

Apocalypse 601

Chapter 601

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Within the light, the ancient divine armor answered: 「The body is only a vessel, the weaker soul is always the most valuable thing to protect, and I promised to protect you until everything is over」

"How reliable, you're much more trustworthy than a lot of humans" Gu Qing Shan praised.

「Naturally, humans have never been famous for keeping promises」the armor replied.

Gu Qing Shan had nothing else to say.

At this time, Shannu's voice came from the Six Paths Great Mountain sword.

"Gongzi, where are we going now?" she asked curiously.

"To see a friend" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The Earth sword also asked: "A real friend, or a friend with quotes?"

"A real friend, he's helped me through a lot of things" Gu Qing Shan replied.

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"Shannu, Earth sword, we might be in for a battle very soon, prepare yourselves" Gu Qing Shan said.

The two swords both gave off a sound stating that they understood.

Gu Qing Shan, on the other hand, fell into thought.

He recalled the last time he met the giant corpse and what he said at that time.

"You need to become stronger faster, I can sense some sort of unimaginable monster approaching, one that's more terrifying than any other that have appeared so far, it's coming to this world that imprisons me"

That was what the corpse told him.

Gu Qing Shan could hear despair in his voice.

Up to this point, the 100,000-year-old giant corpse had helped me a lot.

Even the [Mystery of All Beings Equal] came from him.

As long as I'm able to, I have to save it!

While Gu Qing Shan silently thought about that, he also prepared himself for battle.

After a while.

Gu Qing Shan felt the entire space vortex in front of him disappear as a different scenery appeared.

He had once again entered the isolated world.

Countless black skeletons were scuttling around on the vast land below.

—-as if they never knew when to stop.

The only other thing on the ground was a bronze pillar that connected heaven and earth.

A giant corpse wearing jet black armor was pinned to the pillar.

"I'm here, are you well?"

Gu Qing Shan hovered in the air and loudly asked.

The corpse didn't answer him.

Gu Qing Shan now noticed that one of the corpse's hands was now bare to the bones.

Messy bite marks covered the 5 finger bones.

—-as if something had eaten through all the flesh there, then tried to see if it could crunch the bones as well.

"Lower your voice"

A mysterious voice came.

Gu Qing Shan instantly shut up.

—-this was the giant corpse's voice.

Under his watchful eyes, a tiny piece of scale armor broke off from the giant corpse's armor.

The scale flew in front of Gu Qing Shan and blew a gust of wind that lingered around him for a bit.

It seems to be confirming his identity.

After that, the corpse's glad voice came from the scale.

"The current situation is very dangerous"

Its voice contained a sense of urgency unlike never before.

"What happened?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

“There’s something eating my flesh from inside my body”

The giant corpse continued: “To make sure that it couldn’t discover my soul, I had no choice but to hide inside my armor”

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan carefully looked at the giant corpse’s body.

He very quickly noticed occasional tiny vibrations at the corpse’s chest armor, under one of the scales.

There was something under the armor.

“Is it there?”

Gu Qing Shan pointed at the corpse’s chest with his sword.

He tried scanning there with his inner sight, but the corpse blocked it.

So that thing must be inside the corpse.

“Yes, it’s currently at my chest area, chewing through the outer layer of skin, I feel like it’s feeling very interested in eating my heart” the giant corpse answered.

“Why haven’t you retaliated?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“While on the bronze pillar, I can’t even move, let alone attack, otherwise I might alert some existences”

“Those existences would notice that my soul hasn’t fully died”

“Once I’m noticed, there will be no longer any hope to salvaging the situation”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “So you can only let yourself be eaten by that thing?”

“Correct”

Gu Qing Shan said: “Tell me a little bit about that thing that’s eating your body”

“An inexplicable creature, I’m sure it isn’t a creature from the 900 million World Layers” the giant corpse said.

“Why not?” Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

“Because its characteristics don’t match any life form within the 900 million World Layers” the corpse replied.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

At this time, a faint sound of crunching and chewing could be heard from inside the corpse’s body.

“Is it strong?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“From what I can tell, it might be slightly stronger than your current self. But I can’t guarantee that, because it’s a strange creature that I’ve never seen before” the giant corpse said.

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and spoke: “Alright, I’ll give it a try”

The giant corpse went silent briefly and said: “In the worst-case scenario, just take my soul and escape”

Gu Qing Shan spoke: “That’s not a very good choice at all, I know that much is common sense. If all you have left is your soul, you’ll have to restart from scratch”

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“It’s not a matter of strength or a matter of what it is. It’s simply my own problem—— because of how much I know, I can see the implications behind its existence, that is what scares me” saying that, the giant corpse went quiet.

“As long as it’s not a matter of strength, I don’t care, I’ll deal with it now”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan looked at the War God UI and selected one of the options that were temporarily hidden away.

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These were the uses of laido that he got when he massacred the ghost army on the plains with his sword array while farming for Soul Points.

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This was the difference between War God Quest and Destiny Quest.

“There’s only one enemy”

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

He picked the option and put all uses of [laido] on Secret Art, [Swallow Returns].

[Swallow Returns] was currently his most powerful assassination sword art.

Several new lines of text appeared on the War God UI.

[Your Skill: Swallow Returns had received 12 stacks of laido]

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“Understood, I accept”

Gu Qing Shan finished his preparations and thought about his plans briefly.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword flew out and tapped a few times on the outside of the giant corpse's chest.

Clang clang clang!

A clear chiming sound of a sword striking the armor echoed.

The sound of whatever was moving inside the armor stopped.

Then it moved again.

Apparently, compared to the disturbance on the outside, the heart of the corpse was a lot more alluring to it.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword tried striking the armor again.

Which was ignored again.

Gu Qing Shan scowled.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword returned.

This time, he used the Earth sword.

“Use soft force” Gu Qing Shan said. (1)

「 Got it 」 the Earth sword replied.

It flew up and spun heavily around itself several times to gather power before striking at the corpse's jet black armor.

A strike of 86,370,000 tons!

Bam!

A heavy sound of impact.

The armor was unharmed.

But a short hissing could be heard from inside the armor.

The Earth sword returned.

「 I stopped it from eating, it must be furious and will probably come for revenge soon 」 the Earth sword reported.

“Got it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

He looked at the giant corpse's black armor.

No sound could be heard from the armor.

A few moments later, one of the corpse's eyelids lifted up to reveal a crimson eye.

“Not you?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Not me” the corpse replied.

“Then it must be the monster”

Gu Qing Shan held his sword with both hands and prepared to strike.

All of a sudden, a roaring voice came.

This voice seemed to be surprised.

“Hmm—?”

“Strange” the voice continued “Gu... Qing... Shan, why are you here?”

Gu Qing Shan froze.

Why am I here?

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— who would know about me in this place?

An unsolvable doubt appeared in Gu Qing Shan’s heart.

He asked the giant corpse: “You said it wasn’t a creature of the 900 million World Layers!?”

“It definitely isn’t” the giant corpse confirmed.

“Then why did it know my name?”

“I’m not sure” the giant corpse’s voice seemed clearly alarmed.

While they talked, a monster had already arrived outside of the giant corpse’s eye.

“It’s coming” the corpse reminded him.

Gu Qing Shan held his sword tight and looked.

It was a very bizarre monster.

Before Gu Qing Shan could clearly make out what it was, he suddenly felt extreme fear.

This was the body’s instinctual reflex whenever someone was about to die.

Right in that second, even when he had opened his mouth, he was unable to breathe.

An unprecedented shadow of death loomed over him.

This was a deep sense of despair, like looking down at an endless abyss.

The glow of the divine armor suddenly became blinding and solemn.

The armor hurriedly told him: 「 I can feel your death coming! I can only give you 3 breaths’ worth of time! 」

In that instant, the armor activated [God’s Order].

[God's Order: When you are about to receive fatal damage or when the armor senses your fate of death, it will immediately activate [Time Stop] once]

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The entire isolated world ground to a halt.

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Chapter 603

Black skeletons were mindlessly crawling all over the ground.

Only Gu Qing Shan and a single piece of scale armor silently floated in front of the bronze pillar.

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan spoke with conviction, "from its eyes, I could tell that it knew who I was"

The giant corpse stopped briefly

"But now that the monster is dead, there's no way to know what happened now. And I have one piece of advice for you" he said.

"Go ahead"

"Before you become strong, don't go looking into secrets that you don't have control over"

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

Indeed, the situation just now was far from the limit of what I could deal with. If it weren't for the divine armor, or the Earth sword risking its life with one strike, or the Six Paths Great Mountain sword's characteristic— if even one of those were missing, I would've already died. And it wouldn't have just been me alone, but the corpse wouldn't have been able to escape as well.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and calmly said: “Truthfully speaking, all of my recent encounters are all like this, every moment needed me to use all my power, wit and means just to have a slim hope of survival, the root cause of which is because I'm simply still too weak”

The giant corpse agreed: “No matter which world it is, being weak is the only sin, only by becoming strong can you better survive”

Gu Qing Shan said: “Which is why after this, when everything has been dealt with, I'll have to find a way to get stronger— I'll do everything to become stronger!”

The giant corpse asked: “What's been happening recently outside?”

“Quite a lot actually...”

Gu Qing Shan told him about some of the most recent events.

“So the [Demon King Order] appeared huh...” the giant corpse sighed.

“That's right, I've already killed every demonized, I won't let it escape from this world” Gu Qing Shan said.

“That's good, otherwise if it was allowed to meet up with the main [Order] from the Fallen Zones, it'll continue to evolve further” the giant corpse said.

“I'll let it destroy itself within that closed-off world” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Destroy the [Order]? What do you plan to do?”

“I said it just now, I've killed all the demonized”

“Which evolution is the [Demon King Order] at now?”

“It's currently evolving into [Revolution]”

“Then you won't kill it that way”

“Hm?” Gu Qing Shan froze.

The giant corpse patiently explained: “Yes, as many now know, when it's still in its [Kindling] or [Origin] stage, as long as no catalyst exists for the [Order], the [Order] will disappear”

“But when an [Order] reaches [Revolution] stage, it won't be that easy to destroy it”

“Without a carrier, it'll simply enter a dormant state, using as little energy as possible to ensure its own survival until a new carrier appears”

“This is a secret that not many in the entire 900 million World Layers knows about. Now that I've told you, you have to keep it a secret and not tell anyone else, otherwise...”

The giant corpse stayed silent and said nothing else.

“...Then it’s fortunate that I came to see you” Gu Qing Shan gritted his teeth: “Is there any way to destroy it now?”

“Why do you need to do that? Does it already consider you an arch-enemy?” the giant corpse asked him back.

“Yes” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“...”

The giant corpse went silent for a while.

Apparently, he was considering something extremely important.

After a while.

A piece of black scale peeled off from the armor and flew in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The black layer then proceeded to break off to reveal a small silver box.

As he looked at this silver box, Gu Qing Shan felt a sense of solemnity.

“Inside that Triste’s collection world, were there any light?” the corpse asked.

“Light?”

“Yes, natural light”

“There is, above the clouds”

“Then that’s enough, take this box with you. When [Revolution] completes its evolution, as soon as it appears, take this box and throw it above the clouds” the giant corpse seriously told him.

Following his words, the silver box landed in Gu Qing Shan’s hand.

“Do you have any means to conceal it? On your way back, you have to make sure that it doesn’t get exposed” the giant corpse asked.

“I have a soul-bound Inventory Bag, will that be enough?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“It will be good enough, put it in there by itself, make sure to not let anything get close to it. Make sure that you don’t open it until you use it” the giant corpse told him.

Gu Qing Shan followed his words and neatly put the silver box away.

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“What’s in the box?” he asked.

“A beacon”

“A beacon?”

“Yes, it can summon the [Demon King Order]’s natural enemy—— an [Order] that’s also at the third stage, if they ever meet each other in the same world, they will engage in a mutually destructive combat

and kill each other”

“You definitely can’t tell anyone about this, the only thing you can tell them is that you’ve killed all the demonized, got it?”

“Got it”

The giant corpse was still worried so he reminded Gu Qing Shan again: “Make sure that under no circumstances will you ever mention a single word about this. Otherwise, even if you could escape the [Demon King Order]’s pursuit, even more, terrifying creatures will come after you”

“Alright, don’t worry, I at least know how to keep my mouth shut” Gu Qing Shan also seriously replied.

At this time, Gu Qing Shan began to feel a faint sense of rejection.

The world itself was rejecting him.

But there were still a lot of mysteries that haven’t been solved, and more things he still wanted to ask the giant corpse.

“I have to leave now” he said.

“Hm, after you leave, I’ll have to fix up my body and think of a way to conceal this world, that’ll be quite a bit of work” the giant corpse told him.

“Can I only come here whenever I breakthrough?” he asked.

“Correct”

“But the last time I went to Huang Quan, I was able to end up here——”

The corpse stopped him: “When you faked death to come here last time, it was a dangerous situation on its own, I’ve just never told you about it”

“Not to mention, now that the situation has changed, you shouldn’t carelessly attempt to get here”

“The safest method is still me leading your soul vessel here whenever you breakthrough a realm”

Gu Qing Shan could only nod.

The force acting on him became stronger and stronger, pulling his soul back into his body.

I’m about to leave——

All of a sudden, Gu Qing Shan recalled something important.

He immediately asked: “I still have a question, what is a world tomb?”

“A world tomb? So you even know about that huh?” the giant corpse was surprised to hear that.

“My time’s almost up!”

“Sure, I’ll tell you”

“When the Gods created the world, occasionally they would make a mistake and create a few inexplicable objects”

“Because they were created with the combined efforts of several Gods, some of them are particularly

powerful, a few other are peculiar and unreasonable, and there are even some creations that even the Gods are afraid of”

“A lot of these failed creations are destroyed by the Gods”

“But similarly, a lot of these creations simply can’t be destroyed even by the same Gods that created them”

“So the Gods have no choice but to think of a way to seal away these strange and powerful creations away, hiding them where they won’t be easily discovered to avoid them from messing up the order of the worlds”

Gu Qing Shan asked: “What are those creations then?”

“No one knows, only when you open a world tomb will you know exactly what’s inside— perhaps it could be a book, or a weapon, a life form, it could possibly even be an incomplete world. Simply said, there’s no telling what you’ll find inside a world tomb, because the Gods never said anything about them when they hid them away”

“Basically, the creations that the Gods sealed and threw away are usually hidden in locations where they aren’t meant to be found, which are called ‘world tombs’ as a whole”

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

He still remembers the conversation he had with the War God System.

[You’ve moved away from the world tomb]

“What’s a world tomb?”

[What you call Reality]

“Why did you call it that?”

The War God System didn’t answer him and only stayed silent.

So a world tomb was hidden inside Reality!

Was that really the case?

At this time, the force acting on Gu Qing Shan’s soul vessel became stronger and stronger.

He was about to leave this world!

“One last thing!” Gu Qing Shan suddenly shouted.

“Quickly, you don’t have much time” the giant corpse urged him.

“How do I become stronger faster?”

The giant corpse quickly answered: “Go to the Strife Zones, there’s another [Worlds—-”

Hoh!

Without being able to hear everything, Gu Qing Shan was ejected from the world and pulled back to his body.

He turned into a streak of light that quickly followed the same way back.

“—[Apocalypse Online] there, but it isn't the [Demon King Order]”

The corpse finished its sentence.

But Gu Qing Shan had already left.

Chapter 604

Triste's collection world.

The ice layer.

Snowstorms ravaged the land.

The world was barren.

A black-clothed girl sat across from Gu Qing Shan, carefully watching over him.

At a certain point, her expression slightly changed.

『 I can feel it, his soul vessel is returning 』

Li Yang lightly smiled.

She stood up from her chair and stretched.

『 I'll leave first, I have some business to attend to 』 she spoke to the air.

The Chao Yin sword suddenly appeared.

Oong— oong? It asked her.

『 Ah, he's returning soon, there shouldn't be any problem, for now, so I can leave to do other things without concerns 』 Li Yang replied.

Oong?? The Chao Yin sword asked again.

『 If he needs to find me, he'd naturally have his ways, and I really do have important business to attend to. I'm actually late you know 』

Li Yang waved to the Chao Yin sword and disappeared into the void of space.

The Chao Yin sword fell silent.

It felt a bit confused.

*She clearly came to find him, so why did she leave when he was about to wake up again?
—couldn't she have at least stayed and told him what she wanted to say?*

A second later, Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

He stood up.

“Chao Yin, who came here?”

Gu Qing Shan looked at the bamboo chair across from him and asked.

The Chao Yin sword let off a series of small vibrations.

Gu Qing Shan's expression slowly loosened.

"Is that so? She was watching over me?"

Oong!

The Chao Yin sword nodded with its hilt.

Then it hesitantly looked behind Gu Qing Shan.

Only the Six Paths Great Mountain sword was there, the Earth sword was missing.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and told it: "It was an urgent situation at the time, both the Earth sword and I had to use everything we had to kill the enemy.

...

On another side.

After Li Yang went into the space vortex, she quickly arrived at another world.

This was a strange world filled with flowers.

Within the sea of flowers, countless Tianma were happily dancing and singing without any worry.

Li Yang walked straight into the sea of flowers.

Her sisters have been waiting here for a while.

The Progenitor Fiendess sat on top of a high platform, not saying anything.

『 Mother, I've returned 』 Li Yang bowed to greet her.

『 Just now, a Tribulation began in Shen Wu world, did you obtain the Seat of Tribulation? 』 the Progenitor Fiendess asked.

『 Yes, it was a Projection realm cultivator attempting to breakthrough to Tribulation realm 』

『 Then why are you so late? The Wind Tribulation had begun for a while already 』

『 I— 』

『 Did you go to him again? 』 the Progenitor Fiendess asked.

『 Yes 』 Li Yang lowered her gaze and answered.

『 Li Yang... 』 the Progenitor Fiendess sighed.

Li Yang lowered her head: 『 Forgive me, Mother 』

『 No, I don't blame you for that 』

Li Yang looked up in surprise as she gazed at her Mother.

The Progenitor Fiendess thought about it briefly and slowly told her: 『 The entire Samsara of the Shen Wu world underwent considerable changes, even the Laws of heaven and earth are slowly being altered 』

『 I can feel it, not only the Samsara worlds, but every world in the Outer Planes will be plunged into a great calamity very soon 』

『 That is why, at this moment, making powerful allies is a good way to protect us Tianma as a whole 』

『 So you may go and act as you see fit, Mother will support your decision 』

Empress Li Yang trembled slightly before replying: 『 Yes, Mother 』

She once again bowed, backed off a few steps and disappeared into the void of space.

Shen Wu world.

A huge Heaven's Tribulation was undergoing.

Going from Sainted to Projection and Projection to Tribulation both required a cultivator to face a duo Tribulation of Wind and Lightning.

The only difference was that when a cultivator breaks through to Projection realm, the Wind Tribulation will summon a total of 8 Seats for devils and fiends.

While a total of 16 Seats for devils and fiends will be summoned when breaking through to Tribulation realm.

And at this time, the Lightning Tribulation had already ended.

The Wind Tribulation had begun for a while.

In the middle of the storm, a single cultivator was alone.

Li Yang flew out from a crack in space and into the void of space around the wind.

『 I was late 』

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She nodded to greet the Tianma girls around her.

The Tianma quickly lowered their heads to bow to her—— as they were her subordinates.

Li Yang looked around to see the other 15 kinds of devils and fiends summoned for the Wind Tribulation were all standing, holding their breaths without attacking.

She asked in confusion: 『 What's going on here? The Wind Tribulation had already started for a while, why didn't any Fiend Kings leading their troops to attack? 』

One of the Tianma answered her: 『 The other 7 Fiend Kings had already led their troops to attack just now, but they were all killed 』

『 The one facing the Tribulation this time is that strong? 』 Li Yang exclaimed in surprise.

『 When this person fights, their attacks are too powerful, each strike aimed straight for the throat, risking their life with every attack, so everyone is a bit wary 』 the Tianma replied.

『 Have our people tried to attack yet? 』 Li Yang asked.

『 We have, but this person's Dao heart is firm and there wasn't any gap in their inner sight, so we couldn't breakthrough 』 another Tianma answered.

Li Yang looked at the cultivator facing the Tribulation below.

That cultivator wore a helmet that included a protective visor, their armor was slender and fit their form perfectly without leaving any gaps.

The cultivator held a shining white Blade in hand, silently standing in the wind without moving.

All of a sudden, the troops of the 8 devil races appeared from the wind and dived straight at the cultivator from above.

The cultivator's body moved, riding the wind upwards.

Blinding gleams of Blade slashed towards the sky.

Without being able to fight back, over a thousand devils were sliced apart right away.

Clang clang clink clink clang clang!

Boom!

Being surrounded by the devil troops, the cultivator's armor was constantly ringing by the strikes of the devil's and fiend's army.

At that moment, when a Fiend King saw a gap, it struck the cultivator downwards, making a large hole on the ground.

The Fiend King laughed triumphantly: 『 Hak, this fool only knows how to attack, I'll— 』

Its voice stopped.

Several dozen strings of blood appeared around its body as it began to fall apart in large chunks.

A Fiend King was killed!

Within the dust, the cultivator stood up again, their body still as straight as a spear.

The cultivator swung their blade to discard the blood on it.

That was the Fiend King's blood.

Seeing that, the fiends and devils on all sides felt scared, not wanting to come up to attack for now.

『 Master, what do we do now? 』

One of the Tianma asked.

Li Yang thought about it, but didn't answer and instead appeared from the Wind Tribulation.

The cultivator immediately recognized her.

The cultivator raised their Blade, but as soon as they saw Li Yang clearly, they slowly lowered it again.

Seeing this reaction, Li Yang descended.

She stood across the cultivator and lightly curtsied, speaking: 『 If you've already met me, you must have participated in that day's great battle 』

A brief silence.

Soon enough, a clear chiming female voice came from behind the cultivator's visor: "That day when we went against the Virtualized realm cultivator of another world, I saw you manifested in the air and jointly fought against the enemy with Gu Qing Shan"

『 Indeed, I was 』 Li Yang nodded.

The female cultivator hesitated for a bit, couldn't help herself and asked: "He— how is he now?"

『 He's very well, in fact, he had just reached Projection realm. Soon enough, he should return 』 Li Yang replied.

The female cultivator didn't move or say anything, but Li Yang could still feel that she had lightly sighed in relief.

Li Yang didn't pay too much attention to that.

In the end, Gu Qing Shan was a General on their side, furthermore, he saved their entire world, so it was natural for her to feel relieved to hear news of Gu Qing Shan.

"Are you here to stop me from facing my Tribulation?" the female cultivator continued asking.

Li Yang shook her head: 『 I and Gu Qing Shan are allies, and you are on his side, so we Tianma won't make it difficult for you 』

"Is that possible?" the female cultivator was surprised.

『 Indeed, but as the holder of one of the Seats of Tribulation during this Wind Tribulation, I have to attack you once, so raise your Blade 』 Li Yang said.

The female cultivator raised her Blade as instructed.

This Blade was about 6.6cm longer than a normal Blade, the shaft of the Blade was thin, drawing a straight line from the hilt to the top of the Blade.

This was a Blade meant for female cultivators, much more flexible and dexterous than male cultivator's Blades whose backs were much wider.

But such a sword when held in this female cultivator's hand showed off nothing but fierceness and majesty.

Li Yang stepped forward and lightly flicked the Blade.

『 Done 』 she said.

“Was that... it?” the female cultivator was stunned.

『 Hm, Gu Qing Shan’s Wind Tribulation was faced exactly the same way 』 Li Yang told her.

The female cultivator didn’t say anything, apparently very shaken.

『 How rare 』 Li Yang praised her, 『 I can tell that you are only just over 20 years old, yet you already achieved this level of Bladesmanship, what excellent talent you have 』

Being praised like this, the female cultivator felt a bit embarrassed.

The female cultivator put her Blade away, slightly bowing: “You praise too much, I’m merely following my own will”

『 Then what is your will? 』 Li Yang asked.

“The Blade lives and dies for the Dao, moving forward to become peerless, that is all”

The female cultivator softly answered.

Chapter 605: [Deific]

Triste’s collection world.

The ice layer.

Gu Qing Shan sat down atop his cushion again.

In the end, the giant corpse told me to head to the Fallen Zones to quickly gain strength. Unfortunately, I only heard the first part so I don’t know what he said at the end...

He looked at the War God UI and selected the [War God Quest] icon.

Immediately, several lines of text appeared on the UI.

[Where your sword points, the System’s Quest shall follow]

[Current Quest: Heaven’s Punishment (incomplete)]

[Quest description: Worlds Apocalypse Online: Origin is undergoing its final transformation, it will soon evolve into its [Revolution] form, escape this world and take over 300 million World Layers]

[Quest objective: Eliminate it]

[Quest reward: A secret]

As Gu Qing Shan looked at the Quest, he carefully recalled everything that happened recently.

Originally, I named this Quest [Heaven’s Punishment] because I wanted to use the power of the Tribulation to eliminate all the demonized.

But now I know that simply killing all the demonized wasn’t enough to destroy [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Demon King Order].

Gu Qing Shan touched his Inventory Bag and scanned through it with his inner sight.

The silver box that the giant corpse gave him was silently sitting there.

Is there really a beacon inside this box?

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

He wasn't the type that would easily trust others.

But the giant corpse has always helped him, and he was the key to helping the corpse escape from his imprisonment.

He would probably not try to hurt me.

If he was lying, why wouldn't he have just pretended like he didn't know, or not tell me the truth about [Order]?

Instead, not only did he tell me about this secret, he even warned me over and over not to divulge it to anyone.

From the start, I was only able to save Shifu because he had guided me.

And he even taught me [Mystery of All Beings Equal].

After hesitating for a bit, Gu Qing Shan decided to trust him one more time.

"I'm really curious to know, what would the thing inside this box actually summon..."

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the sky to estimate the time.

It was currently nighttime and morning would soon come.

— it took an entire day for [Origin] to evolve into [Revolution].

There should still be about half a day left.

Now all he needed to do was just wait.

Tapping his Inventory Bag, Gu Qing Shan took out a Communication Talisman.

He spoke into the talisman and tied it to the Chao Yin sword.

"Go down through the ocean and bring this to Tidal city. It's a message for Laura's group so that they won't be worried" Gu Qing Shan said.

The Chao Yin sword vibrated briefly before splitting the ocean and dived downwards.

Gu Qing Shan exited the [War God Quest] window on the War God UI.

He sat on the spot and thought about the monster he met back in the giant corpse's world.

There were too many things to think about.

Even if he tried to make sense of it, there wasn't much to go off at.

After a while, Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized something.

Oh yeah, I already killed that thing so I should at least see the changes in the Soul Points.

He looked at the War God UI again.

Where it normally displays his Soul Points now read: [0/600]

I didn't get any Soul Points at all!

Gu Qing Shan raised his eyebrows and was about to question the System, but a line of text had already appeared below his Soul Points display.

[You killed an unknown existence]

[Considering the danger and unknown nature of it, to ensure nothing unexpected happens, the War God System didn't attempt to absorb its Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought as he stared at these two lines.

The War God System was being this careful, almost as if it was treading on thin ice.

—why?

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help himself asking: "System, what exactly was that thing I killed?"

[Ting]!

The War God System responded: [Unable to divulge corresponding information, please don't attempt to ask about its identity]

"Not even through silently talking in my mind like this?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

[Remember what that corpse said, before you become strong, don't go looking into secrets that you don't have control over] the War God UI replied.

"Fine" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

At this time, a new change appeared on the War God UI.

On the row at the bottom, various icons representing [War God Skill], [War God Thaumaturgy], [War God Title], [Doomsday Chronicles] and [War God Quest] had already been unlocked.

The icon for [War God Thaumaturgy] was flashing.

Several lines of glowing text appeared from [War God Thaumaturgy]

[You've reached Projection realm]

[You've qualified to awaken a new Thaumaturgy]

[Because Destiny Quests have been removed, after this War God Quest is over, please issue a new War God Quest to collect the power necessary to awaken a new Thaumaturgy]

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Gu Qing Shan was surprised and asked: "Because there's no Destiny Quest, now I have to issue new [War God Quest] for this myself? Isn't that a bit strange?"

The War God UI replied: [If you fail a Destiny Quest, there would always be a penalty, but a War God Quest that you issued wouldn't contain any penalties in case of failure]

[Even more importantly, the System will fully support you with a different method of Soul Points usage for every War God Quest depending on the situation at the time]

[For example, during this War God Quest-chain, you've received the laido state as a way to use your Soul Points]

Gu Qing Shan nodded, [laido] was indeed quite a good way to use Soul Points, it had helped him quite a bit.

He asked: "Then will I get the [laido] state again during the next War God Quest?"

The War God UI replied: [Not necessarily, but you will definitely receive a method to use Soul Points in order to help with your battles]

Gu Qing Shan nodded in understanding: "If it's as you said, the treatment for [War God Quest] and Destiny Quests are certainly like night and day"

He silently kept this in mind.

At this point, the Chao Yin sword flew out from the sea.

It circled around Gu Qing Shan, giving off faint 'wu wu' sounds.

"Good job" Gu Qing Shan praised.

The Chao Yin sword disappeared behind his back, but before it did, it couldn't help but let out a few more sounds.

Gu Qing Shan seriously listened to it and replied: "Yes, I did repair you, but the Earth sword's damage is too great, even its shaft is current at breaking point. I couldn't risk trying anything at my level of Smithing"

Oong...

The Chao Yin sword called out in a tiny voice, seemingly sorrowful.

Gu Qing Shan also sighed from dejection.

The Earth sword was his very first partner, but now it has been forced to go dormant.

For a sword cultivator, this was extremely uncomfortable.

He could only console the Chao Yin sword: "Don't worry, after we return to my sect, I'll ask Shifu, she definitely has a way for it to recover"

The Chao Yin sword nodded with its hilt and no longer made any sounds.

Gu Qing Shan now closed his eyes and solidified his realm, studying the changes in his body

There was still half a day left until [Origin] finished its evolution.

Gu Qing Shan intended to stay right here and wait until it woke up.

Time quickly passed.

The night faded.

The day slowly came.

When it was almost noon, Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

1 breath.

2 breaths.

3 breaths.

A cold but majestic voice echoed across the entire ice layer.

[Evolution complete]

[Worlds Apocalypse Online: Revolution has officially launched]

[New functions unlocked]

[Existing functions improved]

[Searching for carriers]

[...]

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan's lips curved into a smile.

He leapt upwards and took to the sky.

Through the wind and snow.

Through the thick layer of clouds.

Bright sunlight shined from the blue sky above.

There was nothing here but light.

"A place with light..." Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Standing above the clouds, he tapped his Inventory Bag and took out the silver box.

As soon as sunlight came into contact with the silver box, something miraculous happened.

The box melted away.

Instead, a mysterious rune that Gu Qing Shan didn't recognize appeared out of nowhere.

This rune gave off an immeasurable holy light.

"Was this the beacon?" Gu Qing Shan wondered.

A second later, the rune suddenly shattered.

All the light that came with it also disappeared without a trace.

As if nothing happened at all just now.

"Is that it?"

While Gu Qing Shan was still confused, new information had already appeared on the War God UI.

A new notification popped up.

[Worlds Apocalypse Online: Deific, has descended]

At the same time, the cold and majestic voice of [Revolution] echoed across the entire world like thunder.

[Angel Order detected]

[A battle to the death is about to begin, all carriers prepare yourselves!]

Chapter 606: Triggered

As soon as [Revolution]'s announcement was finished, another voice echoed across the world.

Unlike the cold majesty of [Revolution], this voice was divine and full of empathy.

[Apocalyptic Order of Lies, the path which enslaves living beings, that which nurtures the Demon King, I will erase your existence from this world, to prove the protective will of the Gods towards the worlds]

[Searching for a carrier, prepare to commence the Holy War]

[...]

This voice also went quiet.

Gu Qing Shan simply waited.

Now that every demonized being had been killed already, he was really curious as to what would happen next.

What would an [Order] do if there's no one to carry it?

...

Wait a minute.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized something.

Aside from the isolated world below the ocean, protected by the barrier of the Old Gods, there was still at least one person left between the ocean layer and the ice layer.

Which was Gu Qing Shan himself.

As soon as he realized this, the War God UI lit up.

Lines of glowing text appeared:

[Due to having no other carriers, the Demon King Order – Worlds Apocalypse Online: Revolution had forcefully attached itself to you]

[Due to having no other carriers, the Angel Order – Worlds Apocalypse Online: Deific had forcefully attached itself to you]

Following the War God UI's message, two completely new UIs appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The familiar red UI— from crimson red now changed to bright red, [Origin] after it had evolved, [Revolution].

A white UI glowing in divine light— this was [Angel Order] – [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Deific]

Right now, in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes were 3 parallel UIs.

The light blue War God UI, the bright red [Revolution] UI, the holy white [Deific] UI.

One person, three UIs, this was a situation that hadn't happened even once ever since the dawn of time.

And the one who planned for this to happen—— the 100,000-year-old giant corpse, didn't actually know about Gu Qing Shan's own War God UI.

Which means the situation has gone beyond what he originally predicted, it was now impossible to tell what would happen next.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the [Deific] UI, then at the [Revolution] UI.

"What now?"

He asked the War God UI in a low voice.

[Ting]!

A clear chime came from the War God UI.

[Because they are directly opposing Orders, according to my judgement, we won't need to do anything at all, simply ignore them]

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

This was the same as what the giant corpse told him.

So he remained quiet.

One breath's worth of time later.

The white and red UIs in front of his eyes both started to move.

The glow they gave off became even brighter.

The glowing lights clashed and weaved with each other, attempting to breakthrough and take over the other party.

As time passed, their glow had separated from each other, but covered the opposing party instead of themselves.

Under mutual illumination, both UIs started to change.

At first, the glowing lights invaded the UI, then the UI began to shake intensely, as the function icons and displays on both UIs started to crumble.

All of a sudden, something unpredictable happened.

Several thousand kilometers away, at the top of the Old God's ice peak, the golden runes appeared and expanded to cover every inch of the mountain range.

This was ancient God Script, the written language of the Old Gods.

Converging at the peak, all the runes gave off a blinding golden light that gathered at a single spot.

The transparent blue icy peak was now turned into a majestic golden divine mountain.

Apparently what was happening on Gu Qing Shan's body caused the divine mountain to react.

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In a split second, the spot of light that the God Script gathered at the very peak shot out in a blinding golden beam that headed straight for Gu Qing Shan.

The golden beam enveloped Gu Qing Shan!

The entire world went dark.

Everything in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes disappeared.

He felt that the world was constantly spinning, while he was flying through the air at an unimaginable speed.

—no, this wasn't the air.

Rather, he was crossing through countless World Layers, headed to an unknown location.

Perhaps it was countless years later, or perhaps it was only the blink of an eye, Gu Qing Shan found himself already losing his sense of time and space.

All of a sudden, he appeared somewhere completely blurred.

He saw a giant humanoid figure as tall as the tallest mountain he ever saw.

This figure was hidden in the darkness, so none of their features could be seen clearly, but due to the glow around them, Gu Qing Shan could determine that they were in fact, a humanoid.

Interweaving light and shadows, blurred background and scenery, a figure that couldn't be made out no matter how much he tried, this caused Gu Qing Shan to be unable to determine what was what at all.

"War God System, what is this?" Gu Qing Shan silently asked in his mind.

The War God UI stayed silent without answering him.

Then, the mountain-like giant figure began to talk.

「 We have left, but considering a few unique circumstances that might happen, after creating the 900 million World Layers, we left this bit of projection here 」

Their voice was slow, but the information divulged was heavy.

Creating the worlds?

Only the Old Gods can create a world.

Could it be, this was one of the Old Gods?

While Gu Qing Shan was thinking about that, the other party had already continued.

「 After we left, greed will only grow, the 900 million World Layers will one day fall into endless calamities and tribulation 」

「 At the moment when the 900 million World Layers heads towards its end, you hold a weapon forged by us, in a world where we once resided, destroyed two opposing [Orders] by your own hands 」

「 You even hold a type of Authority 」

「 And so, meeting this projection of us is the blessing we grant you 」

「 Take this back with you, we hope you will do even more from now on 」

After saying so, the mountain-like giant figure disappeared from Gu Qing Shan's sight.

As soon as the giant disappeared, the interweaving light and shadows became even more unreal.

As Gu Qing Shan finished hearing that, he suddenly felt a compulsory urge to sleep.

A long sleep that he wasn't sure of how long it lasted.

He suddenly felt alarmed being in this state.

Gu Qing Shan abruptly looked up and turned completely awake.

He found that he was still standing above a vast sea of clouds.

Standing so high in the sky that snow couldn't reach, a faint warmth had covered Gu Qing Shan's body.

The world was empty, there was no other being here.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the light in the sky—— the direction of the sunlight had not changed.

Which meant that not much time had actually passed.

Was that really an Old God?

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

Thinking of the final words they said, Gu Qing Shan instinctively raised his left hand without knowing why.

He stared at his palm.

After a few seconds, a thick book appeared out of nowhere, silently floating on his hand.

It was a black leather-bound book.

An invisible gust of wind drifted about the book, constantly blowing outwards.

Gu Qing Shan understood this feeling well—— this was Soul Points, also known as Divine Power.

At the same time, he noticed that the bright red and white UIs in his vision had both disappeared.

If what the Old Gods' figure said was true, then both [Revolution] and [Deific] had been destroyed.

The War God UI suddenly lit up.

Line after line of glowing text constantly showed up.

[Two types of Order had attached themselves to you and mutually destroyed each other]
[Your actions had triggered the Old God's unique projection left behind for the 900 million World Layers]
[According to my analysis, it has been confirmed that the requirements to trigger the projection were extremely strict, the specifics are the following:]
[Condition 1: The 900 million World Layers is currently heading towards its end]
[Condition 2: You must currently be in a world where the Old Gods once resided]
[Condition 3: You must have a weapon forged by the Old Gods]
[Condition 4: Walk the path of the Gods, going against the Orders that compete with each other to gather living beings]
[Condition 5: Destroy 2 types of Orders at the same time]
[Condition 6: You must hold any type of Authority]
[You've fulfilled the above 6 conditions]
[You've obtained the Old God's Blessing]

Chapter 607

The black leather-back book lightly hovered on top of Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Gu Qing Shan was not in a rush to open it.

Towards the unknown, he always had ample patience.

He stared at the glowing text on the War God UI and asked the System.

"War God System, can you explain clearly what the six conditions for activating the Old God's projection are?"

[Ting]!

The War God System replied:

[First: The 900 million World Layers were created by the Old Gods, now that they've left, the Apocalypse has revealed itself, which caused the [Worlds Apocalypse] [Orders] to appear. This is indeed the correct period for triggering this condition]

[Second: This world was where the Old Gods once resided]

[Third: The Chao Yin sword was forged by the Old Gods as the pillar of the four seas, he who holds this sword is the king of the seas recognized by the Old Gods]

[Fourth: Since arriving at this world, you've been constantly going against Worlds Apocalypse Online: Origin, as witnessed by the Old God's ice peak]

[Fifth: You destroyed two types of Order at the same time]

[Sixth: You are the War God as recognized by the System, the owner of the War God Authority, the manifestation of Laws from another timeline before the Apocalypse ended the world, you should know this better than anyone else]

Gu Qing Shan read through everything and stopped at the very last one.

Indeed, I actually returned from another timeline back to the past to redo everything.

If you look at this from a logical perspective, then the future could actually affect the past?

If that's the case, would this be considered the future affecting the past, or the past affecting the future again?

No, maybe it's something else—

The War God System and I had sneaked back to the past from the future, from then on affecting the entire timeline, causing everything to restart again.

But, what if this can't be rationalized with logic?

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

He immediately thought of the monster from before.

"Pitiful..." before the monster died, that was what it said as it saw him.

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

There are too many mysteries, and with my current strength, I'm still far from being able to even take a guess.

A new notification popped up on the War God UI.

[You can now accept the blessing of the Old Gods]

Reading this, Gu Qing Shan felt the War God UI was somewhat glad.

"Wouldn't this be some sort of trap?"

He asked.

[It wouldn't, the Gods hated Orders, and you've already proven your stance over and over again while in their world]

[That is why the Old Gods wouldn't specifically leave a trap for you this way] the War God UI replied.

Being assured, Gu Qing Shan spoke: *"Alright, let us see what this black book really is"*

He grabbed the book with his hand.

Immediately, a few notifications popped up on the War God UI.

[You've received the Creator God's book of blessing]

[Please open the book]

Gu Qing Shan casually flipped open the first page.

In a split second, the entire black book turned into a streak of light that shot into the air.

This blinding and majestic light was filled with life force and praise, drifting about the top of Gu Qing Shan's head without going away.

At the same time, the light slowly manifested into a gigantic figure in the sky.

His body was taller than even the tallest of mountains, comparatively, Gu Qing Shan looked like a mortal standing at the foot of the mountain.

As the figure gazed at Gu Qing Shan, he began to speak.

「 You are the 3rd person in the 900 million World Layers to receive the blessings that the Gods left for those that go against [Order], now, you may tell me what you desire the most 」

Gu Qing Shan was slightly shocked.

But before he said anything, a line of text had already appeared on the War God UI.

[Tell the truth]

Apparently afraid that Gu Qing Shan might waste this chance, more lines of glowing text appeared below that to explain carefully:

[The Causality skills of the Old Gods have their own rules, only a real desire formed at the depths of your heart will successfully manifest as a real result]

[And so, you must say what you truly desire the most!]

Reading what the War God UI told him, Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded to express his understanding.

He looked at the gigantic figure in the sky and took a deep breath——

“Truthfully, a lot of the time, when I face a desperate situation, I can’t help but curse myself for being too weak”

He began to explain himself.

“If you are willing, please help me obtain strength that far surpasses my own, only then can I go against [Order], obtain freedom and protect everything that I want to protect!”

“More power!”

“Enough power to change everything!”

“I want to become stronger and obtain immeasurable strength, that is what I desire most!”

Gu Qing Shan shouted.

——too many desperate situations, too many times when he was unable to do anything, he always had to travel at the very edge of the cliff, using his wits, risking his life and gamble time and time again for the sake of what he wanted to protect, to find that one slim hope of survival.

He has already utilized everything he had, and everything he could.

However!

If he was strong enough, in a lot of situations, he wouldn’t have to risk his life or use up his wits, there wouldn’t be a need to travel at the edge or prepare schemes after schemes.

He would only need to swing his sword and take care of everything.

That was why, just as the 100,000-year-old giant corpse said, within the time of the Worlds’ Apocalypse, being weak is the original sin!

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I need to be strong!

And now, facing the giant figure of the Old Gods, Gu Qing Shan had released the frustration he held back for so long and declared his truest innermost desire.

Above the clouds, below the sky.

The godlike giant figure silently listened to Gu Qing Shan.

「 To become stronger? Is that what you desire most? 」 he asked.

“Yes!” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 But the Laws of the worlds will not accept the sudden existence of a strong creature, even Causality has its rules, a step-by-step process is required, it won't be done all at once 」

「 As we are no longer here, we cannot grant you the power to immediately become strong 」

「 However, within the blessing that we had prepared, there is indeed one that will achieve the 'effect' of gaining the strength that you desire 」

「 ——you will indeed become stronger than you've ever imagined, but this will need time, it will need your own effort and struggle. You will have to shed blood and tears several times that of others, going through more hardship and cultivation than anyone else, to finally become the sovereign that stands above all sovereigns 」

「 Effort will show results, hard work will be repaid, painstakingly spend time to achieve your goal, this conforms to the Law of Causality within the infinite worlds 」

「 If you won't spend several times more effort and struggle than others, this blessing wouldn't do anything at all 」

「 Are you willing to accept such a blessing? 」

“I'm willing” Gu Qing Shan answered without hesitation.

Hearing that, the gigantic figure of light nodded.

「 According to your wish of becoming stronger, we have created this result—— 」

The figure swung his hand.

The light that originally drifted about Gu Qing Shan began to flow like water into the figure's hand.

The intense light quickly manifested into a statue with a series of shattering noises.

Gu Qing Shan looked carefully at it to see that the statue had one body but four heads, looking in four different directions.

Above the four heads were another four heads, also looking in different directions.

This continued until the 7th layer of heads, which only had a single head above it, at the statue's peak.

This statue caused fear at a glance, but as you looked at it more and more, you'd feel an unknown sense of understanding.

Holding the statue up, the gigantic figure of light spoke.

「 Within the infinite worlds, there exists basic principles 」

「 For the balance of the worlds, there is a limit so that a single entity wouldn't become too powerful, a Law exists deep within the souls of every living being 」

「 This Law is such: A single soul cannot be divided too much—— the more you divide your soul, the peak height that you can reach in any domain will lower 」

Hearing that figure, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but nod.

He recalled a certain person in the Suspended world, the one hailed as “Blade and Sword Duo Master”, Tian Shan Ye.

To reach the height he did in both Swordsmanship and Bladesmanship, Tian Shan Ye had resorted to splitting his own soul in two.

The side effects of this was that he suffered the same fate as Hazeden, the King of the Sky Haze Kingdom, constantly tortured by the pain of having their soul split apart.

Having to endure such pain, yet it only allowed the mastery of a single other type of Dao. Furthermore, due to the soul's strength being decreased, a weakened soul vessel was more vulnerable to attacks.

Which was why even after the Suspended world, Gu Qing Shan still hadn't considered using the method even once.

The figure continued:

「 At this time, I have used the combined power of the Old Gods within this Causality Skill to create this Soul Key 」

「 This treasure will completely unlock the limiting Law deep within your soul 」

「 From now on, besides the path of the sword, you may study any art and travel any path while no longer restrained by the Law of the infinite worlds, you will be able to reach the pinnacle of every domain 」

「 If you spend enough effort, shed enough blood and sweat, you will become the now-multi-talented owner of the War God Authority 」

Saying that, the figure threw the statue to Gu Qing Shan.

As soon as the statue touched the top of Gu Qing Shan's head, it turned into countless sparks of light that were absorbed into his forehead.

—boom!

Even when he was hovering in mid-air, Gu Qing Shan could feel his entire body shaking like he was experiencing an earthquake.

From deep inside his soul vessel, something seemed to have been unlocked.

Right away, his change was noticed by the world.

Intense waves of energy echoed across the world——

In fact, around the infinite worlds, the same type of energy was being formed all over.

They bypassed the restraints of space and time, directly manifesting in Triste's collection world, harmonizing with the waves of this world to form a huge impact.

This power was invisible and intangible, nothing in the world could stop it.

—-if it wanted to, it could've easily turned this entire world to dust.

The invisible force rammed into Gu Qing Shan's body.

Gu Qing Shan felt himself being enveloped by an endless omnipotent force.

This force was seeping into his soul vessel from his body, while he was frozen in place, unable to move even a finger.

At this point, the figure of light spoke.

「 Do not worry, the deeper Laws of the world had sensed your change 」

「 The Laws of the 900 million World Layers had manifested themselves to try and prevent your soul from being released, but the release of your soul was granted by the Creator Gods themselves, so you will pass this trial 」

Following the figure's words, a faint image of the Soul Key appeared to cover Gu Qing Shan's body.

The image of the multiple-headed stature shattered.

Right after that, the immense force that held Gu Qing Shan in place also disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan could finally breathe again.

Chapter 608

Gu Qing Shan stood still silently.

He felt strange as if his body had just gained 'something', but at the same time, this 'something' was originally his.

—-a restraint had been released deep inside his soul.

Gu Qing Shan stood without thinking, falling into a deep sense of calmness.

He felt that his thoughts were no longer limited to inside his Thought Sea, but rather it was expanding to the endless void.

This 'void' wasn't the void of space, but rather a type of illusion created from his soul suddenly being released.

In the sky.

The figure of light once again spoke: 「 We hope this blessing will help you, owner of the War God Authority 」

「 And we hope you will be able to do more in the future, after all, the Apocalypse of the entire 900 million World Layers is approaching 」

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist and spoke: “I understand”

The figure said nothing, but Gu Qing Shan felt that it might have smiled at him.

The giant figure slowly became blurred, like a fading projection that melted into the sky and disappeared.

Standing alone on the top of the sea of clouds, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit stunned.

To every cultivator, every Professionalist, they’ve all been informed of a certain principle with their first few steps.

Only when you focus on a single skill or domain can you achieve greatness, the more you mix yourself, the more mediocre you will likely become.

The separation of Professions was so clear and concise, that even a peerless genius like Bai Hua Fairy would only glance through the various domains without going too deep into them.

Despite the large number of Divine Skills she had, in the end, she was a spellcaster-type cultivator.

Her most powerful techniques were spells.

But now, a chance had appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The projection left by the Old Gods had told him that he would be able to deeply cultivate any domain, at the same time this won’t affect the improvement of his other domains.

Gu Qing Shan was still a bit unconvinced.

Suddenly, three lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[The Gods have released your soul]

[You are no longer bound by the most basic principle of the world]

[You can now study multiple domains, at the same time achieving the pinnacle for each]

The three lines of text quickly faded.

And then more text quickly appeared.

[From now on, you may learn techniques and skills without limit]

[You’ve gained archery skills]

[As the Laws of heaven and earth stood witness when you discarded your archery skills to become a Sword Saint, most of your previous archery skills are now lost]

[The only remaining archery skill left is: Shifting Flurry (Intermediate)]

[Shifting Flurry (Intermediate): Growth Skill, shooting 10 arrows consecutively, attacking an enemy with arrows flying at unpredictable trajectory]

Gu Qing Shan was surprised to see that on the War God UI.

*While advancing my swordsmanship, I'll be able to learn archery skills as well?
Can I... really?*

He tapped his Inventory Bag and took out a bow.

This was a simple and plain bow, its presence was so weak it felt like it didn't exist while being held in Gu Qing Shan's hand.

No one could sense this bow, nor could they notice any killing intent it gave off.

This was the Night Rain.

In the past, while they were deep inside enemy territory, Heaven's Limit sect's Saintess Ning Yue Chen had given this to him. (TN: Her name was translated as Ning Yue Xi before, but that was incorrect)

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and closed his eyes to think.

Apparently... I still remember...

He stopped thinking and took out a quiver of arrows to hang by his waist.

A moment of silence.

He suddenly raised the bow.

The bowstring was strung consecutively like an instrument!

Swish!

Only a single sound came out.

But ten shadows appeared in the sky, drawing a twisting, snake-like trajectory that quickly went into the clouds.

Gu Qing Shan continued to fire.

Shifting Flurry!

Shifting Flurry!

Shifting Flurry!

Countless arrows flew like a meteor shower, howling as they shot towards the ground!

Gu Qing Shan still didn't stop and shot an entire quiver of arrows at once.

He closed his eyes and carefully sensed himself.

His sword heart was clear and unwavering.

Taking the Six Paths Great Mountain sword in hand, Gu Qing Shan swung out a large white crescent-shaped sword phantom.

No delays, no mistakes.

The power of the sword phantom had increased, the speed at which he swung the sword had also seemed to increased.

This was Gu Qing Shan's sword skills' improvement after fighting so many battles recently.

—his swordsmanship was still swordsmanship, archery was still archery.

Both of these sets of skills didn't mix or interfere with each other, as if it was natural that they wouldn't, completely separate.

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"This feeling... really is completely new"

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

Although most of my archery skills are lost now, as long as I want to, can't they simply be learned again? I can learn archery, Blade skills, Elemental Lightning spells, or perhaps even Martial Art. As long as they don't interfere with my swordsmanship, what is there to fear!

Gu Qing Shan carefully thought about it and suddenly tapped his Inventory Bag.

He took out a jade tag.

A Martial Arts Divine Skill of Bai Hua sect: [Skyfall]

This was a Divine Skill that required no prerequisite to learn, but unfortunately, because Gu Qing Shan was afraid that it might affect his swordsmanship, he didn't learn it.

The [War God Skills] icon of the War God UI lit up.

A line of glowing text appeared.

[Martial Arts, Divine Skill Skyfall]

[Skyfall: An attack that contained 30 times as much power, breaking the heaven and earth itself, will always hit]

[There are no prerequisites for learning this fist technique]

[Note: The higher your Martial Arts skills are, the stronger this strike becomes]

[Because you haven't practiced any Martial Arts, learning this Divine Skill requires: 1500 Soul Points]

[Remaining Soul Points: 0/600]

Reading the description of the War God UI, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit regretful.

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But that's only a small problem.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan finally realized his path had greatly changed.

From now on, nothing will be the same.

Almost immediately, he could already think of many other fighting strategies that he could employ.

There was still a lot of things to do now, he can't just keep standing here like this.

"I still have business to attend to, let's leave considering other parts for later"

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and stopped thinking about that.

He stowed the Night Rain away and took out the Chao Yin sword.

“Go tell Laura’s group that they can leave now”

The Chao Yin sword let out a small chime and dashed through the sea of clouds straight into the ocean below.

A few moments later.

Laura, Ilya and the guards all arrived at the surface.

Gu Qing Shan landed.

Everyone was looking around anxiously.

“Where’s the [Demon King Order]?” Ilya asked in a low voice.

“Destroyed” Gu Qing Shan told her.

“Why did it get destroyed? Wasn’t it in the middle of evolving?” Ilya pursued.

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Everyone was stunned and looked around.

The entire frozen wasteland was devoid of life, cold and barren.

“Did they really all die?” one of the guards found it hard to believe.

“Yeah they did, I’m sure of it, what about you?”

Gu Qing Shan looked down at himself.

The light that surrounded him hadn’t answered yet.

This was the Ancient Artifact, Armor of Gods’ Protection.

The divine armor was with him throughout the entire process, witnessing everything, it had even activated [Time Stop] once to help him escape death.

Gu Qing Shan silently sent his voice: “The matter regarding the Gods and the world of the bronze pillar are secrets that can’t be told. Telling Laura about it now will only be full of demerits without any merits, so please keep it a secret”

This time, the armor replied: 「 Very well, that is indeed true. These events are all too shocking that it’ll bring the Bramble Bird race more trouble than good 」

It turned into a bright and majestic glow, detached from Gu Qing Shan’s body and turned back into a small glow.

「 That is true, the demon’s [Revolution] has been destroyed, everything is over now 」

The Armor of Gods’ Protection declared to everyone.

Everyone was still silent as if they weren’t able to take this as the truth just yet.

Everyone looked to Gu Qing Shan.

*This man, using the power of his Tribulation, he bribed the fiends and devils that were supposed to kill him— at the same time taking advantage of their forces to kill 2 million demonized?
A whooping 2 million demonized!*

Even when that was the truth and had already happened, it was still too much for anyone to believe.

Laura walked forward and pulled on Gu Qing Shan's hand with her own.

Her eyes were red, her lips trembled as she was hesitant to speak.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and stroked her head gently.

"What is it?" he asked.

"The grudge of my parents and my brother..." Laura whispered in a tiny voice.

Gu Qing Shan picked her up and placed her on his shoulder.

"We're going to find Triste right now"

Gu Qing Shan spoke softly to console Laura.

"Don't worry, she will pay for their lives with her own soon enough"

Chapter 609

"Before we leave, there are two issues" Gu Qing Shan said.

When he started speaking, everyone made a serious expression as they listened.

After all, everyone here saw with their own eyes how this man alone and his layers upon layers of means, risked his own life to kill the army of 100,000 ghosts, 2 million demonized as well as the [Demon King Order].

Of course, even more than that was because their noble Empress was sitting on his shoulder.

Gu Qing Shan continued: "First of all, Laura will have to wear the Sovereign Armor before anything else, so as to prevent any problems regarding her safety, only after that can we leave"

"Naturally" Ilya instantly agreed.

Laura, on the other hand, was reluctant: "Gu Qing Shan, you should wear the armor for now, I've now awoken three different abilities, one of them being the [Infinite Worlds Shelter] that allows me to hide from anyone and everyone"

"Definitely not, you have to do as I say" Gu Qing Shan refuted her.

Seeing the little girl displeased, he changed to a gentle tone and explained: "A battle's nature is that it is ever-changing, it's not something you can claim full control over with just a single skill, understand?"

“Fine...”

Seeing how insistent he was, Laura had to agree.

The other guards silently nodded as they saw that.

Indeed, Laura was now the last of the royal family bloodline, even if the current situation was under control, it's unknown to them how the outside world currently is.

The Empress' safety cannot be glossed over!

Without needing to say anything else, the Armor of God's Protection flew at Laura and turned into a faint glow that persisted around her body.

「 Don't worry, I'm here now 」 the armor declared.

Gu Qing Shan nodded and spoke: “Good, now for the second issue, this will require Ilya's help”

“Me?” Ilya asked.

“Indeed, this is actually my personal request”

“What is it?”

“My personal strength is still insignificant, but everything that happened in this world will definitely shock all parties involved, which will surely bring me a lot of complications and trouble, so I hope that you will gloss over the events that happened in this world. It'll be to protect me” Gu Qing Shan explained.

Hearing that, the group couldn't help but fall into thought.

—among those who answered Triste's call, as a youth below 30 years old, Gu Qing Shan was indeed the cream of the crop.

But among Combatants of the 900 million World Layers as a whole, he was still only a newbie.

An unknown newbie had destroyed the [Demon King Order], this would indeed shake the entire 900 million World Layers.

He will draw a lot of curious eyes, containing both good and ill will, accompanied by various probing.

A lot of people will attempt to look into his background, wanting to know about his treasures and abilities.

No one will believe that he achieved all of this purely with his wits.

Such circumstances will indeed affect Gu Qing Shan's future survival and growth greatly.

But if everything that happened here was the work of Frost of the Cold Night, Ilya and her subordinates, then there would be no problems at all.

The Bramble Bird Kingdom is known to have countless treasures, capable of dealing with any situation.

Not to mention, Ilya herself was a well-known Combatant in the infinite worlds.

This will be much easier for the public to accept, at most they would only praise Ilya for her great deeds. Which was why having Ilya take credit for everything was the best choice here.

If Ilya agreed to this, Gu Qing Shan would be receiving her protection and would remain anonymous.

This will make his life much easier, giving him the peace of mind to properly cultivate.

Laura also requested right away: "Ilya, can you help him cover this up?"

Ilya seriously for a bit, then smiled and asked Gu Qing Shan: "But what benefit does this bring to us Bramble Birds as a whole?"

Gu Qing Shan instantly answered: "Because this entire affair began with the Bramble Bird Triste. As a similarly renowned Bramble Bird general, the fact that you were able to save the Empress from harm and eliminate the 2 million demonized together with the [Demon King Order] will become the biggest deterrent to all"

He continued: "This will help remove any ill will anyone dares to hold towards the Bramble Bird Kingdom, causing them to think twice before trying anything. Furthermore, this will benefit Laura's reign in the future"

Ilya sighed: "You would make a really good politician, but you eliminated the [Demon King Order] y'know— this is a reputation that will shake the entire 900 million World Layers, are you willing to just let it go without any thought like this?"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "Reputation and the likes are still too soon for me, right now all I want to do is focus on my cultivation and become strong as soon as possible"

Ilya didn't hesitate anymore and shrugged: "Truthfully, I would have already agreed to do that as repayment for you saving Laura"

"Very well, then that's decided" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Then prepare a bit, we'll leave immediately" Ilya told everyone.

The guards checked their equipment and prepared for battle once again.

Ilya and Gu Qing Shan prepared the details of what happened so that the excuse both sides provide won't contradict each other.

A few minutes later, Ilya took out a silver sphere and crushed it.

The sphere scattered, turning into countless metal wires.

Ilya formed a hand seal and began to chant an incantation.

Following her chant, the metal wires began to bend and twist, forming a metal barrier that encased everyone within.

The beautiful metallic barrier shot straight towards the sky.

In mere moments, the metallic barrier had broken through space and disappeared from this world.

...

Aboul Hotel.

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The royal green room.

Triste was still being held at gunpoint.

But no one dared to touch her right now.

—if she manages to unseal the barrier in the split second that she dies, then not only Aboul but the several hundred thousand worlds around it will also be covered by the [Demon King Order].

A nightmare will ensue.

Countless living beings will become carriers of the [Order], becoming its slaves.

As time passes, the situation will only become more severe.

The Spirit of the Holy Tree, Lady Tethys sighed: “Triste, I still can’t believe that a renowned Bramble Bird general as yourself would make such a choice”

“Renowned general?”

Triste made a mocking expression and sarcastically spoke: “Can a lowly subservient lackey of the royal family really be called a renowned general?”

Suddenly, a light came from the crystal ball.

Laura, Gu Qing Shan, Ilya and the guards all appeared in the green room.

“Laura!” Triste shouted.

“Laura! Ilya! What is—” Tethys was shocked.

“Don’t move!”

The guns around all clicked.

They held their barrels close to various points on Triste’s body, making her unable to act rashly.

The situation became chaotic again.

“Retreat” Gu Qing Shan whispered.

The group all protected Laura and retreated to behind Lady Tethys.

Under Triste’s regretful expression, the guards reformed the strict encirclement.

Laura was staring at Triste the entire time.

It wasn’t until everyone had settled back in place that she softly asked: “You really feel that you’re only being a lackey for the royal family?”

Although surprised, Triste still replied: "What a ridiculous question, the only thing I do day by day is protect and take care of your sleeping and eating schedules, this isn't at all what I want to do!"

Laura spoke: "No one has ever forced you to work for the royal family, if you were unwilling, you could've just left, and no one would've stopped you"

"But Triste, why did you kill my parents and my brother?"

"They always treated you so well. Among the people of the castle, you are the one who received the most from the royal family, why did you have to kill them?"

Triste was speechless.

But very quickly, her expression turned crazy.

"Because I have my own dreams! To achieve that dream, I won't hesitate to sacrifice everything!"

"But the thing you're sacrificing is other people, how is that fair?"

"Fair?" Triste sarcastically spoke, "Laura, you're still too young, the word 'fair' had never existed in this 900 million World Layers in the first place"

Laura's eyes reddened and ordered: "Go, detain her, I want to execute this traitor of the kingdom in front of my subjects"

"Understood! Your Majesty!" Ilya replied.

She started to walk towards Triste.

Triste raised the crystal ball in her hand.

"Do not come here!" she shouted.

"Triste, everything is over, you will pay dearly for your actions" Ilya shook her head.

Her steps didn't cease.

"It seems you still don't understand the situation here" Triste raised the crystal ball above her head and threatened: "Ilya, if you dare take a single step closer, I will unseal this world and release the [Demon King Order]!"

"At that time, everything here will be done for, all of you will become slaves to the [Order]!"

"Ahahahaha!"

Triste laughed maniacally.

"..." Ilya.

"..." Laura.

"..." Gu Qing Shan.

"..." the guards.

Ilya took out a long bramble vine and threw it out.

"O' spirit of the Saint Tree, in your name, I invoke the inescapable bindings" she chanted.

The bramble vine flew towards Triste.

Seeing the vine, Triste's expression warped and yelled out in despair: "You forced my hands!"

With both hands on the crystal ball, she shouted: "Release!"

"No! You're both too impulsive, Triste, don't—" Lady Tethys yelled out in horror.

"What now!?" the automatic machine gun hurriedly shouted.

There was nothing they could do now.

A chilling air came from the crystal ball, lowering the room temperature by several degrees.

At the same time, the bramble vine tightly restrained Triste.

The royal room went silent.

The crystal ball fell and rolled a few times on the ground before stopping.

Cold air was still coming out from the crystal ball, forming a layer of frost on the ground.

And then.

Nothing happened.

Chapter 610

About hotel.

The royal green room.

The air froze for a few seconds.

As time passed, people started to notice a certain truth.

Triste's expression was getting paler and paler.

"This can't be right... what's going on?" she muttered in shock, completely stunned.

Ilya looked at her: "Her Majesty the Empress had ordered, only after we destroy the [Demon King Order] will we come to pass judgement on the traitor"

"Destroy it!? How could you have gone against an [Order]!" Triste shouted in disbelief.

Ilya answered: "In the end, [Kindling] was still at the weakest stage of an [Order], I simply prepared several high-powered disposable weapons, led them into a trap and eliminated them all"

Triste glared at her: "You don't have such a thing"

Ilya calmly replied: "I don't— but the royal family does"

Triste turned to look at Laura.

The entire royal bloodline had already been killed, the only person left was this girl here.

Triste's gaze swept through and landed on Laura's little backpack.

A bright green small backpack, made from the vines and leaves of the Saint Bramble Tree and completely unassuming at a glance.

But this backpack could connect directly to the Saint Bramble Tree.

Indeed, as the last remaining member of the royal bloodline, Laura was the only person capable of directly contacting the Saint Bramble Tree through this backpack.

Only Laura could have obtained permission from the Saint Bramble Tree to bypass the Laws of time and space, directly extracting items from the several ten thousand years old royal treasury and use them as she liked.

Thinking that, Triste finally felt nervous.

The Bramble Bird royal treasury was unimaginably huge.

Even as someone who had been closely serving the royal family for years on end, Triste didn't know exactly the quantity and quality of the treasures the royal family actually held.

Perhaps even the King himself didn't know how much treasure he had.

Perhaps, maybe there really were enough disposable weapons of mass destruction that could eliminate all the demonized in there at once?

[Kindling]...

Triste's heart sank.

Ilya's voice once again came into her ears.

"Without any carriers, a newly born [Order] will simply die, this was secret, but someone like you should know about it"

She looked over Triste and asked in wonder: "Was this type of garbage [Order] really worth you betraying the Kingdom?"

As if she was struck by a sledgehammer to the stomach, Triste was speechless, unable to say anything.

The automatic machine gun couldn't help but loudly asked: "So [Kindling] wasn't able to find a suitable catalyst?"

"Indeed"

"Which means, you've already destroyed the [Demon King Order]?" Lady Tethys asked again to confirm.

"We did" Ilya confirmed again.

Lady Tethys' tense expression finally loosened.

"Really... how many years has it been since we were so alarmed?"

She stroked her chest and sighed in relief.

Gu Qing Shan then asked: "Lady Tethys, can you inform her majesty Laura and general Ilya of the current situation?"

"Sure"

"The war had started, the current battlefield is in a crack in space, three World Layers away from Aboul"

"Combatants of the 900 million World Layers as well as several large organizations and the Allied Army have all arrived at the battlefield"

"Countless True Demons had descended, bringing the war into a tense stalemate"

"According to the intelligence we've received, the Lord of True Demons was on his way as well"

"This would be an all-out war that decides the fate of the entire 900 million World Layers!"

Lady Tethys put a full report on the table and told everyone: "The intel is all here, you can check them in your own time"

"Now that the situation here is resolved, I need to get to the battlefield as well"

She chanted an incantation, about to leave.

The automatic machine gun spoke: "I'll go with you!"

"Come here" Lady Tethys spoke.

The automatic machine gun and his subordinates quickly gathered and stood around Lady Tethys.

A light flashed.

They quickly disappeared into the void of space and went away.

The royal green room returned to silence.

Ilya stepped forward and added several more layers of enchantment onto Triste's restraints.

Laura fell silent, apparently deep in thought.

Gu Qing Shan gently placed Laura on the sofa and left her there.

"Gu Qing Shan, where are you going?" Laura instantly asked.

"Nowhere" Gu Qing Shan answered.

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He came to the ice box and took out a black bottle of liquor.

Before going to Triste's collection world, this was the bottle he was drinking from.

And now, he can finally enjoy it.

As he uncorked the bottle and took off a huge slice from the giant 12-layer cake, Gu Qing Shan simply sat down and leaned back on one of the sofas here.

Going back and forth, doing so many things, I'm really tired.

Now, Triste has been arrested.

The [Demon King Order] is eliminated.

I can finally rest for a bit.

He indulged in the food and drinks, replenishing his stamina and relaxing his tense mind at the same time.

These were all made from the finest ingredients in the 900 million World Layers, so they were all beneficial to the body.

Any cultivator requires large amounts of resources to support their cultivation and battles.

Their never-ending need for resources dreadfully affects a world, enough that the Laws of worlds would respond by creating Tribulations, specifically aiming to take a cultivator's life whenever they breakthrough as a part of natural selection.

So unlike the legends, cultivators aren't saints who only drink morning dew and eat air, the quality requirement of food and drinks they consume far surpasses that of a normal person.

Which was why Pill making and Cooking were part of the 6 arts.

"Hey, Gu Qing Shan, aren't you lacking zeal like this?"

Laura turned to look at him and asked.

"What do you mean I lack zeal?" Gu Qing Shan swallowed a big gulp of liquor, "you know very well what I already did, everyone needs a bit of time to reorganize themselves you know"

"But there's a war going on out there" Laura protested.

"There is" Gu Qing Shan cut off a big piece of cake and gorged it down, "but that's a warzone for top-level Combatants of the 900 million World Layers. I'm only a newbie here, I'm still weak, you're not going to ask me to go throw my life away are you?"

Laura suddenly realized what he said was true.

But Gu Qing Shan's actions up until now had caused her to instinctively think that he should be thinking of a solution— a solution to ensure the victory of this war.

It seems I've been relying on him too much.

Laura sighed, then glared at Gu Qing Shan in annoyance.

"Is there something else?" Gu Qing Shan took another swig of liquor and asked.

"Do you not feel that eating cake in front of so many people is a rude behavior?" Laura had nothing to do so she picked a fight with him.

"Eating cake in front of you is... rude?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

"It is" Laura nodded.

Gu Qing Shan looked at Ilya.

Ilya also nodded: "Manners are important, her majesty Laura only reminded you about this out of goodwill"

Gu Qing Shan looked to the Bramble Bird guards.

They all nodded at him in a friendly manner.

One of the female guards smiled: "Eating in front of someone else is very uncouth"

This time, Gu Qing Shan nodded.

He now recalled that the Bramble Birds don't usually eat in front of other people.

The big rooster said he hated this act that the Bramble Bird put on the most.

You can't eat in front of others huh... ah?

Gu Qing Shan took the entire plate of cake, silently turned his back on everyone and continued to eat.

"..." the rest.

"Hey, even if you turn your back to us, we can still see you eating" Ilya helplessly complained.

"As a cultivator, I spend a lot of energy in battle, so I need to eat to replenish it"

Casually glossing it over, Gu Qing Shan continued to gorge down his food.

He took another big swig of liquor, this time emptying the bottle.

So refreshing!

Enjoying myself like this really does relieve a lot of fatigue and stress.

"Are you really not going to care about the war?" Laura couldn't help but asked him.

"There are so many bigwigs and peerless Combatants in the war, it won't even get to be my turn to care— and also, in life, you shouldn't think of yourself as being higher than you really are" Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

He flicked his finger, manipulating another bottle of cold liquor from the icebox to fly into his hand.

"I really can't stand you" Laura sighed.

She walked up and took off a big piece from the 12-layer cake and began to eat.

"Hey weren't you not supposed to—-—" Gu Qing Shan immediately wanted to retort her manner.

"The princess dines!" one of the guards shouted.

Immediately, every Bramble Bird in the room, including Ilya and even Triste herself, turned away, lowered their heads, closed their eyes and turned their backs to Laura.

"Hm? What is it?" Laura looked at Gu Qing Shan.

"...Nothing"

Chapter 611

Gu Qing Shan and Laura both ate their cakes.

Laura only ate a little bit before stopping.

She was still unwilling to accept it, turned her eyes around and gave the report on the table to Gu Qing Shan.

“What is it?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Look here, it says here that your Justice Iron Fist Club has also arrived” Laura said.

“Iron Fist Club?”

Gu Qing Shan asked doubtfully.

“Yeah, Iron Fist Barry and Kitty originally came to find you, but they couldn’t find you and instead accidentally noticed the demon army’s rallying”

“It was them that triggered the start of the war”

Gu Qing Shan put his cake down.

“They came to find me?” he asked.

“Yeah, they gathered a lot of powerhouses, wanting to save you, but for some unexpected reason discovered the demon army instead, triggering the war under completely unexpected circumstances” Laura told him.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

He placed the bottle of liquor down as well.

Hearing that, Triste suddenly felt a sense of hope again.

“That’s right, you won against [Kindling], but so what!?” she loudly yelled.

The people there looked towards Triste.

Triste was now smirking mockingly: “Even the Lord of True Demons had come, this place will fall sooner or later, Barry’s bunch of misfits won’t be able to win against the true [Demon King Order]!”

She turned to Gu Qing Shan and spoke: “You’re part of the Iron Fist Club? Then I’ll have to congratulate you”

“Congratulate me?” Gu Qing Shan asked doubtfully.

“That’s right” Triste chuckled sarcastically, “after today, the only person left in the club will be you, you’ll own a Super Dimensional world of your own!”

“However, the [Demon King Order] will obtain the entire 900 million World Layers, ahahaha!”

Triste laughed.

Gu Qing Shan scowled but said nothing.

Ilya and Laura exchanged looks.

Then they both turned to look at Gu Qing Shan.

Without realizing it, this seemed to have become a conditioned reflex for both of them.

Gu Qing Shan slowly stood up.

This relaxed, slacking expression had disappeared.

After a bit of thinking, Gu Qing Shan asked: "Ilya, I need to ask something, does the Lord of True Demons frequently participate in the battle?"

Ilya replied: "He basically doesn't, the only time he had personally showed himself and acted was the battle when the demons took over the Fallen Zones"

"During the previous years, have the True Demons ever attempted such a large invasion before?"

"No, very rarely, since the Combatants of the 900 million World Layers are constantly paying attention to them"

"If both sides clashed, which side would have the advantage?"

"Without the Lord of True Demons, both sides are basically even in strength, but if the Lord of True Demon himself participates, the war will turn extremely intense and the results become unpredictable"

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded and muttered: "The cost of war is always astronomical, so unless vast amounts of benefits are to be obtained, no one would easily start a war"

"With that in mind, what do you think is the goal of the True Demons this time?"

He turned and looked at everyone and asked.

The guards were all stunned, a single unified thought surfaced in their minds— *what are you asking us for? We're only guards, don't you know...*

Laura's eyes, on the other hand, lit up: "Wouldn't it be for that [Order]?"

Ilya thought for a bit and also answered: "It can only be that"

They both exchanged looks and understood.

Indeed, their goal can only be [Worlds Apocalypse Online: Revolution].

Perhaps the True Demons have a way to find out about [Revolution]'s evolution.

They need this [Order]!

Gu Qing Shan walked in front of Triste and carefully observed her.

—*she was the one who brought [Kindling] into Aboul, she must know more than anyone about this!*

Gu Qing Shan turned to ask Laura: "Is she completely restrained like this?"

"Don't worry, the vines of the Saint Tree is a Bramble Bird's natural enemy, her soul and all her powers are now sealed by the Saint Tree" Laura answered him.

"Then it's perfect"

Having been assured, Gu Qing Shan slowly reached his hand towards Triste.

"What are you doing!" Triste shouted intimidatingly but without power.

The others also looked at this in surprise.

True, Triste is indeed beautiful.

In fact, she was known as the symbol of grace among the Bramble Bird, but she's already surrendered herself to the demons, so all of that was only an act.

What is Gu Qing Shan going to do to this powerless evil woman?

Under everyone's scrutinizing gaze, Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out and rubbed it on Triste's clothes.

He wiped the cake frosting off his hand.

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"..." everyone.

"You shameless, rude, despicable bastard, even in death I won't forgive you!" as if she has received the worst humiliation possible, Triste gritted her teeth and cursed him.

"That's incorrect, I'm actually doing it out of respect for you" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He placed his now clean hand on Triste's forehead.

"Don't worry, I'll be quick" Gu Qing Shan said.

He circulated his spirit energy and activated the technique.

[Soul Reading], activate!

Since Triste's powers had been sealed by the Saint Bramble Tree, she was no different from a normal person, so she wasn't able to resist Gu Qing Shan's [Soul Reading] at all.

In just a few moments, Gu Qing Shan found his answer.

The Lord of True Demons.

The most powerful of the True Demons, he was the one who split off part of the main [Order] in the Fallen Zones, concentrating it into the first [Kindling] before giving it to Triste.

—originally, the Lord of True Demons wanted to use this small [Kindling] to quickly take over Aboul, evolving it into [Origin] and use it as a springboard to take over the several million World Layers around it.

This was the start of it all.

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed.

Unfortunately, including the Lord of True Demons, no one could predict how much [Kindling] was able to grow.

No one knew that the world that was granted to Triste by the Bramble Queen had materials left over by the Old Gods.

Perhaps even the Bramble Queen herself didn't know about this.

[Kindling] quickly evolved into [Origin].

And [Origin] quickly noticed the existence of the Old Gods' material.

It had used every mean at its disposal to collect the remaining material and evolved into [Revolution].

Which created an entirely different circumstance.

Supposedly, even the main [Order] in the Fallen Zones was only one step higher than [Revolution].

If they were able to retrieve [Revolution] and bring it back to the Fallen Zones' main [Order], the main [Order] will be able to immediately evolve one step further.

Which was why the True Demons spared no effort in this war.

This was the real reason why a full-blown war with the 900 million World Layers had suddenly begun.

Gu Qing Shan let go of his hand and looked towards Laura.

"Laura"

"Gu Qing Shan, what is it?"

"As the Empress of the Bramble Birds, you should also lead your troops to the frontline"

"Huh?"

Laura was surprised.

Gu Qing Shan smiled and explained: "Eliminating the [Demon King Order], capturing the culprit behind the war, then personally lead your troops to participate in the war against the True Demons—— this type of Bramble Bird Empress will be a subject of respect to every organization out there"

"Alright, I'll do as you said" Laura.

Ilya stepped out and cut in: "Her majesty is still too little, her battle capabilities are next to none, it would be better for me to lead the troops"

"Nah, such a good thing should be left for Laura"

Good thing?

Ilya looked at Gu Qing Shan doubtfully.

Gu Qing Shan lightly smiled and continued: "The war is about to be over, the Empress only needs to arrive and leave a good impression. There really is nothing better"

"Huh!? The war is about to be over!?"

This time, both Ilya and Laura yelled out in shock.

"Indeed, the Lord of True Demons would sense the [Order]'s current situation once every 2 hours, and it's been 1 hour 40 minutes since he last checked"

"In 20 minutes, he will notice that [Revolution] has been destroyed"

“Will he be angry?”

“Of course”

“Then the war would become even more intense?”

“No, with nothing to gain and endless resources and efforts to lose, who would be willing to keep going?”

“I see” Laura quickly made her decision and said: “If that’s the case, I actually have an idea”

“What is it?”

“I’ve awakened three abilities, one of them is [Infinite Worlds’ Shelter], another one is called [Will of the Empress], which perfectly fits this current situation”

“[Will of the Empress]? What do you intend to do?”

“I’ll need the Saint Bramble Tree’s help”

Chapter 612

The war reached its climax.

All of a sudden, all of the True Demons retreated at once.

This unnatural movement caused the Combatants to become cautious and put their guards up higher.

“What tricks are they playing now?” Barry spat out some blood as he wondered.

“Ah? You’re not dead yet?” Lord Bloodcloak asked while breathing heavily on the side.

He pulled Barry back to where Kitty was.

“What are you doing?” Barry asked strangely.

“You’re out of combat, and my Blood sea is here” Lord Bloodcloak seriously answered him.

Barry suddenly realized.

True, while in combat, I can’t die.

But now that both sides have retreated, combat has already ended.

Paying attention to even that, Bloodcloak really is meticulous.

Barry looked down at his steel boxing gloves.

The knuckle part of the gloves has already cracked and would soon crumble.

The battle just now was too intense that he wasn’t sure exactly how many enemies he already killed.

If the battle gets any more intense, I won’t be able to fully protect everyone behind me.

Damn it!

Why did the True Demons suddenly act so insanely!?

Barry silently cursed them in his mind.

Kitty's voice suddenly rang out: "Everyone be careful, the space crack is rapidly growing, the True Demons retreated in order to protect it!"

This intel quickly got relayed across the entire battlefield.

But when everyone looked at the True Demons—— they had already finished putting up a solid defense, ready for any attacks.

An old man came by and asked in a low voice: "What now?"

Kitty sighed: "There's no other way, the most powerful enemy is travelling through the space warp, I can't stop him"

"You mean——"

"I do, the Lord of True Demons is coming"

Everyone fell silent.

The most powerful True Demon in the 900 million World Layers was about to join the fight.

Abruptly, the Combatants' expressions changed at all once.

They couldn't help but look back.

A towering great tree had appeared at the very back of their formation.

It was a powerful, divine tree, the strongest existence within the 900 million World Layers.

"The Saint Bramble Tree!"

"Why is it here?"

"The Saint Tree wouldn't participate in any war, why had it come here this time?"

"I know! The Bramble Bird Kingdom's reinforcement must've arrived!"

Everyone yelled out their thoughts.

But if it really were reinforcements, why couldn't they see even a single Bramble Bird?

While everyone was still in doubt, the Saint Bramble Tree's bright green leaves began to glow.

Tiny subspaces started to open up on the leaves.

Countless precious treasures as far as the eye could see emerged out from the Saint Tree.

Almost like a rain of treasures.

The treasures appeared sentient, as they flew towards the Professionalists appropriate to use them.

A swordsman wouldn't receive a Blade.

A martial artist wouldn't be given a magical scepter.

A male Professionalist wouldn't be given female armor.

Everyone received the item most suitable for themselves.

A stone glowing in transparent non-colored light silently floated to Lord Bloodcloak.

He took it in his hand.

A second later, his face changed and squeezed the stone without hesitation.

The glowing stone immediately got absorbed into his body.

Right away, Lord Bloodcloak's presence and body shook.

"What's wrong with you?" Barry couldn't help but ask.

Lord Bloodcloak answered him: "This is an [Eternal Stone of Wisdom], it can only be found very rarely, deep within the Mystic Zones"

"But anyone who obtains it will be granted its gift— to fully recover their magic reservoir instantly, as well as permanently gaining 10% more magic power"

"That—"

"Yes, this is a treasure from the Bramble Bird Kingdom" Lord Bloodcloak spoke emotionally, "they really have spared no expense for this war"

Kitty spoke: "According to what I know, the Bramble Bird King and Queen were both murdered at the start of this war, even if only for revenge, they will definitely do everything in their power"

She grasped a short staff in her hand.

Around the short staff, space itself was constantly being ripped apart, broken, twisted and warped.

"The Mage wand: End of the World, [Void's End Life Taker]" Kitty sighed: "I've always thought this only existed in legends, who would've thought it was actually in the custody of the Saint Bramble Tree during all these years, no wonder no one could find it"

"Even a Legendary-grade wand was so easily given out... seems like the Bramble Birds really are furious" Lord Bloodcloak said, deep in thought.

Barry said nothing.

He was shocked, staring at the thing floating in front of himself.

A pair of leather boxing gloves that gave off a dark glow.

Barry looked at this pair of gloves, then back at his own cracked steel gloves, and changed them out without hesitation.

As soon as he wore the gloves, his entire presence changed.

As if tiny sparks of cinders were drifting about the black leather gloves.

Barry lightly clenched his fist.

Oom!

Intense flames burned on his fist!

“One of the three Fire Divine Armament, [Cinders of Demon Dragon Nidhogg], this is a pair of gloves I’ve always dreamt of having...” Barry muttered.

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He suddenly looked up.

A dark-colored armor fell from the sky, splitting into its components and quickly attached itself to him.

After wearing full-body armor, clenching his fist tight, Barry silently felt the immense power coursing through him.

「 I can’t imagine who would be able to stop me now 」

His coarse voice came from behind the visor.

At this point, everyone looked up.

The rain still hadn’t ceased, as countless precious armors, weapons and treasures fell from the sky, quickly arriving at their appropriate user’s hand.

All over the battlefield, just like Barry, Kitty and Lord Bloodcloak, everyone had received the most unimaginable treasures best suited for them.

“This is incredible!”

“This must be the Bramble Bird royal family, no one else would receive this much help from the Saint Bramble Tree!”

“Thank you, Bramble Birds!”

Everyone yelled out.

Across the wide frontline, every Combatant received a huge boost in strength.

A female Combatant enveloped in a holy white glow flew above everyone else.

She joyfully declared: “My gratitude to the Bramble Bird Kingdom for your unconditional aid, I’ve fully recovered my magic reservoir just in time!”

After that, she began to sing.

Her voice was clear and melodious, clearly echoing across several dozen World Layers.

With her song, a 7-colored veil of light appeared in the void of space.

Under that veil, tiny bubbles began to surface, as if the worlds were all submerged underwater.

Those who were wounded were quickly covered in light.

Their wounds began to close, residual miasma or curses were also swiftly washed away.

In just a few short moments, even the most heavily wounded person was able to move again.

Of course, they haven’t fully healed, but the shadow of death has at least left them.

Their lives were assured!

More precious treasures came out from the Saint Bramble Tree.

These treasures swiftly selected an appropriate master.

More occasional cheers came from the Allied Army.

Everyone quickly focused their gazes at the True Demons.

Now that everyone's strength had been greatly increased and their wounds mended to a certain degree—

It was time to overturn the situation!

“Go!!!” Iron Fist Barry shouted.

“Go!” Kitty shouted.

“Go!” Lord Bloodcloak also drew a hand of cards and quickly arranged a combo.

“Let's go!!! Kill them all!!!”

Everyone shouted a unified battle cry.

Lord-class Combatants of the 900 million World Layers, top-level Combatants from several different organizations of the Alliance all attacked at once.

They charged with all their might at the crack in space, asking for nothing but glorious victory.

They wanted to win against the [Demon King Order]!

On the other side, the True Demons simply watched this unfold in silence.

They were waiting for 'that person'.

『 It doesn't matter, the Lord will soon arrive 』 the Demon Lord Breeder softly stated.

『 Indeed, no matter how spirited these guys are right now, they will soon face endless suffering and despair 』 another True Demon smirked.

Another True Demon spoke: 『 Let us be patient, soon we will rip these detestable pests to shreds 』

As an existence closest to reaching Demon King, as soon as the Lord of True Demons arrived, he would greatly alter the state of the war.

In the very next split second, all True Demons noticed.

The gigantic space crack behind them had begun to warp and bend immensely.

As if something was struggling behind the crack, attempting to forcibly warp themselves here.

An intense presence swept across the entire battlefield.

Including Barry, the Combatants all stopped their advance.

They could sense the nearly unbeatable power emanating from the crack.

He's here!

The Lord of True Demons is here!

Everyone's expressions changed.

The True Demons laughed triumphantly.

But then, the disturbance behind the crack slowly subsided.

The terrifying presence only showed itself for a brief moment before once again going away.

The True Demons stopped their laugh.

Did something unexpected happen?

No, who could cause trouble for such a powerful existence like the Lord?

No one in the entire 900 million World Layers could achieve such a thing!

While everyone was confused and unsure, a deep sigh came from the crack.

『 The operation failed 』

『 The war... has lost meaning 』

『 Return 』

Following this voice, the crack in space expanded.

The crack grew until it was several hundred kilometers in size and swallowed the True Demon generals.

In just a split second, the expanding space crack shrank and turned into a thin line within the space vortex.

The line slowly faded.

—-and disappeared.

The True Demons had retreated.

Chapter 613

The circumstances of the decisive war of the 900 million World Layers had abruptly changed.

The Lord of True Demons suddenly brought the entire army away and retreated.

The countless Combatants, the Allied Army and various organizations of the 900 million World Layers were stunned and stood still.

"Did they just leave?" someone asked in disbelief.

"Maybe... or not, it could be a trap?" someone hesitantly answered.

Everyone looked at Kitty for an answer.

Through this battle, everyone now knew exactly how great of an expert on Spatial manipulation techniques she was.

Kitty carefully sensed around and loudly declared: “The warp gate is closed, the True Demons really have returned to the Fallen Zones!”

Everyone went into an uproar.

This was too strange, it was clearly do-or-die just a few moments ago.

The Lord of True Demon was about to arrive as well.

Then why did the True Demons suddenly retreat?

The various organization leaders and those at the top of the Alliance fell into thought.

Abruptly a female voice called out.

The Spirit of the Holy Tree, Lady Tethys explained: “I know what happened”

“Their goal from the start was Aboul, they wanted to unseal Triste’s world and let the [Demon King Order] spread to the world layers around”

“But now, that [Demon King Order] has already been destroyed!”

“The True Demon’s goal can no longer be achieved, so they could only retreat!”

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Everyone was shocked by the news as they quickly discussed this among themselves.

“Who destroyed the [Demon King Order] and ended it all?” someone couldn’t help but ask.

“Frost of the Cold Night, Ilya”

So it was her!

Everyone was surprised again.

“Just now, could it be her that granted us these treasures?” someone else asked.

“Of course not, besides the Bramble Bird royal family, no one could order the Saint Bramble Tree——— the one that granted these treasures must have been the newly-crowned Bramble Bird Empress” Tethys told them.

As soon as she said so, another miraculous sight appeared.

All the weapons, armors and treasures granted from before were no longer under their wielders’ control, they quickly flew back to the Saint Bramble Tree.

Gulp——

A unified gulp came out across the entire battlefield, as everyone couldn’t help but feel regretful for not being able to keep these items.

But they all knew better than anyone that these treasures weren’t theirs to miss.

The Saint Bramble Tree had never actively attacked any living beings, but if someone tried something against it...

Alright fine, just being able to use treasures from the Bramble Bird Kingdom is already quite a story to tell for later days.

Time quickly passed and the Combatants here quickly got out of the regretful mood brought by them being taken back.

They broke out into a cheer.

“We won!”

“The [Demon King Order] had retreated to the Fallen Zones!”

“Did you see the dejected look of those True Demons?”

“Ahahaha, total victory!”

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...

About.

Laura had chanted an incantation to dispel the screen showing the scene at the battlefield.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “This really shouldn’t be called [Will of the Empress], [Blessing of the Empress] sounds more appropriate”

This was a type of super-distance support ability, allowing the recipient to instantly return to their peak, obtain stronger equipment and get a boost in fighting capabilities.

In truth, the one doing all the heavy-lifting was actually the Saint Bramble Tree.

Even so, it was impressive, because who else in the entire Outer Plane would be so beloved by the Saint Bramble Tree besides Laura?

During a large-scale war, this ability would prove to be both extremely practical and useful.

Laura told him: “If it was you, I wouldn’t take what I gave back, but I don’t know any of these people. And I can’t arbitrarily give our Kingdom’s precious treasures to strangers”

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan thought of something.

“Laura”

“Yes?”

“After the war is over, you can grant rewards and commendations to the Combatants who made great contributions for the greater good”

“Will they accept such a thing?” Laura wasn’t so sure.

“Of course they will”

Gu Qing Shan smiled: “This will bring your reputation to even higher heights”

Ilya thought about his proposal: “The only issue is that the Kingdom might have to give up a quite few treasures”

Laura slammed her hand on the table: "Then it's decided"

"Understood, your majesty" the Bramble Birds in the room all responded.

Ilya then started to leave the green room, saying: "In that case, I will prepare a venue for the Empress' commendation"

One of the guards spoke up: "Shouldn't we find a place to detain Triste first?"

"That's true, I'll come with you all for that" Ilya said.

They then escorted Triste out of the royal green room.

At this time, only Laura and Gu Qing Shan were left in the room.

Laura sat on the wide and comfortable sofa without saying a word.

Gu Qing Shan said nothing as well.

He waited for a few moments then took out another bottle of liquor from the icebox.

Pop!

He opened it.

"A third one!" Laura scowled at him.

"Because we can celebrate now" Gu Qing Shan smiled and answered her.

"Celebrate?"

"Yeah, according to Triste's memories, it should already be time for the Lord of True Demons to try contacting Triste's world again"

"Once he finds out that [Revolution] has been destroyed, I'm sure he'll make the proper decision"

Laura trembled a bit and asked: "Which means the True Demons will retreat?"

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"Hm, and the war will end"

Gu Qing Shan poured himself a glass of liquor and slowly enjoyed it.

"Who would've thought a decisive war for the 900 million World Layers would end in such a manner" Laura sighed.

"Isn't this a good thing?" Gu Qing Shan smiled, "the [Demon King Order] failed, and we were able to prevent excessive war casualties"

"That's true"

"Ah right, I need to ask you something" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Ask" Laura replied.

“What’s the level of the [Demon King Order] in the Fallen Zones right now?”

“Apparently it was one step above [Revolution], I think I don’t remember what exactly it was called?”

“Is it powerful?”

“Of course, all of the True Demons carry that main [Order], and the True Demons are extremely powerful. They’re like heaven and earth compared to the Demon Lords that are simply weapons of war”

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

It seems now isn’t the time to go toe-to-toe against the main [Demon King Order] just yet.

It’s too powerful.

I also need to become more powerful as soon as possible.

He looked at the War God UI, about to check the process of his War God Quest.

Laura inched closer and spoke mystically: “Hey Gu Qing Shan, I have a secret”

Gu Qing Shan can only ignore the War God Quest for now and asked: “What kind of secret?”

Laura looked around, confirming that there wasn’t anyone else here, and that the door were closed before she spoke: “I awakened three abilities”

“You’ve told me that”

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“The first ability is [Infinite Worlds’ Protection], the second is [Will of the Empress], can you guess what the third one is?”

“I don’t know, and I suggest you don’t reveal it. It’s always good to leave yourself a trump card that no one knows about” Gu Qing Shan sternly suggested.

Laura pursed her lips: “This ability isn’t really something you can call a trump card”

“Even so, you shouldn’t reveal it, knowing it yourself is enough”

“...It’s fine if I tell you”

Saying so, Laura reached her hand out to thin air, about to grab something.

Following her gesture, half of her arm disappeared into the void of space, apparently sinking into a different dimension.

“What’s going on here? Where’s your arm?” Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

“It’s fine, I’m just looking for something” Laura

Looking for something?

Gu Qing Shan carefully looked again—

Laura really does look like she’s reaching her hand into a box to search for something.

Almost like drawing lots from a prize box.

A few moments later, Laura's eyes lit up.

"Got it!" she cheerfully yelled.

And her hand returned from the void of space.

She had a small, round purple shield in her hand.

Laura offered the shield to Gu Qing Shan as if she was presenting something precious and declared:

"Look, this is my new ability!"

Gu Qing Shan took the shield and looked at it in confusion.

The shield itself was quite petite, not particularly heavy.

A power unknown to Gu Qing Shan drifted about the face of the shield.

A few lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Name: Mage Alliance Captain's Shield]

[Grade: Epic]

[Unique ability: Using the power of Ether, this shield can block the majority of magical attacks]

[War God Skills: This shield is a standard mass-produced item for the Mage Alliance's troops, it doesn't include any learnable Skills]

[Doomsday Chronicles: This is a brand new standard Mage Alliance Captain's Shield]

Gu Qing Shan looked at the shield for a while, still confused.

Sure, it's a good shield, but nothing particularly special.

"Hm... so, being able to summon a shield at any time, this is your third ability?" he asked.

"Dummy, that's not it!" Laura protested.

Apparently a bit angry, she once again reached her hand into the void of space and searched around.

A few moments later.

Laura found another item and pulled her hand back.

This time, it was a naginata.

Tossing the naginata to Gu Qing Shan, Laura spoke in annoyance: "Look again"

Gu Qing Shan received the naginata and obediently checked it.

This was a Legendary-grade naginata, within the 900 million World Layers, this should be a cold weapon that you only come across once in a lifetime.

"How excellent!" Gu Qing Shan praised, "I get it now, your third ability is to be able to summon anything from the royal treasury as you like, correct?"

"Incorrect" Laura denied it.

"Incorrect?"

Gu Qing Shan was confused again.

If that wasn't the case, then where did this naginata and shield come from?

"This ability of mine is called [Vagrant Treasure's Collector]" Laura gave him a hint.

Vagrant Treasure's— Collector?

Gu Qing Shan thought about it briefly and exclaimed: "It couldn't be—"

Seeing that he understood, Laura proudly smiled: "That's right, within the 900 million World Layers, any items that are lost, unowned, or scattered, are fair game to this ability"

"Whenever I activate it, I can freely look around the void of space for these vagrant treasures"

Gu Qing Shan carefully thought about it and asked: "Such a powerful ability must require quite a heavy price"

"Ah, that's actually true"

"What kind of price is it?" Gu Qing Shan became anxious.

"I'll feel a bit hungry..."

Chapter 614

Time quickly passed.

The entirety of Aboul was in a festive mood.

After the triumphant return of the Combatants of the world layers, all raised their hands in the air and loudly cheered.

Of course, there were also those who were a bit more reserved and chose only to smile.

But no matter who it was, they were all immersed in joy.

—this was the biggest victory they've achieved in the last 1000 years.

This battle greatly boosted everyone's morale and belief, quite a few neutral parties also silently sent news among themselves about the [Demon King Order]'s great loss.

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The festive Aboul,

The cheerful Aboul,

The triumphant Aboul,

From today onwards, this name would become a place of dreams!

Even after several dozen, hundred or thousand years, Aboul will persist as the symbol of the clash between the infinite worlds' Combatants and the [Demon King Order], representing a historical moment of victory for living beings all over the Outer Plane, forever kept in the memories of those who lived through it.

Deep inside Aboul Hotel.

The royal green room.

The festive mood and commotion were all isolated outside.

This place was completely silent.

Ilya opened the door and stepped in.

“Your majesty, we’re currently selecting the treasures to reward Combatants of the worlds, would you like to check them first?” she asked.

“There’s no need to, you understand those Combatants more than I do, so you can do as you see fit”
Laura told her.

Ilya nodded and left.

The room returned to silence again.

Gu Qing Shan finished his drink and stood up.

“I have to leave now” he said.

“Right now?” Laura asked.

“That’s right if someone happens to see me here, a lot of troublesome misunderstandings or groundless rumors might appear”

“What do you intend to do after this?”

“I’ll return to my world and take a look, there should be a war going on there right now. After that there’s still a lot I have to do, cultivate, repair my sword, meet a few old friends, and there’s also my girlfriend, I wonder how she is now— let’s just say there’s a lot waiting for me”

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Laura seriously listened to the end, feeling a bit disappointed.

“You... are you sure you really don’t want to take credit for destroying the [Demon King Order]?” she asked.

“Of course, at my age, being renowned will only bring the opposite effect”

Gu Qing Shan just sighed: “I’m still too weak, if there’s no change in schedule, I’ll be isolating myself for a while and focus on just increasing my cultivation realm”

Laura looked at him and suddenly spoke: “Gu Qing Shan”

“What is it?”

“Don’t you feel like that way of living is really tough?”

Laura’s tone felt like she was at a bit of a loss as she asked him softly.

Gu Qing Shan froze for a bit before smiling: “There’s no such thing as living without struggles, and everyone will face their own moment of hardship”

Laura was confused: “But I’ve seen many young ladies of various empires and of the Alliance. After their coming of age ceremony, they all have it so easy, not needing to care about anything and simply enjoy themselves day by day”

Gu Qing Shan began to turn serious.

He could see that Laura was standing at a crossroad.

His answer will help her make what would possibly be the most crucial decision of her life

Gu Qing Shan replied: “You’ll have to ask yourself about that, everyone has to decide their own path that they want to walk”

He continued: “If you’re willing to live as those girls, you will get to enjoy the most luxurious and comfortable life that money can buy. No one will ever surpass you”

“But if you aren’t willing to walk that path, and instead want to live like me, you will face many challenges, your life will feel like a struggle that never ends, but there is a single benefit”

“What benefit is that?” Laura asked.

“No one can control your life”

“Even at the moment of despair, everything will only be decided by yourself”

“You will keep getting stronger, slowly learn more about the worlds and the mysteries of life, gain the strength to protect the people that you hold dear and the things that you treasure”

“You will become the God of your own fate”

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out and gently stroked Laura’s head.

Laura asked: “Do you think of yourself as a god?”

“When it comes to my destiny and my dreams, I am indeed their god”

“Gu Qing Shan, do you want me to choose this path?”

“No, Laura. My opinion doesn’t matter, the path that everyone walks must be decided by themselves— think about it clearly, make a decision, and never regret your choices, this is something that an adult must do”

Laura fell silent.

After a long while.

She sighed and casually commented: “So after becoming an adult, life will always be this tough huh”

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Gu Qing Shan chuckled.

Because they already had a similar conversation before.

At the time, they were passing through the trials set by Triste, having just reached the ice peak of the Gods and seen the Divine Seed's corpse.

Even thinking about it right now, the situation at the time was both strange and terrifying.

Laura, a mere 7 years old child, had to surpass her own fear of heights and monsters to go together with him at the peak of the mountain, facing a large number of demonized.

At the time, Laura had asked the same thing.

But right now, Laura's tone was that of confirmation.

She had already made her decision.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but recall everything that happened recently.

—truly, the journey here was too arduous.

He was feeling emotional.

Laura was also recalling the moments they had spent together.

The very first time they met, she got a full face of liquor from Gu Qing Shan as he was surprised.

Then they got to know each other.

They entered Triste's world, went through all sorts of hardship, found out the secrets of the world bit by bit, explored every option they could and finally eliminated the 2 million demonized, an army of 100,000 ghosts and destroyed the [Demon King Order].

Laura's eyes started to redden.

These memories were so vivid that she felt she could almost touch them if she simply reached her hand forward.

And now, Gu Qing Shan was about to leave.

She won't be able to keep him here.

He has a lot of things he has to do, he has his own will and aspirations.

"I really don't know how to say goodbye to you, there are too many words to say"

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Laura lowered her head and softly muttered.

Gu Qing Shan smiled: "Then don't. I'm not leaving the 900 million World Layers——— I'll be right outside in the great hall, probably standing together with Barry and Kitty, waiting for the audience with her majesty"

At this time, Ilya went in again.

"Your majesty, everything has been prepared, we will begin in 1 hour" she informed her.

A few female guards came in behind her, carrying the royal attire, crown, scepter and a pair of high heels.

Gu Qing Shan said nothing else.

He looked at Laura briefly before turning to leave.

“Ah”

Laura instinctively called out to him but stopped herself.

Not knowing why Gu Qing Shan also felt a bit unwilling to part——

Those moments of fighting together will, in the end, cause you to be unable to forget them.

As he looked at this little girl, Gu Qing Shan felt like he saw himself all those years ago.

Under normal circumstances, at Laura’s age, she should still be pampered and protected by her parents, enjoying the life of a little princess.

But now, she was only an orphan without any relatives.

She herself was about to become the Empress, ruling over a country of her own.

For the next several years of her life, she will face hardship that she has never faced before.

And she will face it all by herself.

With no one capable of helping her.

A ruler is destined to be lonely.

Everything must be decided on her own.

This is the path she must walk through adulthood.

Gu Qing Shan maintained his smile and muttered: “Laura, I’ll be going first, see you later in the great hall”

He waved at Laura and quickly left the room.

Laura didn’t say anything else.

The female guards came forward and began to help Laura put on her make up.

They only had one hour, which was a bit rushed, so they needed to hurry.

A few moments later.

One of her guards spoke softly.

“Please raise your head, your majesty, or your crown will fall”

Chapter 615

Lord Bloodcloak was sitting by the large fountain at Aboul Hotel.

He was throwing scraps of food into the water, feeding the fishes.

“Well then, I’ll be going first”

He threw the rest of the scraps in his hand down and informed everyone.

Kitty reminded him: “You’re going to leave now? The Bramble Bird Empress is about to present everyone with rewards and commendations, and you want to give it up?”

“That’s nothing but a publicity stunt” Lord Bloodcloak shook his head: “I heard that this generation’s Empress has only just had her coming of age ceremony, does a personage of my caliber really need to bow and greet such a little girl?”

He suddenly remembered something and looked to Iron Fist Barry.

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“What are you looking at?”

Being stared at like that caused Barry to feel a bit annoyed.

Lord Bloodcloak spoke full of implications: “Ah, I forgot, unlike me you actually need a few things to pay for your debt, poor Barry, so poor that you almost have to use your own Super Dimensional world as collateral”

Barry clenched his fists.

Voices immediately went into his ears—— the Combatants on all sides pretty much sent their voices to him at the same time.

“Wanna beat him up?”

“Now that we have a chance, wanna gang up on him?”

“Barry, you go first and I’ll immediately follow up”

“This prick needs a beating, Barry”

“Give the signal, all of us will go at once”

“Bloodcloak needs to be taught a lesson!”

“If we don’t beat him up now, we won’t get such a good chance again, boss Barry”

...

Barry fell into thought for a second.

But in the end, he smiled bitterly: “Seriously, Bloodcloak, can’t you at least try to act in a way that people will actually like you?”

When he said that, the Combatants around all sighed.

Seems like we won’t get to do it today.

Another Combatant shook his head: “Barry, don’t be naïve, even if the Apocalypse comes knocking, Bloodcloak would still be exactly the same”

“I’m sorry, but aren’t you misunderstanding something?” Lord Bloodcloak spoke with a serious expression: “Why would I have to go out of my way to please you? Keep this in mind, this Bloodcloak is a man of principle—”

As he was talking, a Bramble Bird guard quickly came up to him and presented him with a list.

“What’s this?” Lord Bloodcloak asked in surprise.

“The items on the 91st page is the treasure the Empress wanted to present to you, please take a look and tell me if you have any issues with it” the Bramble Bird guard respectfully told him.

The 91st page...

Lord Bloodcloak couldn’t help but turn the pages and take a glance at it.

A projection came out from the paper to show a floating card.

This was a strange-looking card.

The border of the card depicted a boiling sea of blood with the back being a dim, bright red abyss.

The front of the card depicted a portrait of a beauty.

She was a peerless beauty of unrivalled charm.

She kept her eyes closed, as if nothing in the world was worth being graced by her gaze.

Even so, she exuded an indescribable charm from every angle.

If they didn’t see it with their own eyes, no one would believe that a mere card would be able to rouse so much emotion.

Looking at the card in the projection, Lord Bloodcloak went silent for a while.

“Indeed, I know her”

He muttered to himself, his voice becoming a bit hoarse from simply being too excited.

This was one of the three most mysterious cards within the Bloodsea deck.

Supposedly, when this card was activated, all cards used in the battle before would manifest within the Blood Sea and return to the card user’s hand.

Having this card was the same as having two card decks at the same time.

Lord Bloodcloak sighed and returned the list to the guard.

“Very well, I’ve taken a look”

“Do you have any issues with it?” the Bramble Bird guard asked.

“...I do not” Lord Bloodcloak replied.

“Then that’s perfect, my apologies, I will leave first”

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The Bramble Bird guard bowed and turned to leave.

He left to look for the next Combatant on the list.

Lord Bloodcloak stood still, frozen for a few minutes.

“Barry, I have a question” he said.

“What?” Barry replied.

“On the battlefield just now, what do you think about the Empress’ ability that granted everyone items and power?” Lord Bloodcloak asked.

Not expecting Lord Bloodcloak to ask about that, Barry hesitated a bit before answering: “Aerm— it’s a really powerful ability, it could completely change the circumstances of the war”

Lord Bloodcloak nodded: “It is indeed, I’ve never seen such an ability before. While still a child, this alone proves that she has a certain level of strength”

He then muttered: “Not to mention, for Frost of the Cold Night Ilya to eliminate the [Demon King Order], she must also be quite the character, it is worth my time meeting them in person...”

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While saying so, Lord Bloodcloak headed to the audience hall.

The location was the biggest hall in Aboul, temporarily used as an audience hall, Laura was going to use the venue to commend the heroes who participated in the war.

Barry and everyone else exchanged confused looks.

“What’s going on? Didn’t he say he wanted to leave?” Barry was surprised.

Kitty was also shocked: “But now he’s heading towards the grand hall, apparently preparing to attend his audience with the Empress”

The other Combatants were similarly shocked.

All of a sudden, someone whispered: “I’m guessing that the Empress’ rewards are quite considerable”

The Combatants all went silent.

Ah, that must be it.

Recalling Lord Bloodcloak’s attitude from before and his actions now, everyone saw the truth as clear as day.

That shameless son of a...

Everyone silently thought this.

Kitty noticed something and looked in a certain direction.

Gu Qing Shan was slowly approaching her.

“Gu Qing Shan, lady Tethys told me about what you went through, it’s fortunate that you’re fine” Kitty was glad.

Gu Qing Shan smiled: “I’ve just been hiding in Aboul, what danger would I be in? You guys, on the other hand, participated in a really fierce war unless I heard wrong”

Barry glanced at Gu Qing Shan from top to bottom, confirming that he was ok before smiling: “That’s good, I was afraid we’d lost another member who just joined the club”

He came up, patting Gu Qing Shan and introduced him to his close buddies.

Gu Qing Shan’s strength wasn’t particularly high, but that was the same for his age.

A cultivator reaching Projection realm at such a young age was already quite the feat, not even someone with particularly sharp discerning eyes could find fault in that.

And since Gu Qing Shan had Barry’s and Kitty’s recognition, he was even more impressive.

The Combatants greeted him.

They’ve all been through a lot and seen too many people to count, so as they talked more, they found themselves being more and more pleased with this young man.

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“Ah, Barry, I’m sorry but I couldn’t get anything from the Bramble Bird’s call to pay back our club’s debt this time” Gu Qing Shan told him.

“It’s fine, I’m already fully healed, so it won’t be as tough as before if I want to go make some money” Barry patted his own chest in confidence.

“We can’t blame you, no one could’ve guessed that the situation would turn out like this” Kitty gently told him.

“The club’s debt—” Gu Qing Shan hesitantly spoke.

Barry pointed at the audience hall and smiled: “Take a guess. What does the Empress intend to reward me with later?”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised, then spoke: “Ah right, there was still that. You must’ve already seen the list, what kind of treasure it is?”

“There’s no treasure, only a single line: ‘All of the Iron Fist Club’s debt will be taken care of by the Bramble Bird royal family’”

“Yes! This way we won’t be in debt anymore!” Kitty happily clapped her hands.

“That’s great then”

Gu Qing Shan silently sighed in relief and thought to himself: *“Ilya really did settle everything perfectly”*

He then looked at Kitty and curiously asked: “What did the Empress reward you then?”

“A ring, one that can help me accurately use my spatial powers”

“In order words—”

“That’s right, from now on, whenever you want to go somewhere, just leave it to me” Kitty proudly declared.

...

The time for the audience quickly came.

Not everyone was allowed to enter the audience hall.

The Bramble Bird guards began to call out names one by one.

Only Lord-class Combatants and leaders of large organizations were allowed entry to the audience hall to personally receive commendation from the Bramble Bird Empress.

The Bramble Birds were the only race from the Mystic Zones willing to establish relation with outside races, they had countless treasures and the awe-inspiring Saint Bramble Tree, so everyone treated them with respect.

The Combatants of 900 million World Layers all gathered in the guest room outside the audience hall, waiting to be commended.

Quite a few young people were confused and didn’t understand why this was the case.

But as these youths took a look at the list of rewards that were made public, they now truly understood what it meant to be Bramble Bird royalty, and what it meant to be the Bramble Bird Empress.

This would be their very first contact with the Bramble Bird Kingdom, everything that would happen today would be carved deep into their memories.

They would remember for the rest of their lives that the Bramble Bird Kingdom existed within the Mystic Zones, and that it could never be looked down upon.

The Bramble Bird Empress, Laura, had now officially stepped onto the largest stage of the 900 million World Layers.

As time passed, more and more Combatants were called into the audience hall.

“Iron Fist Club, Barry, Kitty” the Bramble Bird guard called out.

Barry and Kitty stood up and went into the audience hall.

Chapter 616

Aboul.

After Triste was captured, Ilya immediately summoned the Kingdom’s army before anything else.

With the might of the entire Bramble Bird Kingdom’s army, they had fully retaken control of the renowned resort hotel.

Currently, Aboul was nothing short of a fully reinforced iron fortress.

The audience with the Empress was now in progress.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to follow Barry and Kitty into the great hall.

Due to the sheer number of people, only Lord-class Combatants and world leaders were able to enter the audience hall.

But the Bramble Birds didn't restrict the use of any clairvoyance techniques to observe the ceremony in the hall.

In fact, the event within the audience hall was being broadcasted live to countless worlds within the 900 million World Layers.

The Mystic Zones were true to its namesake.

Not only were people curious about this area in general, but they also were curious about what kind of treasures the Bramble Bird Empress would grant as rewards.

Empress Laura held a scepter as she sat on the throne, appearing graceful and elegant.

The Combatants whose names were called would come in front of Laura to receive her commendations and praise.

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If both sides had no relations, the person called would only need to slightly bow to greet her.

But if they had frequent relations with the Bramble Bird, and they knew Laura, those Combatants would actively kneel down on one knee to greet her.

The ceremony was being conducted quickly and orderly, Laura's performance was exemplary without a fault to be found.

She would always be able to greet each Combatant with appropriate words that stayed true to courtesy— of course Ilya might be behind to help her, but as a sovereign, who wouldn't have an aide?

Once the commendations were over, Ilya came out.

She retold the story of how everything happened to the masses.

About how Triste had betrayed the royal family and murdered the king.

About how Laura had hidden herself.

How Ilya herself entered Triste's world and discovered the spread of [Kindling].

And finally, how she had used some sort of treasure to set up and ambush and eliminated 2 million demonized people at once.

Without anyone to carry it, [Kindling] died off.

—indeed, Ilya had murdered 2 million demonized people, but no one there blamed her for it.

The moment someone decided to surrender themselves to the embrace of the [Demon King Order], they stood against the 900 million World Layers as a whole.

According to their experience in the past, the demonized would kill living beings of the worlds to enable their fast growth, but they won't obey any rules or laws of the 900 million World Layers, causing nothing but headaches.

They were the source of disruption to the rule and order of society and organizations everywhere!

No Combatants or organization would feel any empathy towards those who chose to become demonized!

As for those who weren't demonized, risking their lives to go against the lure of [Kindling] and ended up killed by the demonized people would be statistically recorded by Ilya using soul-summoning techniques on a later date.

For these people, the Bramble Bird Kingdom would provide ample compensations to make sure that relatives of the dead will be able to live their entire lives without financial worry.

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Once that was over.

Triste and her accomplices were brought forward.

Ilya came in front of the throne, knelt on one knee and spoke: "Your majesty, please pass your judgment"

Laura nodded.

When she received the Combatants, she had been maintaining a graceful and polite smile the entire time.

But now, her entire presence can only be described as "cold".

"Triste's accomplices are to be directly executed"

"Yes"

Following the Empress' orders, the royal guards who followed Triste and knowingly helped her catch Laura were beheaded on the spot.

Corpses fell one by one.

"Your majesty, only Triste is left" Ilya reported.

"Torture" Laura coldly spat out.

"Yes" Ilya responded.

From the void of space, the Saint Bramble Tree's branches began to appear.

Through Triste's fearful and desperate screams, countless tiny vines pierced through her from the top of her head.

The vines slowly slithered and filled her body, blooming flowers from her skin.

This was an inhumane pain.

Those who are subjected to this punishment would receive twice as much pain, from both their body and soul, suffering through every second of every minute without end.

Enough that they wouldn't even be able to form a single thought.

All those who were watching in the 900 million World Layers felt cold sweat dripping down.

Because the one executing this punishment was the Saint Bramble Tree itself.

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Within the 900 million World Layers, no one could go against this great tree.

— and no one could resist its punishment.

While everyone was still gulping at Triste's heavy punishment, the Bramble Bird Empress said the words that caused everyone to shiver again.

"Ilya, make sure that this punishment continues for the next 1000 years without stopping"

"Understood" Ilya replied, "then what about after 1000 years?"

"After 1000 years, another punishment will be given out"

"As you will, your majesty"

At that moment, the whole 900 million World Layers fell silent.

Those whose benefits were damaged or directly hurt didn't have any word to say as they saw Triste's terrible state.

Their first reaction was fulfilment on seeing a villain punished.

The second reaction was fear.

True fear— constant torture for 1000 years, not allowed to die, and even after that they will be subjected to another punishment and possibly tortured even further, who wouldn't fear such a horrifying end?

From this moment onwards, the name of the Bramble Bird Empress was spread around the 900 million World Layers under two different versions, the epitome of generosity, and uncaringly cold-blooded.

After Triste's sentence, the audience with the Bramble Bird Empress ended.

Under the watchful eyes of countless people, Empress Laura was surrounded by the Bramble Bird officials and guards as she left the hall.

For the Bramble Bird, this matter ended here.

They brought their new Empress back to the Mystic Zones on the Bramble Birds flagship.

For the participants of the war, this war ended in victory.

Aboul fell into a celebratory mood.

On the rowdy and festive plaza, Gu Qing Shan watched as the seemingly unending fleet of ships flew across Aboul's sky and disappeared into faraway space.

That was the Bramble Bird's military fleet.

Laura was there.

It wasn't until Gu Qing Shan couldn't see anything anymore did he stop watching.

He sighed.

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From today onwards, that little girl will move forward on her own.

And before I become much, much stronger, I won't be able to help her with anything.

"Hah, Gu Qing Shan"

Someone called out to him from behind.

When Gu Qing Shan looked back, it was Kitty.

As soon as she and Barry left the audience hall, they went to find Gu Qing Shan.

"Why aren't you drinking with the others? I thought you'd be enjoying the booze right about now" Kitty asked.

"Ah, I'm not really in the mood— are we going to stay here or return straight away?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"There's something urgent so we need to go back to the club right away" Barry answered him

"Something urgent?" Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Now that the war is over, everything should've already ended, what else is urgent?

"That's right, something very urgent"

Saying so, Barry and Kitty exchanged looks and smiled mysteriously.

"We're leaving now" Kitty shook the ring on her finger, showing it off to Gu Qing Shan: "I can bring you both back right away"

Grabbing both Barry and Gu Qing Shan, she chanted a short incantation.

Sha!

The three of them disappeared from Aboul.

Super Dimensional world.

The Iron Fist Club.

Three figures appeared from midair, landing on the ground.

Gu Qing Shan regained his balance and looked around.

The world was silent.

Just like before, the club was empty without any people.

Even as he sent his inner sight into the club to look around, he found nothing of interest.

“Why did we need to return so urgently?” Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but ask.

Barry carefully took out an intricate small box.

“This was silently given to me by one of the royal guards when we were leaving after the audience was over” he said.

Chapter 617

“What is that?” Gu Qing Shan curiously asked.

Barry told him: “The royal guard said this was a small extra reward that the Empress gave to all members of the club, telling me to only look at it once we return”

“You trust that royal guard? Or do you know them?”

“That’s not it, the Bramble Bird Kingdom wouldn’t use tricks on something like this, not to mention that they don’t need to trick me and Kitty”

Kitty was already unable to hold back her curiosity and urged him: “Quickly open it, I want to see what’s inside”

“Alright”

Barry opened the box.

As soon as the box was opened, a blinding light came from the box and shot into the sky.

The light morphed into symbols that were constantly shifting.

Almost as if the symbols were confirming something.

After a few breaths, the symbols stopped changing.

“What is that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Kitty’s expression turned dim: “That was the Iron Fist Club’s spatial coordinates, if anyone obtained it, even a complete stranger will be able to visit us here”

“But the Super Dimensional path authority is still in your hands, as long as you don’t allow them to, they can only stand around the space vortex, right?” Gu Qing Shan questioned.

“That is true, but coming uninvited like this is still irritating”

Kitty’s ears were twitching, apparently very annoyed.

Barry wasn’t very happy either.

They said it was a gift, but it turns out to be a navigation spell instead. On some level, this could be considered deceiving him.

Barry doubtfully asked: “Even if they obtained our world’s coordinates, without being given permission by me and Kitty, they wouldn’t be able to enter either way— so I really don’t understand, what’s the point of the Bramble Birds tricking me?”

Gu Qing Shan thought for a bit and spoke: “Maybe... Triste still has other accomplices?”

The three of them exchanged looks, feeling the situation getting heavy.

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Then, Kitty’s expression twitched a bit as she spoke: “Someone arrived at the vicinity of our Super Dimensional world, currently requesting permission to enter”

She closed her eyes and muttered: “Now, let me see who exactly was it that dared to do this”

Barry also closed his eyes and sensed the space around.

“I also want to take a look and see what kind of tricks they’re trying to pull” his tone became murderous.

— even though Barry didn’t know any Spatial spells, he was still the owner of this Super Dimensional world, so he could sense the changes directly around the space of the Super Dimensional world.

It only took the brother and sister one breath to see the situation outside clearly.

Barry was a veteran, and Kitty wasn’t some clueless sheltered girl, but at this point, both of them showed expressions of shock and awe.

They opened their eyes at the same time.

“Bro, what now?” Kitty asked.

“It doesn’t look like they’re joking with us, let them in” Barry scowled.

“Alright” Kitty replied.

She began to chant the incantation to unblock the Super Dimensional path, allowing the other party entry.

Seeing their reactions, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t understand anything.

He asked: “What happened?”

Barry looked up: “Take a look yourself, they’re here”

Gu Qing Shan looked up.

A large ship appeared from the void of space.

The ship looks very familiar...

That’s right, this was the Bramble Birds flagship!

A few moments later, Gu Qing Shan indeed saw Laura and Ilya peeking their heads out from the deck of the ship.

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Laura was smiling at him.

Kitty explained to Gu Qing Shan: "The entire Bramble Bird fleet is docked outside the Super Dimensional path, their Empress requested entry, but only for this single ship, so I don't think there would be any danger"

"That's right, the Bramble Bird race wouldn't try to do anything to us—- at least, they've never tried to do anything to a Super Dimensional world" Barry's scowl slowly loosened as he spoke.

If the Empress herself was coming to visit them, of course there would be a crucial matter.

If that was the case, then using the coordinates navigation spell was simply to save time, not that they intended to trick me.

Thinking that, Barry and Kitty's expressions turned much less tense.

"How should we greet them?" Barry asked.

"It's fine, they came unannounced so we couldn't have arranged anything, let's just greet them normally" Kitty answered.

As they were speaking, the ship had already landed.

The Bramble Bird Empress, Laura, wore a crown, a luxurious blue dress with a scepter in her hand as she flew down from the ship.

Behind her, Frost of the Cold Night brought about 10 knights who closely followed behind.

They flew towards the three people of the club.

"Ilya, you can explain everything to Iron Fist Barry and Kitty" Laura ordered.

"Understood"

Ilya then came forward, brought Barry and Kitty to one side to carefully explain to them everything that happened.

Laura walked in front of Gu Qing Shan and looked up at him.

Gu Qing Shan looked at her as he smiled.

"Didn't we agree to keep this a secret?" he whispered.

"Of course, I only brought with me the 10 knights who experienced what happened in that world first-hand" Laura pointed behind herself.

The 10 knights looked at Gu Qing Shan and smiled in a friendly manner.

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Gu Qing Shan also smiled back to greet them.

Since they've been through battles together, they could be considered to be close.

Laura then continued: "Barry and Kitty can also be trusted, so telling them about this isn't anything wrong, is it?"

Gu Qing Shan looked back at Barry and Kitty.

As Ilya explained to them, the shocked expressions on their faces only increased more and more, occasionally glancing back at Gu Qing Shan.

"Fine, they are indeed reliable" Gu Qing Shan agreed.

Then, the conversation stopped here.

They both fell silent.

"I— have been thinking seriously for a bit" Laura broke the silence and spoke up first.

"Hm?"

"Truthfully, I've been thinking to choose the second path, the path that is arduous, the path of constantly challenging myself, constantly growing and becoming stronger, in order to always take charge of my destiny— that's what you said, correct?" Laura carefully asked.

"Yes, I believe so" Gu Qing Shan nodded.

"Now I've chosen the path I want to take, that's why..."

Laura took a deep breath and loudly declared: "That's why my fate will be decided by myself, if I am determined to do something, no one can stop me"

"I am the Sovereign of the Bramble Birds, as long as I wish for something, I will never hesitate to make it happen, only then will my struggle and my effort not be wasted"

She mustered her courage and spoke the words in her mind.

Gu Qing Shan watched over her and said nothing.

Laura waited for Gu Qing Shan's reply, but nothing came, so she was a bit dispirited.

"Gu Qing Shan, are my words not correct? Can't you at least give me a reaction"

"Seriously, I've been thinking all this time to come up with that answer, before arriving here I even repeated it to myself twice just to be sure..."

The little girl dejectedly muttered her complaints.

Silently listening to her, Gu Qing Shan slowly smiled.

"You said it well, very Empress-like" he told her.

"Do you really think so?"

"I do, I don't usually lie"

Laura instantly became happy again and spoke: "Ahaha, I knew my thoughts were right"

She then handed a crystal ball to Gu Qing Shan.

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Gu Qing Shan looked at the crystal ball.

He recognized it as Triste's collection world.

At this time, this world had once again been sealed into a crystal ball.

Unlike before, there were no longer any demonized, and no [Demon King Order].

The eternally snowing ice layer.

The deep blue ocean layer.

The underground lost world of the Old Gods.

—this was a strange and precious world, a place where the Gods once resided, and there were possibly a lot more secrets to be discovered.

"I remembered that you promised your Tianma friend to give this world to her" Laura said.

"Erm—hmmmm? Ah right, I did"

"...You big fraud, take it, don't let her down"

Gu Qing Shan explained: "Actually, I was about to think of some other way to make it up to her, but if you give me this world, that'll be one less problem to worry about for me"

"Of course I'd give you this world, you've saved my life so many times, would the life of THE Bramble Bird Empress not equivalent to a mere world?"

She then shoved the crystal ball into Gu Qing Shan's hands.

Then, Laura's expression turned more serious.

"I once promised you, if you were able to help me defeat the [Demon King Order], defeat Triste and take my revenge, I will make you the Duke of our Bramble Bird Kingdom"

She took out a blue medal, lightly lifting it in her hand.

"I know that any news of a non-Bramble Bird becoming a Duke of the Bramble Bird Kingdom will definitely be shocking enough to shake the entire 900 million World Layers"

"I also know that you don't care much about reputation"

"So now I only want you to make a promise to me——"

"Gu Qing Shan, if one day you feel that you wouldn't be bothered by having a renowned reputation, would you accept to become a Duke of our Bramble Bird Kingdom?"

Apparently afraid that Gu Qing Shan might reject her, Laura quickly added: "Don't worry, before you actively announce this yourself, everyone who knows about it on my side will keep it a secret"

Gu Qing Shan smiled: "It must've been hard for you to think of everything so thoroughly"

"Then——" Laura looked at him and hesitantly asked.

Gu Qing Shan came forward in front of Laura and slowly knelt down on one knee.

Laura smiled.

This was just like that time on the plains, when I begged him to take me to the battle together. At that time, he also knelt down on one knee before standing up to confront the enemies. Under desperate situations, he had given so much hope, and even brought me out of my own abyss. So from now on, it'll be my turn to repay him.

Laura personally attached the medal to Gu Qing Shan's chest.

Placing a hand on the medal, she silently chanted.

As the incantation sounded, several hundred million World Layers away, the Saint Bramble Tree sent a large piece of its will over and lightly locked onto Gu Qing Shan.

The will of the Saint Tree was here.

Apparently as a witness to everything.

Laura inhaled and sternly spoke: "Under the witness of the Saint Bramble Tree, we will make the following agreement"

"One day in the future, when Gu Qing Shan is willing, he will immediately become the Duke of the Bramble Bird Kingdom"

"The agreement above will be confirmed by both the Bramble Bird Empress Laura and Gu Qing Shan"

"Gu Qing Shan, do you accept?"

She looked at Gu Qing Shan.

The will of the Saint Bramble Tree also focused on Gu Qing Shan.

Barry, Kitty, Ilya as well as the rest of the guards all held their breaths, witnessing this precious moment.

Still kneeling on one knee, Gu Qing Shan looked up at Laura and gently answered:

"As you wish, your majesty"

Chapter 618

Laura happily left.

With the Saint Bramble Tree as the witness, Gu Qing Shan would become a member of her kingdom sooner or later, this was already set in stone.

For now, he could go deal with his personal business.

The Bramble Bird flagship left the Justice Iron Fist Club, returning to the fleet as they headed back to their kingdom several hundred World Layers away.

Gu Qing Shan lightly stroked the front of his chest.

The blue medal had turned invisible and intangible, silently hiding itself there.

With a single thought, Gu Qing Shan could make the medal appear and activate it.

As soon as he does, he will automatically be recognized as a Duke of the Bramble Bird Kingdom.

—-as for what kind authority and responsibilities a Duke would hold, Gu Qing Shan was too lazy to ask, and Laura only wanted to chat with him a bit more so she didn't care to mention such minor detail either.

Barry came and patted his shoulder: "I never thought you would stand up to face the [Demon King Order] and actually came up with a way to destroy it, how shocking"

"I don't like that [Order]" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Barry nodded in understanding, showing his sympathy.

He said: "Endlessly inflating a person's own desires, killing other living beings just to gain strength for yourself, this is the type of [Order] I look down on the most"

At this time, he was even more pleased with Gu Qing Shan than he had been before.

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Not only did he dare to go against the [Demon King Order] while he was still weak, he actually won. Such a person really was fitting to be a new member of the Club.

Thinking that, Barry spoke: "In the end—"

Kitty immediately cut him off: "In the end, it was fortunate that my eyes were sharp enough"

Barry stopped and glared at Kitty: "I seem to recall it being me that suggested we let him stay"

"I was the one who suggested we should let him stay!"

"I don't remember you ever telling me such a thing, it was clearly because I felt he was a swell guy that I let him stay"

"Bullshit! You said we still haven't found supper..."

Although the brother and sister were arguing, they were both in high spirits.

The fact that Gu Qing Shan could join the club in the first place was because he got recognized by both of them.

And now, his actions had proved that they weren't wrong about him.

"Oi, Gu Qing Shan, just now I only got to hear the summary, tell me the entire thing in detail when you can. I can use it as material to write a really good story" Kitty said.

"That's fine, but wasn't our Club's debt already fully paid back? Why are you still writing?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Huh?" Kitty was surprised.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "The reason you've been an author was that you needed to make money for food right? Now that we don't have any debts anymore, Barry's leg is also healed, a Combatant of your level shouldn't have to force yourself so low anymore, right?"

Kitty slowly realized.

“Right... we’ve cleared our debt, and I don’t have to worry about bro being ambushed anymore, thanks for reminding me!”

Kitty excitedly looked at Barry and spoke: “Bro, can you take a look, has our credit rating gone back to normal yet?”

Barry triumphantly smirked: “I already did, including the Spire Keeper Association, hotels, casinos, restaurants and resorts everywhere, so on and so forth, our credit rating is now positive”

“In other words——” Kitty was very excited.

“That’s right, little sister, in other words——” Barry smiled brightly.

The brother and sister spoke at the same time.

“We can put things on our tab again!!!”

Seeing their excited expressions, Gu Qing Shan felt nothing but despair in his heart.

“Hey, aren’t you guys peerless Combatants, couldn’t you come up with a way to at least make money?” he asked.

“I’ve endured hardship for too long already, I want to go relax and window shop for a bit first” Kitty smiled so hard her eyes were squinted, clearly imagining something wonderful.

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“Making money is only a small matter, Gu Qing Shan” Barry also patted his back, “Tomorrow I’ll lead you to the Black sail Casino, that place has the best food and great games, everyone is really interesting to talk to, I love that place the most. If your hands feel itchy, you can even try one or two matches, with some luck, you might even win some money”

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“But we don’t have any money” Gu Qing Shan was confused.

“Ah, I forgot to tell you, there’s a small rule that everyone in the 900 million World Layers follows”

“Do tell”

“As the owner of a Super Dimensional world and a Lord-class Combatant, members of the Justice Iron Fist Club receive a really high credit rating, allowing you to borrow a large amount of money without collateral”

“That’s right, from now on, if you ever spend anything, you can put it on the Club’s tab” Kitty followed up.

“I almost forgot, we should register Gu Qing Shan” Barry patted his head and said: “Kitty, register Gu Qing Shan’s personal information into the system and use the Club’s name to inform every world, from now on, while travelling among the infinite worlds, he can put things on the club’s tab without directly paying cash like us”

“Alright” Kitty agreed.

She took a bit of Gu Qing Shan's presence and told Gu Qing Shan to follow her as she operated something in the void of space.

After going through a complicated sequence of confirmations and entering Gu Qing Shan's information, Kitty pridefully told him: "There, from now on, you can use the Justice Iron Fist Club's name wherever you go without needing to use money"

"Won't I be caught to pay back the debt?" Gu Qing Shan was hesitant.

"Of course not, the Bramble Bird Kingdom had just paid back all of our debts, so the amount we can borrow is higher than it has ever been before"

"Sounds convenient"

Gu Qing Shan commented.

He then proceeded to finish the registration as Kitty instructed.

Then, he threw the question he just asked to the back of his head.

From this day onwards, the Justice Iron Fist Club gained another person for major businesses of the 900 million World Layers to curse and hate for never paying.

"Alright, well I'll have to make a trip back to my world now, there's a war going on there" Gu Qing Shan told him.

"A war?" Barry scowled and asked.

"Ah, yeah, I fused the human realm and Huang Quan of my Samsara world, I've already told you about it, so now the other worlds are currently looking to take over my newly fused world" Gu Qing Shan explained.

Barry and Kitty exchanged glances, clearly intrigued.

"You did say that once—- but shouldn't the Samsara world be in the Mystic Zones? Why is there another one in the Scattered worlds?" Barry muttered.

Kitty also commented: "Last time Gu Qing Shan told me about this, I was already interested, but we couldn't leave at the time"

Barry thought about it briefly and said: "How about we come with you to take a look, if there's any trouble, as the spokesperson of justice, this Barry would definitely not hesitate to help"

"That's right, you're a member of our Club, and you even destroyed the [Demon King Order]. Your future is bright, so we'll come with you and help level any matter with your world" Kitty added.

"Then it's decided—- that's the decision of our Justice Iron Fist Club" Barry concluded.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned, then felt glad.

Both Barry and Kitty were Lord-class Combatants of the 900 million World Layers.

Barry has always been known as a great savior who never spared any efforts to save the worlds against the forces of evil, renowned across the 900 million World Layers.

If that wasn't the case, Xiao Die wouldn't have still thought of repaying her debt to him even after she became a True Demon.

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Laura also wouldn't have so easily trusted Gu Qing Shan just by hearing about him being part of the Justice Iron Fist Club.

The major businesses and organizations of the infinite worlds also wouldn't have just ignored and let them owe a huge debt that's worth several World Layers in the first place.

Kitty had also shown her true strength during the war this time.

Even elders of the Spire Keeper Association had to ask Kitty's opinion at crucial turning points of the war to accurately assess the situation.

Only after this war did everyone find out that both the brother and sister were Lord-class Combatants.

The power of both of them together was incredible.

If they are willing to come back with him, Gu Qing Shan only had a single thing left to say.

—what else were they waiting for?

Chapter 619

Gu Qing Shan expressed his attitude: "Of course I wouldn't have any objections— alright, join me on this little trip, I'll make sure you guys get the best possible treatment"

Barry grinned: "Your cooking skills are top-notch and your booze is great, I've always wanted to take a look and see what kind of world could produce such an expert cook"

"That's perfect, I've never been to a Scattered world before, so this will be a nice outing, I also want to take a look at what you call a Samsara world" Kitty also smiled.

From the look of it, she still wasn't fully convinced that his world was a Samsara world.

"Then should we go right now?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Wait a minute—" Kitty said, then shrugged as she explained: "We've just been through a really tough war, I'm still dirty all over, so let me change first"

Gu Qing Shan and Barry both looked at her.

Kitty was currently wearing a black leather skin-tight bodysuit, it was still squeaky clean without a single speck of dirt to be found.

That is 'dirty all over'?

They both had the same thought.

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But Kitty was already on her way back to the club, mumbling as she did: “So much dirt and grime, I really gotta change...”

Gu Qing Shan then looked at Barry.

Barry had been at the frontline from the very start, his jacket and shirt were already torn to shreds, the scraps of his clothes were draped over his shoulder.

His steel gloves were also covered in cracks and blood.

His pants were ragged and ripped, barely qualifying as clothes anymore.

“Aren’t you going to change?” he asked.

“This still can be worn” Barry took a look at his clothes and casually said.

Gu Qing Shan cautiously convinced him: “I think you should at least change into another outfit, at least it would give a better first impression”

“A... ha-ha, I got into fights so much that this is the only good suit I had left, I still haven’t bought any more” Barry simply told him.

Gu Qing Shan froze.

The Club has always been in debt and Barry was still wrestling with others day by day, so of course, he wouldn’t have any new clothes.

As a Lord-class Combatant of the 900 million World Layers, you really have to wonder what kind of thing he did to be in this destitute state.

Now that I think about it, the state that Barry’s golden statue is in wasn’t just a coincidence, but rather inevitability...

Gu Qing Shan sighed, taking out a set of his spare clothes.

“My measurements should be the same as yours, so if you don’t mind——”

“Of course, I don’t mind, ahahaha!”

Barry happily received the clothes and walked into the club.

Gu Qing Shan now stood alone outside the club.

Now that he had some time, Gu Qing Shan looked at the War God UI.

The [War God Quest] icon was blinking over and over to notify him.

Gu Qing Shan focused his mind on the icon.

A few lines of glowing text then shot out from [War God Quest].

[You’ve eliminated Worlds Apocalypse Online: Revolution]

[You’ve stopped the Demon King Order from spreading, completing the War God Quest-chain]

[War God Quest supplementary Soul Points usage state: laido has disappeared]

[You’ve received the War God Quest reward]

[Reward: A secret]

[Would you like to take a look at that secret now?]

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Show me"

A few more lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

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[Confirmed you are the owner of the War God Authority]

[Confirmed you've known about the world tombs and other related information]

[Confirmed you've fused 2 very small fragments of the Samsara world]

[The secret you're qualified to know has been determined]

[Please maintain absolute calm]

[Do not read out loud what you see on the System notification]

[Do not reveal a single word of the secret]

[Only when you can guarantee to do this can the System reveal the secret]

The War God System has never been this careful before, so Gu Qing Shan was even more curious.

"I understand, don't worry, I will keep it strictly a secret" Gu Qing Shan replied.

With his words of confirmation, more glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[The secret is as follows:]

[Firstly, only one Samsara world exists within the 900 million World Layers, it is where the most world tombs were hidden, the methods of self-salvation left behind by the Gods for living beings]

[Secondly, the Gods weren't able to predict that the Samsara world would be broken apart]

[Attention, the above is a strict secret among secrets, only known to the Gods and their enemies, you can definitely never reveal it, or harsh retribution will come to you]

[If you treasure your life, be extremely careful]

As soon as the glowing words were read, they instantly disappeared from sight.

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Gu Qing Shan stood still in shock.

There is only one Samsara world within the 900 million World Layers?

How is that possible!

Wait a minute, the Suspended world...

The cultivators of that place hadn't even met Tianma before, so of course, it wasn't a Samsara world.

Barry and Kitty also said that the Samsara worlds were supposed to be in the Mystic Zones.

—-and the only creatures willing to establish relations with the outside world in the Mystic Zones are the Bramble Birds.

After going to the 900 million World Layers, it was true that I've never heard or seen any news about Samsara worlds before.

Why!?

Just why!!?

Why would a Samsara world exist within the Scattered worlds, a place at the very outside of the Outer

Plane where destruction is always looming and is inevitable?

My original world, the cultivation world, Shen Wu world— they were all Samsara worlds.

Perhaps it was because they were hidden outside of the 900 million World Layers among the Scattered worlds that top-level Combatants wouldn't know about them.

That's why Barry and Kitty, two Lord-class Combatants, would feel curious about them.

"There is only one Samsara world"

"The Samsara world was broken apart..."

"I had fused together two very small fragments of the Samsara world..."

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought as his mind quickly worked.

According to the War God System's words, in the Age of Old, the Old Gods left behind methods of self-salvation for living beings of the infinite worlds.

They were all hidden within the world tombs.

And the Samsara world supposedly contains the most amount of world tombs.

Perhaps—

All of a sudden, Gu Qing Shan had a brief thought.

As soon as he realized this, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but tremble uncontrollably.

The truth might be something like this—

My original world, the cultivation world, and the Shen Wu world were all nothing but fragments of the Samsara world!

All of them were only fragments!

They were the fragments scattered outside of the 900 million World Layers after the original Samsara world was broken apart!!!

Gu Qing Shan forgot to breathe as his body went into awe.

What kind of existence could actually break the Samsara world apart?

The War God System said that I had fused two very small fragments, which obviously meant the human realm and Huang Quan realm of my original world.

—-if there were supposedly a lot of world tombs hidden in the Samsara world...

Then my original world, the cultivation world and Shen Wu world could all hide different world tombs.

Before I left, Shifu should have already known about the secret to increasing the strength of living beings— which was to fuse worlds together.

It's very possible that Shifu had already fused the cultivation world and Shen Wu world into one.

Then, what about the Huang Quan realm, Heaven realm, Asura realm, Ghost realm and Beast King realm corresponding to those two worlds?

What kind of change would those worlds experience?

Could a war or wars between worlds have broken out there similarly to how it did in my original world?

With so many thoughts and possibilities, Gu Qing Shan felt a headache unlike never before.

A voice called out.

"What's wrong? You look like you're worried about something"

Barry had returned.

Seeing Gu Qing Shan's pale expression, he asked out of concern.

"It's fine, I was just restless about what's going on in my world" Gu Qing Shan tried his hardest to squeeze out a smile and answered.

He decided to temporarily stop thinking about that problem.

"Don't worry, since Kitty and I are coming with you, of course we'll give you a helping hand" Barry consoled him.

A few minutes later, Kitty also came out.

She was now wearing a cute miniskirt, black silk stockings, high heels and tied her hair into a ponytail, overall a nimble and fashionable look.

"Gu Qing Shan do you have your world's coordinates?" Kitty asked.

"Ah shit, I think I don't"

Kitty then asked: "I remember giving you a compass some time ago, but I lost track of it due to some interference of a sealed world—- have you returned to your world since then?"

Gu Qing Shan thought about it shortly and asked: "I did, once"

At the time, due to Su Xue Er's triple barrier trap, he had to specifically make a round trip back to his original world.

He then took out the compass and gave it back to Kitty.

Kitty took the compass, looked around it as she muttered: "Very nice, my compass should have recorded the coordinates—- found it, that really is far away"

She was excited.

From now on, she won't need to wrack her brain writing new chapters every day, no need to worry about being hungry and can instead let go of everything and enjoy herself for the first time in a while. This translation is hosted for free at otaku.utl.blog.spot.com, check the page for the fastest daily updates

It really did bring a smile to her face.

"Come, gentleman, stand close to me" Kitty told them.

Barry and Gu Qing Shan then stood on her left and right respectively.

Kitty chanted her incantation.

A few moments later, the three of them disappeared from the Justice Iron Fist Club.

They were moving towards Gu Qing Shan's home.

His original world.

—-where Gu Qing Shan had fused two fragments of the Samsara world.

Chapter 620

Gu Qing Shan's original world.

The Holy Empire.

A small town at the border.

A light flashed.

Gu Qing Shan, Barry and Kitty appeared.

Barry and Kitty immediately took notice of the church building inside the town.

"Huh? A church of the Death God?"

Kitty's cat ears twitched in interest.

Barry carefully checked out the details of the church building and commented: "From how it was built, I couldn't find a single mistake in the overall structure, doesn't look like a fake"

The two of them exchanged looks of surprise.

There were actual believers of the Death God within a Scattered world.

This was really unbelievable.

Usually, no one would pay any attention to Scattered worlds as they were too easily destroyed by random occurrences.

But the Death God did?

When they wanted to take a closer look, they both noticed something.

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At the same time, Gu Qing Shan also noticed.

The three of them looked up.

A giant tentacle swung across the sky.

Countless Mechs and warships were firing round after round of artillery at the tentacle.

But the tentacle was merely wobbling from the impact without actually being hurt, or scratched at all.

"Fall back!" a fierce shout.

A single person jumped to the sky, turning into a huge lion that swung its claws at the tentacle from afar.

These swings created cold gleaming slashes that cut into the tentacle.

Blood spurted.

Although the lion had indeed wounded the tentacle, that much was nothing but a tiny scratch to the entire tentacle as a whole.

Never mind the owner of the tentacle itself, whose body was much, much more gigantic.

“A Beast King?” Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but feel shocked.

As he naturally would.

—since when did the Beast Kings appear to protect the human realm?

The Holo-Brain in Gu Qing Shan’s breast pocket lit up.

Impartial Goddess’ voice came from the Holo-Brain.

[Sir, I am happy to see you again]

“I’m also happy to be back”

[Sir, these two people next to you are—?]

“Allies”

[Then it’s alright, but I really must say, you shouldn’t have returned, sir]

“Why not?”

[The world is currently facing a never-before-seen predicament]

“What happened?”

A screen was projected to the air.

Gu Qing Shan, Barry and Kitty all looked at the screen together.

Countless space monsters could be seen floating in space, surrounding the planet, wanting to get in.

At the same time, humans, Asuras, Demis, Beast Kings, and Wraiths had all joined forces to fight against the threat from outer space.

“Why did the situation turn to this?”

Gu Qing Shan was confused.

Before, space monsters had never taken an interest in this world before.

Then why were space monsters suddenly attracted to this place now?

Gu Qing Shan silently thought about this.

Barry nodded on the side: “It seems this Scattered world is in big trouble”

Kitty crossed her arms looking at the sky: “Bro, might as well hunt a few of the good ones to eat”

“Of course we’re going to hunt some”

While speaking, Barry took a stance and continued: “But there are so many space monsters here that I can’t even count, how are we going to pick a good one out of them?”

“I don’t care, I just want the ones with the juicy meat” Kitty replied.

“Fine, fine, I get it—”

Saying so, the presence around Barry changed as he threw a light punch at the sky.

He then shouted: “3000 Worlds Hundred Thousand God-King Lord Killer Fist!”

Kitty: “...”

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

Kitty couldn’t help but look over to Gu Qing Shan and saw the wondering expression on his face.

“Are you wondering what kind of thing the 3000 Lord King Fist thingy is?” Kitty silently sent her voice over.

“I am” Gu Qing Shan nonchalantly admitted.

“Just ignore that, he only feels that the name is cool, and it sounds awesome when he shouts it out”

“Is that so?”

“Yup, that name has nothing to do with his strike, it purely exists for flavor”

“...Maybe it could also be a method to deceive the enemy?”

“We’re not children play-fighting, what’s the point of deceiving this and that?”

—*doong!*

Barry’s punch lightly struck the void of space, giving off a dull sound of impact.

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A few moments later, countless screeches and cries came from the sky above.

The tentacle that stretched across the sky as well as its gigantic body that filled their visions writhed uncontrollably.

A few moments later, the gigantic space monster fell down onto a desolate swamp area at the border.

Rumble rumble rumble rumble rumble!

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The space monster’s giant tentacles made earthquakes as they hit the ground!

Barry waved his hand: “There”

Kitty looked closer at the falling giant monster.

“I’ve already eaten this one, it tastes horrible. And it kicks clouds of dust and soot up everywhere when it lands, let’s throw it away”

She then pointed her hand at the falling monster and lightly pushed it from afar.

Space began to distort.

Shortly after, the body of the monster that took up their entire vision disappeared without a trace.

Kitty looked up, staring at the sky as if she could see the endless space above through the atmosphere.

She muttered: “Let me take a look and see which one is worth catching...”

Barry spoke with concern: “Choose carefully, I don’t want to get diarrhea again”

“Bro, what about that one?”

“That can’t be eaten, foolish sister, did you forget how much bites it took the last time we tried?”

“Ah, I remember now”

“Let’s not—— how about that one? I remember it’s quite nice”

“The red one? Nah, its body is full of eyes, too creepy”

“Fine, then another one”

...

Gu Qing Shan stood on the side.

A few flashes of light came across his Holo-Brain.

Impartial Goddess’ voice came out.

[Sir, all space monster that surrounded the planet around the atmosphere are dead, their bodies are currently floating in space]

Gu Qing Shan’s mouth couldn’t help but twitch.

Barry only casually threw a punch at them on the spot.

What power!

Sure enough, bringing back 2 Lord-class Combatants could solve a lot of problems.

This is the benefit of being strong.

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and spoke: “About that—— can I interrupt you guys?”

Barry and Kitty looked at him.

Gu Qing Shan then told them: “Erm, you don’t have to eat space monsters, now that you’ve come to my world, I’ll treat you to some local delicacy instead”

Barry was shocked.

Kitty was also shocked but slowly realized that was indeed the case.

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Barry sighed: “Hah, I couldn’t help it, as soon as I saw the space monster I just wanted to eat them, it’s been so long since we ate nice things”

Kitty also sighed and spoke in a lonely tone: “Just thinking about eating space monsters reminds me of when we still had a debt, hah...”

Looking at them, Gu Qing Shan felt that these two were the most pitiable Combatants he had ever seen.

His Holo-Brain lit up again.

Impartial Goddess reported: [More giant monsters are approaching us from outer space]

Another screen was projected.

Countless monster bodies floated in the space around the planet.

Barry only threw a single punch and these monsters were massacred.

But in outer space further away, more and more monsters were coming.

A few of the monsters who just came were gnawing on the corpses of dead monsters.

But most of them were heading for the planet itself.

Barry scowled: “We don’t need to eat monster meat anymore then, sis, throw them all away”

“Alright”

Kitty clapped her hand.

In a single second, every monster corpse on the screen was gone.

“Now, I’ll chase these garbage creatures away” Barry said.

He just stood still and looked up at the sky.

An immense pressure came from his body.

“All of you— SCRAM!”

Barry shouted.

The word “scram” directly bypassed the restraints of space, went through the atmosphere, and echoed in space.

The monsters all froze.

Instinctively, they understood what this sound meant.

Powerful, merciless, cruel, unforgiving— characteristics of a predator at the very top of the food chain.

And that ultimate predator was forbidding them from approaching this place!

The space monsters all shook in fear, turned tail, and ran away.

A few moments later.

Impartial Goddess' voice came again.

[Sir, there are no longer any space monsters left in our vicinity]

Impartial Goddess' voice contained a hint of joy: [You brought back with you two very powerful friends sir, their fighting strength had far surpassed the limit of which I can calculate]

"Indeed, they're the strongest" Gu Qing Shan smiled and replied.

Impartial Goddess continued: [How fortunate, you and your friends returning at this time have truly alleviated all my worries about this world]

"Worries? Tell me the current situation" Gu Qing Shan quickly told her.

[Understood, sir]

Chapter 621

Impartial Goddess recounted recent events.

Allegedly, the strategy Gu Qing Shan came up with worked.

Ye Fei Li managed to understand what Gu Qing Shan meant.

He threatened the Demis and Wraiths, using the destruction of the world as a gambling chip to force them into a fighting tournament.

When the tournament began, even the Beast Kings and Asuras joined in.

Everyone wanted this world.

But Ye Fei Li managed to use that time, following Impartial Goddess' relentless schedule to sortie and kill prey after prey, evolving in the process.

And right before the finals, he finally managed to become stronger than anybody in the tournament.

But before he could masquerade as the Murder Clown and take them on, the world changed.

Space monsters began to take an interest in this world.

More and more space monsters arrived.

They wanted to eat every living being in this world.

A few particularly gluttonous monsters even attempted to eat the entire world as a whole.

So the 6-realm tournament was put on halt.

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The Demis, Wraiths, Asuras, Beast Kings, all of them joined hands to fight against the space monsters.

None of them wanted this world they had put so much effort in, to be taken away by someone else.

“Stop, no need to continue, I just want to know what you’re worried about” Gu Qing Shan curtly cut her off and asked.

Impartial Goddess explained: [Sir, there was actually a reason why this world hadn’t been discovered by the space monsters for so many years]

“Which is?”

[It was thanks to the 9 Lords of the Confederate, they had the scientific prowess to conceal this world’s presence from space]

[That way, no space monster could locate this world]

“If no problem had occurred for so many years, why did the space monsters suddenly appear now?”

[Because all crucial members of the 9 Lords had already been killed]

A screen showed the footage of when Su Xue Er had barged into the 9 Lords’ gathering.

They were attempting to create a central cultivator organization that would reign above countries.

Su Xue Er stopped them.

Her parents wanted to take her authority.

Everyone at the scene went against Su Xue Er.

And the final scenes of the footage showed Su Xue Er massacring the entire manor.

“A Bloodsea card... so this was Bloodcloak’s disciple? What a pitiable girl” Kitty commented.

Barry nodded and said nothing.

“Xue Er... Impartial Goddess, has Su Xue Er returned yet?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[She hasn’t, sir. I need to make sure you are clear of the entire situation] Impartial Goddess told him.

“Then continue”

[I had tried dispatching robots to the North Pole to restart the planet concealment mechanism, but all my efforts so far had failed]

“What’s the reason?”

[Please take a look, sir]

The screen now showed footage at the North Pole.

This was footage captured from satellites in space.

A mysterious enemy appeared.

The 9 Lord’s Guardian was killed on the spot, unable to mount any retaliation.

Impartial Goddess explained: [Sir, the reason why I had said you shouldn’t have returned was that these people are too powerful, much more powerful than even the current Ye Fei Li]

[They were constantly hiding in the shadows, only acting when necessary]

[I didn't even want to disclose the truth to Zhang Ying Hao and Ye Fei Li in fear that they might act impulsively and alert these observers]

Gu Qing Shan looked at the wind attack that killed the 9 Lords' Guardian, asking Barry: "What do you think?"

Barry was watching the screen as he praised: "Well-trained, cruel and merciless, even I would need to use 2 fingers to kill them all"

Gu Qing Shan then felt relieved— since there weren't any problems.

He asked: "Impartial Goddess, why weren't there any sound in the footage just now when I saw them conversing?"

[Sir, because that location is the holy land of the 9 Lords. I didn't want to deceive you, but I originally belonged to the 9 Lords, so I couldn't prepare any audio collection apparatus at the scene]

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and spoke: "Extract the entire footage just now and show each person individually"

[Understood, sir]

A few portraits were then shown on the screen.

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The mysterious people each took up one portrait, the 9 Lords' Guardian herself also took up an individual portrait.

Gu Qing Shan glanced through and ordered: "Begin playback in the order that they spoke"

[Yes]

The portraits began to move.

Barry and Kitty exchanged looks of praise.

Even while knowing their side had the absolute power advantage, he was still so meticulous as to not let go of any intel.

This was the kind of person that could make it big.

Gu Qing Shan stared at the screen while talking with Impartial Goddess.

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"Firstly, they were able to communicate with the 9 Lords' Guardian, at the same time using common human language— which was also our world's common language"

[Indeed, sir]

"Secondly, the first one to speak was the 9 Lords' Guardian, zoom in on her portrait and begin analysis of her lip movements"

[Understood, analyzing lip movements now]

A few moments later.

Impartial Goddess responded: [Complete results achieved, please take a look at the screen]

Gu Qing Shan looked at the screen to see a line of subtitles at the bottom.

[This was supposed to be a Scattered world, the most insignificant and barren places of the universe, why—]

This was what the 9 Lords' Guardian said at the time.

Gu Qing Shan nodded: "Very well, continue analyzing everyone's lip movements and deduce what they had said in order, just like this"

Impartial Goddess replied: [Analysis complete, displaying now]

One of the mysterious people spoke: [It's because this place is so insignificant that it could hide a world tomb]

The 9 Lords' Guardian was confused: [World... tomb?]

Another mysterious person spoke: [If you've already discovered us and heard our secret, it's time for you to die]

Before her death, the 9 Lords' Guardian shouted: [I authorize you to release your restraints, take good care of her— attention please sir, this was the Guardian's last will given to me]

One of the enemies asked: [What did those last words she said mean?]

Another answered: [Don't know, you killed her too quickly]

[It's probably something minor, no need to pay attention to it]

[Are you sure it's here?]

[I can't confirm, but this place went through a world fusion once, the energy waves it gave off at the time did match]

[Hm, then we'll wait and observe if this place really is a world tomb...]

Gu Qing Shan read through everything.

Barry and Kitty also read through this dialogue.

"Ah? A world tomb?"

Kitty curiously muttered.

"So it was a world tomb" Barry also said.

They were both calm.

The two of them have been through a lot and witnessed many types of treasures and danger, they wouldn't feel tempted by just anything.

Barry looked at Gu Qing Shan and asked: "Do you know what a world tomb is?"

"I do" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Barry smiled unexpectedly and muttered: "I really didn't think there would be a world tomb hidden in a Scattered world"

"What do you intend to do?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

He faced Barry straight on, staring straight into his eyes.

A world tomb was where the Gods hid their treasures.

Only through this level of temptation could you really know a person's true nature.

Barry just scoffed: "So what if they're treasures left behind by some Gods? In this great one's eyes, only world peace truly matters, furthermore, this place is your world. Just tell me what you want to do and this great one will help you do it, consider it a present to welcome you into the club"

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Kitty also told him: "We've travelled far and wide across the 900 million World Layers, so we already ran into 3 world tombs before, two of them contained some really annoying monster population. You wouldn't believe what we had to go through to eliminate them all"

"That's right, they were probably failed creations of the Old Gods, really annoying to deal with" Barry followed up.

"Three world tombs— then what about the last one?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"In that one, we discovered a coordinate map, when bro and I followed the directions on the map, we discovered a completely new Super Dimensional world. And when we got strong enough, we registered it and formed a club— which is the Justice Iron Fist Club you know today" Kitty answered.

"So that's why" Gu Qing Shan nodded.

At this time, Impartial Goddess issued a warning: [Sir, those mysterious people have noticed the disturbance here, they will arrive soon]

"Let them, saves us the effort" Barry grinned and said.

A few moments later, several black figures came down from the sky.

One of them spoke in a calm voice: "For someone to be able to eliminate a space monster so quickly at this backwater planet, I really am intrigued"

The very next second, this voice became higher by at least 8 octaves, becoming extremely high-pitched

"The fuck! Iron Fist Barry! It's the Justice Iron Fist Club!"

The figures all shot to the sky and ran for their lives.

“Leaving so soon?”

Kitty chuckled and loudly clapped her hands.

Apparently, she didn't need to do a lot.

But Gu Qing Shan saw those people running with all their might, a few even used secret techniques to boost their strength, wanting to get away from there as fast as possible.

But no matter how much they ran, they slowly descended back to the ground, standing in front of the three people here.

That got them even more agitated as they tried jumping, leaping, flashing, rolling, etc. everything they could think of to run away to no avail.

“Running away so quickly, you guys have something against our Club?”

Kitty crossed her arms and asked in discontent.

Chapter 622

While these mysterious people were being trapped by Kitty——

More and more people of this world noticed the disturbance happening in this place.

They quickly arrived from every direction.

A gate made of light opened up in the town.

Barry looked at the gate of light in interest and commented: “Ah? This is done through technology”

“A primitive spatial warp technique” Kitty judged.

Two people came out from the gate.

Ye Fei Li and Zhang Ying Hao.

“You're back?” Zhang Ying Hao looked at Gu Qing Shan and asked.

“That's right, I'm still dealing with some things right now so I haven't had the time to greet you guys yet” Gu Qing Shan answered.

Ye Fei Li looked at Barry and Kitty, then asked: “We just heard from Impartial Goddess, the people you brought back instantly eliminated all the monsters—— these two GMs right here, right?” (TN: GM= Game masters, the author literally wrote 'GM' in the raws)

“Yep, it's them” Gu Qing Shan smiled and he replied.

He then introduced the two sides.

“This is Zhang Ying Hao, and this is Ye Fei Li, they're both my business partners and good friends” Gu Qing Shan said.

Barry nodded to greet them: “Hello, I'm Barry, Iron Fist Barry”

“I’m his little sister, Kitty, we came to play” Kitty tilted her head a bit and greeted them.

They both had very close and amiable attitudes.

Truthfully, this brother and sister pair had been poor since birth, after going through so much struggle and effort, they became peerless Combatants renowned across the 900 million World Layers—— and they were still poor. And since these were people related to Gu Qing Shan, they didn’t bother to put up a front.

Ye Fei Li was still a bit cautious as he greeted them: “Hello”

Zhang Ying Hao was much more experienced, extending both arms right away and greeted them in a much more welcoming manner: “Welcome both of you to our world. No matter what Gu Qing Shan said before, as long as you’re here, I’ll take care of all your spending”

—Bullseyes!

No flashy words or courteous greetings would be more effective than this right here to get close to them.

Barry and Kitty both couldn’t help but smile brightly.

““Then thank you very much””

The brother and sister spoke in unison.

Zhang Ying Hao was an expert conversationalist, while Ye Fei Li was honest and innocent, so Barry and Kitty quickly had good impressions of them that only got better as time went by, so the two sides quickly got to know each other.

The trapped mysterious people were just thrown to one side and were ignored.

At this time, the Frost Flame Wraith King, the Heavenly God, the Asura King and the Ruler of all Beasts came one by one.

They looked below in shock, each side having a different kind of reaction.

The new Heavenly God broke out in cold sweat, muttering in disbelief: “So strong, how could someone be this strong”

The Frost Flame Wraith King fell silent for a while as he stared at Gu Qing Shan, muttering in confusion:

『 He’s clearly a human, yet why does he have that aura... 』 (1)

The Asura King laughed bitterly: 「 It seems our struggles have been for nothing, but fortunately, one of them has relations to our Asura tribe 」

His gaze was also locked onto Gu Qing Shan.

The Ruler of all Beasts stared at Barry, shaking without being able to say anything.

As an animal, he had the sharpest instinct, capable of sensing terrifying power that the others couldn’t.

At this time, the chatter below also reached a conclusion.

Zhang Ying Hao happily laughed and declared: "After you guys deal with your business here, I'll take you two to enjoy the best liquor this world has to offer— I'll keep you company all night tonight"

"A bar huh? Then don't mind if I do" Barry gladly accepted.

Kitty on the other hand: "I'm more interested in your cooking techniques, actually. Considering Gu Qing Shan's skills are so great"

Zhang Ying Hao instantly replied: "That's simple, I have a 20-man group of personal chefs right here"

He then took out his Holo-Brain and contacted the mountain top mansion.

Hearing the explanation, the Masterchef personally drafted a menu for them on the spot, only stopping at the 30th dish.

Hearing the names of those dishes, even Gu Qing Shan felt hungry.

Kitty happily patted Zhang Ying Hao on the back and half-jokingly said: "Very well done, I like you already"

"What about these people?" Ye Fei Li looked at the mysterious people still unable to escape and asked.

"They aren't normal" Barry judged them right away.

Kitty became more cautious and asked: "Why do you say so?"

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Barry scowled: "Knowing me is normal, there are too many people in the 900 million World Layers that know me to count them all— but their reactions are too panicked, I can feel something isn't right"

Kitty then took a look at them.

From the very start, they already tried everything they could to run away.

"Ah, that's true! Why would they run from bro as soon as they noticed him, he has never randomly killed people before" Kitty muttered.

She then blew a breath at those people.

Hoh!

An intense wind came.

In the blink of an eye, the mysterious people's clothing, equipment, weapons all disappeared without a trace.

They had nothing left on their bodies but a single piece of underwear, shouting and screaming from fright.

"Stop fussing! Stay still and let this young lady take a closer look" Kitty shouted.

She then stopped as her expression changed.

"Bro, look!"

Barry's expression also became dim as his tone went cold: "So that's why! I knew it wasn't natural for them to be that frightened"

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Everyone looked at them.

The same tattoo was marked on the bodies of these mysterious people.

It depicted a black humanoid face, half-man, half-woman, but both halves appeared to be screaming in pain.

As soon as this tattoo was revealed, everyone couldn't help but feel a chill coming deep from their minds.

The Asura King couldn't help but sneer, apparently angry at himself for feeling frightened without a reason.

"Who are they?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"They are members of God Institute" Barry spoke in a heavy tone.

"God Institute is an organization of devout believers that gathers every mystic-type item they could find, working towards the same goal of reviving an Old God" Kitty explained.

"We used to know their leaders as well" Barry added.

"Used to?"

"Yeah, those Lord-class Combatants were all very strong, not to mention talented in various other aspects. They all made ample preparations before their ritual, but unfortunately, they had made a fatal mistake"

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

"The creature they tried to revive, wasn't an Old God"

"It wasn't an Old God? Then what was it?"

Barry and Kitty both fell silent.

Then finally Barry told him: "No one knows what it was"

"Fortunately, that 'thing' was only revived for a brief moment before it died again"

"And it was this?"

Gu Qing Shan pointed at the tattoos of a half-man-half-woman face which were contorting in an expression of pain and asked.

"That's right. Although it died again very soon after it lived, but in the very instant that it revived, everybody in God Institute changed and became completely different from how they were before"

"They themselves sealed God Institute off, not allowing anyone else to approach while frequently dispatching their own people to do some inexplicable things"

“For example, coming to a Scattered world in search of a world tomb like they did this time?”

Barry replied: “Exactly. Scattered worlds are places that very few are willing to go to, but they had unexpectedly paid attention to this place”

Kitty continued to explain: “More and more organizations within the 900 million World Layers are becoming scared of God Institute, simply because of how eerie they’ve become. It was even said that no one could even find the souls of the people who fall into their hands”

Barry patted Gu Qing Shan’s shoulder and added: “But you don’t have to worry, this Iron Fist Barry is the strongest man in the 900 million World Layers, even if all the maniacs of God Institute tried to attack at once, they still wouldn’t be a match for me”

Gu Qing Shan sighed and answered: “I feel really assured”

“From what you said, apparently you have some beef with them?” Zhang Ying Hao chimed in.

Barry nodded and answered: “I usually only kill two types of people; those who are nonchalantly destroying worlds without reason, another are those people who kill the innocent without remorse, and the last ones are maniacs from the God Institute” (2)

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“I also despise how they’ve become. I think whatever that ‘thing’ was, at the split second that it was revived, it had changed their souls” Kitty added: “That’s why, Gu Qing Shan, if you have any ideas, go ahead and do it, Barry and I will help you deal with what you can’t”

“Thank you” Gu Qing Shan expressed his gratitude

He then looked down and fell into thought.

Barry and Kitty silently waited for his decision.

A few moments later, Gu Qing Shan looked up and slowly spoke: “The person they killed was the 9 Lords’ Guardian, I met her once before”

“Hm” Barry signalled him to continue.

“Originally, her mouth was stitched together, so she only used telepathy to communicate”

“Which means the reason why she spoke with her mouth in the first place was to find out these people’s motive— she knew that Impartial Goddess was always recording everything, so she could leak this information outside that way”

“Even at her moment of death, she was still thinking about Su Xue Er, hoping that Impartial Goddess would protect Su Xue Er”

“I believe she had indeed fulfilled her duties to the very end as Su Xue Er’s ancestor”

“Which is why I want to kill these people and avenge her”

Kitty was a bit confused and couldn’t help but ask: “Wait a minute, you want to avenge her? Wasn’t she only Su Xue Er’s ancestor?”

Gu Qing Shan went silently briefly and muttered: “Su Xue Er’s business is also my business”

Note:

(1) Frost Flame Wraith King: I neglected to mention this before, but most of the evil creatures that attack cultivators while they are breaking through actually all belong to the Wraith realm of the Samsara. They are categorized into different species of devils and fiends, but they can also be called “Wraiths” in general, the Frost Flame Wraith King here is actually a Devil King that calls himself a Wraith King.

(2) Barry’s counting: Yes, this is intentional from the author, please don’t tell me to fix the number.

Chapter 623

A dark violet light shot straight to the sky.

Everyone turned to look.

They saw that the people being held in place by Kitty’s power had linked hands to form a double ring shape.

The dark violet light was channelled through their bodies and formed a closed light halo that refracted light into the void of space.

Looking at the pillar of eerie violet light, Kitty commented: “Bro, it’s that infamous soul curse”

Without even waiting for Barry to talk, the leader of the group spoke: “Barry, we’re no match for you, but know this, you will never be able to go against our God”

“Your ‘God’ only lived for a single second” Barry scoffed.

This apparently angered the man.

“Barry, you might be strong, but can you really protect this place forever?”

“Do you see this glorious violet light? With it, we are afraid of nothing!”

The leader flashed them a frenzied smile and continued: “Kill us then! The next time we resurrect, we will bring even more people here to take our revenge!”

This caused everyone there to go silent.

Barry scowled.

It was clear that even he felt this to be troublesome.

“I want to ask something, he said ‘resurrect’ — does that mean they can keep on living even after death?” Zhang Ying Hao asked in disbelief.

Kitty explained: “Correct, their souls have been cursed, even after death, their souls will return to a certain place, change into a different body and simply revive”

“It’s because of this revival ability that more and more people are wary of these maniacs in the 900 million World Layers”

Seeing how they’d stunned everyone, the group began to laugh triumphantly.

Their leader looked to Gu Qing Shan and asked: “Just now, it seems you had said that you wanted to take revenge?”

“I did” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The leader stared at Gu Qing Shan and slowly told him: “We’re no match for someone of Barry’s level, but you aren’t the same, brat”

“This is the first time I’ve been threatened by someone who’s about to die” Gu Qing Shan smirked and commented.

The leader’s expression became dim: “I didn’t want to threaten you, because that would be thinking too highly of an ant, but you ruined our plan, so this is different”

“Ah? Then what was your plan?” Gu Qing Shan was still smirking.

The leader answered: “I’ve already noticed, in this world, apart from you, the others don’t seem to be able to leave”

Gu Qing Shan’s smile froze.

He immediately understood that they were trying to say.

Sure enough, the leader continued: “You simply don’t get it, Barry won’t be able to keep protecting this world forever. One day, we will kill everyone in this world and take their souls away— surely, one of those must be someone you care about”

“You will forever regret ever offending our God Institute”

“And you, Barry, soon enough, you will realize, simply being strong will do you no good in front of our God. We will have you taste the despair and pain of being powerless!”

Barry sneered and raised his fist: “Then I will watch over this world every single moment of every single day, but you trash will die before that——”

When he was about to strike them, Gu Qing Shan stopped him.

“Very few people have used this world to threaten me” Gu Qing Shan said.

“Don’t worry, I’ll get rid of them in one hit” Barry told him.

“If they can resurrect, doing that won’t do any good. Let’s wait a bit, I need to confirm something first” Gu Qing Shan said.

Barry then stopped.

The leader laughed maniacally: “We aren’t even afraid of death, we can return here an infinite amount of times, even if we’re discovered by Barry every time, we can always massacre part of the world before then, that’s more than enough to bring this world to ruin”

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Gu Qing Shan ignored him.

“Shannu” he called out.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword appeared and turned into a blue-dress girl.

“I’m here, gongzi”

“I have a question”

“Go ahead and ask”

Gu Qing Shan looked at Shannu and said nothing.

Everyone waited, then realized that he was communicating with the sword spirit telepathically.

A few moments later, Shannu looked at Gu Qing Shan and nodded.

Gu Qing Shan then told Ye Fei Li: “I need the Forgetting River Soul Separating Hook”

Next to Ye Fei Li, the Forgetting River Soul Separating Hook appeared.

“I’m here, Gu Qing Shan, what’s the problem?” it asked.

“Shannu said you’re able to capture a person’s soul?”

“There’s a saying, ‘As you enter Forgetting River, your past is gone’, I’m the manifestation of the Forgetting River, so naturally I can easily do that much”

“Then there’s no problem”

Gu Qing Shan nodded.

As soon as he said that.

In that split second, Shannu disappeared, Gu Qing Shan took the Six Paths Great Mountain sword in hand and pointed it straight at the people from God Institute.

Secret Art, [Water Flow Severance]!

With Gu Qing Shan’s current strength, performing this Secret Art at full power made for a very powerful attack.

The Institute group was already perfectly trapped by Kitty without even being able to retaliate, their defensive capabilities were also stripped to nothing, they couldn’t even move a finger right now.

The sword phantoms easily struck them head-on.

The glittering attack ripped their bodies to shreds.

From the very start of this, the leader had already noticed his death has come.

“We’re leaving”

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He calmly declared.

Hoh—

Intense sword-infused wind howled.

The God Institute members were slaughtered by Gu Qing Shan.

But the violet light grew more intense as it heavily struck the void of space.

The group's figures appeared inside the violet pillar of light.

They looked down on Gu Qing Shan as they were swept away by the violet light.

"Souls!" Kitty grunted.

She quickly waved her hands, manipulating countless waves of Spatial power, but had to give up in the end.

"It's no good, I don't understand this soul magic, I can't stop them" she muttered.

The violet light shot straight up to the sky, forming a blinding pillar of light.

It was clear that a split second later, this pillar would carry the souls and even the scattered body pieces away from this world through the void of space!

Gu Qing Shan leapt up the sky.

"Shannu!"

"I'm ready!" Shannu replied.

Preparing to activate his attack, Gu Qing Shan moved closer and closer to the violet pillar of light.

In a flash.

Gu Qing Shan had already arrived next to the violet pillar.

He attacked!

Like a moving arc of lightning, his sword swung multiple times in a single second, all striking the violet pillar.

Secret Art, [Crescent Slash] x12!

Several huge light-blue sword phantoms manifested in the air, all trying to slash through the violet pillar.

"Break!" Gu Qing Shan shouted.

He swung with all his might.

A single gigantic crescent moon appeared in the sky.

The crescent moon crashed into the violet pillar of light.

Oom———

The pillar was broken apart!

The violet light shattered—— the soul magic was destroyed!

Kitty stared at the sword in Gu Qing Shan's hand in shock: "Anti-magic? Or Magic-break?"

Gu Qing Shan put the sword away and immediately called out to the sky: "Come!"

A khopesh that gave off a yellow-grey air soared to the sky.

The Forgetting River Soul Separating Hook!

When it reached a certain place in the sky, it stabbed into the void of space.

A few faint figures were squarely caught on the hooks.

[Soul Capture]!

This was the Forgetting River's ability to attract and summon souls of the dead, manifesting itself on the Forgetting River Soul Separating Hook!

The faint figures did everything they could to struggle but were unable to escape the khopesh's grasp.

The khopesh pulled those souls to where Gu Qing Shan was.

"I will now lead them into Huang Quan realm, are you ready?" the khopesh asked.

"Don't worry, just lead them away and leave everything after that to me" Gu Qing Shan nodded.

"Very well"

The Forgetting River Soul Separating Hook faded into the void of space together with those souls.

After the Huang Quan realm and human realm fused, the only thing separating them now was the great Forgetting River.

And the Forgetting River Soul Separating Hook had the ability to directly disappear into the void of space to return to the Forgetting River.

Gu Qing Shan landed.

Kitty stared at him and asked: "Just now, that was a Divine Armament manifestation of the Laws of Huang Quan? It was the one that took the souls away?"

"Yes" Gu Qing Shan answered.

Kitty sighed: "I really didn't think that the Laws of Huang Quan would be so powerful, even that monster's soul-guidance magic could be cut off like that"

Barry asked: "If those people were brought to Huang Quan, wouldn't that mean they will reincarnate in this world later on?"

"No, they won't reincarnate" Gu Qing Shan answered.

"Why not? If I remember correctly, the Law of the Samsara world dictates that the souls of the dead will be guided to Huang Quan and be reborn within the cycle of reincarnation, doesn't it?" Kitty doubtfully asked.

"Because they pissed me off" Gu Qing Shan replied.

He reached his hand into the void of space.

And took out the Devil King Warden Rod.

Chapter 624

Gu Qing Shan held the Devil King Warden Rod and told everyone: "I'm going to greet the newcomers, be back soon"

Saying so, he activated the scepter's skill: [Dead Essence].

[Dead Essence: The Devil King can travel at will among the layers of hell, communicate with the dead from long distances and immediately wake up the dead who fell into slumber]

The very next second, Gu Qing Shan disappeared in place.

Everyone was all mildly surprised.

"Gu Qing Shan obviously doesn't know any Spatial magic, yet he was able to disappear in front of me, how interesting— it seems to be that scepter's power?" Kitty spoke in intrigue.

Ye Fei Li answered: "He's the Huang Quan Devil King"

Zhang Ying Hao added: "Hell is his turf, he can come and go as he pleases"

What the two of them said caused even Barry to feel curious.

So he couldn't help but ask: "Isn't Huang Quan supposed to be the place where dead people rest in the Samsara? Why is Gu Qing Shan that place's Devil King?"

Zhang Ying Hao told him: "That's a bit of a long story"

"Well we have nothing to do right now, so go ahead" Kitty urged him.

"Alright, here's what happened..." Zhang Ying Hao began to recount the story.

He told them everything from the events of the Frozen hell all the way to the end.

Barry grinned: "This method of saving the world is truly extraordinary, as expected of someone from our club"

Kitty was deep in thought: "Bro, have you heard of any magic that allows someone to directly travel to the world of the dead?"

Barry answered: "Besides the apostles of the Death God, I really can't think of any other magic that can do that"

"That's right, the Samsara world is truly miraculous, to be able to form its own closed cycle of reincarnation, it's likely that not even the eternal Death God can reach his hand this far" Kitty commented.

Barry then mentioned another point: "I saw it clearly, what Gu Qing Shan's sword did wasn't anti-magic, but rather magic-break— it directly shattered the soul magic, and also, that khopesh was able to grasp the souls, Gu Qing Shan's scepter granted him direct control over hell, normal Divine Armaments wouldn't be able to do this much"

Kitty nodded: “Hm, after seeing all that, I have an impression that the Samsara world’s Origin Law seems to be a bit too powerful—much more powerful than any other worlds”

“That’s true, I really can’t imagine what the Old Gods thought when they created such a world and such weapons” Barry spoke emotionally.

...

On another side.

Huang Quan realm.

Hell.

With the Devil King Warden Rod in his hand, Gu Qing Shan was immediately able to sense everything that happened within the 18 layers of hell.

Millions of living beings that were suffering within hell appeared in his mind.

Soon enough, Gu Qing Shan found those God Institute people.

Five of them in total, none were able to escape and were trapped in hell.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan could relax just a bit.

The Divine Mountain’s [Law Breaker], Forgetting River’s [Soul Capture] and the Devil King Warden Rod, it took three Divine Armaments to trap these eerie people here.

—in truth, Gu Qing Shan could’ve tried not using the Forgetting River Soul Separating Hook to confirm whether or not an outsider who dies within the Samsara world would enter the Samsara or return to their own system of hell.

But these people were too eerie and dangerous that Gu Qing Shan couldn’t risk it, he didn’t want them to return with any intel, so he brute-forced it and used the Forgetting River Soul Separating Hook to bring their souls directly here.

“...The Frozen Hell, huh?”

Gu Qing Shan’s body became blurred as he once again travelled between the layers of hell.

Within his vision, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[You have killed 5 enemies]

[You’ve successfully defeated 5 people stronger than yourself]

[Soul Points gained: 18,000]

[Soul Points gained: 17,000]

[Soul Points gained: 14,000]

[Soul Points gained: 20,000]

[Soul Points gained: 27,000]

[After calculations, your remaining Soul Points are: 96,000/600]

Soul Points was Divine Power, capable of showing extraordinary results within crucial moments. This translation is hosted for free at otaku.tl.blogspot.com, check the page for the fastest daily updates

Seeing his Soul Points going up again, Gu Qing Shan felt more assured.

—*—however, aren't these people much weaker than that Purgatory Devil from before? When we return to the Super Dimensional world, should I tell Barry and Kitty to capture another Purgatory boar so I can stock up more Soul Points?*

While thinking that, he quickly travelled through the layers and arrived at the Frozen Hell.

Just like it always was, the Frozen Hell was frigidly chilling, the entire area was covered in nothing but ice and snow.

Gu Qing Shan followed the Devil King Warden Rod's senses and silently made his way towards one of the occupied ice holes.

After a short while of flying, Gu Qing Shan hovered in the sky above the frozen fog and took a look below.

Some newly dead people were peacefully lying below the ice with their eyes closed.

From the look of it, they were indeed those people from God Institute.

Their souls have received bodies of the dead.

—*—to make sure that sinners can easily be tormented, the Law of hell would prepare a body of the dead for every new soul that arrives.*

This body was exactly the same as how they were then they were alive, having the necessary senses to feel the pain of hell's punishments.

Now for the next step.

With the Devil King Warden Rod in hand, Gu Qing Shan activated the power of [Dead Essence].

The people of God Institute sleeping below the ice suddenly woke up.

They opened their eyes wide and looked around in fear.

It was easy to tell that they were very shocked about where they currently were.

Soon enough, they managed to struggle free and broke out from the ice.

They all jumped out.

"Boss, where are we?" one of them asked.

"I'm not sure, but it looks like we didn't return to God Institute" the leader spoke in a low voice.

The group glanced around only to see nothing but ice and snow that stretched as far as the eye could see.

One of them commented: "I still remember clearly the familiar feeling of being transported away after death didn't change, why are we here now?"

Another replied: "At first we really were being transported, but you seemed to have lost their senses too early, I was able to feel, at the very last moment, a powerful pulling force that dragged me away"

Another person agreed: "I was also able to feel it, it was a sort of irresistible power that finally brought us here"

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The group went silent and began to think about what this meant.

Gu Qing Shan was going to fly down, but as he heard their discussions, he suddenly stopped.

After some brief thinking, he silently flew up back above the dome of the Frozen Hell and hid himself among the frozen fog.

*It seems their consciousness wasn't fully active during the process of the soul magic.
—let's observe them first, I might get some unexpected harvest.*

Thinking that, Gu Qing Shan became still and remained hidden.

A few moments later.

Sure enough, after the people of God Institute scouted around the area for a bit more, they once again discussed their situation.

Someone spoke absentmindedly: "Could it be because we failed our mission that our God was disappointed in us and transported us here instead?"

Surprisingly, his conjecture received unanimous agreement from everyone else.

The leader nodded: "Take a look, there are so many souls frozen inside the ground here, all of them appeared to be suffering— I'm guessing this must be a place to suffer for repentance"

"Then it must be true, God must've punished us"

"Indeed"

"I also agree"

"Then what do we do now?"

"Hah, our mission already failed, let's just accept our fates and the punishment"

"We can only hope that God will forgive us soon and grant us a new mission so we may make up for our mistake"

The leader spoke in a low voice: "Now spare the useless chatter, if God can bring us here, God must also know about our current reactions. Everyone should obediently accept the punishment of God"

Everyone nodded in agreement.

They then imitated the other dead people and buried themselves into the ice below.

Within the ice holes, the group quickly shivered from the chill.

——the Frozen Hell didn't have any terrible bodily punishment like some other places, but the cold of this hell directly acted upon the soul, so the agony that these dead people felt here was not at all lacking compared to the other Hells.

In just a few moments, someone was already unable to bear it.

“Boss, this place is too cold, why does God——” he called out.

The leader shouted: “Shut up! God is always watching us, do you WANT God to put us through an even more severe punishment?”

The other person went silent.

They all silently endured the torture of the Frozen Hell.

Gu Qing Shan: “...”

Although you could say that these people were idiots, this was also partly due to the fact that they haven't witnessed the Hells of Huang Quan.

It was indeed rare to see a force so great that it could casually affect a soul even after death.

In fact, you could say that besides their 'God', these people have never seen any entity capable of such a feat.

Even Lord-class Combatants like Barry and Kitty haven't seen such a thing.

So their current thoughts and conjectures made sense.

But their conversation caused Gu Qing Shan to scowl.

——*didn't their 'God' only live for a single split second?*

Are they speaking nonsense?

If their 'God' has actually chosen to feint death and hide away without showing itself? This would be very interesting if that was the case.

What was it planning?

Gu Qing Shan continued thinking.

Apparently, these people came to a Scattered world in search of a world tomb.

But world tombs are things hidden away by the Old Gods, not only is there no way to confirm whether or not they are actually there or not, it wasn't possible to know what exactly would appear once a world tomb is opened either.

Furthermore, with how many worlds there were in the 900 million World Layers, and how many world tombs were hidden among them, why did they specifically go to a Scattered world?

And how did they find this place?

...I have to make all of this clear.

Gu Qing Shan pointed the Devil King Warden Rod towards the guy that complained about the Frozen Hell being too cold.

He activated [Soul Dispersion].

[Soul Dispersion: The Devil King can use the power of the scepter to permanently eliminate the soul of a disobedient dead, the eliminated soul will disperse and turn into sustenance for the scepter]

A moment later——

That dead person suddenly felt immeasurable fear.

He could sense it from his soul, this was the power of an Origin Law.

And that this power could completely destroy him!

He panicked and instinctively shouted: “Aaah, please no! I have continuously collected souls for you, there is a soul-storage item in my personal prayers chamber! There are over 90,000 souls that I still have yet to dedicate to you, o’ great God, I beg you, my God——”

And then, he uttered an anguished high-pitched scream.

The great power penetrated his soul, making him experience pain even greater than being in hell.

This was the Huang Quan Devil King’s ultimate punishment—— the life and death of all dead people within the 18 layers of hell could be controlled with but his single thought.

The man’s body and soul soon completely disappeared from the ice hole.

He had been completely destroyed and dispersed, never again to appear in any other place.

Everyone else was shaking in fear.

The leader loudly declared: “Do you see! He dared to deceive God and hid away 90,000 souls for himself, that is why God wanted to kill him!”

“Indeed, his death was deserved!”

“A heretic!”

“All souls belong to God, yet he dared to hoard it for himself, he deserved to die!”

Everyone else quickly agreed.

Suddenly, deep in the sky, a loud voice came.

「 At the will of God, I have come to judge you 」

「 You may now speak! 」

The voice was solemn. It had only declared why it came, but the tone was stern and questioning without allowing any objections.

Everyone looked up at the sky.

With the frozen fog obscuring the sky, they weren’t able to see anything.

But these dead people could feel the power that forced them to submit—— the very power that ruled over this realm!

Without reinforcement from God, who could obtain such great power in the first place?

The leader gulped and quickly reported: “I don’t know which great one had come, but this humble one can swear, we have indeed followed the will of God to investigate that unique world tomb”

Chapter 625

Unique... world tomb?

A thought flashed through Gu Qing Shan’s mind.

What kind of world would be considered ‘unique’?

How did they know this world tomb is unique?

If what they said could be taken at face value then the only thing confirmed for now is that their ‘God’ knew this world tomb to be unique.

Which is strange.

How did their ‘God’ directly bypass the trillions of other worlds within the 900 million World Layers to single out this Scattered world?

There could be two situations.

Firstly, their ‘God’ had already paid attention to this world beforehand and knew a certain secret.

Secondly, due to a coincidence, their ‘God’ took notice of this place.

Which one was it?

Thinking briefly, Gu Qing Shan decided to stay silent.

Within the frigidly cold world, not a single sound came out, only stifled silence.

Sure enough, even after waiting for a while and not getting any response, the leader panicked and quickly continued:

“We have investigated the disturbance that God sensed from afar, it most likely came from a Scattered world not obeying the rules of the 900 million World Layers and arbitrarily fused a world with itself” He spoke like he was bragging: “We’ve confirmed that the disturbance had indeed occurred at the moment the two worlds merged together”

「 Well done, continue 」 Gu Qing Shan praised.

Being encouraged, the leader continued: “The strangest thing was, yes, that world was actually a Samsara world”

「 A Samsara world? 」

“Yes sir, this was unbelievable, the Samsara world was supposed to exist in the Mystic Zones with no one being able to gain entry unless invited. But that place also had 6 worlds that formed a closed cycle of Samsara, two of them had even fused together”

「 How could there be a Samsara world within the Scattered worlds? You dare to tell such a terrible lie? 」 Gu Qing Shan coldly rebutted him.

The leader hurriedly: “Sir, it is true, I’ve seen the Asuras, Demis, Wraiths, Beast Kings, humans as well as the great Forgetting River of Huang Quan”

He then turned to the others: “Quickly confirm for me!”

The rest also hurriedly spoke: “Sir, he’s telling the truth, we also saw those creatures with our own eyes”

Gu Qing Shan went silently briefly, then hesitantly spoke: 「 Very well, I’ll take your words for it for now, continue 」

The leader lightly breathed out and carefully explained: “Sir, the creatures of that world were all extremely weak, unable to be compared to the actual Samsara world at all! I was also very shocked and had no idea why such a world existed”

“So we had split up and carefully investigated each world one by one”

「 And the results? 」 Gu Qing Shan asked.

“We found out an incredible truth, the Origin and Laws of those worlds were all incomplete!”

「 Incomplete? 」

“Yes sir, it’s because the worlds’ Origins were incomplete that the living beings of those 6 worlds were like heaven and earth compared to the beings of the Mystic Zones’ Samsara world”

「 Then why were those 6 worlds incomplete? 」 Gu Qing Shan asked.

“This humble one also doesn’t know, perhaps it was one of the Old Gods’ many experiments?”

Gu Qing Shan went silent.

In truth, he knew that his Samsara world here was actually only a broken fragment of the true Samsara world.

But who would be able to think of such a thing as the truth without being told?

In fact, the Mystic Zones’ Samsara world was probably also incomplete.

But it was probably so powerful and so hard for outsiders to gain entry to it that no one knew about this truth.

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Which was why no one could imagine that even the Samsara world of the Mystic Zones was also just a broken piece.

Gu Qing Shan carefully recounted everything the other party said just now.

He compiled the useful intel.

Firstly, within the 900 million World Layers, there are clear-cut rules within the 900 million World Layers about fusing worlds, and doing it arbitrarily was illegal.

Secondly, when I fused the Huang Quan realm and human realm from before, it caused some sort of disturbance that brought the attention of their ‘God’.

Thirdly, if the other races of the Samsara worlds hadn't all shown up in the human realm, these outsiders wouldn't have known that this place was a Samsara world. After all, this incomplete Samsara world was hidden among Scattered worlds, and the unstable nature of Scattered worlds caused the people of the 900 million World Layers to not pay any attention here.

Gu Qing Shan's thought process slowly became clear.

He thought briefly and asked: 「 Then, have you completed the mission bestowed upon you by God and found that unique world tomb? 」

The leader dejectedly lowered his head: "Sir, we weren't able to"

Gu Qing Shan questioned: 「 I can tell you're also an experienced person, why have you not found it? 」

The leader reported: "Ever since we came to this world, the Divine Watch hadn't been able to pick up the unique disturbance again and showed no signs of change, so we had no way to investigate where the world tomb actually was"

Divine Watch?

Gu Qing Shan sharply caught something.

「 You've all died and returned here, so where's the Divine Watch? Did you lose it? 」 he asked in a stern voice.

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The leader hurriedly signalled to the others as they all prostrated to the ground.

"Sir, the Divine Watch hasn't been lost, we hid it at the North Pole of that world, within a crashed Interstellar Spaceship"

「 Interstellar Spaceship? 」 Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Yes sir, this spaceship came from a civilization within the 900 million World Layers, a Technological and God's Chosen duo advancement civilization, we don't know why it landed on a Scattered world"

「 Did you find anything there? 」

"We couldn't, creations of Technological worlds requires strict and complicated verification processes, and we didn't bring such a talent with us during this expedition"

"So we simply killed the overseer of the spaceship, took over that place and hid the Divine Watch underneath it"

The leader smiled: "Please be assured sir, besides the four of us here, no one else knows about it"

「 Can you guarantee it? 」

"I guarantee it"

「 Very well, you've protected your souls, stay here and slowly take your punishment"

The people all felt a huge weight lifted from their shoulders and hurriedly spoke: "Thank you, sir!"

Gu Qing Shan turned around, about to leave this place.

He then remembered something and said: 「 I have one last question 」

The leader respectfully replied: "Please go ahead, sir"

「 Because you have failed, I need to travel to that world myself to continue the investigation. I want to know, what did God tell you before your leave? 」

The leader spoke without thinking much: "God had sent a directive ordering me to be as careful as possible and make sure I won't tell a single soul about this mission even in death. Because the disturbance God had felt from that world could have possibly been from..."

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At this point, his voice cut off.

The leader and his subordinates all went pale.

"No! Great God, I did not reveal it to any outsider"

He loudly tried to explain himself.

At the same time, his subordinates had already begun to scream in high-pitched cries of pain.

Knowing something was wrong, Gu Qing Shan descended from the clouds to check the situation.

The bodies of those people were melting like candles in the flame, slowly peeling off bit by bit.

Seeing Gu Qing Shan suddenly appear, they were all completely stunned.

They realized what had happened.

"That's not possible! How it could have been you!?! No! We're done for!"

The leader cried out in despair.

But it was already irreversible.

Their bodies completely melted away and disappeared, leaving their bare souls within the Frozen Hell.

These souls then slowly lost their facial features and limbs, converging into a ball of eerie violet light.

All the lights gathered together.

Shortly after, a humanoid face manifested from them.

The face was half-man, half-woman, carrying a frenzied and agonized expression of pain.

Gu Qing Shan immediately realized that this was their 'God'!

But the violet light didn't stop after the face manifested, it also quickly formed a body.

A cold chill slowly ran down Gu Qing Shan's spine.

With his spirit sense, he could feel a threat even more terrifying than death.

Without hesitation, Gu Qing Shan wielded the Devil King Warden Rod and activated [Soul Dispersion].

This was the Huang Quan Devil King's ultimate weapon, capable of erasing any and every soul in hell.

Instantly, the eerie manifesting monster dispersed into smoke and disappeared.