Apocalypse 351

Chapter 351

Without any warning, Su Xue Er disappeared in front of everyone.

"This, this, what kind of situation is this!" Liao Xing jumped from shock, dashing straight to where Gu Qing Shan stood.

Carefully feeling the change in space, he exclaimed: "This isn't warp! Just how did she disappear!?"

Gu Qing Shan looked down at the blood-colored scroll in his hand.

A line of explanation appeared on the War God UI.

[A Moment of God's Lapse]

[Note: Automatic activation type high-ranked scroll, when an enemy is about to make a fatal attack, their mind will lapse, duration 3 seconds]

Unlike the others, Gu Qing Shan knew what he was holding.

This scroll must've come from a very powerful God's Chosen.

Regardless if it's a card, a scroll or any object that's made by a God's Chosen, only they themselves can use it.

Only extremely powerful God's Chosens are able to bestow their power for others to use.

And Su Xue Er managed to get such a God's Chosen scroll.

She also disappeared using the game login method just now.

---could it be, she just logged in to the game?

Gu Qing Shan's heart jumped a bit.

Unfortunately, Su Xue Er is already gone, travelled to another world.

Which world did she go to?

If it was before, Gu Qing Shan would assume that she obviously went to the cultivation world.

But from his increased insight, he now knows that there are many worlds that exist.

Which makes Su Xue Er's destination unknown.

Seems like I'll have to wait for her to return again before asking for specifics. From how hurried Su Xue Er seemed, she was definitely in a state of having no choice but to go to another world. She came back specifically to give me this scroll.

Gu Qing Shan felt warmth filling his insides.

He silently put the scroll away and explained to everyone else: "I probably know what happened just now, so you don't need to worry. The next time she returns, I'll confirm with her and explain to you"

"Does it have to do with cultivation?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"Pretty much, yeah" Gu Qing Shan glossed over this.

Right now, the existence of spirit energy is already almost too much for them to comprehend.

The fact that there are so many worlds would be a bit too shocking for them right now.

Especially Liao Xing, he's already half going crazy, muttering nonstop: "Science is doomed"

Gu Qing Shan decided to wait for a good opportunity before revealing everything.

Hearing that it has to do with spirit energy, they instantly understood.

After cultivation, they have started to understand a few things on their own.

Regardless if it's Ye Fei Li, Zhang Ying Hao or Liao Xing, as top-level characters, they naturally understand just how powerful this power is.

"So that's it, spirit energy is able to create formations, capable of instant transport between two points ——-you once told me this" Liao Xing recalled.

"That's right, when your cultivation is a bit higher, I'll give you the information regarding formations" Gu Qing Shan told him

"Good, very good!" Liao Xing regained his calm.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan silently exhaled.

It wouldn't be funny he accidentally drove Liao Xing insane.

"Hah... looks like there's no trouble, then let's keep drinking" Zhang Ying Hao spoke up.

He was already pouring a glass for himself.

Everyone silently sat down.

Gu Qing Shan spoke first: "Sorry about that, your door is probably broken now"

"It's fine" Zhang Ying Hao said.

Ye Fei Li asked: "Then what about Anna?"

"She's angry right now" Gu Qing Shan very calmly explained: "Any living person that provokes her now will probably be dead right away"

Everyone agreed with him, so no one brought up the topic again.

After the very first sip, Gu Qing Shan's Holo-Brain lit up again.

[Sir, good midnight. I'm sorry to bother you, but something urgent has come up] Impartial Goddess spoke.

"Tell me, there's already too many things happened in one night so one more won't bother me" Gu Qing Shan told her.

[A squad of 30 Professionists have been wiped out, please take a look at the battle recording] Impartial Goddess spoke.

A screen was projected.

30 Professionists were looking for dead people in a frozen river following a Confederate military official mission.

A flash of blue light erupted.

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An intense suction force appeared, pulling the Professionists into the air, stripping them of any chance of resistance as well as their own lives.

As they fell down, their bodies broke like ice statues.

"This is Unlife?" Ye Fei Li was a bit hesitant and asked.

"Yes, this is the 4th level power of Water Elementalists, Unlife" Gu Qing Shan confirmed.

"From the looks of it, that didn't take much effort at all" Zhang Ying Hao commented.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "When did this happen?"

Impartial Goddess answered: [Just now, during the cleanup process of a Confederate river, they were met with this unknown monster made of light]

Gu Qing Shan sighed then ordered: "Have the military retreat"

"Ye Fei Li, you're coming with me"

"Liao Xing, arrange for warp"

"Goddess, you arrange a shuttle prepared to receive us at the warp point"

"Zhang Ying Hao, you keep ensuring the Empress and the President's safety, contact me immediately if anything happens"

"We're moving out!"

Everyone went into action.

•••

Not too many people in this world can handle a combined assault by both Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li at the same time.

The battle lasted for only a moment.

After the blood glow attacked, a flying sword nailed the bunch of light to the ground.

From the sword, overwhelming sword qi assaulted the bunch of light nonstop, making intense sounds of impact.

The bunch of light screeched.

Then all the light disappeared and only a corpse was left.

Gu Qing Shan and Ye Fei Li landed next to the corpse.

Ye Fei Li asked: "This is the Fiendkind of another Era that you spoke about just now?"

Gu Qing Shan pulled the Chao Yin Sword back and answered: "It's a Fiendkind"

They stood in front of the creature's body, carefully observing it.

A Fiendkind's body isn't too different from a human, but has no features.

A chill drifted from the ice all over its body, while the body was releasing a corrosive foul stench of blood.

The corpse slowly sank down into the ice.

Such a monster was easily dispatched by the two of them without too much struggle.

"It didn't hesitate to attack humans, killing 30 Professionists in the blink of an eye, if every monster is like this, even I would feel a bit reluctant to take them on" Ye Fei Li sighed.

In the sky, two Mobile Mechs landed.

They cut off a block of ice that contains the monster's body and relocated it to a spaceship.

The monster will be thrown into space.

This was currently the only method to deal with the dead people that they could think of.

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "This is only a regular Fiendkind, the really strong Fiendkinds haven't appeared yet"

"Do they all look like that?"

"No, some Fiendkinds are made from the elements, but the really strong kind isn't made from water, but rather Wind, Lightning, Fire, Dark, these four elements"

"Are all Fiendkinds made from elements?"

"That's not the case, there are a few that even I don't know what they're made of" Gu Qing Shan sighed and continued: "Aside from that, there hasn't been a monster from the Giant Era and the Chaotic Era yet ——those are the real killing maniacs"

"That's really troublesome..." Ye Fei Li crossed his arms and looked worried.

Gu Qing Shan answered: "We'll have to make sure the bracelets are distributed to everyone as soon as possible, kicking off the age of cultivation. Then we'll unite all the nations, taking the chance when the Frozen Hell hasn't fully erupted yet to surround and cut off the monsters while we still can"

"Will that do anything?"

"I think it'll at least give us hope to survive"

"Then what are we waiting for, let's pick up Zhang Ying Hao and go to Fuxi Empire right now, the leaders of every nation are there, waiting for Empress Varona's coronation"

"Hm, let's go"

They ascended and flew towards the mountaintop mansion.

Gu Qing Shan silently looked at humanity's cities from afar.

It was now a bit over midnight, so it was mostly silent everywhere.

Although there were no sounds, it still had countless brilliant lights that illuminate the entire city, showing a booming atmosphere on earth.

Perhaps, this will be the last moment of peace for humanity.

Once the Frozen Hell fully descends, countless monsters of various shapes, sizes and strength will raid the cities.

If it's just that, Gu Qing Shan can still think of a way.

Encouraging humanity as a whole to band together, putting all their forces to possibly think of a way to deal with the Frozen Hell.

But there's a certain shadow hiding in Gu Qing Shan's mind that he just couldn't shake off.

Gu Qing Shan felt a sense of unease.

Because of an unconfirmed thought.

What if.

Asides from the Frozen Hell, the other Hells were to descend as well...

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TN: This chapter tackles the concept of time travel, kinda complicated

"You look worried, what is it?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"Nothing" Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

A guess is only a guess, there's no need to tell everyone.

However, it's essential to quickly increase my strength right now.

The mountaintop mansion.

Gu Qing Shan locked himself in his room.

The Chao Yin Sword was on his knee.

"Come" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The Chao Yin Sword let out a 'wu wu' sound and went into his body.

It flew into his Thought Sea, hovering next to the Earth Sword.

Gu Qing Shan observed it to make sure everything seemed normal.

Finally, he could completely place the Chao Yin Sword into his Thought Sea.

Almost at the same time, a notification popped up in Gu Qing Shan's vision.

[You've successfully stored two swords into your Thought Sea] [Sword saint awakening Quest 2: Like arms and legs (completed)] [Initiating Quest 3: Forged a hundred times over] [Quest objective: Manipulate two flying swords at once and train with all Sword Styles you know once]

Reading the Quest, Gu Qing Shan scowled a bit.

Not counting Secret Art, he knows over 1000 types of regular Sword Styles.

Even if he trains without rest, it will probably take a few days to finish this Quest.

He thought for a bit and asked: "System, my understanding of the sword has already exceeded that of my past life, can I awaken by myself without your help?"

[Ting]!

The System replied.

[These are the last memories of your past life that are still locked, if you're willing to give up these memories, converting them into energy, you can directly awaken without needing to go through the Quest method]

"The last memories... are they all Sword Styles? Or are there anything else important that I haven't remembered?"

[They are all Sword Styles] the System answered.

Gu Qing Shan calmed down a bit.

He asked: "How long do you estimate it will take to complete all the sword saint awakening Quests?"

[Remaining Quests: 98. With how strong you are; it will probably only take 2 months to fully complete]

98 Quests!

2 months!

Gu Qing Shan almost fell down from his own bed.

Sure, 2 months to be able to recover his cultivation as a sword saint is already very fast.

But that's not enough.

In Reality, the descent of Hell is already upon them.

In Shen Wu world, he's about to enter a never-before-seen world.

He doesn't have two months to wait!

The planet will have already gone cold by the time he had finished with all the Quests.

I need to become stronger right now!

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and asked: "Can't we arrange something? For example, I'll breakthrough again with my own power, then you give me back all the sword saint Sword Styles?"

The System answered very seriously: [This time only, you must not breakthrough on your own and finish the System's Quests before anything else]

"Why is that?"

[Because you once killed a Demonic God in the future timeline as a sword saint, that particular Demonic God at that exact moment became a turning point in destiny]

The System continued: [This turned into a mark that space-time put on you, once you lose this mark, something terrifying will happen]

"How does that work?"

[The timeline is only a measurement tool for space-time itself on the real world. When you travel from the future back to the past, the world of the future suddenly lost a unit of energy exactly your size] [But that is fine, since the world's Law had put that mark on you when you travelled back in time, using the mark as a way to keep track of you and recognize that you are still you]

[It will always leave a hole in the timeline for the unit of energy that is you, to guarantee that the real world's total amount of energy is preserved]

[But, if you happen to lose this mark, the world's Law will no longer be able to recognize you, it'll judge according to the total energy of this part of the timeline that you are a unique existence that doesn't belong to the world]

[When that happens, not only will the world's Law do everything in its power to get rid of you, the Laws of the Past and Future will also react accordingly ———perhaps the demonic gods will notice you as a person without a destiny, or a second 'you' will appear]

"The second 'me'?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

[Correct, that will be an existence that is exactly the same as you ——because the all-important mark that's supposed to represent 'you' in the timeline has disappeared, but you haven't died. This will make the world think that it had lost a unit of energy your size, thus overcompensate by recreating another unit of energy to preserve the Law of energy conversion]

[Furthermore, the Laws of space-time becoming chaotic will surely attract the attention of powerful demonic gods, as they love this more than anything else]

[They will find you]

Gu Qing Shan asked: "If it's as you said, then the mark that keeps track of me is the fact that I killed the Demonic God, as well as my power level and memories of that time?"

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[That is correct]

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "Seems like using the Quest method to reawaken as a sword saint is the safest method"

[Correct, to ensure the world's Law and the timeline is undisturbed, you only have two choices] [One, using the Quest method to recollect your memories, comprehend the sword saint's Sword Styles and become a sword saint again] [Two, turn all your memories into power, become a sword saint right away, but you will lose those Sword Styles]

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

I won't make it in time doing it the old-fashioned way with Quests

If I choose the second method, I can exchange all the Sword Styles from my past life into energy to directly breakthrough and become a sword saint again.

——-my understanding of the sword at this moment has already far surpassed that of my past life. Then I won't need those Sword Styles.

As long as I become a full-fledged sword saint, the power of my sword phantoms will greatly increase. I will no longer need hand seals to control the swords, only my thoughts.

That way, the attack speed and usage of techniques will increase many times over.

The next time I meet the black cloaked skeleton, I can directly chop off all his limbs before he could even react.

Gu Qing Shan abruptly asked: "Can I temporarily put off my swordsmanship and increase my cultivation first?"

[You cannot] the System directly answered.

"Why not?"

[This is a moment where caution is of utmost importance, you need to first reach the same level of sword cultivation at the same point in your cultivation to ensure that the world recognizes you as 'you' returning, and not anything else]

[That way, you will thoroughly integrate into this timeline, where you will no longer be noticed specifically by the Laws of space-time and destiny, thus not drawing the attention of the demonic gods]

"Then what if I become Sainted realm in the future? Will I also have to endure the same restrictions and limit?"

[Because in the previous life, you didn't manage to reach Sainted realm, from Sainted onwards, you can do as you please, this is a completely blank future for you to write]

"I understand"

Gu Qing Shan didn't hesitate anymore and spoke: "I don't need any Sword Styles; I want to breakthrough right now"

[Are you sure?]

"I'm sure"

Following this confirmation, a lot of data began to scroll across the War God UI.

[Detected user to have two excellent swords of unparalleled quality]
[Detected user to be able to store them in your Thought Sea]
[Detected user to be able to use hand seals to manipulate the flying swords to attack]
[The most basic requirements for awakening as a sword saint has been fulfilled]
[Cross-checking with the space-time mark]

[Confirmed unique character] [Backing up user's memories from the previous timeline one final time] [Backup complete] [Closing space-time backdoor permanently] [Cutting off timeline association permanently] [Destroying all evidence permanently]

Gu Qing Shan silently watched all this.

All he read were a few lines of text, but he couldn't help but feel shocked as he did.

Cold sweat began to build on his back.

This was an unconscious reaction from his sixth sense.

As he closed his eyes, he felt himself walking on a tightrope over a bottomless abyss.

And this was the very last stretch of the line.

He faintly realized that this was the most dangerous moment.

As long as nothing goes off the rails, nothing gets noticed, then there will be no more problems with his rebirth.

A mere few minutes of waiting seemed like a century.

[Ting]![You've thoroughly rebirthed][No space-time ripples detected][No anomalies detected, this was a perfect rebirth]

Gu Qing Shan exhaled from relief.

A safe landing.

A few words appeared on the System UI.

[You have consumed all memories of sword saint Sword Styles to use as energy for your awakening] [You have awakened] [You are now a sword saint]

Gu Qing Shan blankly stared at the very last line.

Finally, he's back without any troubles.

He's back at the most basic state of sword saint.

Opening his palm, he then clenched his fist.

A foreign, yet familiar power filled his body.

No need to seek out anything else, no need for anymore breakthroughs, this was originally his own power.

To resist against the looming threat, he needs this type of power!

This was the peak of his previous cultivation.

From now on, there are no more past experience for him to rely on.

His following path of cultivation will be completely new without a road to tread on.

Gu Qing Shan inhaled deeply.

His thoughts moved and summoned the two swords from the void of space.

Without using any hand seals, the Earth Sword automatically swung itself, executing the Kai Shan Style.

The Chao Yin Sword turned into a blurry shadow, perfectly performing the Wind Slash Style as it danced back and forth.

The two swords were as animated as flying birds, in perfect control down to the finest movements.

"Come" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The two swords obediently descended and hovered by Gu Qing Shan's left and right.

Chapter 353

Gu Qing Shan took out the 7-colored fragrance bag, penetrated it with his inner sight to search for an Ascended realm scripture.

The spirit energy disturbance from him breaking through a realm has already settled down, so it's already time for him to breakthrough to Ascended middle stage.

He was a bit surprised.

Inside the 7-colored fragrance bag, a lot of things were randomly thrown everywhere.

Only the scriptures and materials for his, Qin Xiao Lou and Xiu Xiu's cultivation were neatly lined up.

Gu Qing Shan took out a certain thing.

A jade tag with the character 'Shan' written on it.

He infused it with spirit energy to hear Bai Hua Fairy's voice coming from inside.

"Choosing an Ascended realm scripture is exceptionally important. It's directly related to how difficult it will be to breakthrough to Sainted realm"

"Qing Shan, this Green Dragon Ascension Script is one that I picked out for you after contemplating for a very long time"

"As far as I know, there were ever only 37 cultivators lucky enough to obtain this scripture, 9 of which were able to advance to Sainted realm, while 6 of them were either sword cultivators or martial cultivators"

"I myself once studied this script and confirmed that is truly is very suitable for sword cultivators to use" "Qing Shan, make sure you cultivate this script carefully, since this will greatly benefit your prospects of becoming Sainted" Her voice went away.

Gu Qing Shan's lips curled up slightly into a faint smile.

During this life, the best decision he ever made was to enter Bai Hua sect.

Bai Hua Fairy Xie Dao Ling treats her disciples like she does her own family.

Because of that, she is also one of the people that I have to protect no matter what.

With his inner sight, Gu Qing Shan very quickly read through the jade tag from start to end.

At the same time, a notification popped up on the War God UI.

[Discovered cultivation scripture: Green Dragon Ascension Script]

[To completely comprehend this script, you will need to spend 200 Soul Points, would you like to spend it?]

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan answered.

A warm flow came from the jade tag into his arm, washed over his body before settling at his Thought Sea.

In a few moments, Gu Qing Shan had fully comprehended "Green Dragon Ascension Script".

He closed his eyes and seriously restudied each and every step of the script.

After confirming everything was correct, Gu Qing Shan took out a top-tier Spirit Replenishing Pill and swallowed.

He then began his breakthrough to Ascended realm middle stage.

After fully comprehending the script, he was basically the same as an Ascended realm late stage cultivator who discarded his cultivation to start over.

He was only revisiting the realm.

Although it was past midnight, the light on Gu Qing Shan's body shone brightly, illuminating the room like it was daytime.

Night passed, the first few rays of sunlight appeared from the horizon.

The light illuminating from Gu Qing Shan's body slowly came back into his body.

He opened his eyes.

He's now Ascended middle stage.

At this point, regardless if it's his cultivation or swordsmanship, he's already far surpassed the peak of his previous life.

Should I breakthrough to Ascended realm late stage now?

Gu Qing Shan contemplated carefully before giving up on the idea.

After all, the next realm is Sainted.

A clear border of power.

Countless cultivators are stuck at Ascended, unable to breakthrough to Sainted for their entire lives.

And at this point, since he's only just broken through, his spirit energy is still a bit unstable, his body has also yet to get used to the power wielded by an Ascended middle stage, so it's very easy for him to injure himself accidentally.

It's better to wait for it to stabilize completely before he tries to breakthrough again.

[Sir, it's time for breakfast, please take this time to eat and ensure your body receives enough nutrients] Impartial Goddess' voice came from the Holo-Brain.

"Very well, please arrange a shuttle for me, I'll leave for Fuxi after breakfast to watch Empress Varona's coronation"

[Be assured, your shuttle has been readied]

The Holy Church.

The Seven Holy Apostles all knelt down on one knee.

Seven divine columns of light emitted from their bodies, concentrating in one place to form a blinding pillar of light.

The entire Holy Church was enveloped in this divine light.

A few moments later.

A person appeared on the Holy Church's throne.

A looming pair of wings on their back, a glowing halo floating above their head.

A pure white robe and a thin veil that hides their face.

The Pope.

The Pope has returned.

She slowly sat down on the throne and spoke: "Unless it's an emergency, I had forbade all contact, I'm sure you all know of this"

The Seven Holy Apostles nodded in unison.

The Pope sighed as she looked as them.

Seems like something did happen. I failed. From now on, I can only travel around the ocean of corpses, unable to enter Fog Isle again. But I won't accept that! I've prepared so much, wasted so much effort, only to be pushed by a little girl to such a desperate situation. Detestable! But I haven't truly lost yet. That little girl must be a person from this world. I have to think of a way to find her in Reality and kill her. As long as she's dead, the System will naturally return to me. As for now, let's see what situation here is first.

She then asked: "Very well, if you knew that and still called me back, tell me what exactly happened"

"The Confederate military officer that caused a scene at Madame Punta's banquet has thoroughly escaped our findings" Great Holy Apostle Hurt reported.

The Pope's faint questioning voice came: "Only that?"

Hurt knew that she was about to reach the point of anger, so he hurriedly: "That's not it, this world itself has a problem, hell is upon us"

"Hell?" the Pope repeated that, a bit surprised.

"That's right, a Frozen Hell" Hurt exhaled slightly and confirmed.

He then recounted everything that has happened recently.

The Pope sat in silence for a while before sighing: "The Fuxi Emperor, truthfully I understand his choice, but unfortunately he chose the wrong person to pledge to"

"So hell has a problem..." the Pope muses about it.

She leaned her cheek on her palm and fell into contemplation.

It seems like I really did have to return.

The situation on this side is changing so rapidly that I have to deal with it myself. It's impossible for this world's power level to fight against hell. I might have to leave sooner than expected. But I spent so much time building all this, do I have to let it go?

She looked down at the church hall.

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A bright, spacious large hall.

A group of zealous, absolutely loyal subordinates that she had just raised.

The sunlight shone on the tinted glass, illuminating the solemn sanctuary with a holy image.

Silent, warm, everything is in order.

Not only the church, but the country itself now belongs to her.

It's so wasteful to leave right now.

I spent so much effort to obtain this body, take over this church, this country, and now I have to run?

Not to mention, I had just been chased out from Fog Isle. Having to drift through space without a destination is a horrible experience. Having to drift between the worlds is even worse.

The Pope stood up, clasping her hands behind her back and paced back and forth in the hall.

That's right, the most important thing is that little girl. When she returns to this world, I will have to find and kill her. If she dies, I might still be able to overturn this. So I can't discard this world yet. As for hell. From what I've seen, nobody knows exactly what happened to hell. Since the situation isn't clear, if I leave like this, the price will be too heavy. Maybe there's only a small problem in Huang Quan. Maybe the anomalies from hell will be dealt with very soon. Let's temporarily wait and see.

The Pope spoke after a while: "Varona is being coronated as Empress?"

"Yes, please see the screen, your holiness"

Saying so, Hurt projected a screen broadcasting the ceremony in a luxurious palace.

The Fuxi's capital.

The royal palace.

According to the Emperor's coronation ceremonies, Varona was escorted by guards, riding a chariot led by 8 horses to head for the Empire's Holy Church.

In the church, the Bishop as well as numerous important officials of the Empire and other countries were gathered for the ceremony.

Varona was wearing a deep red royal cape, holding the royal scepter in one hand with a golden apple in the other, representing the reign of the Emperor.

She was currently professing her solemn oath to the statue of the sleeping death god.

[I represent the good of all our citizens, for the sake of the Empire's happiness and safety, I swear...]

Watching this, the Pope spoke up in intrigue: "How interesting"

The Empire's Holy Church was something the Fuxi Emperor built before they married.

This was his proposal gift to marry Varona from the Medici clan.

Varona Medici used to be a Cardinal when she was younger.

To impress her, the Fuxi Emperor had announced that he would dedicate a Great Church to the Holy Church in the center of the Fuxi capital.

This represents the Holy Empire, as well as Varona's faith in the Holy Empire's Holy Church.

Of course, that doesn't necessarily mean the current Holy Church.

The Pope silently thought about it.

Before, she was able to obtain this body because something happened to the original owner. It was purely due to a stroke of luck.

Unfortunately, when she obtained the body, the original Pope was already nowhere to be seen. So I didn't have any memories at all.

On the screen, Varona was kneeling deeply in front of the sleeping death god, performance a sacred rite.

This will go on for white a few minutes.

The Pope's gaze dashed around before settling on the statue.

The sleeping death god.

It is said that the death god watches over the Medici clan. But from all the worlds I've travelled to, no such monster is called that. Originally I wanted to slowly look into this after I took over the royal authority. Unfortunately, nothing of note came up. I only found two things. First, the death god truly did exist in history. Second, it is now sleeping. But what IS the death god? Why does the Medici clan worship it? No one knows the answer. It is said that only the Holy Empire's king, as well as the true Pope knows about it. The only thing that can prove its existence is one of Death's Relic. The Life Exchanging Contract. The Holy Empire's royal line passed this item onto Anna. I've already put quite a few people out, but none managed to catch Anna.

Thinking about that, the Pope's mood instantly became worse.

"Did Varona invite us?"

"She did"

"Ah?"

The Pope's expression changed slightly.

This woman isn't simple.

I've killed pretty much every member of the Medici clan, yet she still invited me to her coronation Does she think I wouldn't dare to attack her?

No... she definitely has something else in mind.

Seems like I'll have to stay on this world for a while without neglecting it.

The Pope casually asked: "Fuxi's banquet will be held at noon?"

"Yes, your holiness"

The Pope stood up: "All of you come with me, I want to know what Fuxi and the Confederate is planning"

"Roger, the shuttle has been prepared, awaiting your orders at any time, your holiness" Hurt respectfully bowed.

"Hmph, I want to know just how exactly does Varona plan to confront me" the Pope scoffed.

She glanced at the coronation on the screen one last time, feeling a bit annoyed without knowing why.

A sort of overwhelming power wafted around the air.

"Turn it off, nothing to see" the Pope ordered.

"Yes"

"We're leaving"

The Seven Holy Apostles all stood up, about to make way for the Pope to leave.

On her way down, the Pope suddenly stopped her feet.

"Something isn't right, and this isn't me" she muttered.

"Your holiness, what's the matter?" Hurt asked.

"Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, Earth, Wind, Lighting, Yin, Yang, Sound, all the 10 Elements are erupting, they're filled with malice"

The Pope carefully sense around, then her face changed.

She shouted: "Quickly! Order everyone to their stations, it's an enemy attack!"

"Roger!"

The Seven Apostles all took out their Holo-Brain to order their subordinates accordingly.

From out of nowhere, small sounds of explosions could be heard from afar.

The Pope waved her hand as 10 cards appeared from the void of space and fell into her hand.

She spoke solemnly: "Let us go see which 'great one' is upon us"

Hurt smirked coldly: "So someone dares to cause a scene at the Holy Empire's capital, I want to ---"

Boom!

The ground trembled.

The entire roof of the Holy Church was blown away.

Numerous colorful lights floated in midair, almost as if dancing around in the sky.

Chapter 354

The Pope and the Seven Holy Apostles all looked up.

As the light scattered around, the thing inside was revealed.

"People? No, they're not!"

The Pope squinted her eyes and carefully evaluated them.

Inside the lights were humanoid monsters.

The main reason why they can be determined as not human is because despite having very similar bodies to humans, they have no features on their faces.

The power of elements surrounded them, casually concentrating as they moved their hands and feet.

All 10 elements dispersed in waves from the sky, devastating the city below.

Even Great Holy Apostle Hurt's expression changed.

As an experienced fighter, he very quickly noticed the main issue.

"Their control of the Elements is much more powerful compared to Elementalists!" he shouted.

"They seemed almost like masters of the elements" Cardinal Kid also commented.

In the sky, the faceless monsters glowed in different colored light.

Each of them were able to masterfully able to control a different element.

——-Fiendkind.

The Fiendkind of Frozen Hell had gathered and begun their assault.

The entire Holy Empire's capital was their target.

The reason why the Holy Church got attacked first was simply because the church complex was the biggest and most eye-catching building in the capital.

"Dispatch all Professionists, the seven of you directly command the battle, quickly!" the Pope loudly ordered.

The Seven Holy Apostles headed their subordinates to intercept the monsters in the sky.

Almost immediately, the battle went straight to its most devastating period.

Fiendkinds are able to perfectly control the elements, making attacks several times stronger than those of a normal Professionist.

They can even fly.

Since all Fiendkinds are flying in the sky, normal Professionists' attacks couldn't even reach them.

So the Holy Church dispatched its Assault Mech squad.

But these Mechs are already obsolete weapons.

And the amount of Fiendkind far outnumbered those of the Mechs.

They are able to fly and attack freely.

The Holy Church's army couldn't help falling into a desperate battle.

In just a few dozen minutes, the Fiendkinds have already achieved an absolute advantage.

They were moving closer to the Holy Church's sanctuary.

The Pope had to go into battle herself, killing 7-8 Fiendkinds.

This angered the Fiendkinds greatly.

Hundreds of Fiendkinds gathered and fired off barrages of elemental attacks one after another.

The Holy Church sanctuary was easily levelled.

Even the Pope didn't dare to face with such terrifying attacks.

She was only one person after all.

Using a card to flee, the Pope managed to escape from danger temporarily.

The battle continued.

Unable to find their target, the Fiendkinds started to unleash their rage upon other people.

Time slowly passed.

After a few thousand Holy troops as well as two Holy Apostles died in battle, the Pope was still hiding in a secret place.

She did not try to act again.

She only silently hid, carefully observing the scene in the sky.

"Spirit Mage Tribe? They seem to be creatures from the previous Era, but there's still an essence of death on them, seems like they really did come out from hell"

Now that she can't go to Fog Isle, if she's unable to protect this place, the only choices left for her would be to go to space, or drift around to a different world.

A bloody Great Holy Apostle Hurt came running in to report: "We have used everything we could, but there's always more and more of them, it's hard for us to kill even one of them"

The Pope looked at the sky.

The Fiendkinds' elemental attacks when combined multiplies in power.

When more and more of them appear, hundreds of elemental rays will fuse and turn into an overwhelming attack spell.

Even she couldn't take such an attack head-on.

The Holy Church has fully collapsed.

The sunlight peered through the broken roof, shining through the Pope's veil to illuminate her face.

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She suddenly smiled.

During the last few days, she has been floating adrift on the ocean of corpses, holding on to her last breaths.

Who would've thought she would still be pushed into a corner despite returning here.

She can't retreat

And she definitely can't endure anymore of this.

"Hurt, are you afraid to die?" the Pope asked.

"For the Holy Church, I am willing to sacrifice my everything" Hurt replied.

"For the Holy Church, why not for me?" the Pope was a bit disappointed.

Hurt was a bit stunned and responded: "Because you and the Holy Church are one and the same"

The Pope went silent for a bit, then ordered: "Go, summon Ivan the Judge of Repentance"

Hurt noticed something was off and replied: "Ivan is a bit dull in the head, if you need anything, just tell me, I'm willing to sacrifice everything for the Holy Church"

"No, the following mission isn't suitable for you, summon Ivan, now"

"...Yes, your holiness" Hurt couldn't help but accept his orders.

Ivan the Judge of Repentance quickly arrived before the Pope.

"Hurt, go and stabilize the frontline" the Pope ordered.

"Roger" Hurt backed down.

When leaving, he looked at his brother in worry.

"I await your orders" Ivan knelt down on one knee.

The Pope walked towards him step by step, uttered in a low voice: "Ivan, you are a Repentance, one with the purest soul of them all, and so I shall bestow a weapon upon you"

She asked: "I ask you, are you willing to fight for me?"

"I am willing!" Ivan excitedly answered.

He remembered very clearly how the Pope once bestowed a miraculous whip upon Cardinal Kid.

The whip is able to dematerialize together with Kid, extremely strange and unpredictable.

And now, at this crucial moment, the Pope couldn't help but bestow a weapon upon him as well.

While Ivan was thinking, a card suddenly appeared in front of him.

A dark swirling abyss was depicted on the card.

At the center of the swirl, a hand reached out, as if asking him for a friendly handshake.

But the more he looked at it, the more it felt like this hand contained a sort of unnatural ambience.

---just like a hand of a drowning person, reaching out to try and grab whatever it can.

"Take it" the Pope spoke.

Ivan hesitated for a bit.

He felt something amiss, a bad premonition welling up inside.

"Take it, that's an order" the Pope urged him.

"Yes" Ivan endured and received the card.

As soon as he took it, the Pope took a few steps back.

She silently stared at Ivan, her voice contains sorrow, as well as a sense of fright: "Don't blame me, do not blame me, I also don't have any other way"

Ivan was a bit confused and asked: "Your holiness..."

Perhaps feeling that he's about to die, the Pope didn't mind explaining more to him.

"Yes, even I don't know what will happen when I use this contract card, but I already don't want to experience endless drifting through the unknown anymore, please forgive me"

Hearing this explanation, Ivan was even more confused.

As he was about to ask something, the card changed.

A huge hand reached out from the card, grabbed him and pulled him in.

"Aaaaaaaaa!"

A tragic, interrupted scream.

A terrifying sound of chewing.

Someone who those two sounds combined can only imagine one thing: someone was slowly being eaten alive.

A few moments later, a satisfied sigh could be heard from the card.

"Hm... a pure soul born from the purification of Repentance, together with a bloody killing intent, even within the Nine Hells, this is a rare delicacy"

"Isa, so you've finally agreed to form a contract with me, as well as presenting such a delectable offering, I am pleased"

The Pope ——-or more precisely, Isa, respectfully bowed and responded: "I'm glad that it was to your liking"

"Since the contract has been formed, tell me your wish" the voice declared.

"I ask to raise your banner and use your name to put an end to a war" Isa said.

"Ah, such a simple thing? I'll allow it" the voice lazily answered.

Chapter 355

Being given permission, Isa was overjoyed.

Only such an existence could ignore the difference in number and forcibly end a disaster.

Although she might have to pay an even bigger price later on, Isa can only afford to look at the situation at hand right now.

From the void of space, a card appeared.

Depicted on the card was a devil wrapped in flames, holding a banner with a goat insignia in one hand and a long horn in the other.

[Devil God's Banner] [Note: This card represents the will of the Devil God, he watches over your world, allowing you to work under his name]

Isa took the card and looked up at the sky.

The Fiendkinds has gotten used to the human's attack methods.

They were expertly killing everyone who retaliated.

The Holy Troops were in a lot of danger.

Too many people have already died, so the frontline was on the verge of collapse.

The war was becoming one-sided.

In just a bit more time, the rest of the soldiers will have been killed by the Fiendkinds that flooded the sky.

At this time, a divine light took everyone's attention.

The Holy Troops fortunate enough to survive looked up.

The Pope has spread her divine wings, standing atop the ruins of the Holy Church.

"It's the Pope!" "We're saved!"

Everyone cried out in joy.

Great Holy Apostle Hurt tried looking around, but couldn't see any signs of his brother.

"Ivan..." he fell to his knees, feeling intense loss.

The overflowing divine light took the Pope up to the sky, as if she was a newly born star.

She held ten cards in her hand.

"Stop!" she shouted.

The rest of the Holy Troops stopped their attacks.

As the Fiendkinds noticed something was off, they also stood still in midair, cautiously watching her.

"In the name of the master of all Devils, I give you one last chance, end this war and never return to invade us again" the Pope declared.

Saying so, she activated the card [Devil God's Banner]

The card scattered into fragments of light.

The contract card has been activated.

In the hand, the other 9 cards suddenly flew into the air and spoke at the same time.

 \llbracket Those that see my banner, obey my orders and bend to my will rbracket

The nine cards appeared so solemn that it was ridiculous instead.

The Fiendkinds exchanged looks.

One of them waved its hand, firing off a golden light to behead a few Holy Troops below.

It then looked at the Pope provocatively.

The Pope snickered.

She then spoke to the 9 cards: "They have disobeyed your orders; I quest your advent"

"Hmph" the 9 cards replied in unison.

The Pope then quickly formed the 9 cards into a certain pattern.

The cards all depicted some strange body parts of organs.

After being arranged properly, the 9 cards enlarged themselves and formed a giant card.

It no longer lookeds like a card, but more like a miniature mural.

On the mural, a handsome man rode on a goat's back, holding a white rose in one hand and a spear in the other, behind him was a sea of blood while a black halo floating above his head.

Below him, 18 grey devils gathered around him, bowing their heads as if waiting for an order.

The Pope then clasped her hands together and prayed towards the giant card.

She whispered: "The cursed fallen angel, master of all Devils, the sovereign of the Nine Hells, Asmodeus, I call upon you to feast upon these rare souls"

The giant card turned into a puff of white smoke.

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The voice of 9 people came: \llbracket Although we had a contract, you still had disturbed my slumber, to make up for it, come and join me in the Eternal Night for a few days \rrbracket

Isa dodged the subject and replied: "According to the contract, we will partake in these rare souls from the previous Era together"

The white smoke scattered.

A figure appeared.

The same handsome man on the card.

As if under some sort of restriction, his body was a bit unreal, almost like a transparent hologram.

He carried no weapons, had no servants or even the beast that he rode on.

The handsome man looked around.

The belligerent Fiendkind that provoked before tried attacking him with a golden beam.

The beam sliced through the air, arrive before the handsome man in just the blink of an eye.

"Foolish"

The handsome man spoke.

The beam disappeared in front of him and reappeared from behind the belligerent Fiendkind.

It was bisected by its own attack.

This in turn provoked the Fiendkind.

They roared, rushing towards the handsome man.

The handsome man sighed: "A bunch of uneducated swine, incapable of even recognizing a cause-and-effect Law"

"Isa, for you to call on me for such an opponent, I'm beginning to question our contract"

"That isn't so, Asmodeus, they came from hell" Isa hurriedly explained.

"Hell?" Asmodeus laughed, "they don't even have a smidge of hell's ---"

He suddenly stopped and carefully observed these Fiendkind.

"I understand now; you're saying them came from the hell that's connected to this world"

While they talked, the Fiendkinds had already came up, roaring to attack.

Asmodeus yawned, then muttered: "All disrespect towards me is disrespect towards Hell"

Just as he said so, all the Fiendkinds stopped in midair.

They stopped moving entirely, even their eyes and movements were locked in the moment.

Asmodeus flew up, easily beheading one of the Fiendkinds.

He reached his finger into its neck, scraped out a bit of flesh and tasted it.

Asmodeus seemed to be in ecstasy: "What wonderful dead souls, undying souls, I can feel the power of Huang Quan's law"

"But then, dead souls appearing in the human world? How strange"

"...Interesting, there must be some sort of problem"

"Could it be, the demonic gods of this hell got into some sort of trouble?"

Asmodeus' expression turned grim.

He spoke: "Isa, prepare 1000 living people as a sacrifice, I want to have my incarnation come to help you"

"As you wish, sir" Isa replied.

"You did quite well this time, I will use the power of the 9th Hell to help you increase your card limit by one"

"Thank you so much" Isa was overjoyed.

"Go" Asmodeus ordered.

"But then... what about them?" Isa hesitantly asked.

She pointed at the hundreds of Fiendkind in the air.

"Your world's Law of Huang Quan has went out of control, their souls rest in my hands now"

Asmodeus opened his palm.

Countless light sprites were in his hand.

"An unexpected harvest, wouldn't you say?" he smirked.

"That's very impressive sir" Isa praised him sincerely.

"Skip the small talk and quickly prepare the sacrifices, I want to quickly come to see what exactly is going on"

"Yes, great Asmodeus"

Saying so, Isa quickly flew down to arrange for the preparations and aftermath of the battle.

Asmodeus stood in midair, observing Isa without being noticed.

A rare soul that's been through Fog Isle... this is what I wanted the most. As for what happened to this world, why should I bother?

Even if I'm the master of the Nine Hells, I shouldn't be caught in this terrible unknown event.

Descend upon this world through means of sacrifices. Take Isa, then immediately leave. That's all I need to do.

Asmodeus quickly decided his goal.

Chapter 356

Let's rewind time a bit.

At the time the Pope had received the call from the Seven Holy Apostles and had just returned to the church.

The Fiendkind had yet to begin their attack.

The Fuxi Empire.

The Empire's Grand Holy Church.

Varona's grand coronation was taking place.

The coronation of an Empress was a spectacle for the whole world to see.

Because Varona was going to become the first ever ruling Empress of the Fuxi Empire.

Every nation had sent their own team of news crew to directly record this historical moment.

At this moment, the TV announcers were discussing about the late Fuxi Emperor.

The real reason for his death was purposefully hidden by Varona.

Either to prevent massive panic or to preserve the honor of the Fuxi Empire, the late Fuxi Emperor was declared killed in action while fighting against the Frozen Hell.

Ever since the frost started to spread around the world, the Frozen Hell was no longer a secret.

In despair, riots broke out in many countries.

The rulers of the nations couldn't help but use Mechs and Professionists to try and uphold the collapsing social order.

In the Fuxi Empire, Empress Varona had given the military the temporarily right to judge.

The military judging process was greatly simplified into only two steps.

Step one, confirm the truth of the crime.

Step two, executing the criminal on the spot.

Everyone across Fuxi, robbers, murderers, vandals and the likes were 'cleaned up' completely.

At this point in time, it's been determined that hell was coming for them all, and humans could possibly become extinct in this calamity.

If someone still dared to use the panic to cause unnecessary strife, they might as well be shot dead before the Apocalypse claimed them.

In just a few days, corpses had littered the streets of Fuxi.

Such extreme measures would of course be met with discontent by a portion of the people.

And so a few rebel organizations tried reaching out internationally to pressure Empress Varona from the outside.

But this time, they made the wrong choice.

Across the entire world, no country even tried to speak up against these actions.

No one tried to criticize Varona's methods.

Facing the Apocalypse, any half-decent leader would only seek stability for their own country.

The leaders of such rebel organizations were secretly judged and executed by Varona.

Following that, Varona begun a propaganda campaign, to officially ease the people's minds and give them real-time update of the situation.

News channels begun 24-hour streams reporting detailed updates of the Frozen Hell.

Following Gu Qing Shan's suggestion, Varona also captured a few dead people and threw them into cages, letting the citizens view them like zoo animals.

At the start, the viewing venues were packed full of people.

Due to the existence of the Game of Eternal and the Murder Clown from before, humanity did not feel too panicked at the spread of the ice.

When news become old news, most people found that there wasn't anything that interesting to see.

No one knows for sure what death will be like.

Will they disappear completely?

Will they gather somewhere?

Now they have an un-living proof in front of their eyes that there is indeed a place to go after death.

Then death itself was no longer difficult to accept.

A few people speculated the possible existence of a Heaven or Nirvana.

Some people even began to do charity, hoping for a good life after death.

As more people did charitable and good deeds, society itself was becoming brighter by the day.

It got to the point where a random old lady crossing the street might be escorted with a princess carry ---sometimes by more than one person.

Thanks to that, the Fuxi Empire society that was tethering on the verge of collapse, having been through a baptism of blood and fire, slowly stabilized.

In fact, public order in the Fuxi Empire got better compared to before.

Seeing how effective that was, other countries followed suit, with varying degrees of success.

Varona's fame sky-rocketed, obtaining the support of the majority of large powers in the world and officially settling in her throne.

The situation was completely different from the past life.

Dead people eats people.

This is a known fact, but since dead people only appear from frozen grounds, as long as they're discovered in time, no big problems arose.

Numerous teams were formed to locate and collect the dead people, sending them to space.

Society's attitude towards this wasn't too strong way or another.

Everything seems to be changing for the better.

All the way until a certain strange person was discovered within a frozen river in Confederate borders.

When he was discovered, he had already broken out of the ice.

He managed to kill a squad of 30 people and sucked their blood dry.

He became incredibly strong.

Fortunately, a mysterious powerhouse acted and killed him in time, preventing further casualties.

Then the top brass of humanity received a trustworthy anonymous tip.

These types of monsters will appear in undetermined numbers.

World leaders decided to gather on the date of Varona's coronation at the Fuxi Empire to discuss emergency measures.

Now.

The Empress's coronation.

Led by a Bishop of the Holy Church, 12 priests stood around the future Empress, heading out from the grand church hall.

The Empress headed from the church hall to a tower platform behind the church.

This platform was called Gods' Blessing Grounds.

It was considered a most divine location in the Holy Church.

On the platform, the Bishop bestowed the Empress with a golden crown with 12 points.

This represents the Empress' coronation to be bestowed by the heavens.

The guests stood up from their seats, following the Empress and the priests towards the tower platform.

Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li were also there.

The three of them followed the flow of people while whispering to each other.

"I feel like something is off" Ye Fei Li commented.

"Which part?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

"There seems to be too few people here" Ye Fei Li replied.

"That's obvious" Zhang Ying Hao told him.

"Why is that?" Ye Fei Li asked.

Zhang Ying Hao explained in a low voice: "The Fuxi Emperor uses his world-class might to rule over the powerful Professionists in the country, but now that he's dead, the crowning Empress doesn't have such might, so there are a few who aren't willing to listen to her"

"Such a thing still happens?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"Yeah, quite a few powerful Professionists who hold authority didn't show up" Gu Qing Shan told him.

According to Impartial Goddess' analysis, over half of the Professionists who hold authority aren't here.

Ye Fei Li questioned: "Hell is already here and they're still in-fighting, is that really fine?"

Zhang Ying Hao answered: "Compare to uniting against an enemy, people in power usually prefer infighting first"

"I thought I'd come here to learn a bit more about the world, but I'd rather not learn THIS" Ye Fei Li complained.

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Gu Qing Shan was also a bit annoyed.

The Frozen Hell is still silently spreading.

What I want to do next requires the full support of the Fuxi Empire.

——but it'll probably take quite a long time for Empress Varona to thoroughly control the Empire. There's simply no time to wait for the Empress to slowly eliminate her competitions to settle and solidify her reign.

While he was thinking, Zhang Ying Hao came closer and whispered: "I heard there are a few people wanting to choose a grown male from the branch family to succeed the crown"

"There is indeed that, the military as well as a few other with authority support this idea greatly, Varona had to use all her wits just to barely push it down" Gu Qing Shan commented.

"They want a puppet Emperor?" Ye Fei Li asked.

"That's right, that is the most beneficial for them" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Aren't they worried what state this country is going to become?" Ye Fei Li asked naively.

Gu Qing Shan and Zhang Ying Hao exchanged looks and said nothing.

Gu Qing Shan sat silently for a while before suddenly deciding on something.

The Empress had already walked onto the tower platform.

All the guests stood below, waiting for the most important moment of her coronation.

The Bishop was about to place the golden 12-pointed crown on Varona's head.

Every member of every nation, as long as they aren't busy with something, currently have their Holo-Brain turned on to tune in to this historic moment.

At this time, the number of people streaming the same video has reached a new record peak.

But at the scene of the Empress' coronation, something strange was happening.

People were occasionally looking down at their Holo-Brain.

Some people were whispering, discussing something.

A sort of stifled worry and discomfort silently spreads.

Including the Confederate President, many politicians checked their Holo-Brain one after another.

As they listened to the report, their expressions became grim.

The world leaders then began giving out orders.

Even the President had remotely ordered the entire Confederate's military to move.

"This isn't right, something big must've happened" Zhang Ying Hao whispered.

"Impartial Goddess, what's the situation?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[...A certain something is happening across deserts all over the world] [The corresponding intelligence is incomplete, unable to compile into a proper report] Impartial Goddess answered.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

"Show me what's going on" he said.

[Very well, sir]

A scene appeared on his Holo-Brain.

The Confederate's Great Masala desert.

A giant figure that eclipses the sun was slowing moving in the desert.

This figure was as tall as a skyscraper.

A Giant.

A Giant has appeared.

It walked with quick strides, with each step it took, the desert trembled.

All the sand that touched its body were turned an ashen grey.

Heavy black shackles wrapped the Giant's legs, occasionally bursting out bright orange flames, burning the Giant.

But it endured the pain, roaring thunderously:

"Move ——your ——-asses!" It growled: "Before the living discover, we must finish building the capital of the dead!"

"Uhmmm!"

Hundreds, thousands of gigantic figures responded.

The grey desert city began to take shape.

The scene turned off.

Gu Qing Shan pinched his forehead, sighing deeply.

The worst that can happen always happen.

On the entire desert, there wasn't even a shred of ice.

Those black shackles on the Giants' bodies were also completely unrelated to the Frozen Hell.

They clearly aren't from the Frozen Hell.

----the second Hell has descended upon them.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but glance at the War God UI.

A line of text floated in the middle.

[Estimated time until Huang Quan reinforcements arrive: 11 hours]

Damn it! I delayed the Frozen Hell but another hell come early instead!

Gu Qing Shan asked: "System, why didn't you tell me before?"

[Ting]!

The War God UI answered: [The System did not know that another Hell would descend, in fact, even the Frozen Hell was your discovery first and foremost]

Gu Qing Shan recalled and bit and found that really was the case.

"But you were able to summon the Huang Quan reinforcements" Gu Qing Shan questioned.

The War God UI continued to explain: [I only secretly reported it to them, they were already looking to get out of Huang Quan]

As Gu Qing Shan was about to keep talking to the System, he went silent.

The tower platform.

The ceremony was still continuing.

"Varona Medici..."

The Bishop spoke the Empress' given name, about to give her the blessing.

Then the sky turned dark.

Something happened ——-

Everyone looked up.

"Something isn't right; I can feel the disturbance in space" Zhang Ying Hao become serious.

"Something is coming ——look!" Ye Fei Li also commented.

They all beheld the same place in the sky.

The sun was blocked out by the blurry blowing wind.

A black hole opened up in the sky.

Then, a casket appeared in midair.

This casket was extremely large, almost as big as the church itself.

The casket was made entirely out of bones, occasionally some blood would drip down from the openings.

Bang!

A loud impact, like a cannon blast.

The casket's door was knocked opened, a monster roared thunderously, struggling to climb out.

It was a jet black corpse.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to check and saw that inside the casket, there were nothing but sharp spikes.

These spikes pierced the monster's body, trapping it inside the casket.

That's why it was struggling.

A casket and sharp spikes.

This was another form of Hell's punishment, once again completely unrelated to the Frozen Hell.

Gu Qing Shan instantly understood.

In the meantime, he stared straight at the sky, unable to say anything.

That's right, right at the scene of the Fuxi Empress' coronation, under the watchful eyes of billions of people, the third Hell has descended on the Human Realm.

Chapter 357

"My god, what the actual hell is that?" Zhang Ying Hao was shocked.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to carefully observe the monster while maintaining his calm.

He knows this monster.

It came from the Era preceding the Giant Era and the Fiendkind Era, a monster of the Chaotic Era.

Only this monster would have such a horrifying body.

Its power eclipses that of a normal Giant or Fiendkind.

Fortunately, it's imprisoned in the casket, pierced by the sharp spikes and trapped in place.

It could only endure the pain of torture without any way to quickly escape.

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and used inner sight to scout everywhere around.

Now that he's an Ascended realm middle stage, his inner sight could encompass the entire city.

Fortunately,

Within the capital, this monster is the only one of its kind.

Unfortunately, this monster is causing an unprecedented fear upon the newly re-established humanity social order.

Originally, the Fuxi Empire was still dyed in an air of joy from the Empress' coronation.

In the capital, the citizens were gathered at various Squares, enjoying the celebration.

But now, a terrifying gigantic casket that held an unknown monster suddenly appeared in the sky.

The people gathered at the Squares went into panic.

They were screaming from fear as they ran away.

Even those watching on the other side of the screen couldn't help but feel despair.

At that time, the coronation site.

Of the guests watching the coronation on site, someone abruptly shouted: "Varona is cursed, the Heavens called down a demon to stop her coronation!"

----without being able to cut off the signal in time, this declaration was broadcast across the entire globe.

Gu Qing Shan turned and locked his eyes on a certain Fuxi politician.

His inner sight was still draped over the entire city, so he didn't miss even the flicker of a blade of grass.

When the monster appeared, at the most crucial moment, that politician had ordered one of his subordinate to shout.

The word 'cursed' almost made the entire coronation scene fell into panic.

On the platform Varona's face paled, gritting her teeth, doing her best to control her anger.

This shows just how weak her grasp on the Empire's authority was, worst case it could cripple her career as a politician.

Gu Qing Shan evaluated the person.

He was a military man, a General, according to his uniform.

He was a Fuxi Empire's military official.

He appeared triumphant, smiling with absolute confidence of his victory.

Someone got close to him and whispered: "Her people have all been caught; no problems arose"

"That's good, today I want the world to know, she doesn't have what it takes to rule Fuxi" The military official continued: "When the coronation is over, 'clean up' her people"

"Kill all of them?"

"No, we still need some people to uphold the current political situation, those that surrender can live, but they need to be restrained"

"Understood"

The two talked in miniscule voice with countless of their own people around to prevent leaking their voices.

That's why the military official wasn't afraid of his plan being revealed.

Even if it is revealed, it's too late for Varona to prevent anything.

He didn't know everything he was planning was as clear as day under Gu Qing Shan's inner sight.

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded, a bit irritated.

The world is about to end and these people still want to cause more trouble.

He tapped Zhang Ying Hao on the shoulder and whispered: "I remember there were two Guardian deities in the Holy Church of Death, one being a Crow deity, the other a Dog deity"

"Yeah, this is common knowledge, what about it?" Zhang Ying Hao asked.

Gu Qing Shan spoke: "I need to borrow Tong Tong for a bit, and then this is what you need to do..."

He told Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li to arrange for a few things.

Very quickly.

Gu Qing Shan disappeared from the Empress' coronation venue.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li wore sunglasses, parted the crowd of people while heading towards the bottom of the tower platform.

Their actions brought the attention of the royal guards.

But these royal guards already knew Zhang Ying Hao, as well as what he's capable of.

The way Zhang Ying Hao took charge last time left a deep and lasting impression.

Now that the royal guards noticed he was heading here, they couldn't help but glance at the Empress.

Varona saw the two of them, then heard Gu Qing Shan's voice telling her what he was about to do.

She then calmed down and nodded to the royal guards.

They quickly made way.

Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li slowly came up the tower platform, stand on the right and left to protect the Empress.

"Even if the world comes to an end today, my coronation must continue!"

Varona declared loudly to everyone here.

The Bishop could do nothing but wipe his sweat, forcing himself to ignore the monster in the sky and continued with his blessing.

The eerie scene continued.

In the sky, while the gigantic casket stood still, the monster inside was screaming, struggling to get free.

On the tower platform of the church, Varona ignored everything and had the coronation continue.

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This was still being broadcasted in real time to the entire world.

Everyone that was in despair from before instead became intrigued by her choice of action.

No one turned off their Holo-Brain.

Everyone wanted to see just how the situation in Fuxi will become.

The Empress' coronation that was being broadcasted world-wide had already reached a record viewership, but was still continuing to grow by the minute.

Then, something strange happened.

A jet black crow passed through the clouds, landing on the tower platform.

In front of millions of people, it cawed at Varona.

Varona then respectfully bowed at the black crow.

The black crow flew up and softly landed on Varona's shoulder.

It seems to have taken that place as its own, not moving, no matter what happens.

"Black Crow!" "Look, it's Black Crow!" "My god!" "The messenger of the Death god!"

All believers of the Holy Church of Death excitedly yelled out.

According to their doctrine, Black Crow and the Dog deity were servants of Death, the spreader of death and the sleeping deity.

Now, at the Empress's coronation, a black crow had appeared.

Could this be a coincidence?

The military official smirked sarcastically, mumbling: "Still want to try the 'messiah' approach? However, it's still useless!"

He then told a person next to him: "The plan has changed, immediately have her supporters choose, either surrender to me, or die"

"Understood!"

The person then took out his Holo-Brain and began to arrange accordingly.

When Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li were heading up the tower platform.

Gu Qing Shan left the coronation venue, walking in the large church hall by himself.

He is currently an Ascended realm middle stage cultivator.

Even in the cultivation world, Ascended realm represents top-level power, capable of becoming a candidate to become a sect's master.

Overflowing inner sight released from Gu Qing Shan's body.

Almost in an instant, his inner sight had fully covered the entire capital.

No shady business was able to hide from Gu Qing Shan's inner sight.

"Found you" Gu Qing Shan muttered.

In different hidden bunkers, the officials who supported Varona were kidnapped and restrained.

Many military officers held weapons in hand, watching them.

They were silently waiting for the military official's orders.

Gu Qing Shan looked up, observing the beautiful murals made from stained glass at the top.

One of the windows happened to be opened.

"Go" he muttered.

The Earth Sword and Chao Yin Sword appeared from the void of space.

A flash.

They went straight through the window and flew away.

Their speed was incredible, flying side-by-side, they descended at two different angles.

They went into those hidden bunkers, turned into blurred shadows for a split second before appearing again.

All of the military official's men's heads exploded like watermelons.

They fell down almost at the exact same time.

Dead.

To deal with these regular Professionists, he can kill them with just the speed of the swords alone, no need to even use specific styles.

Once they cut off the restraints, the swords flew back outside and headed for the next location.

Gu Qing Shan strolled down the isle of the large church hall while rescuing Varona's supporters.

He suddenly stopped his feet.

Within his inner sight, at one of the places where the Earth Sword killed the officers, Varona's daughter, the Fuxi princess was being held.

"Kidnapping direct line royalty is punishable by death according to the Fuxi Constitution" "...Alright, let's go bring her back myself"

As he finished speaking, Gu Qing Shan suddenly disappeared from the church hall.

The Earth Sword reappeared at his original position.

He was now at the hidden bunker.

Divine Skill, [Shadow Shift]

"Princess, your highness, please come with me"

Gu Qing Shan held his hand out to the princess.

The princess looked at him with a complicated expression.

At the ball, she had actually thought he was just a bookworm.

Only after being told by her mother did she realize just how incredible this person was.
"Thank you" the princess spoke in a miniscule voice.

She then took his hand.

"No need to thank me, the rest of you as well, come"

Gu Qing Shan told the officials and royal guards being held here.

"What should we do?" one of the officials asked.

"Just hold on to my hand tightly" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Everyone followed and grabbed his hand.

The very next moment, they all disappeared.

The Earth Sword reappeared where they disappeared.

While Gu Qing Shan had already taken the group of people back to the great church hall.

Chapter 358

The scenery flashed before their eyes, they found themselves already back at the capital Grand Holy Church.

They exchanged looks in disbelief.

Beneath their feet were a marble-lined floor, a powerful voice could be heard from outside.

It was the Bishop of the Holy Church of Death, blessing the Empress.

The Bishop's voice resounded together with solemn music across the entire hall.

"My mother is in the middle of her coronation, is that right?" the princess asked.

"Yes, you can go now to find her" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Will there be a problem?"

"There won't be any"

"About the people who kidnapped us --"

"You can expose them in front of everyone"

"What then? What's going to happen after that?"

"The ringleaders will pay the price"

The princess looked straight at Gu Qing Shan for a while before gracefully doing a curtsy.

"During the dance, my attitude towards you was very arrogant, for that I apologize" she said.

Gu Qing Shan hurriedly clasped his fist in reply and said sincerely: "It's a small matter, as long as you don't keep treating others that way, you will naturally become the heir to the throne in the future"

The princess looked straight at him and whispered: "Only when choosing a fiancée will I act so arrogantly"

Gu Qing Shan kept his clasped fist pose, bowed his head and said nothing.

The princess evaluated him, suddenly snickered before turning to leave with the officials.

Her small muttering could be heard in the wind.

"... Anna... quite impressive..."

Gu Qing Shan wiped the sweat off his forehead.

It was now that the Earth Sword and Chao Yin Sword flew in through the roof of the building, hovering in front of Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan sighed, put the two swords away before scanning the sky with his inner sight again.

The monster in the sky was very close to freeing itself.

There's no time to waste.

Gu Qing Shan headed towards a secluded corner of the church.

A small boy and girl sat in the corner, playing with their action figures.

They were playing so happily that they didn't notice what was going on outside the church.

No one was there to look after them.

This was a bit strange.

Gu Qing Shan's inner sight passed through the two children.

Completely normal.

He then scanned the entire church with his inner sight, quickly locating the two children's parents.

They brought a few guards with them, shouting the two children's names at another corner of the church, searching for them.

——what irresponsible parents. Seems like there wasn't anything strange, just that my nerves were being stretched so tightly that anything I look at seems like big trouble. I'm kind of paranoid right now.

Gu Qing Shan smiled bitterly.

The two children now finally noticed a large figure standing close to them, so they looked up at him.

"Who are you?" the boy asked.

Gu Qing Shan regained his calm.

"Ah, sorry to bother you ——hm, are you playing superhero?"

He looked at toys in their hands.

"Yeah, it's really fun" the girl answered.

Gu Qing Shan squatted down, smiled and asked the girl: "Then this heroine, would you mind telling me your name?"

Seeing his warm smile, the girl held a better impression of him and answered: "I'm Sisi"

The parents were indeed calling out the name Sisi.

Gu Qing Shan calmed down and asked: "Sisi, why aren't you watching the Empress' coronation?"

The boy butted in: "What is there to see, only the adults talking, it's so boring"

"Yeah, it's boring" Sisi agreed.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the action figures in their hands.

He then asked: "I heard a superhero who can fly will appear and perform by killing the monsters in front of the Empress"

"Really?"

The two children looked up, their eyes shining.

Gu Qing Shan told them: "Of course it's real, the monster has already appeared, so the superhero will quickly arrive as well"

Sisi tilted her head, hesitatingly asked: "Uncle, are you lying to me?"

Gu Qing Shan spoke with a stern face: "Uncle has never lied to beautiful girls before"

"Wow, that's so cool"

Sisi believed, stood up and started running towards the tower platform.

The boy quickly ran after her.

"Which superhero will it be? I think it'll be Justiceman!" the boy said while running.

"No, I think it'll be the one-armed swordsman!" Sisi loudly rebutted him.

They screamed as they ran and quickly went out of sight.

Since this was originally a quiet place, after the two cute children left, there were no one else here.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight and saw the children's parents were heading towards the tower platform as well.

The children will soon meet up with their parents.

Done.

That was only a short intermission, what comes next is the real deal.

Gu Qing Shan tapped his Inventory Bag.

The faint golden You Ji General armor set appeared, split into their parts including a mask, breastplate, shoulder pads, wrist guards, gauntlets, belt, knee pads and marching shoes.

They contained no superfluous decoration, only carved with intricate runes that give off an indescribable sense of beauty.

"The girl actually got it right, I'm a swordsman..."

As Gu Qing Shan said so, the armor scattered, swimming in the air like animated fishes around him.

In a single moment, Gu Qing Shan had finished donning the armor.

Wearing the silver mask on his face, Gu Qing Shan also equipped the title [Talented General].

The Chao Yin Sword and Earth Sword appeared from the air by themselves.

"----although I am a swordsman, I'm not one-armed like the cartoon"

Gu Qing Shan's body flashed and disappeared from place.

On the tower platform.

Varona was furious.

The princess was currently explaining how she got kidnapped.

Following the princess' explanation, a commotion broke out.

The Fuxi Emperor had only just passed away and someone already dared to kidnap the princess!

The princess knelt at Varona's feet, silently sobbing.

Everyone stared at Varona, waiting for her reaction.

Varona breathed in deeply and declared: "From now on, I will become the monarch of this nation!" "I swear to protect my subjects, sparing them all the pain of losing their dignity!"

"I swear to eliminate all evil, guaranteeing this nation and its stability!"

"I swear to love every son and daughter of Fuxi like I love my own!"

"I swear, to protect them!"

She stepped forward, received the crown from the Bishop and wore it on her head.

Empress Varona has now officially been crowned as Monarch Varona.

"I, Varona, am this country's monarch, and I will protect this country!" she declared loudly.

The Confederate's President was the first to stand up to applaud.

The applause gradually grew and become thunderous.

Crowning herself as Monarch is highly inappropriate, but she still received the applause of various world leaders thanks to her determination and attitude.

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And the rest of the scene followed after the leaders.

Suddenly, a sarcastic voice.

"The monster is still in the sky, you go and eliminate it!"

The voice came from the military side.

This time, the military official himself has spoken.

He is an experienced 5th stage Professionist.

Within the Fuxi Empire, he was the one closest to the Emperor in strength.

Asides from the Fuxi Emperor, no one could do anything to him.

Varona's fury rose again.

This is a world-wide broadcast! You dare to do this during my crucial coronation!?

She tried her best to maintain a calm voice and ordered: "Supreme Commander, I order you to gather the personnel and prepare to face the enemy"

The military official smirked and just replied: "You think one who puts the crown on themselves like you can order me around? Heh, sorry to disappoint you"

Varona shook her head and replied: "As the strength of the Empire, you have disappointed the Empire itself"

She then looked up at the sky.

The monster was still struggling, but was very close to escaping.

"Finished"

A familiar voice came to her ears.

The Empress was relieved.

She then lifted the black crow, softly calling out to it: "O' Deity of our church, our guardian, I need your power"

Strange enough, the crow seems to understand her.

It spreads its wings.

Following that, a little girl's voice could be heard yelling.

"Momma quickly look; I didn't lie to you!"

The girl Sisi yelled out.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, the black crow suddenly disappeared and turned into a bright golden light.

The golden light slowly descended and hovered by the tower platform.

Everyone looked to find that it was a person wearing a golden armor and a silver mask.

No one could see his face, and his figure covered in the golden armor let off an indescribable sense of mystery and solemnity.

The military official originally wanted to mock her again, but couldn't help but be taken in by the goldenarmored man.

He couldn't even gauge the power of this person.

He wanted to think that this was only Varona's bluffing.

----but this isn't magic, and there's simply no way to fool so many Professionists' eyes.

The black crow really did disappear and turned into the golden-armored man.

This can't be fabricated.

And he could even fly.

Only a 5th stage Professionist can fly.

Since when did the Empire have a 5th stage as their guardian? Could it be, that really is the Holy Church of Death's divine messenger?

While everyone was still speculating, a solemn voice came from behind the mask.

"Varona, newly crowned Monarch of the Empire"

"I am here" Varona replied.

"From now on, your will shall be where the Empire's sword is"

Varona spoke: "Then from my will, please kill the monster in the sky"

"As you wish, Monarch" the golden-armored deity answered.

Wind began to swirl around him, lifting him up into the sky.

Before anyone could see what happened, the golden-armored deity suddenly disappeared from sight.

"Look, meteors! How pretty!"

The girl Sisi's voice could be heard again.

Everyone hurriedly looked up.

In the sky, streak after streak of light was slashing through the giant monster's body.

A complicated meteor-like pattern begin to manifest in the blue sky one at a time.

The meteors fell like literal rain, slicing through the monster's body.

The monster had no time to react, it couldn't even scream before being swiftly dismantled.

Even the casket was chopped to flying dust.

Secret Art, [Silver Star] Title Skill, [Rampaging Sword Qi]

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

A never-before-seen terrifying monster that brought immense terror and pressure was easily dispatched.

Everyone was shocked.

The golden light slowly floated back down, stopping in front of the tower platform.

The golden-armored deity's low voice came again.

"The Empire's Monarch, do you need anything else?"

Varona then asked: "O' guardian, please answer me, what fate befalls those that disobey the Monarch's orders?"

"This one" the golden-armored deity answered.

His disappeared for a swift moment before reappearing.

He placed a severed head onto the tower platform.

The military official's severed head.

His expression was still calm, as well as a bit stern and thoughtful.

His body was still standing in the seats, unmoved.

Obviously, he couldn't even notice he was already beheaded before his death.

What a fast strike!

Varona then bowed: "Thank you, it is fine now, I shall call upon you again next time"

"I shall be ready to serve you again, Monarch"

After saying so, the golden-armored deity disappeared without a trace.

No, not disappeared.

The black crow had reappeared.

It cawed loudly at the Empress before flying away past the clouds.

This caused a change in every Professionist on the scene.

The crow used a method that no one understood to turn into a golden-armored deity, then violently eliminated both the monster and the military official.

Regardless of what it really was, its strength was enough to cause despair.

At this moment, every Professionist was silently questioning themselves.

If it was them, could they win against the black crow?

Then, Monarch Varona moved.

She bent downwards, picking up the severed head of the military official by his hair.

She then declared directly to the screen.

"I am Varona, a lady of the Medici clan, Cardinal of the sleeping death god, and Monarch of the Fuxi Empire"

"Regardless of who you are, remember my name, and think carefully before trying to disrespect me"

The head was then casually thrown off the tower platform.

Everyone went silent.

Only Ye Fei Li licked his lips in excitement.

Zhang Ying Hao muttered: "From now on, no one will dare to disrespect Varona again"

Chapter 359

At the Fuxi Empire, Varona had declared herself Monarch in front of the entire world.

Her coronation was now officially finished.

At the same time.

The Holy Empire.

All the Fiendkind had died.

The Holy Empire's capital was heavily devastated after this attack.

The Holy Church's sanctuary has been levelled.

The only usable part left of the once grand structure was its underground facilities.

A hidden chamber below the church.

Isa stood before a large reservoir of blood, sighing tiredly.

"Come, I now call upon you" she chanted.

A card was floating above the reservoir of blood.

Following her chant, the card let out an ashen grey light that shone on the reservoir of blood.

[Devil Summoning Card]

[Note: Using this card, you can siphon power from unlimited amount of souls in order to guide a soul from another world]

"Asmodeus, when you come to this world, will you really protect me?" Isa asked.

Asmodeus said nothing.

A card flew out from the blood reservoir, gently floating in front of Isa.

The card was obscured by a burning bright layer of flames, making it impossible to know what it depicts.

"What is this?" Isa curiously asked.

^Г An unspeakable card, carry it with you, at a specific time, it will automatically activate to save you from harm J Asmodeus answered.

The card fell into Isa's hands.

Isa was a bit hesitant.

A card whose effect cannot be determined isn't something she's willing to use.

Not to mention, a Devil's item isn't something you can just take.

She spoke: "I want to check this card a little bit"

"Go ahead"

Isa placed the card on her forehead, carefully sensing it.

A feeling of protection gradually drifted around, enveloping her.

Holding this card obscured in flame in hand, Isa could feel a deep layer of protection.

This card assured her.

With her competence as a card user, Isa's card intuition wouldn't make a mistake.

"Thank you, Asmodeus" Isa put the card away and said.

^Г No need, just make sure to be careful and ensure your own safety before I get there J Asmodeus spoke.

His tone seemed a bit worried.

And Isa noticed.

Her tone became a bit more respectful: "Then, I shall take my leave first"

「You may go 」 Asmodeus.

Isa left the blood reservoir.

A deep sigh could be heard from the blood reservoir.

When Isa made it back to the surface, she noticed Great Holy Apostle Hurt and Cardinal Kid were hurriedly coming towards her.

"What is it?" Isa asked.

"Kid said that he found intelligence about that person" Hurt reported.

"Which person?"

Just as Isa asked, she immediately remembered.

The Confederate military officer who wrecked Madame Punta's banquet, fought her and managed to get away via warp.

The bastard that dared to make a fool out of myself!

"Speak" Isa ordered.

"Please take a look, your holiness"

Cardinal Kid turned on his Holo-Brain and projected the screen for them to see.

The Fuxi Empire.

Varona's coronation.

At her call, a golden-armored swordsman appeared, killing the monster and the military official.

"Is that him?" Isa asked.

Cardinal Kid: "When he escaped from Madame Punta's banquet, he was wearing that armor"

"Are you sure?"

"Very, my whip couldn't penetrate that armor at all, I wouldn't mistake it for anything else" Kid answered.

Isa squinted her eyes, staring at the golden-armored swordsman.

Her gaze fell on the golden-armored swordsman's sword.

"Yes, that's him, I remember that sword!" she rubbed her chin as she spoke.

"Then that means he's a Fuxian" Hurt commented.

"No wonder no matter how much we search the Confederate we still couldn't find such a person" Kid spoke excitedly.

Is a contemplated for a while, then spoke: "We have the Fuxi Empress' invitation to her coronation do we not?"

"We do"

"If we fly there now, how long will it take?"

"Using a super-speed shuttle, we will arrive in time for the noon banquet"

"Very well, Kid will stay here and take over the situation. Hurt, come with me to Fuxi"

"Yes" the two Apostles bowed.

Isa muttered: "I finally found you, now I'm really curious about what you took from the Holy Empire"

Not too long later, the super-speed shuttle rose up to the sky and headed for the Fuxi capital.

•••

The Fuxi Empire.

Capital.

The noon banquet.

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Everything was highly simplified and quick-paced.

The world leaders gathered here to discuss emergency measures against hell's invasion.

There were also rumors of a new crucial technology being released to the public by Confederate scientists.

Even if that's the case, you can't make so many world leaders discuss on an empty stomach.

Which is why they had arranged a light banquet for all the leaders to eat before the long meeting.

On the conference podium, Her Majesty the Monarch made a short welcoming speech.

The noon banquet started.

All the world leaders sat down one by one.

The Monarch came to each table to greet the world leaders, politicians and celebrities.

Her demeanor was calm, graceful and alluring, the crown on her head could almost be seen to be flickering with light.

Everything was harmonious.

Suddenly, a royal guard slowly ran towards her and whispered something to the Monarch.

She then excused herself and left together with the welcoming official and her royal guards.

Everyone was curious.

But soon enough, they found out why.

The banquet hall opened as the Monarch walked side by side with four people, talking and smiling as they walked.

The oldest person was one that everyone here knew.

The Freedom Confederate President.

The other three younger people were a bit harder to discern.

But from the Monarch's attitude, she seems to be closer to the three youth.

That's very strange.

What's even more strange was the Confederate President himself was also very familiar with these three youths.

"I want the profiles of those three" Isa spoke.

She sat silently together with Hurt alone, as no one dared to try and speak to her.

"Yes"

Hurt turned on his Holo-Brain and accessed the Holy Church's intelligence network.

Very quickly, he projected the information from the Holo-Brain in front of the Pope.

Reading through their profiles, the Pope glanced at the three of them.

"A renowned King of Assassins, a famous scientist, hmm, and a nameless nobody" "...What a strange combination"

The Pope muses for a bit, then abruptly exclaimed: "No wait, why does that scientist give me such a familiar feeling?"

She had an urge to draw cards to peek into destiny.

But she held it down.

This place is a solemn banquet, if I drew cards here, wouldn't that make me a show for them all to see?

At this time, a welcoming official of the palace stepped forward.

Facing the Pope, he was so nervous sweat was dripping down his forehead, but he maintained a perfect smile.

The official placed a rectangular envelope in front of the Pope and respectfully bowed.

The Pope reached out to check the card.

After the noon banquet, a world conference will be held to discuss countermeasures against the Apocalypse.

"I will be there on time" she spoke.

"Understood, your holiness" the official turned to leave.

Only after getting away from the Pope's table did he silently sighed from relief.

Isa evaluated Varona.

The Monarch had just shown a few esteemed guests to their table, chatted with them a bit and was about to leave.

As the host, she needs to arrange the upcoming world conference.

Is a thought for a bit, then raised her hand and waved at the Monarch.

Since her every action were being monitored closely, this gesture was noticed by a lot of people.

Monarch Varona would of course also noticed.

Varona turned to look at Isa.

Their eyes met.

Isa spoke: "Varona, might I have a word?"

The banquet hall fell silent.

One of them murdered an entire royal family, stole the country's authority, leader of a spiritual organization and a peak 5th stage powerhouse.

The other was the victim of said murder, even her husband had died, only to stay strong without falling and once again hold the power over nation.

The grudge between them should run deep.

But at this time, the Pope had smiled and invited the Monarch for a chat.

Before the Monarch had responded, a royal guard suddenly stepped out and spoke up first: "If you have anything to say, please do. There is no need to get close to the Monarch"

True enough, it was common knowledge that the Pope was a powerful person that could rival even the Fuxi Emperor, the strongest Professionist in Fuxi.

Although the Monarch herself was a Professionist, their strength couldn't possibly be compared.

If the Pope wanted to kill the Monarch, all it takes is a single strike from a close distance.

"Varona, are you scared of me?" Isa asked.

Varona smirked sarcastically: "You should refer to me as Her Majesty the Monarch, Isa"

Isa stared straight at her and softly spoke: "Is that so? But you are also calling me by name"

"Of course I am, tell me, what position do you hold? Usurper? King Murderer?"

"I am the Holy Church's Pope"

Varona replied: "The Holy Church belongs to the Medici clan, this generation's clan head, Anna Medici, has yet to recognize your authority"

The Pope's smile slowly rescinded.

Varona looked around at the world leaders and politicians in the room before looking back at Isa and spoke: "State your business"

Isa replied: "This matter is related to the shady business of the Fuxi Empire's royalty; I think it's better that you come here for a private conversation"

She then leaned her face on her palm, asking provocatively: "Or could it be, you don't dare to? As a Monarch, you're afraid of me killing you?"

Facing such provocation, Varona could only silently grit her teeth.

She really is too dangerous. No matter what, I won't place myself in danger. Only children and hot-headed youths compete over every small detail.

When she was about to refuse, a familiar voice entered her ears again.

"Go, let's hear what she has to say, don't worry, I'm here" Gu Qing Shan said.

Chapter 360

Varona showed no hesitation and walked towards Isa.

"Speak, there is nothing about our Fuxi royalty that can't be revealed" she said.

Isa raised her eyebrows from not expecting her to actually come closer.

And closer, and closer.

Under the watchful eyes of the guests here, Monarch Varona now stands in front of Isa.

They were only half a meter apart.

Foolish ...

Isa silently mumbled to herself.

She can't help but admit that she's tempted to kill her right now.

Once Varona dies, Fuxi will definitely fall into chaos.

The Holy Empire is already in her hands, with her methods, she'll be able to take a big chunk off Fuxi as well.

Manpower, resources, riches, Professionists, they're all things that I need right now.

Isa slowly stood up.

She whispered: "Varona, I'll make this quick, your black crow, or more precisely the golden-armored guardian is a thief. He stole a treasure of the Holy Church, call him out to meet me right now, or I won't hold back"

Varona asked: "A treasure of the Holy Church? What would that be?"

Isa stopped for a moment, then answered: "At Madame Punta's banquet, he stole a painting"

"Painting?" Varona was suspicious.

Isa added: "The one that depicts Anna becoming the crown princess"

Varona looked at Isa with a very sarcastic expression.

She answered: "If I remember correctly, that painting belongs to the royal family, the King himself gifted it to Madame Punta as a decoration for her front hall, since when did it become yours?" "Even if Black Crow had taken it, how did you know it wasn't princess Anna that gave it to Black Crow?" "Princess Anna is the heir to all the fortunes of the royal family, she hasn't even spoke about her views on this yet. What right do YOU have to ask for an item of the royal family?"

Being questioned so, Isa fell silent.

According to normal logic, she really doesn't have any.

"Then, let us not speak of that" Isa changed the subject: "Your guardian not only stole those items, he also tried to assassinate me"

The banquet hall became rowdy.

Isa stared straight at Varona and emphasized every word: "Get him out here to see me, that is fine as well"

"You said he tried to assassinate you? That's very intriguing"

Varona's sarcastic smirk only became clearer.

In front of everyone here, she slowly explained: "As you all you, Black Crow and the dog deity are the great guardian deities of the Holy Church of Death, servants of the death god" "And if you said Black Crow tried to assassinate you, that is indeed very correct"

"Correct?" Isa repeated.

"That's right, you stole the authority of the Holy Church, soiling the name of our god. Black Crow did his job and punished you, and yet you still don't understand?"

"If you truly are the Holy Church of Death's Pope, why would Black Crow want to have death befall yourself?"

Varona looked around and loudly declared: "That is why you will always be nothing but a heretic that stole to get her authority, that is why Death god himself will punish you"

Isa couldn't hold back her killing intent anymore and raised her hand: "Blasphemous! The true harbinger of you mortal's death is no one but me!"

She wants to kill Varona. In the blink of an eye, Varona disappeared. Three youths appeared in front of Isa. Gu Qing Shan let go of his hand from Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li's shoulders. Using [Shadow Shift], they switched places with Varona. "What!" Isa's opened her eyes wide, unable to contain her surprise. She felt an unprecedented sense of danger. The very next moment. Zhang Ying Hao held two coldly gleaming daggers, stabbing them at Isa's throat. Ye Fei Li roared as a bloody glow flowed from his hand. A longsword appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan as he stabbed it forward. All three of them attacked at once, looking to kill her in an instant! Zhang Ying Hao is the world renowned King of Assassins. Ye Fei Li has far surpassed any 5th stage Professionists and became the strongest Man Killer Fiend. Gu Qing Shan is an Ascended realm middle stage sword cultivator. Sword cultivators are known to be excellent killers, not to mention how Gu Qing Shan is already a sword saint. Even a cultivator who's a realm above wouldn't dare let a sword saint get so close to themselves! Being caught off guard by three such people, no one in the world could stop it. Even Isa would immediately be killed by the smallest of mistakes. At the final moment. A card appeared on top of Isa's head. A card obscured in a brilliant flame, one that came from the Devils' God Asmodeus. The flame completely scattered to reveal the card inside. An antique clock was depicted on the card. Countless skeletons had climbed onto the card, giving their everything to stop the clock hands from moving.

A few cards appeared in her hands.

[Devil God card: Devil's deal with time]

[Note: Automatic-type high-ranked card, at the time of a fatal threat, freeze all attacking enemies in place, duration 5 seconds]

The card then shattered into tiny sprites of light.

At the same time, a male voice hurriedly rang out from Isa's mind.

"Isa, a mysterious death god has been watching you" "This card I gift to you should be enough to kill the enemy that threatens your life!" "Remember, attack with everything!"

5 seconds begun.

The 1st second!

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Listening to Asmodeus' message, Isa still hadn't regained her composure yet.

In front of her, Gu Qing Shan, Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li were stopped in place.

An invisible air had enveloped them, including the daggers, the bloody glow and the white crescent sword slash, everything stopped in place, unable to move.

They were frozen in time.

While facing them, in the next second, Isa had drawn 11 cards at once!

The 2nd second!

Isa discarded the unusable cards and redrew them.

A full 5 seconds of being able to resist is more than enough for her to attack with her full power!

She smiled cruelly: "Trying to assassinate me? Die!"

The 3rd second!

Isa infused her power, about to activate the 11 cards in her hand.

From Gu Qing Shan's side, another sword appeared.

But before this sword could move, a blood-colored scroll appeared out of nowhere!

[A Moment of God's Lapse]

[Note: Automatic-type high-ranked scroll, at the time when your enemy is about to unleash a fatal attack, their mind will become blank, duration 3 seconds]

It started to release an intense red light.

Seeing that scroll, Isa screamed like she just saw the literal devil himself: "No! Bloodcloak!"

She then fell blank as if she was hit on the head with a bat.

[A Moment of God's Lapse] had activated! The clock hand ticks, the 4th second! The 11 cards on Isa's hand dispersed and disappeared. In this second, both sides couldn't move a muscle. The 5th second quickly came. And the 5th second ended! Bam! Bam! Two minute sounds rang out at the same time. [Devil's deal with time] and [A Moment of God's Lapse] both ended. Both sides were able to move again. Three powerful attacks full of killing intent continued heading for Isa. But this time, Isa didn't let her guard down. She hurriedly drew cards while shouting: "Hurt!" Hurt is the most powerful fighter of the Holy Church. As long as he holds them off, I will have enough time to use my cards. Isa believed this wholeheartedly. The first card appeared in her hand. Zhang Ying Hao's attack came. "Parry!" Isa yelled out as she held the card up. Zhang Ying Hao was knocked away. "Disperse!" Isa then drew the second card. With a 'pfoom', intense wind blew the bloody glow apart and swept Ye Fei Li away. Isa flew backwards, shifting her body slightly. She was giving Hurt an opening to come and receive Gu Qing Shan's attack for her. As long as Hurt stops Gu Qing Shan's sword, she'll be able to draw two cards! With two cards, I'll have enough time to catch my breath. But no one came.

Gu Qing Shan's sword stabbed straight at her heart.

Isa's expression warped and bet her life on the next card drawn.

As she glanced at the card, she was overjoyed.

This was a defensive card.

As long as Hurt comes, with this card, she'll have more than enough leisure.

Isa instantly activated this defensive card.

A holy shield appeared from thin air, blocking in front of her.

Stab!

A second sword had stabbed her from behind straight through her heart.

Isa went stiff.

This was the killing blow.

Secret Art, [Swallow Returns]

There was no card to protect her behind her back.

Isa struggled to turn and looked at Hurt.

Great Holy Apostle Hurt's hands were burning with a holy white flame, but he silently stood there.

He had restrained himself to not enter the battle.

He was backing off.

"W...hy?" Isa questioned.

Hurt's eyes were bloodshot, clenching his fists tightly: "You killed my brother, he held nothing but absolute loyalty to you, but you killed him!"