all of you are actors huh"

"This is a very crucial basic skill" Tong Tong said with a serious face.

They went through the academy gate.

The one teaching Gu Qing Shan today is the undisputed number one theatre arts Grandmaster of the Academy.

After spending an entire morning, Gu Qing Shan was yelled at so much he felt like he just took a shower.

During lunch, Zhang Ying Hao came.

“Don’t be impatient, you have to learn to act as someone else entirely, the trick is to feel that you are him, and he is you” Zhang Ying Hao said.

Gu Qing Shan sat and silently ate lunch.

Halfway through, he suddenly remembered something and asked: “Did many famous movie stars graduate from here?”

“Basically all household names in the film industry graduated from this place” Zhang Ying Hao answered.

Gu Qing Shan contemplated something.

Before he finished his lunch, he suddenly left for a while.

“Where are you going?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“I’m going to visit the hall of fame exhibition for a bit” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Ah, that’s right, there are many props that have been used by famous grandmasters on exhibition there, definitely worth taking a look” Zhang Ying Hao was a bit surprised, but agreed.

“That’s right, it’s definitely worth it” Gu Qing Shan commented.

On the War God UI, a notification was left.

[Spent 300 Soul Points. Remaining Soul Points: 5300/300]

That afternoon, Gu Qing Shan passed all the acting tests with flying colors.

Night.

Back on the mountaintop mansion.

“I really couldn’t believe it” Zhang Ying Hao said.

“That’s right, did you cheat or something?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“This is talent” Gu Qing Shan very shamelessly claimed.

“Now that you’ve graduated, are you going to be acting as your target right away?” Zhang Ying Hao asked.

“No, I plan to stay here for a while” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“Why?”

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“I still feel a bit uneasy” Gu Qing Shan said unnaturally.

The shuttle landed.

It was nighttime, but a fire was seen outside the mansion.

Liao Xing was smoking a cigarette, squatting down to burn some faux gold. (1)

“For a loved one?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Tang Jun, a good brother of mine” Liao Xing answered.

“That name sounds familiar, I think he was a scientist or something?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“That’s right, his field was genetic research while mine was physics and chemistry. Since there wasn’t any direct competition between ourselves, we slowly became friends”

Liao Xing finished burning the paper, stood up and patted off the dust on himself: “Before, when I was being pursued by the 9 Lords, it was thanks to him that I managed to fake my death and got away”

Everyone patted his shoulder to console him.

That night, Liao Xing drank himself to sleep.

After dinner, Gu Qing Shan returned to his room.

A black briefcase was laid on the table.

[Sir, your genetic appearance restructuring serum is ready] Impartial Goddess spoke.

Gu Qing Shan opened the briefcase.

There were two rows of injection-type serums laid out.

The row on top was red, while the row below was blue.

Impartial Goddess explained: [To ensure your disguise is impeccable, I’ve prepared a few extra serums to enable you to use them at any time]

“Thanks a lot” Gu Qing Shan put the briefcase away.

He looked at the War God UI and said nothing.

Everything is already prepared, if there weren’t so many unexpected issues, he would be preparing to return to the space vortex right now.

An extremely powerful world was waiting for him on the other side, so he had to be as cautious as possible to ensure his survival.

But he still can’t leave yet.

The rain was still pouring outside.

“Impartial Goddess”

[Sir?]

“Show satellite footage of Baiyang Lake, Cangwu River and Jinyun River”

These were the locations where the Frost Calamity first struck during the past life.

[Yes sir] Impartial Goddess answered.

A screen was projected to show satellite images from above of these three bodies of water.

There was no ice on the water surface.

On Cangwu River, the military was retreating.

“What’s going on here?” Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

[To prevent the sea creatures from entering the mainland following the flow of the river, the President had personally approved these monitoring measures. The current monitoring mission is over, so the military is retreating]

“Dispatch miniature surveillance robots to enter the water and thoroughly check below the water surface” Gu Qing Shan said.

He was still uneasy so he decided to order a thorough search.

In the past life, these 3 areas were the first to show the signs.

A few hundred black objects fell from above into the water before diving deep under.

Even the deepest, darkest places in the water was being shined on.

The underwater surveillance robots had turned on their searchlights and began to move around slowly.

The investigation had begun.

Almost at the same time.

Below Baiyang Lake and Jinyun River, as if noticing the robots approaching, the gathered ice crystals suddenly disappeared without a trace.

They were either sentient, or smart enough to avoid the robots.

Cangwu River was the only place truly without any ice.

Impartial Goddess reported: [Sir, all three bodies of water are very large, it will take a bit of time to finish investigating. You don’t have to keep waiting for now]

“Alright”

Gu Qing Shan replied and went into deep thought.

In the small chance that it truly is that calamity, how long can humanity actually last?

With all the strongest powers of humanity gathered, including himself, there still wouldn’t be a way to permanently deal with it.

Even if I manage to find out about it early ——just what should I do?

Human power alone simply cannot win against such a calamity.

Never mind Reality right now, even the hundred millions of cultivated players in the past life still couldn’t manage to win against this calamity.

Even the countless Ascended realm players could do nothing but fight until their last breaths when faced with this calamity.

It was the true Apocalypse.

You can't blame Gu Qing Shan for hoping for the best, because otherwise there truly wasn't any hope at all.

Note:

(1) Burning faux gold: this is an Asian custom where you burn paper decorated as various things as an offering to the deceased. Some of the things included are: fake money, fake gold paper, paper vehicles, paper servants etc.

Chapter 305

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Right now he could only seize the time to quickly complete his sword saint awakening Quest.

His past life's sword saint prowess combined with his new swordsmanship knowledge will not just simply combine but amplify, giving him a massive boost in strength.

Right now, he can only make it up as he goes on.

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan asked: "How is the progress of collecting the forging materials?"

[There are 3 still missing, two of which are materials that are not yet found in the world] Impartial Goddess replied.

"There's only three left that aren't found yet out of the dozens I asked for?"

Gu Qing Shan genuinely didn't expect that and asked: "Let me see which 3 they are"

A screen was projected with the list of materials.

Of which, 3 of them are marked red, showing that they haven't been found yet.

"Boiling Stone, Greensilver Ore, Sun Moon Bloodgem..." Gu Qing Shan muttered.

[Yes sir, Boiling Stone and Greensilver Ore are the materials not yet found in known substances] Impartial Goddess explained.

They don't exist in Reality, that might be a bit hard.

Gu Qing Shan decided to search inside the fragrance bag to see if these 2 materials are in there.

"Yes!"

Gu Qing Shan's eyes glowed.

He took out the 2 raw materials and placed them on the ground.

Luckily the cultivation world just happened to have these 2 materials.

The only material left is Sun Moon Bloodgem, which doesn't exist in the cultivation world.

This seems to be a unique material from Shen Wu world, Reality might not have this as well.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "The only one left is Sun Moon Bloodgem, what's the situation with this material?"

Impartial Goddess answered: [The world doesn't have any natural deposit of this material, but around 4000 years ago, during a large meteor storm, someone managed to find this type of material from the fallen asteroids]

"Ah? What a great coincidence, can we still find them now?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Impartial Goddess then projected an image.

[On the entire planet, this is the only piece of the material left] Impartial Goddess replied.

Gu Qing Shan was looking at the image of a luxurious crown.

A pure gold 12-pointed crown, each adorned with a different type of precious gem.

At the very center, a shining gem glowed, making him unable to calm down.

[The only piece of Sun Moon Bloodgem left in the world is adorned on the Fuxi Empire's crown] Impartial Goddess said.

Gu Qing Shan crossed his arms and sighed: "This won't be easy to deal with"

He glanced at the War God UI.

The sword saint awakening Quest was still floating in the middle of the UI.

[Quest no.1: Collect two swords (undamaged)]

Even if it won't be easy, he'll still have to deal with it, because he must finish the Quest.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the Quest for a while before picking up his phone.

Very quickly, the call connected.

A booming spirited voice came: [Young scientist Gu, are you on your way yet?]

It was the Fuxi Emperor's voice.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit shocked, but then remembered he and Anna already promised him to go to the Fuxi Empire to stay at the Fuxi Emperor's villa.

"We haven't, Anna is temporary busy with something so I plan to go there first by myself" Gu Qing Shan answered.

[Always welcomed! Should I send out a shuttle to receive you now?] the Emperor didn't ask about Anna and went straight into the point.

"Wouldn't that be too troublesome? It might be better for me to come there by myself" Gu Qing Shan replied.

[That would be a bit disrespectful towards you] the Emperor muses.

Gu Qing Shan answered him: "It won't be disrespectful sir. On our side, paying an official visitation is very troublesome"

The Emperor agreed: [That's true, even though your Confederate has Impartial Goddess, everything is dealt with so bureaucratically, even the procedure for official visitation takes up to half a month to complete, such inefficiency]

He didn't hide his intention in the least: [If Impartial Goddess was in my Fuxi, I would've already conquered the entire world]

Gu Qing Shan wryly laughed: "Then I'll be on my way now, I'll probably arrive a bit later in the day"

[Very well, I'll be waiting for you at my villa] the Emperor responded.

They hung up.

Gu Qing Shan came out.

A large-sized Interstellar Warship appeared from above the clouds.

"That won't do" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

[Sir, this is only appropriate for someone of your stature for official visitation] Impartial Goddess replied.

"I need to silently go so as to not cause any backlash from the Confederate, so use another one" Gu Qing Shan insisted.

[Understood] Impartial Goddess replied.

The large-sized Interstellar Warship flew away.

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A silver droplet-shaped shuttle came through the layer of clouds and lightly landed in front of Gu Qing Shan.

"This is a bit... stylish" Gu Qing Shan evaluated the shuttle.

[This is the newest line. It had just finished going through the series of quality checks necessary to confirm its unrivalled safety and speed] Impartial Goddess answered.

"Alright then" Gu Qing Shan stepped into the shuttle.

The shuttle lightly floated and entered flight in a matter of seconds.

Speed, more speed!

Boom!

Following it breaking the sound barrier, the shuttle went out of sight.

...

Inside the shuttle.

"When I meet with the Fuxi Emperor, the Confederate side will definitely find out" Gu Qing Shan said.

[That's right sir, this information is very easy to obtain] Impartial Goddess said.

“Find me a visitation program that doesn’t require any manual confirmation and register that” Gu Qing Shan continued.

[The fastest one would be charity work, which also doesn’t require manual confirmation]

“Then charity work it is, use my personal Credit and donate a school to a rural area of the Fuxi Empire”

[Understood, currently working on it]

Not too long later, the shuttle arrived at the Fuxi Empire border.

The shuttle communicator rang.

Gu Qing Shan connected the call.

On the screen, a uniformed middle-aged military officer glared at Gu Qing Shan.

[This is the Fuxi Empire military outpost, please identify yourself otherwise we will knock you out of the sky!] the officer declared.

“I am Gu Qing Shan; I have an appointment with your country’s His Majesty the Emperor”

The officer’s expression loosened.

He smiled: [Ah, so you are sir Gu Qing Shan, please continue your flight]

“There’s no need to verify my identity?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Impartial Goddess has already verified your identity, and His Majesty has given his directives. You are our empire’s esteemed guest, there is no need for formalities] the officer replied.

[Have a safe trip]

The officer then hung up.

Gu Qing Shan piloted the shuttle and continued forward.

A few minutes later.

12 jet fighters caught up behind him.

6 of them were on his left and right wing while the 6 others were flying in front of his shuttle.

The communicator lit up again.

[Greetings sir, we will be escorting you to His Majesty’s villa] a voice came.

“Go ahead” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Hanging up, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but shake his head.

12 fighter jets as escort, this is the highest treatment possible in the Fuxi Empire.

His Majesty the Emperor truly is someone capable of investing when he wants to.

A few hours later.

After flying past half of the Fuxi Empire, the shuttle started to descend below the clouds.

There was only a great desert below.

In the middle of the desert, there was an oasis.

In the oasis, a series of buildings linked up to form a grand palace.

This is where the Emperor's villa was.

About 10 miles until they reached the oasis, the shuttle was directed to land.

As soon as Gu Qing Shan left the shuttle, someone was already there to welcome him with an umbrella to block out the rain.

The desert has always suffered from intense heat year-round, but having been showered under constant rain for the last few days, it was refreshingly cool.

A group of camels waited outside.

On each of the camels' back was a comfortable saddle, there was even a small canopy placed overhead to shield them from the rain or sun.

A ceremonial officer led a camel in front of Gu Qing Shan.

"Sir, the area ahead is a no-flight zone. Please come with me" the ceremonial officer smiled.

"Alright" Gu Qing Shan answered.

He climbed onto the camel and rode side-by-side with the officer.

"Knowing that you wanted to come today, His Majesty is extremely excited, enough to move tomorrow's banquet ahead to today" the ceremonial officer smiled and said.

"I'm honored, but then, what does His Majesty plan to do tomorrow then?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"There'll be another banquet tomorrow" the ceremonial officer answered.

"All hail His Majesty the wise" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Chapter 306

This outpost wasn't too far away from the oasis.

Gu Qing Shan chatted with the ceremonial officer while going on their way, quickly seeing the gigantic palace villa in the oasis.

"Our palace is currently in the process of preparing your welcoming banquet, after you greet His Majesty, you can come with us to pick out some ceremonial clothes, now please come with me" the ceremonial officer said.

"Then I'll trouble you" Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

The oasis palace.

His Majesty the Emperor were discussing something in the conference room with 7-8 of his officials.

The ceremonial officer brought Gu Qing Shan over.

“Greetings your Majesty” Gu Qing Shan bowed.

“Hm, you look more spirited every time I see you, young man” the Emperor evaluated him and smiled: “The banquet is about to begin, go change your clothes and head straight to the banquet hall”

Two maids came up and bowed to greet Gu Qing Shan and spoke softly: “Please follow us”

Gu Qing Shan is the one who needs a favor, not to mention being in front of so many people, it’s not exactly convenient for him to get into the subject, plus the Emperor’s hospitality isn’t something he can just refuse, so he had no choice but to leave to change clothes.

A total of 15 sets of high-society banquet clothes were prepared for Gu Qing Shan.

After choosing one of them, Gu Qing Shan was helped by the two maids.

Two other maids came with a long mirror that touched the ground, reflecting Gu Qing Shan from top to bottom.

His brows were sharp as blades while his eyes contained a sense of distance.

Wearing such a neat outfit, he was also emitting a special presence.

“Thank you all” Gu Qing Shan said.

The maids looked at his reflection, blushed while giggling: “As expected of you sir, your presence is unrivalled”

Gu Qing Shan returned a smile and casually asked: “Why didn’t I see your Empress?”

A very normal conversational ice-breaker.

Someone instantly replied: “The Empress had only just woken up; she’s currently doing her makeup”

The dressing room went silent for a second.

Gu Qing Shan evaluated himself in the mirror and asked: “I’ve already changed clothes, should I change my shoes as well?”

The maids sighed from relief.

“There will be a dance later on, so your shoes must also be changed, please wait a moment sir” two maids went to get a pair of shoes for him.

“Thank you. Personally, I like black, brown and dark blue shoes” Gu Qing Shan said.

The maids exchanged glances.

Seems like His Majesty’s esteemed guest is very particular about his shoes.

If that’s the case, they should prepare a few more new shoes for the guest to choose from.

“Please wait here for a bit, we will go get them for you” one of the maids said.

“Very well, no hurry”

Gu Qing Shan smiled and sat down comfortably on the sofa.

The maids curtsied and left.

Gu Qing Shan raised a cup of tea that was prepared, took a sip and silently thought about a very minor detail at the end.

The Emperor isn't a friendly person.

Perhaps in some occasions, the Emperor will show a smile or laugh, but he won't keep up such a smile for long.

His heart is cold.

He is known to have never been pleased by anyone, and definitely will not act to please someone else.

But today, he's been smiling a lot.

The other thing to mention is that he didn't see the Empress.

They said the Empress had just woken up and is currently doing her makeup.

The night banquet is already about to begin and the Empress had only just got out of bed, why is that?

The maids returned.

Gu Qing Shan put down the cup of tea and smiled.

With the help of the maids, he chose out one of the shoes and wore it outside.

“When will the banquet begin?” he asked.

The maids answered: “When you arrive at the banquet hall sir”

The girls surrounded and escorted Gu Qing Shan out.

The banquet hall gate opened.

Gu Qing Shan walked in.

The Emperor was sitting on his throne, gestured to the ceremonial officer as he saw this.

The ceremonial officer gave the cue.

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Music began to play.

The dancers began their alluring dance.

A blond girl began to sing with her golden voice.

The animals began their performance.

A fire eater.

The circus.

A comedy routine.

The groups of officials began their lavish feast.

This type of chaotic banquet has always been the Fuxi Emperor's personal style.

Because these are all the things he enjoys.

He likes having all the things he enjoys the most put in his sight at the same time.

Everyone surrounded the Fuxi Emperor, showering him with praises and compliments.

Although this type of rowdy, chaotic banquet was just like a marketplace, the festive air was exactly as expected.

Gu Qing Shan was led in front of the Emperor.

The Emperor pushed the groups of officials around him away to evaluate Gu Qing Shan.

"Look at you, what a handsome young man, if Anna didn't already act first, I would've gladly given you one of my princesses" the Emperor teased him.

Everyone broke into laughter.

Gu Qing Shan took a shot glass from the tray next to him.

"A toast to His Majesty, to thank you for today's lavish reception"

They raised the glass to the Emperor and downed it all in one gulp.

Hearing that, the Fuxi Emperor also raised his own glass and took a sip.

"No need to feel restrained, you can do as you like here, here's to a good evening" the Emperor smiled back.

"This time I came here because I have some official business to negotiate with you" Gu Qing Shan was about to get straight to the point.

The Emperor waved his hand: "No need to rush, let's just enjoy this wonderful evening, we can talk about the rest in the morning"

Gu Qing Shan could only push his matter back.

But he was a bit confused.

The Fuxi Emperor has always been a practical person, if there's official business to take care of, he would always prioritize it first.

But now isn't the time to think about that.

Under the scrutinizing eyes of everyone, Gu Qing Shan took another shot glass and smiled: "Then I can only do as Your Majesty says"

“This is a toast to His Majesty, to the prosperity of the Empire, wishing that all its citizens enjoy dignity and freedom”

Gu Qing Shan downed it all in one gulp again.

The Fuxi Emperor’s smile became even brighter, clapped his hand and praised: “Very well!”

He then downed his own glass in one gulp.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at him, feeling a deep sense of unease.

The Fuxi Emperor has always wanted the stable advancement of the Empire, but he hates the concept of “freedom” the most.

During the Emperor’s visit to the Confederate for the conference, he even refused to stay at the Freedom Hotel and instead used tents in the International Conference Center’s courtyard as a place to stay.

“Freedom” is a word that he hates that much.

And I purposefully said that just now.

But the Fuxi Emperor still happily drank without minding it at all.

What’s going on?

“Go and eat something, then have a dance, I bet after this, many ladies and young ladies will have their eyes set on you” the Emperor spoke.

Gu Qing Shan maintained his smile and was about to back down when graceful and luxuriously mature women came into the banquet hall.

An intricate tiara was on her head.

Everyone cleared the way for her while bowing to greet her.

The Fuxi Empress has arrived.

“Varona is here, just in time for you to meet her” the Emperor said.

The Empress’ name is Varona, a member of the Holy Empire’s Royal family, the Medici clan, as well as the birth sister of the Holy Empire’s previous King, Anna’s aunt.

“Young scientist Gu, we meet again” the Empress smiled.

She extended her hand forward.

The Holy Empire’s hand kissing etiquette.

This was the Fuxi Empire, so it wasn’t quite appropriate to show etiquette from the Holy Empire, but since she was originally a royalty from the Holy Empire, no one could say anything to that.

Gu Qing Shan received the Empress’ hand and performed the kiss in perfect etiquette.

“Since we last met, Your Majesty the Empress has become much more dazzling” Gu Qing Shan said.

He noticed the dark circles under her eyes that not even thick makeup could cover up entirely.

Chapter 307

Gu Qing Shan glanced over at the Empress, his mind quickly moved.

The fact that the Empress appeared at a banquet with eye bags so heavy is a strange thing in and of itself.

As a Professionalist, her current condition can only be a result of constant all-nighters, leading to her body being unable to endure.

So she's been pulling all-nighters?

Without any clear reasons, Gu Qing Shan became cautious.

Something isn't quite right.

While he was thinking, the Empress spoke up first.

She held the Emperor's hand, smiling at him alluringly, then turned to look at Gu Qing Shan.

"Last time in the Confederate, although His Majesty was intent on inviting you here, I didn't feel like you'd really come, so I was a bit cold. Please pardon me for that, young scientist Gu" the Empress said.

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan instantly smiled and replied: "There's no need for apologies Your Highness, I've always admired such a heroic figure like His Majesty, so even if you didn't say anything, I would've come here regardless"

The Emperor kept up an expression of intrigue listening to them.

But they both said nothing else.

Gu Qing Shan raised his glass again: "Here's to His Majesty's long life without end, here's to Her Highness' eternal beauty"

The Emperor laughed and replied: "Now who could really live without end, but I still like these words of yours"

He received the glass from the Empress and downed it all in one gulp.

The Empress raised her own glass and took a sip.

Returning the empty glass to the Empress, the Fuxi Emperor asked: "Today is young scientist Gu's first visit, why don't you let him have the first dance?"

The Empress didn't even glance at Gu Qing Shan, only smiled at the Emperor longingly and said: "I don't want to dance today"

"Then what do you want to do?"

The Empress then said to the Emperor and everyone around: "I'll go play some cards, you all can enjoy the banquet"

“Another all-nighter? Just look at yourself, your eye bags are showing” the Emperor smiled and asked her.

“I lost so bad yesterday that I just have to get back at them today. Dear, won’t you let me?” the Empress begged him.

“Let us take a picture with our scientist here, then you can go” the Emperor accepted easily.

As he waved his hand, a few officials responsible for the royal press came out.

“Mr. Gu, please stand a bit closer to His Majesty” one of them said.

The Emperor extended his hand.

Gu Qing Shan could only reach forward and shake it.

The Empress stood on the Emperor’s side.

The three of them looked straight at the camera, waiting for their pictures to be taken.

“One, two, three, long live His Majesty”

A perfect picture for diplomatic news was born.

“Then I’ll go play cards now”

Saying so, the Empress quickly left, not even glancing at Gu Qing Shan a single bit.

The Emperor ordered the press: “Put it out immediately”

“What occasion should it be, sire?” the press official asked.

The Emperor thought a bit, then answered: “A charity banquet —after all, our young scientist Gu had just donated an entire school to one of our rural areas”

News surely travels fast, Gu Qing Shan silently thought.

“Later on, I will also form a national budget for scholarships to encourage education” the Emperor looked at Gu Qing Shan and smiled.

“How magnanimous of you, sire” the official said as he bowed and dismissed himself.

The tune for the first dance started to play.

The Emperor then spoke to Gu Qing Shan: “You can go enjoy yourself, I wish you a wonderful night”

“That I will, Your Majesty” Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

He walked down step by step, came to a beautiful lady and politely asked for the first dance.

The beautiful lady looked a bit conflicted, turning to ask the Emperor.

The Emperor nodded.

The lady had no choice but to accept Gu Qing Shan’s invitation and entered the dance floor with him.

"I'm only doing this because of father's influence, after this dance, I hope you'll know your place and do not bother me again" the lady smiled beautifully and said.

Others couldn't hear what she said, so based on her appearance and smile, they'd even think she was following normal etiquette.

"Very well" Gu Qing Shan happily nodded.

The music began to go in tune.

The first dance had started.

Gu Qing Shan held the princess' hand and danced.

At this point, he had confirmed one thing.

The Empress Varona is a truly smart person.

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She had exposed the truth to Gu Qing Shan with a single sentence, then flexibly and swiftly left the scene.

"Last time in the Confederate, although His Majesty was intent on inviting you here, I didn't feel like you'd really come, so I was a bit cold. Please pardon me for that, young scientist Gu"

That's what she said, but in truth, at the time she wasn't cold at all.

Gu Qing Shan remembered clearly how she was the one doing her best to convince him and Anna to visit.

He still remembers her exact words.

"Two weeks later, during the hottest day of the year, we'll let you come with us to our Northern Palace, the weather there is quite fine. You can go hunting in the morning and there's a place for a ball in the evenings, if you're lucky, we might even be able to observe some space monsters with the telescope" (TN: ch200)

Which means, everything she said just now was wrong.

But the Emperor didn't react at all when he heard that, he was even smiling.

What does this actually mean?

Perhaps others will think that women were simply hard to understand and liked doing things as they saw fit. But thanks to Anna, Gu Qing Shan knew a few things about the Empress.

In official occasions, she has always been a woman of royalty that respects and follow etiquette to a T.

Then, did something happen between the Emperor and Empress?

If it's only some personal conflict between the Emperor and Empress or political struggle, Gu Qing Shan wouldn't even want to step in.

But the Emperor did seem a bit off.

Gu Qing Shan contemplated, a bit hesitant.

He was still following the dance at the princess's pace.

Originally, he was only here for a negotiation.

No matter if it's a monopoly on technology or cultivation scriptures, he fully trusts that the Fuxi Emperor would consider it.

But now, never mind negotiating, seems like other things are amiss.

He suddenly remembered.

In my past life, the Frost Calamity started in the Fuxi Empire didn't it?

The dance ended.

The princess very curtly let go of his hand, went off the dance floor and headed towards a tall, handsome Fuxi Empire officer.

Gu Qing Shan turned to leave, found a secluded place and slowly enjoyed a large glass of liquor.

At this point, the Emperor himself went on the dance floor, accompanied by a charming mature lady, kicking the atmosphere of the party up to its peak.

Gu Qing Shan called a servant over, politely asked where the toilet was and headed there.

He went inside, closed the stall door and took out a ball of paper.

As he did the hand kissing etiquette, the Empress had secretly given him this.

Gu Qing Shan opened it up.

[Death's Relic is in Anna's hands]

A very simple comment.

Gu Qing Shan looked for a bit, then put it away.

This is quite the clever comment.

First of all, even if this paper is found, the content only involves the Medici clan's own matter, others don't have any reason to interfere with it.

Second, Anna only received Death's Relic again from Gu Qing Shan as she had to go on her way to the bestowal.

This is supposed to be a secret that only his own group knows about.

Since the Empress also knows, it could only mean that Anna had told her everything.

The Empress was emphasizing Anna's and her close relationship.

—-they were the last two women of the Medici clan after all.

Which means this paper is meant to let Gu Qing Shan know she can be trusted.

After that, the comment that Empress Varona spoke in front of the Emperor to Gu Qing Shan was supposed to tell him there's a problem.

Combining the two gives an entirely new message: "You have to trust me, there's a problem with the Emperor"

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

He muttered: "If I didn't see it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed it"

The Fuxi Emperor is a powerful Professionalist, one of the most powerful Professionalists, in fact. No one would be able to get through the countless layers of security to get to such a powerful person AND manipulate him without being known.

Which means, perhaps the Emperor himself is the one trying to fool everyone for some sort of plan.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

Everything is a bit harder now.

Empress Varona is Anna's aunt, so if anything happens, I'll have to save her.

If that's the case...

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight.

As an Ascended realm cultivator, the range of his inner sight is quite large.

And the people of this world doesn't know what inner sight is.

So no one will be able to discover him.

Very easily, Gu Qing Shan's inner sight covered the entire palace, and then some.

In just a few moments, he would know about even the tiniest detail of the smallest blade of grass in the oasis.

Chapter 308

The Confederate.

The mountaintop mansion.

Both Zhang Ying Hao and Gu Qing Shan weren't here.

Ye Fei Li came out of his room to see Liao Xing was sitting on the sofa.

Liao Xing was drinking while watching TV.

The TV was showing news from the Presidential election, as the two hosts were interviewing a Presidential candidate.

"Our President is seeking re-election; do you have the confidence to beat him?" one of the hosts asked.

“Well I would have to try at least once, after all, I too would like to do a few things for the people” the Presidential candidate smiled and replied.

Ye Fei Li came and sat next to Liao Xing.

“You’re not watching those TV dramas anymore huh?” he asked.

“Not in the mood to” Liao Xing took a sip and answered.

Ye Fei Li suddenly noticed the book in Liao Xing’s hand.

“Gene Theory?” Ye Fei Li asked

“Yeah, my old friend’s previous work. Truthfully speaking, regarding genetics, he’s always been the no.1 expert, no one would even come close” Liao Xing replied.

Seeing his downcast appearance, Ye Fei Li commented: “Your relationship must’ve been quite good”

“That’s right. When I was under pursuit by the 9 Lords, at the end of my ropes, old Tang was the one that saved me” Liao Xing answered.

“I heard Qing Shan said that you used a clone to fake your own death to be able to escape, what does that have to do with your friend?” Ye Fei Li couldn’t help but ask.

Liao Xing just patted the [Gene Theory] book.

“—got it, he’s the one that provided you the clone” Ye Fei Li was a bit surprised.

He then became intrigued and asked: “Even I know that the success rate for cloning humans is really low. Even if you succeed, there will be countless problems regarding disease and compatibility, so countries around the world have already banned this type of research, how did he manage to do it?”

“Cloning just the appearance is the simplest thing to do” Liao Xing explained, “Stamina, IQ, memories, these are the hard things to replicate. Of them, the hardest gate to pass is memories, aside from old Tang, no one else has managed to succeed”

Only when the clone and the original shared the same memories could cloning be considered true cloning.

Without memories, the clone would only be identical from a biological standpoint, while truthfully they’re already completely different people.

“Then what about organs? Aren’t organs easy to make? And it’s not a taboo in current medical professions” Ye Fei Li asked further.

“Of course organs are easy, old Tang was originally a military expert in both biology and medicine” Liao Xing answered.

“Such a person would definitely be a good doctor huh” Ye Fei Li sighed and commented.

Clank claaaaank~

The liquor bottle fell down.

Liao Xing suddenly stood up, his face incredibly grim.

That's right, how could a medical expert like Tang Jun die from a sudden heart attack.

Liao Xing took out his Holo-Brain and spoke: "Impartial Goddess"

The Holo-Brain stayed silent.

"Impartial Goddess, I have real business this time, I swear on my name as a scientist!"

The Holo-Brain lit up

[Please state your business, Mr. Liao] Impartial Goddess responded.

"I want to investigate everything regarding Doctor Tang before his death, please help me"

[Doctor Tang has already passed, the profiles are under lock-down at this point in time, any attempt to investigate is rejected] Impartial Goddess replied.

"This is related to a homicidal case; you have to help me!" Liao Xing insisted.

[My apologies, but the lock-down is ordered from the Confederate Intelligence Bureau, Mr. Liao's personal authority level isn't enough to unlock the corresponding profiles] Impartial Goddess replied.

Liao Xing yelled: "He was murdered! Why are you acting like nothing happened!"

Impartial Goddess answered: [Mr. Liao, I've compiled three replies below, please consider them yourself]

[First, the nature of the case is still under investigation]

[Second, I am not an omnipotent god, and under normal circumstances, I am obliged to operate under Confederate laws]

[Third, Mr. Liao, please pay attention, because your authority level truly isn't enough to unlock the corresponding profiles]

Liao Xing went silent.

He thought about it, then silently took out his phone.

Very quickly, Gu Qing Shan's voice came.

[What is it?] he asked in a low voice.

You could almost hear banquet music over at Gu Qing Shan's side.

"I need your help" Liao Xing said.

[With what?]

"There's a problem with Tang Jun's death, but I don't have the authority to view his profiles --he's my good brother, I want to find the culprit and avenge him!"

[Impartial Goddess, I authorize Liao Xing to view all of Tang Jun's related profiles]

[Understood sir]

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The phone hung up.

Impartial Goddess continued: [Mr. Liao, the corresponding profiles has been unlocked for you, please check them as you like]

Liao Xing's hands quickly operated his Holo-Brain, gritting his teeth: "Old Tang, no matter who it was that killed you, I will definitely take revenge"

...

Fuxi.

The desert oasis.

The place

The Emperor was still on the dancefloor.

Despite the mature lady's multiple layers of clothes, the Emperor's hands still managed to reach her bare skin.

The lady showed a flattered smile, softly muttered: "Your Majesty..."

The Emperor whispered: "Let us not say anything, alright?"

His hands didn't stop what they were doing.

The lady blushed, but nodded without saying anything.

The dance continued.

On another side.

A silent gambling room.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight has arrived.

The Empress was playing cards with a few ladies.

"Are we going to go at this all night again?" one of the ladies asked.

"Of course, I want to win against all of you tonight" the Empress coldly said.

"If you aren't there with His Majesty for so many nights, wouldn't he have something to say to us?" another lady carefully asked.

"He supported my revenge of you" the Empress replied.

The ladies finally exhaled.

"Very well, Your Highness, we'll be waiting" one of the ladies smiled.

These ladies were all genuine gambling addicts.

During the last few days, they were kept in the palace by the Empress, gambling day-in, day-out, but didn't complain a single time, instead they felt honored.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

So that's why.

No wonder the maids said the Empress has only just woken up, she was up playing cards all night every day.

She didn't want to sleep together with the Emperor and played cards with the ladies all night instead. Seems like there really is a problem.

After a bit of thought, Gu Qing Shan decided to send his voice to the Empress from afar.

"I am Gu Qing Shan"

The suddenly voice surprised the Empress enough for her to tense up.

But she naturally used the motion to stand up, removing her coat.

"It's a bit hot, bring me a thinner coat" the Empress gestured behind her and said.

A maid came to receive the coat, quickly stepped down and brought out another coat.

The Empress slowly put it on.

When she sat back down, her expression has returned to normal.

The Empress restarted playing her hand.

"Listen to me, tonight, I'll come find you" Gu Qing Shan continued sending his voice.

The Empress seems unfazed and put down a card: "Three of clubs!" (1)

Gu Qing Shan continued: "When I give the signal, invite them to a midnight snack, then make an excuse that you want to choose the food yourself and find somewhere hidden from view, that's when we'll talk in detail"

While the Empress listened her expression was unchanged.

It was her turn again.

The Empress drew another card; it was 8 of hearts

This card can be used to form a pair, but she doesn't want to play it with the 7 of hearts.

She was about to play the 8 of hearts.

"If you're willing to meet me, play the 9 of spades"

The Empress stopped her hand.

She put down the cards in her hands and took a sip of tea.

As the Empress, the ladies playing with her didn't dare to rush her.

Squinting her eyes, the Empress put the 8 of hearts in hand and put down a different card.

“9 of spades” she said.

Note:

(1) the cards aren't actually normal cards and they're not playing poker. I've no idea what card game they are playing, but it doesn't really matter in the long run so I just replaced it with normal cards for simpler understanding, just imagine they're playing Uno if you really want to.

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As the 9 of spades was played, the next player was about to draw a card, but got cut off by the player preceding the Empress.

“Steal!” the preceding player happily called out.

After stealing the turn with a 9 of spades, she played another card.

It was the Empress' turn again.

As she drew a new card, she found it was another 8 of hearts.

Two 8 of hearts in a row formed a pair.

The Empress unexpectedly scowled.

Gu Qing Shan's voice came again.

“Let's say this is a theory —if the situation has become so bad that your life is in danger, please play the 2 of diamonds”

The Empress put the second 8 of hearts in her hand.

Glancing at her cards, she took the 2 of diamonds and put it down without hesitation.

“2 of diamonds”

Gu Qing Shan's voice came again: “Then I understand the situation, I'll come back a bit later”

A gentle breeze blew through the room.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight had left.

On the card table, the player after the Empress wanted to draw, but got cut off by the Empress' preceding player again.

“Steal! Your Highness, you're much too kind to me today” the preceding player smiled as she stole her turn.

She then randomly played another card.

She had stolen two turns in a row, leading to the other two not having a chance to play any cards, while giving the Empress another turn.

The Empress drew another card, then looked below, a bit surprised.

“Hoh, Seven Straight – I win”

She put down all the cards in her hand at once.

Everyone else sighed, shuffling their cards for a new game.

While playing, the Empress suddenly muttered: “I really must say, sometimes the little girl’s eyes are the sharpest”

Her fellow players couldn’t understand what she meant at all.

...

Gu Qing Shan got out of the stall, washed his hands and face, then left the toilet.

He once again found himself a secluded place, got himself a whole bottle of strong liquor and an empty glass.

He topped himself off and took a sip.

Gu Qing Shan was savoring the flavor, smiling full of curiosity looking at all the officials at this banquet.

He needed a bit of time to scan the entire palace with his inner sight to ensure nothing was amiss.

His phone rang.

It was Liao Xing.

“What is it?” Gu Qing Shan answered in a low voice.

[There’s no problem with anything else. Right now I wanted to see the data from old Tang’s lab, but all the data has already been deleted]

“What do you need me to do?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Only Impartial Goddess can restore the data, but since this is against Confederate laws and I don’t have the appropriate authority, Impartial Goddess won’t accept my request]

“Give him a one-time access authority” Gu Qing Shan spoke.

[Understood, sir] Impartial Goddess responded.

“I owe you one” saying so Liao Xing quickly hung up.

Gu Qing Shan poured himself another glass full.

No person in this world could deal with the Fuxi Emperor without being noticed considering how strong he is.

But the Fuxi Empire is still operating normally without any abnormalities.

Right now, the Empress’ life hangs in the balance.

In the entire Fuxi Empire, the only person capable of such a feat is the Fuxi Emperor himself.

After such a long time, although the Emperor and Empress’ marriage is a political one, they seem to get along just fine.

Even in the past life, up until the very last year of the Apocalypse, they were still living happily together.

Yes, the Fuxi Emperor is an ambitious person, while the Empress hopes for the current balance of the world to continue.

Because only when the world situation is stable can she think of a way to help Anna reclaim the Holy Empire.

The Emperor and Empress wish for different things, but they can and have compromised.

In the past life, after the Apocalypse came, calamities appeared one after another, after Worlds' Apocalypse Online launched, everyone was busy getting stronger.

At that time, the Fuxi Emperor realized that his strength was nothing special in the cultivation world.

The same as everyone else, the Emperor began his quest to quench his thirst for power.

After all, as your cultivation increases, not only will you become stronger, but your life span will also increase.

A Rejuvenation realm cultivator's life span is 1000 years.

Faced with such an alluring possibility, the Emperor directly ignored his previous plans to expand the Empire's country borders.

Just like that, his relationship with the Empress mellowed.

But this life, it's not yet time for the game to launch yet.

Which means the Emperor's thoughts haven't been changed.

In that moment, a thought flashed through Gu Qing Shan's mind.

— the last calamity to descend during the final days of the Apocalypse was the Frost Calamity.

If the disaster this time truly is the Frost Calamity, then he already knows what the Emperor wants to do.

After all, the Frost Calamity had more than one origin points, one of which was inside the Fuxi Empire.

At the time that this unique, overwhelming calamity struck, the Fuxi Emperor of the past life, as a cultivator, stood on the side of humanity.

Gu Qing Shan took another sip from his glass.

His thoughts changed a bit.

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That's not necessarily the truth.

Outwardly, he stood on the side of humanity, but who knows what he was actually thinking at the end.

In the past life, during the last days of the Apocalypse, the world was already in ruins, humans died in battle one after another.

Most of those who were still alive had already gone mad.

Some even sold their souls to join with the calamity.

Then if the Frost Calamity erupts now, what would the ambitious Fuxi Emperor do?

Even the 9 Lords weren't able to deal with this calamity.

If given the chance to destroy the 9 Lords, what would His Majesty the Emperor do?

Gu Qing Shan's eyes peered into the dance floor, looking for His Majesty the Emperor.

He was holding a noble lady tight, dancing.

The lady was flushed, obviously enjoying the feeling of being swept off her feet by the Emperor.

The Emperor wasn't wearing his crown today.

Gu Qing Shan had thoughts of his own.

Regardless of the Emperor's circumstances, I need that crown.

No matter what, I need that Sun Moon Bloodgem.

Gu Qing Shan took another sip of liquor, concluding his investigation.

Under his inner sight, he found no problems in the entire palace.

The only problem is that there are quite a few Empire officials here.

Normally, even if he's on vacation, the Empire would still bring a few officials to conveniently take care of national business.

But right now, almost half of his officials were here.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

Suddenly, a tall military man came up to him.

"Hello" the military man spoke.

"Hello, is there any problem?"

"You are Gu Qing Shan? The Confederate's Mobile Mech Expert?"

"Yes that's me"

"Her Highness the princess is still young, she didn't show you enough respect at the time of your dance, so I'm here to apologize in her stead"

"No worries, her dancing skills were fine —speaking of which, the two of you are lovers, correct?"

"That's right"

"To your happiness"

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan called a servant over and asked for a glass with ice.

He then poured the other party some liquor and offered it.

“Ah, thank you”

The military man received the glass and glanced at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan’s eyes were clear, his attitude casual and calm.

Hiding away any extra thoughts he had, the young military man’s impression of Gu Qing Shan improved.

They knocked glasses.

The young military man was purposefully trying to befriend him, and Gu Qing Shan stayed at the Fuxi Empire for quite long during the past life, so they easily mingled without any problems, quickly getting to know each other.

“The princess wanted me to openly challenge you to a duel”

The military man spoke a bit helplessly.

Gu Qing Shan instantly replied: “I’m a scientist, not a Professionalist”

The military man sighed: “That’s right, as a Professionalist, if I were to challenge a mental worker, I’ll be the laughing stock for months to come”

“Then what are you going to do now?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Of course I’m not going to fight, even if the princess will sulk later, I can’t bully a person such as you” the military man said.

“I respect your decision; power shouldn’t be used to bully the weak” Gu Qing Shan praised him.

“No need, no need” the young military man felt a bit embarrassed.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly changed the subject: “Pardon me asking but, what position do you hold?”

The young military man puffed out his chest: “I am a royal guard”

Gu Qing Shan seems impressed: “Ah, so that’s it”

In Fuxi, only descendants from family lines with absolute loyalty to the royal bloodline are allowed to become a royal guard.

Becoming a royal guard is an honor and privilege, a symbol of status that represents the Emperor’s dignity.

It’s exactly because of his outstanding origin that this young military man is silently allowed by multiple sides to get close to and date the princess.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and asked: “Your daily job as a guard must be quite easy huh”

“It truly is easy, but even if just for show, we still have to stand at the Emperor’s sides as his guards” the military man answered.

Gu Qing Shan and the young military man both laughed.

The Holy Empire's king is a Casanova, the Confederate's President is voted from the citizens, both of them aren't necessarily powerful people by themselves.

But the Fuxi Emperor is a globally recognized powerhouse.

Most Professionalists in the world can't even hurt him.

Why would such a powerful person need guards?

Gu Qing Shan poured the other party another glass.

"A toast to your powerful Emperor" he said.

"To His Majesty" the military man followed.

They once again downed the entire glass.

This is a very strong type of liquor, but Gu Qing Shan is already used to it so he didn't show much reaction.

The young military man on the other hand was a bit flushed, already feeling tipsy after a few consecutive shots.

Chapter 310

In the banquet hall, the uplifting music was still being played.

Everyone was happily eating, drinking, dancing, making merry.

A banquet followed by a ball created a joyful and welcoming atmosphere, enough for everyone here to drown in it.

Gu Qing Shan topped off his own glass as well as the young military man's once again.

They were still drinking.

"His Majesty seems to be in high spirits lately" Gu Qing Shan commented.

The military man undid the top button on his shirt and agreed: "That's true, before we came to the palace here, His Majesty managed to catch a lot of prey during the most recent annual hunt. He's been in high spirits since then"

Gu Qing Shan smiled: "He came with all of you, surely?"

The military man looked a bit uncomfortable but still answered: "During that hunt, His Majesty didn't allow us to come with him, saying that too many people will scare away the prey and it wouldn't be fun"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "So His Majesty doesn't like to have people going hunting with him huh?"

"That's not it, only during the most recent time did he suddenly have an impulse and forbid us from following"

"He must've had a great time" Gu Qing Shan commented.

"That's for sure, when he returned he was still smiling"

Gu Qing Shan started contemplating.

“Hmph, not only did you not challenge him, but you’re standing here chatting with him as well, huh?” a female voice came.

They turned back to see that it was Her Highness the princess.

The princess angrily glared at the military man, then turned to run away.

“Sorry about this” the young military man apologized.

“No worries” Gu Qing Shan generously waved his hand.

The military man quickly ran after the princess.

“Hunting alone...” Gu Qing Shan muttered in a low voice.

According to Empress Varona’s words, the Emperor is currently completely different from before.

Varona herself had to stay up for several nights playing cards just to protect herself.

If the Emperor notices that she has noticed something amiss, he would definitely silence her.

And the problem probably started during the hunt.

Gu Qing Shan sat alone in a corner, slowly sipping his drink.

Of course, whenever the young and mature ladies came to invite him for a dance, he wouldn’t refuse them.

Whenever the national celebrities came up to talk, he would accompany them in a few interesting conversations.

He had completely melded into the party, easily becoming part of Fuxi high-society.

He slowly passed the time until the banquet ended.

Midnight.

The music was over, most guests had already left, the banquet had reached its end.

So many people were drunk enough that they had to be carried to a nearby guest room.

Gu Qing Shan was also provided a room to rest.

He stood firmly in the room, releasing his inner sight to cover the entire palace.

Some young aristocrats had gathered into a few living rooms to continue drinking and chatting.

The young military man and the Fuxi princess were also there.

They still had strength to spare and continued to enjoy themselves.

None of them noticed as Gu Qing Shan’s inner sight passed through.

The palace conference room, the lights were on.

Despite it being midnight, the Emperor was still discussing some matters with his close aides.

In the gambling room, the ladies were still playing cards.

The Empress played a card: "5 of diamonds"

Another lady smiled: "Five Straight – I win"

The Empress commented: "I can't believe I lost that much today"

It was now that Gu Qing Shan's voice came.

The Empress put down her cards and stood up: "I'm a bit hungry, you ladies can go to the kitchen and pick out your favorite food, let us have a midnight snack before we continue"

"Thank you, Your Highness" the ladies also stood up and bowed.

Usually such a small matter can be left to the maids.

But the fact that the Empress had them go pick out their own favorite food is also a show of closeness and bonding.

Not to mention, it's fine to play cards, but some etiquette and rules must still be followed without fail.

The three ladies were led by the maids to come to the kitchen.

"You're all dismissed as well, let me have a silent moment of my own" the Empress ordered.

Her personal maids also retreated from the room.

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The gambling room became silent.

Then came Gu Qing Shan's voice.

"Your Highness, now please tell me the exact situation"

The Empress quickly spoke to thin air: "The other day, after His Majesty returned from the hunt by himself, he was completely different"

"I could tell right away that he wasn't the same, but since he didn't have any wounds, and his power as a top-level fighter didn't wane, I thought nothing of it"

"Does he know that you are aware?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I've managed to keep my actions the same as before, not showing anything out of the ordinary"

"But afterwards, when his words and actions became more and more different than how he usually acts, I knew that something was wrong"

"He's even willing to let me play cards like this because this way I won't be able to find out more of his secrets, and I will be temporarily safe"

"Temporarily? You think he'll kill you?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The Empress showed an expression of firmness, and answered: "After he's finished with his preparations, he will definitely come to kill me"

"But why?"

"As his spouse, I know his secrets better than anyone, I am his only weakness"

"You mean your desires and his are different?"

"That's correct. I simply want to maintain the stability of the Empire, but he wants even more"
The Empress continued: "I will become an obstacle to his ambition"

Gu Qing Shan suddenly asked: "Do you know where the Fuxi crown is?"

The Empress was a bit surprised, asking: "There are three crowns, which one are you asking about"

"The one that is engraved with a jewel from space in the middle"

"Both the Emperor's crown and scepter are managed by me, so of course I know"

"I want the jewel in the crown, bring me the crown, and we'll leave right away"

"You can save me?" the Empress asked.

Her expression was still firm: "Although I've heard from Anna about how miraculous you are, if you aren't truly able to, there is no need to arbitrarily try and save me. Otherwise, once an unexpected situation arises, you will die as well"

"Why care about my life or death?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"If there was no hope at all, it would be better off that I'm the only one who dies" the Empress' tone was calm, as if she has already thought things through.

"Why?"

"Your death will affect Anna greatly. Right now, she is currently at the most important moment of her life, her mental state absolutely cannot be distorted in any way" the Empress explained, "she is our Medici clan's final hope"

"And so, if you aren't completely sure, there's no need to worry about my life or death, just find a chance to get away and tell her about the truth later"

Gu Qing Shan felt a sense of respect.

"As long as I want to save you, there's no one that can stop me" he answered.

Suddenly, a knock on the door, followed by a maid's voice.

"Come in"

Two maids came in, knelt down to greet her and said: "Your midnight meal has been prepared, the three ladies are waiting for you, sire"

The Empress responded: "I'm suddenly not hungry anymore, let them start eating, after that we'll return to our game"

“Understood”

The maids exchanged looks, then backed down.

The Empress sat there, waited for a while, then stood up and went out of the room using another door.

She kept going until she finally went into another room.

“Return” she ordered.

“Yes, Your Highness” two royal guards responded.

They bowed, carefully backed out and slowly closed the door.

The Empress went to a wall and opened a secret compartment.

Inside, the Sun Moon Bloodgem Fuxi crown silently sat.

Next to it was a scepter.

As the Empress saw the scepter, her eyes showed shock and fear.

The Fuxi Empire’s Royal Scepter is forged from pure gold, the head of the Scepter is a human skull, positioned so that it stares forward.

The skull belongs to the first Emperor of the Fuxi Empire.

At the moment of his death, the first Emperor had ordered for his head to be combined with the scepter, cast in pure gold to pass on to every Emperor that followed as the scepter of power.

This is meant to represent that although he’s already passed, he’s still always watching his descendants, judging if they are ruling as appropriate monarchs.

But now, the pure gold scepter was still here, but the first Emperor’s skull was nowhere to be seen.

“Did you know about this?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I didn’t” the Empress answered.

“Could it be the Emperor took it without telling you?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“These things have always been under my jurisdiction, he——”

The Empress held down her emotions and took the crown.

She tried to not pay attention to the scepter.

Because this was too eerie.

Why would someone not take the entire scepter, but only the first Emperor’s skull?

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Gu Qing Shan’s inner sight scanned the golden scepter.

At the point where the skull used to be connected to the scepter, the metal was cut clean enough that it's still shiny. Clearly it was carefully cut with a very sharp tool.

——-who would leave behind a pure gold scepter just to steal a dead man's skull?

The sense of unease Gu Qing Shan had from before was becoming stronger and stronger.

Even without the Emperor as the most formidable fighting power, the palace's tight defense still wasn't anything to joke about.

Unless you're a world-class powerhouse, you aren't going to be able to sneak into the palace.

Not to mention, you would also have to know the entire layout of the palace defenses, avoid being detected by the powerful Emperor AND know where the Empress kept these items.

Of all the world-class powerhouses, who would spend so much effort specifically just to steal the Fuxi Empire's first Emperor's skull?

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

This is no longer a simple conflict between the Emperor and Empress.

He has decided to personally step in.

"Your Highness, the Emperor has gathered his officials and is currently in the conference room, please bring the crown to the Emperor and place it on the large table there" Gu Qing Shan told her.

"Understood, I'll go now"

The Empress didn't quite understand why, but replied.

She held the crown in both hands and stepped out.

"Come men, guard me" the Empress ordered.

The two royal guards outside gestured.

18 royal guards suddenly appeared without a sound from around.

A total of 20 guards followed the Empress to where the Emperor is.

The conference room.

The Fuxi Emperor was standing in the middle, talking to his close aides.

The door opened.

The Empress came in with his crown.

"What is this?" the Fuxi Emperor squinted his eyes and asked.

The Empress smiled and replied: "I was afraid you would forget, tomorrow will be your meeting with representatives from the Holy Empire and the Confederate, don't forget to wear the crown"

The Emperor smiled back and replied: "You know me well"

The Empress placed the crown on the table behind the Emperor and spoke: "I'll go back to my card game now"

"Go ahead"

The Empress curtsied, gracefully exiting the conference room.

The Emperor looked at her back leaving, a bit unfocused.

"Where were we?" he asked.

"Your Majesty, we were talking about summoning all the officials to the palace villa" an older official replied.

"Ah, that's right, summon everyone, I have a need for them" the Emperor said.

The crown sat silently behind him on the table, next to a few royal stamps.

Time slowly passed.

The night deepened.

The Emperor finally finished with his matter.

His aides dismissed themselves.

The conference room door closed.

The Emperor just stood there alone, quietly thinking about something.

On the table behind him, Gu Qing Shan's inner sight lightly passed through.

One of the stamps on the table suddenly disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan appeared where the stamp originally was.

Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift].

[Within the range of your inner sight, you can change places with anything or anyone]

Gu Qing Shan stood on the table.

He extended his hand.

The crown lightly floated up and into his hand.

His other hand grabbed the air, holding the Earth Sword.

Gu Qing Shan held a crown in one hand, a sword in another, silently standing on the table.

He didn't make any sounds, only silently stood watching the Emperor's back.

One breath.

Two breaths.

Three breaths.

The Emperor still didn't react at all.

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed.

Even if he's concealing his presence, the Emperor shouldn't be like this at all.

The Emperor emitted a powerful presence unique to 5th stage Professionals, but hadn't managed to notice him.

A powerful person should be paying constant attention to their surroundings.

This was the most basic form of caution.

—yet the current Emperor is acting like someone without any fighting experience at all.

Gu Qing Shan's thoughts moved, suddenly recalling something that happened before.

Sea Emperor Li Dong Yuan was sent flying by a single sword strike.

As the Supreme General of the Confederate Navy, the Sea Emperor and the Fuxi Emperor didn't have anything in common.

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But one of them couldn't even tell a feint from a real attack, and the other didn't even notice that someone had approached them from behind.

Just what is going on?

This had nothing to do with any calamity or the Apocalypse.

No calamity could ever change a person like this.

Gu Qing Shan stared closely at the Emperor, feeling an unseen shadow that he couldn't get rid of no matter what he tried.

He hadn't been through anything like this in both lives.

Most of his attention and effort was placed on the cultivation world during the past life, since he entered the game half a year later than everyone else, without desperate and mindless cultivation, he wouldn't have managed to catch up.

Later on when he became the national guild supreme commander, he was busy with the war situation almost every day, sometimes he met a few top brass political leaders, but had very little contact with them otherwise.

One thing he's sure of is that humanity's top brass has never had a problem.

Even the Frost Calamity didn't affect humanity's top brass like this.

And the Frost Calamity was already the last Apocalypse to arrive.

Then, during this life, who or what is orchestrating all of this?

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan's phone vibrated very lightly.

The Emperor moved.

No matter how careless he was, as a powerful 5th stage Professionalist, he would at least be able to feel that much.

But it's too late.

Gu Qing Shan disappeared from the table, appearing behind the Emperor.

[Ground Shrink]

Gu Qing Shan docked him with the hilt of his sword.

The Earth Sword finely controlled itself to exert the least bit of force necessary.

The Emperor instantly collapsed and fell unconscious.

Gu Qing Shan took out his phone.

"What is it?" he asked.

[Tang Jun! It's regarding Tang Jun! I feel that his death isn't just a murder anymore, so I have to tell you] Liao Xing was breathing heavily.

"Speak" Gu Qing Shan said.

[Tang Jun had been providing the President with clones to help him survive assassination attempts, but he was once kidnapped by the Fuxi Empire!]

Gu Qing Shan's heart jumped.

So that's what it was!

No wonder the President managed to go through so many assassinations attempts without dying.

It was his clones that died for him!

So this is the method that the President has been using to fight against the 9 Lords' assailants.

"What are the characteristics of clones?" Gu Qing Shan quickly asked.

[Memories! The hardest part about human cloning have always been memories, the clone's memories will definitely have a problem!] Liao Xing answered.

Gu Qing Shan didn't hesitate and placed his hand on the Emperor's head.

Soul Reading!

After a while, Gu Qing Shan pulled his hand back.

He was stunned in place and didn't even react when the Empress came in through the door.

The Empress was surprised when she saw the unconscious Emperor.

"That easily?" the Empress asked.

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "Take a careful look at him to see if he's really the Emperor"

The Empress sat down and seriously began to check.

She muttered: "It looks exactly like him, but I feel that this isn't really him"

Gu Qing Shan understood.

Just now when he used Soul Reading, he found the Emperor's memories to be extremely fragile, breaking apart as soon as the spell started to work.

The Soul Reading technique has a dangerous drawback of easily causing the one being read to either lose their minds, or become retarded.

In other words, after having Soul Reading used on him, the Emperor became a literal fool.

Gu Qing Shan wasn't able to pull any valuable intelligence from him.

The Empress carefully lifted the Emperor as a green light glowed in her hand.

She was a Medici clan woman who awakened the Wood Element.

She placed her hand softly on the Emperor's forehead.

"Braindead, incurable" the Empress spoke.

They fell silent.

One of the strongest Professionalists in the world, the monarch of the Fuxi Empire, died. Just like that.

He was easily knocked down and died in his own conference room.

"There's a problem with the Emperor's memories" Gu Qing Shan spoke.

"Now that you mention it, I also recall that he was a bit forgetful during the past 2 days" the Empress mumbled.

"Did you get a doctor to see him?"

The answer was already clear, but Gu Qing Shan asked anyways.

"I did, but the doctor said he was absolutely fine" the Empress answered.

"May be it's a genetic-level problem?"

"The Fuxi Empire have basically no genetic experts, the only one I know of is your Confederate's Professor Tang Jun"

"Tang Jun huh..."

Gu Qing Shan sighed, already arrived at his conclusion.

That is to say, the Fuxi Emperor had been using a clone to replace himself.

Then, where did his real self go?

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The Emperor was still limp on the ground, unmoving.

The conference room was completely lit up and silent.

The Empress appeared a bit confused, but more so angry.

Gu Qing Shan stood on one side, recalling everything that happened lately.

He once again recalled a certain person.

The Confederate's Sea Emperor, Li Dong Yuan, just like the Fuxi Emperor, he couldn't even take one of my attacks.

Even with the highest level of cloning technology capable of replicating someone down to even their strength, it still had a flaw.

This flaw is memory.

If a Professionalist's memories are messed up, their experience with using their power, including the countless battles they've been through will also be messed up.

As a Professionalist, having immense strength yet not knowing how to control it would result in a lot of openings in battle.

And sometimes, even the smallest opening can result in death.

"Sea Emperor..." Gu Qing Shan muttered.

So the Fuxi Emperor's scheme, whatever it is, had already reached the top brass of the Confederate.

What exactly is he planning?

Gu Qing Shan contemplated, then decided that preventing the problem from occurring is still the best choice.

"Impartial Goddess, contact the Martial Saint, tell him your deductions. The President might be in danger, have him be on a lookout" Gu Qing Shan said.

[Very well sir] Impartial Goddess said.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

A sound suddenly came from outside the conference room.

Someone is knocking at the door.

Gu Qing Shan and the Empress exchanged glances.

"What is it?" the Empress raised her voice.

"This old servant has something to report, sire" the person outside spoke.

“His Majesty and I are currently discussing something, you can be dismissed for now, we’ll talk tomorrow” the Empress spoke.

“Understood”

The sound disappeared.

But there was no sound of footsteps.

The people are still standing outside.

They never left.

The Empress’ expression changed, couldn’t help but retreating one step back.

Gu Qing Shan just released his inner sight to check.

He saw two officials standing outside the door, exchanging glances.

They were emitting powerful energy waves.

“Two 5th stage Professionalists!”

The Empress felt the waves from outside and spoke in a low voice.

She glanced at Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan nodded, confirming her thoughts.

A single 5th stage Professionalist is already a rare powerhouse.

Where did two 5th stage suddenly come from?

“Open the door”

Gu Qing Shan point his sword downward and said.

The Empress hesitated, but came up to open the door anyways.

Two familiar faces appeared in front of her.

They are both old officials of the Empire, never cultivated a single day in their lives.

But at this very moment, both of them emitted powerful Elementalist power, confirming their identities as the powerful Professionalists she felt from before.

The two officials were also surprised.

They didn’t think the other party would really open the door.

Maybe there aren’t any problems after all?

Gu Qing Shan suddenly disappeared.

He reappeared again behind one of the officials, docking him with the hilt of his sword.

The man instantly collapsed and fell unconscious.

The other official reacted, raising his hand to release power.

But the sword had already flashed right in front of his eyes.

Fast!

The official summoned forth his power to create a golden brown colored light to block in front of himself.

Bam!

The strike suddenly turned sideways, squarely striking him in his palm.

— — — *what, why such a soft strike?*

As the official was still thinking, pain came from behind his neck.

His eyes darkened as he collapsed.

Secret Art, [Swallow Return].

When he attacks with his sword, an identical sword strike will come from behind.

Gu Qing Shan stowed away his sword and pulled them both into the conference room.

The Empress quickly closed the doors.

“Can you identify them?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“They’re both close aides of the Emperor, but they are definitely not the original them” the Empress said.

She looked at Gu Qing Shan and explained further: “They are supposed to only be normal people”

“Then I won’t hold back” Gu Qing Shan nodded.

He placed his hand on one of their foreheads.

Soul Reading.

The man’s head exploded right away.

Failed Soul Reading!

Gu Qing Shan placed his hand on the other person’s head as well.

Just like the Emperor, this one also became braindead.

“They’re both clones” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

However, this time he finally managed to see a short blurry scene.

Among a sea of white mist, the Fuxi Emperor held a golden skull in hand, walking forward.

The first Fuxi Emperor's skull.

"All of you shall temporarily take over the country for me" the Fuxi Emperor said.

Another voice asked: "What if we're found out?"

The Fuxi Emperor didn't bother to turn around and only answered: "Buy as much time as you can, it's fine even if we're found out, I've already arranged everything properly, what's to come will soon come" "Facing such unrivalled power, the fate of humanity has already been sealed"

His tone of voice carried a hint of sorrow, but more excitement and enthusiasm.

The Emperor walked into the sea of mist and gradually disappeared.

The memory ended here.

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

Although he only managed to get this very short memory, he had already managed to confirm 70-80% of the truth.

Who else knows about this?

I should probably check the royal guards as well.

"I'll clean this place up a bit, please call two guards in here" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Alright"

Knowing that the situation isn't quite normal, the Empress instantly complied.

She came out and quickly went back in with two guards.

The sword flashed.

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The two guards were knocked unconscious.

Gu Qing Shan glanced at them to see that they were only 3rd stage Professionals.

He used Soul Reading once again.

This time, he very easily got their memories.

"These two guards are normal" Gu Qing Shan said, "the Emperor's and the officials' memories were very quick, very unstable"

"Do you think the Emperor is alive?" the Empress asked.

"Yes he is, the real Emperor might be doing something else" Gu Qing Shan said vaguely.

After all, they've been husband and wife for a long time, he can't tell for sure what the Empress' attitude would be.

The Empress' tone was cold: "Just now, the two of them held killing intent towards me, did you notice?"

As a Professionalist herself, she is very sensitive to such a thing.

Gu Qing Shan hesitantly nodded.

The Empress didn't shed a tear and spoke without changing her expression: "If that is what he arranged, then the last bit of feelings I have left for him should also be broken off"

"Very decisive and very wise, let's get out of here now" Gu Qing Shan said.

The Empress was a bit surprised, but quickly understood.

——who knows how many accomplices these people have?

Two random scouts sent out were already 5th stage Professionalist, who knows what their true strength would be like.

When they were about to leave, a banging sound came.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Someone was knocking on the door again.

"What is it?" the Empress asked.

"What is it?" the Empress raised her voice.

"We have something to report, sire" the person outside spoke.

From the sound of it, there were 4 people.

"His Majesty and I are currently discussing something, you can be dismissed for now, we'll talk tomorrow" the Empress spoke.

"Understood"

The sound disappeared.

There was no sound of footsteps.

The people were still standing outside, not leaving.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to check and found they were four 5th stage Professionalists this time.

The Empress looked at Gu Qing Shan and hurriedly asked: "What do we do now?"

Gu Qing Shan answered: "I probably can't hold back anymore"

——it won't be easy to just knock them unconscious this time.

Four 5th stage Professionalists, even if they have no fighting experience, the sheer destruction they're capable of causing is something to fear

And this battle has to not alert anyone.

If they drew even more enemies here, the situation will very quickly worsen.

He can only make sure the battle ends quickly by not holding back.

The Empress confirmed: "Kill them all"

"Very well"

Gu Qing Shan equipped the [Ace Assassin] title.

He signaled to the Empress.

The Empress suddenly laughed and yelled: "You still haven't left? His Majesty orders you to quickly get in here, report what you need to and scam"

The four people at the door could only exchange glances.

Perhaps, everything really is ok?

"Open the door" one of them whispered.

Another opened the door.

At the same time.

Gu Qing Shan disappeared where he stood.

The black sword shadows bloomed, exploded in the middle of the 4 people.

Three of them died instantly.

"You——" one of them luckily managed to escape, roaring as he retreated.

A white crescent moon appeared, followed by his voice disappearing.

Intense sword qi spun around to form a hurricane that went along the palace hallway.

Fresh blood was blown by the wind pressure created by the sword, painting the gorgeous hallway into a blood-soaked one.

Severed hands and feet littered around.

Gu Qing Shan reappeared.

He swung the Earth Sword and shook off all the blood.

[Confirmed instant kill, spirit energy returned]

[Confirmed instant kill, spirit energy returned]

[Confirmed instant kill, spirit energy returned]

Gu Qing Shan's spirit energy was full again.

Stepping lightly, Gu Qing Shan quickly returned to the conference room.

The Empress looked at the scene outside and trembled for a bit.

She suddenly asked: "How did such a person like you remain anonymous?"

"I'm a renowned scientist" Gu Qing Shan answered.

The Empress sighed and asked: "Will we just keep defending like this?"

"Of course not, this is too passive" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He thought for a bit, then asked: "That time when the Emperor came out to hunt on his own, where was that?"

"Ridden Cloud Valley" the Empress answered.

Gu Qing Shan's heart sank.

Then it's confirmed.

The Apocalypse was about to begin.

"I have to go there immediately to check it out" Gu Qing Shan said.

"What about me? What about my daughter? What are we going to do when you leave?" the Empress hurriedly asked.

"I'm going to contact a trustworthy partner and have him protect you. Of course, if you're willing to pay the price, he'll be very willing to work hard"

"What kind of price?" the Empress clenched her fists and asked.

"Money" Gu Qing Shan spat out a word.

The Empress sighed from relief.

For the Fuxi royal line, money is always the thing that's worth the least.

"Then we have a deal" she said.

"I need your approval for them to fly to the palace villa" Gu Qing Shan said.

"As long as they have my email invitation, they won't be stopped" the Empress nodded.

"Time is a bit tight, so I need you to put down the no-flight zone so they can land directly in front of the palace villa"

"Then I'll need the master control, but once I use it, the entire palace's defense system will be notified"

"Do it immediately, I'll contact my partner" Gu Qing Shan answered.

He took out his Holo-Brain and contacted Zhang Ying Hao.

[What is it?] Zhang Ying Hao asked.

"I have a job for you" Gu Qing Shan replied.

[What job?]

“Protecting an important figure”

[Dude, my place is a hitman firm, not a security company] Zhang Ying Hao sighed and retorted.

“Then I have different job for you” Gu Qing Shan continued.

[Say it]

“Kill everyone that gets close to the target”

[...]

Chapter 313

[...Alright fine, how’s the pay? Wait a minute, you’re not going to make me work for free again are you? I have a lot of mouths to feed over here] Zhang Ying Hao complained.

“Money isn’t a problem” Gu Qing Shan answered.

[Who’s so generous?] Zhang Ying Hao asked suspiciously.

“The Fuxi Empire royalty”

[What a big client indeed] Zhang Ying Hao whistled, [I’ll bring my men over right now, give me the address]

“Fuxi Empire, the desert palace villa”

[Is today April’s Fools or something? That’s the Fuxi Emperor’s turf, according to my sources, he’s currently there on vacation, you want me to protect him?]

“No, I killed him, you’re here to protect the Empress]

[You kill him!? You killed the Fuxi Emperor!!?]

Zhang Ying Hao exclaimed in shock.

“It’s not the real him, just a clone”

Zhang Ying Hao noticed how serious the situation was and lowered his voice.

[Who do you want me to protect?]

“Her Highness the Empress”

[I need the authorization to pass that air-space]

“I’ll have it sent to you immediately, first have Liao Xing warp you to the Fuxi desert, then quickly come here, the situation is very complicated, bring the best men you can”

[I’ll be there right away!]

They hung up.

When Gu Qing Shan wanted to say something to the Empress again, another knock came from the door.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

“What is it?” the Empress calmly asked.

“We have something to report, sire” the person outside responded.

From the sound of it, there seems to be a few dozens of them.

They all emitted a powerful presence.

Their tone carried a sense of impatience and killing intent.

Evidently, they noticed something was wrong.

They were also very worried.

The Empress paled.

There’s no end to killing them.

Gu Qing Shan held the Earth Sword and walked to the door.

“Come in” he said.

The door opened.

Gu Qing Shan circulated all his spirit energy and struck with his full power.

Secret Art, Torrent.

This was a powerful Secret Art he took from another world’s cultivator.

Millions of sword phantoms turned into an overwhelming torrent, crashing through the door.

In a single moment, the people outside were hit by the countless sword phantoms, swept away by the deadly torrent and crashed into the wall at the end of the corridor.

The wall collapsed.

The torrent of sword phantoms kept going, passing through the oasis, only stopped when it finally reached the desert.

The flesh and blood of the victims were literally swept away by the torrent of sword phantoms.

Gu Qing Shan pulled his sword back, commenting: “We won’t be fooling anyone else with such commotion, prepare to face the enemy”

A green light came from the Empress’ hand into the corridor.

Wood Element, Vitality Absorption.

Very quickly, all the blood and severed limbs littered around were absorbed by the green light.

It turned into a small beautiful flower before flying back into the Empress' hand.

The Empress put the flower away.

From afar, voices could be heard.

“What happened!?”

“Run quick, many people died just now!” a high-pitched female voice screamed.

“Everybody follow me”

“Where is the Empress?”

“Protect His Majesty!” someone shouted.

Within the chaos, a stern voice suddenly shouted.

“No need to come! I am right here!”

All the voices stopped.

Because it was the Emperor's voice!

All the royal guards followed the voice and quickly gathered around the Emperor.

“Everybody follow me to the conference room!”

The Emperor's voice echoed across the corridors.

Hearing the voice, Gu Qing Shan and the Empress exchanged looks.

It's too late to run now, so they both wanted to see just who's coming here.

A few seconds later, a group of people came to the bloody corridor.

They were led by a stern Fuxi Emperor wearing his royal garb.

A few dozen royal guards followed behind.

The prince and princess walked behind the crowd, but were still following them.

As soon as the Emperor saw Gu Qing Shan, he pointed at him and shouted: “Arrest him!”

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and scanned the Emperor, then at the large table behind him.

The unconscious Emperor is still hidden below the table.

Two Emperors were in the conference room at the same time!

Following the Emperor's order, another group of royal guards quickly came flooding from the corridor into the room.

These royal guards are all either 3rd or 4th stage, normal humans.

The royal guard that drank with him before was also there.

Gu Qing Shan felt his head hurt a bit.

All the officials who came just now were all 5th stage Professionalist, they were either obviously clones or had clear bad intentions so he didn't mind killing them.

But these guards are innocent.

Once he acts, Gu Qing Shan won't hold back.

—these before that, he doesn't want to casually murder the weak and innocent.

The Empress felt herself becoming mad and held on to Gu Qing Shan's shoulder, asking: "Is this real? Just how many clones does he have?"

Gu Qing Shan contemplated, then raised the Earth Sword and put it at her neck.

He looked at the group of royal guards and shouted: "If you come any closer, I will kill the Empress!"

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All the guards were stopped dead in their tracks.

Her Highness the Empress was caught so no one wanted to act carelessly.

They all turned to look at the Emperor.

The Fuxi Emperor was a bit stunned at first, but then his face was filled with rage.

He shouted: "That Empress is a fake, I order you to kill both of them!"

The guards hesitated.

While they were still hesitating, the princess pulled the prince through the group of guards and came forward.

"No, that's not a fake, that's really mother!" the princess yelled loudly.

"Ridiculous! You dare to doubt my words!?" the Emperor glared back.

"It's really mother, I recognize her gestures and physique, I know that's mother, no one do anything rash" the princess was on the verge of crying.

"You're mistaken. Get up there and kill them!" the Emperor ordered.

The Empress coldly laughed: "Guards, listen to my orders, kill this bastard that dares to impersonate the Emperor"

All the guards were confused without end.

Gu Qing Shan swung his hand and pushed the large table behind him away.

An unconscious body appeared in front of everyone.

The Fuxi Emperor!

Gu Qing Shan put down the sword at the Empress' neck and pointed at the Emperor in the corridor.

"You're a fake" he said.

"I'm a fake?" the Emperor laughed.

He released his full power, enough to make the entire palace shake.

Gu Qing Shan's hand moved.

In that moment, the Earth Sword turned into a blurred shadow, weaving through the layers of royal guards to attack the Emperor.

"Fool!"

A layer of light appeared from the Emperor's hand and struck at the Earth Sword.

Bam!

With a dull impact, the Earth Sword was stopped.

This was the 5th stage power of the Earth Element – All Things Collapse!

"Just with—" before he could say anything else, his voice was stopped.

5 threads of blood appeared on his body.

The Emperor's body then exploded into a mist of blood and collapsed.

Gu Qing Shan opened his palm as the Earth Sword came back, floating next to him.

[Sword Manipulation]

[Secret Art, Silver Star]

"How unfortunate, you can't even receive a small bit of my power, so you must be fake" Gu Qing Shan spoke.

"Did you see that? Would the real Emperor be such a weakling?" the Empress raised her voice.

All the royal guards exchanged looks.

That's very true. They've all seen the Emperor's might, he wasn't such a weakling.

"Please forgive us, Your Highness"

The royal guards all knelt down.

The prince and princess both rushed into the conference room and came to the Empress.

"Mother, what happened here?" the young prince asked.

"Someone tried to impersonate your father to destroy the Fuxi Empire from within, but he's caught now" the Empress explained simply.

"Men, gather all the royal guards" she ordered.

“Be careful!” Gu Qing Shan shouted.

The prince had taken out a sharp dagger, stabbing it at the Empress.

This happened so suddenly that no one managed to intervene in time.

Clang!

The Empress disappeared, replaced by Gu Qing Shan who blocked knocked the dagger away with his sword.

“Just who are you?” Gu Qing Shan questioned.

“Damn it, you ruined our grand plan” the prince begrudgingly said.

Gu Qing Shan raised his sword: “Tell us everything, then maybe you can leave with your life”

The prince flashed an eerie smile: “You want to know? Unfortunately, I’m not going to tell you”

“I will make you talk” Gu Qing Shan spoke in a low voice.

The prince looked at him mockingly and answered: “You won’t get a chance to, I’m going to leave right now, but I’ll be back”

Before Gu Qing Shan could do anything, the prince suddenly collapsed on the spot.

Gu Qing Shan rushed forward, prying the prince’s mouth opened.

Black blood flow from inside the prince’s mouth.

He committed suicide by poison.

Gu Qing Shan squinted at the body on the floor, muttering: “He’ll be back?”

The dead comes back to life, then it must be that event after all.

Gu Qing Shan’s expression changed completely.

If the prince refused to speak at all, or said something else, Gu Qing Shan would’ve had no lead.

But the prince had said such a thing in front of a returner.

Perhaps he thought that no one would know what he meant.

But Gu Qing Shan understood immediately.

The Frost Calamity.

It’s coming.

The Fuxi Emperor actually wanted to do such a thing!

Gu Qing Shan sighed and shook his head: “The end of the world is about to come...”

Humanity had no way to resist against the Frost Calamity.

Such a powerful person as the Fuxi Emperor could've used the power of an entire nation to fight against the calamity, but instead got lost in his own ambition.

To the fate of humanity as a whole, this is a very devastating strike.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly stopped moving.

Lines of glowing text appeared in front of his sight.

Gu Qing Shan was looking at the War God UI.

[The user has discovered the start of a calamity]

[An Apocalypse story Quest has appeared]

[Quest description: Using various hints and signals, the user concluded that a world-ending calamity is about to appear. Following this, the user must confirm his conclusion to be correct]

[Quest objective: The user must witness of the calamity with his own eyes]

[Quest reward: After the conclusion is confirmed, the user may use Soul Points to quicken the process of repairing the Chao Yin Sword]

[Note: Soul Points are the most fundamental power of all beings, power that comes from the origin of the soul. Using its versatility, you can quicken the process of repairing the Divine Armament]

Chapter 314

Gu Qing Shan stared at the War God UI, a bit surprised.

The War God UI issued a Quest in Reality.

“World-ending” ——for the Quest to have such a description; could it be even the War God UI feels that this is an unwinnable calamity?

But this Quest is exactly what Gu Qing Shan wanted.

No matter if it's repairing the Chao Yin Sword or discovering the truth of the calamity, they're both things Gu Qing Shan wanted to do.

Repairing the Chao Yin Sword was the first step of the sword saint Quest.

If he can regain the sword saint's power while still at Ascended early stage, he will become even stronger than he was in the past life.

Pulling his eyes away from the War God UI, he glanced around the conference room.

The princess was hugging the Empress, crying.

The officials and royal guards were quickly flooding the room.

Gu Qing Shan stopped them from approaching the Empress.

At the moment, these people aren't trustworthy.

Before Zhang Ying Hao gets here, this is the only way.

While quietly protecting the Empress, Gu Qing Shan was thinking of something else.

The Confederate's Navy Supreme General Li Dong Yuan was replaced by a clone.

Does the Fuxi Emperor have ambition towards the Confederate?

Gu Qing Shan quickly asked: "Impartial Goddess"

[I'm here sir] Impartial Goddess replied.

"Is the President still fine?"

[He's not connected to me, but his life signs are perfectly normal]

It was midnight right now, so the President is probably resting.

Gu Qing Shan relaxed a bit, asking: "What are the President's activities tomorrow?"

[It's today to be exact, there's 4 hours until dawn. The President will hold a speech on national television at 9 AM, to encourage everyone to participate in voting for the election]

"Where is the Martial Saint?"

[General Zhang Zong Yang is currently guarding the President's manor]

Gu Qing Shan was able to put his worry down.

The Martial Saint was able to notice his feint so he's probably not a fake.

With the Martial Saint's protection, the President's safety is mostly guaranteed.

In the conference room.

The Empress began giving out orders.

One by one, people began leaving the room following their orders.

Under the Empress' management, the palace villa quickly regained its high efficiency.

"Your Highness! There's a guest outside the palace requesting entry with your email, sire!" a royal guard reported.

"Let him in" the Empress ordered.

Zhang Ying Hao quickly appeared in the palace conference room.

"This is my business partner, Zhang Ying Hao, very trustworthy" Gu Qing Shan introduced them.

"I know you, the rebel of the 9 Lords, King of Assassins, nice to meet you"

The Empress extended her hand.

Zhang Ying Hao performed the hand kiss etiquette and spoke: "It's an honor to meet you, your Royal Highness"

The Empress went straight into the main issue: "The Empire's generosity is known across the land, so you won't have to worry about your payment, as long as you protect me and my daughter well"

Zhang Ying Hao smiled and respectfully bowed: "The Hunter Association moves by your will, Your Highness"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Where are your men?"

Zhang Ying Hao answered: "They're all here, I'll have them come in now ---as long as Her Highness permits"

"Let them in" the Empress replied.

Zhang Ying Hao took out his phone and contacted his subordinates.

While waiting, Gu Qing Shan brought Zhang Ying Hao to a corner to tell him everything from beginning to end.

Zhang Ying Hao gasped.

"A clone... even a Professionalist's powers can be cloned, that Tang Jun is really good" he muttered

"But their memories are a mess and without any fighting experience. Can your men handle protecting this place?" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Power without any substance is an assassin's favorite prey" Zhang Ying Hao confirmed it.

Gu Qing Shan patted his shoulder and said: "Then I'll leave this place to you, I need to go somewhere first"

"You're leaving?" Zhang Ying Hao was a bit shocked, "and here I thought we can finally fight side by side"

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"Next time, this time's situation is very severe, I have to go to a certain place to make sure of something" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Alright, then you can go, just leave this place to me" Zhang Ying Hao replied.

Gu Qing Shan turned to say goodbye to the Empress only to see that she was sitting on the Emperor's throne.

Many officials and royal guards were kneeling before her, waiting for their orders.

The Empress was still busy delegating people with emergency countermeasures.

The Empress very solemnly ordered: "Whoever disobeys orders are all moles, you may kill them on sight, got it?"

"Understood, Your Highness"

"Now leave"

"Yes"

The royal guards accepted their orders and left.

Her eyes were clear, her tone is keen and her orders are reasonable and decisive, everyone in the palace easily followed her without trying.

A few moments later.

A lot of people wearing sunglasses came into the conference room and stood by Zhang Ying Hao.

Zhang Ying Hao then began to delegate people to their posts.

One of them was a young girl who lowered her sunglasses to greet Gu Qing Shan.

It was the assassin Tong Tong.

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded to greet her back, then turned to go to the Empress.

“Your Highness, what are your plans following this?” he asked.

“He’s already gone mad, but I haven’t, I still want to save this country” the Empress calmly declared.

...

In the shadow of night.

Gu Qing Shan drove a shuttle heading to Ridden Cloud Valley.

Impartial Goddess didn’t manage to find anything in the locations within the Confederate, but Ridden Cloud Valley was the only origin point of the Calamity in Fuxi.

This is a national reserve, which also happened to be where the Emperor went to hunt by himself.

But there’s no such convenient coincidence in this world.

When Gu Qing Shan came, Ye Fei Li was already there waiting for him.

“When did you get here?” Gu Qing Shan asked first.

“When you told me to come, I was already on my way” Ye Fei Li answered.

“Very well, then let’s search around here first, if you hear anything, try to hear where the sound came from” Gu Qing Shan said.

He released the full range of his inner sight with his spirit energy.

“Why are we in so much of a hurry?” Ye Fei Li asked.

“It’s an emergency, we’ll split up to find it” Gu Qing Shan said.

“What are we looking for?”

“Any sort of anomalies, for example... ice”

“Ice? Alright”

The two of them started to search in the valley.

Since this is quite a large national reserve, various wild animals roamed the forest area, which made it suitable as a hunting ground.

It was night in the forest while the cold rain fell on them, there wasn't a single person in the forest.

A faint mist covered the entire forest despite the rain.

The mist didn't dissipate, instead it was following the forest winds, spreading and expanding outwards.

[Sir, satellites can't get a clear read on the ground] Impartial Goddess spoke.

"No matter" Gu Qing Shan answered, "we'll look for it ourselves"

He and Ye Fei Li braced the night rain, trekking across the forest.

Half an hour later.

Gu Qing Shan was standing next to a frozen lake.

The surface of the lake was covered by a thin mist, hiding anything below.

"Found it, come to me" Gu Qing Shan spoke to his Holo-Brain.

[Got it] Ye Fei Li hung up.

A few breaths later, a blood-red streak quickly arrived.

As the blood-red glow disappeared, Ye Fei Li showed himself.

"It's been completely frozen" he squinted his eyes.

Gu Qing Shan answered: "That's right"

Despite the thick layer of ice above, his inner sight was still able to penetrate below, discovering that there wasn't a single bit of water left in the lake.

It was completely frozen.

Chapter 315

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to investigate the ice lake, then silently nodded.

Yup, it's this place.

"There seems to be something in the lake" Ye Fei Li couldn't help but notice.

"Go" Gu Qing Shan said a single word.

Holding the Earth Sword in hand, he quickly walked towards the center of the lake.

Ye Fei Li followed behind.

They were walking on the frozen water surface.

As they came in, they were instantly covered in a thick mist, unable to see anything around themselves.

Impartial Goddess' voice came: [Sir, I've lost your coordinates]

"That's normal, there's no problem" saying so, Gu Qing Shan also couldn't help but sigh.

That's right, losing coordinates is a very normal thing ———in this layered subspace.

The bone-chilling frost started to creep up from below, as if trying to freeze them.

There was absolute silence, nothing but thick, whirling mist flowing around.

Ye Fei Li felt an unnatural chill: "I feel like there's something very abnormal about this place"

"Look at your feet" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"My feet?" Ye Fei Li muttered in confusion.

Suddenly, he could hear a few voices started speaking.

"What a rude living being"

"That's right, he almost stepped on me just now"

"I'll definitely chop off his head and eat through his flesh after I get out of here"

Ye Fei Li was stunned.

He slowly looked down at his feet.

"What the hell is this!" Ye Fei Li yelled.

Faces.

Countless faces.

Everywhere below the frozen surface, faces!

Faces pushing again one another, peeking out from below the ice, trying to get out.

Somewhere still very far below, a few have already managed to get their faces out of the ice.

But under the thick layer of ice, you could tell that their bodies were frozen solid.

Facing such a strange and eerie sight, Ye Fei Li felt a chill running up his spine.

Gu Qing Shan patted his shoulder and was going to say something, but the War God UI shined.

[The user has witnessed the Frozen Hell]

[The user has confirmed his own conclusion]

[Apocalypse Quest completed]

[Quest reward: When the user repairs the Chao Yin Sword, he can spend Soul Points to quicken the process]

These lines of text quickly disappeared after Gu Qing Shan read them.

A new notification started appearing on the War God UI in their stead.

[The Frost Calamity has appeared, signifying the world heading to its end]

[With humans alone, it's impossible to win against the dead from the Frozen Hell]

[Please continue to explore the frozen lake and gather more intelligence]

Gu Qing Shan's body moved, rushing to the middle of the lake.

“Wait for me!” Ye Fei Li yelled and quickly followed.

He doesn't want to stay alone at such a terrifying place.

Under his feet, countless faces below as well as above the frozen surface cursed as he ran past them.

A few moments later, Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li came to the middle of the lake.

There, they met a deep frozen crater.

On the pristine mirror-like icy surface, a large chunk of ice was missing.

Gu Qing Shan's heart sank.

That powerful dead person had already left.

So the Fuxi Emperor really did bring the skull to him.

“Strange, why is a chunk of ice missing here?” Ye Fei Li wondered.

“It left” Gu Qing Shan said.

He was sighing.

Before the war even began, a human powerhouse had already defected to become the enemy's guide.

“Impartial Goddess” Gu Qing Shan spoke.

[I'm here]

“Humanity is now on the verge of collapse; you have to use all your powers to look for certain thing” Gu Qing Shan said.

[Please tell me sir]

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“A block of ice, a large block of ice, perhaps it would shapeshift to become something else entirely different, but it's still fundamentally a block of ice”

Gu Qing Shan added: “Inside this block of ice is an extraordinary existence, once you found it, immediately tell me”

[Understood sir, from now on, I will do everything I can to search for it] Impartial Goddess replied.

At this time, a line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Under the Fuxi Emperor's effort, a powerful Monarch from the Frozen Hell has been revived]

[This Monarch has brought its subordinates and began to act, they will speed up the coming of this disaster, you must stop this]

[Quest objective: Stop the next steps of the Fuxi Emperor's plan, do everything to keep the stability of humanity, make sure as few people die as possible to slow the spread of the Frozen Hell]

[Quest reward: Reinforcement from Huang Quan shall come to the Human Realm, joining hands with humanity against the Frozen Hell] (1)

[Quest hint: When living beings die, death miasma will be produced, the more death miasma there is, the faster the spread of the Frozen Hell]

Gu Qing Shan quickly read through all the notifications.

He froze in place.

But a flash of hope quickly returned to his eyes.

Reinforcements!

There are reinforcements!

In the past life, before reinforcement were able to come, humanity had already reached its end as the world was destroyed.

At that time, it wasn't only the Frozen Hell, but numerous calamities had come one after another without any time to rest in between, finally ending with the collapse of the game.

Many factors contributed to the quick destruction of the world.

This time, I have to do everything I can to delay the eruption of the Frost Calamity!

"...Reinforcements... I wonder what kind of reinforcement it'll be..."

Gu Qing Shan silently contemplated.

Ye Fei Li stood next to him, irritated: "Just what are these monsters?"

"They are all dead people that came from the Frozen Hell of Huang Quan" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"This lake is hell?"

"No, this is nothing but a secluded spot on the tiniest branch of the Frozen Hell"

Ye Fei Li suddenly raised his leg and stomped on the face of a scary looking man.

The face didn't let out any screams of pain, only staring at him while smirking terrifyingly.

"They don't feel any pain" Gu Qing Shan continued.

"Then I'll kill it!"

Ye Fei Li put more force on his foot.

Bang!

He broke the frozen surface.

A few hundred people were able to escape the ice.

"A living being!"

"Eat him, gain more power!"

"Don't steal, I only need his soul!"

The dead people screeched, rushing to attack Ye Fei Li without minding the pieces of ice that's still left on their bodies.

The blood glow on Ye Fei Li's body moved, turning into a blood-red flowing torrent that enveloped all the dead people.

They writhed and turned, struggling to get away, but got swallowed up by the blood-red glow in the end.

Very quickly, all that remained of the dead people were their bones.

The blood torrent gradually disappeared.

The bones fell down.

"Although they've died once, their powers are nothing to fear" Ye Fei Li crossed his arms.

"That's not the case, the truly powerful dead have already left, all that's left are very ordinary dead people"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "It's a good chance to show this, look carefully at their remains"

When Ye Fei Li looked back, all the bones had already melted into the ice, quickly sinking.

But then, flesh started to grow back on the bones, the hundreds of corpses quickly regained their previous appearance.

Their faces reappeared below the frozen surface.

They opened their eyes.

All the dead people stared at Ye Fei Li.

On the receiving end of their eyes full of grudge, Ye Fei Li trembled for a bit.

"Once the Frozen Hell spreads all over the world, you will only be able to knock the dead down, unable to permanently kill them" Gu Qing Shan said.

Ye Fei Li's expression turned serious, asking: "Can we deal with this Frozen Hell?"

Gu Qing Shan smiled, but it was a very bitter smile.

"An entire world turned into hell, who can destroy that?"

He continued: "This is only the start, more importantly, according to records, humans have existed on this world for over 27,000 years"

"Do you know what that means?" he asked.

Ye Fei Li thought about for a bit, then turned pale.

He couldn't believe and tried asking: "All the dead people over the last 27,000 years will reappear on the human realm?"

"No, those who are in the Frozen Hell are all heinous criminals"

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "You can say that all of the most horrible and evil dead people over the past 27,000

years will be revived”

“Not just that, according to archeological research and confirmations, other civilizations used to exist in this world”

“Purely from archeological findings alone, there were at least 3 civilizations before us humans”

“The Giant Era, the Fiendkind Era, and an unconfirmed chaotic Era”

“All these monsters will awaken from their eternal slumber, returning to our world”

Note:

(1) Huang Quan and Human Realm: as explained before, these are 2 of the Six Paths of Reincarnation, the Human Realm is supposedly where we are, part of a larger journey. While Huang Quan is basically Hell, but much bigger, since it contains more than 1 hell.