

Apocalypse 776

Chapter 776

On the day of the God of Frost and Chill's coronation, the Sky Beyond Heaven was completely sealed off, forbidding entry to any outsider.

The coronation was secretive and divine.

No one objected to it.

Everything went as smoothly as it could be.

Following the God of Frost and Chill's request from before, the Golden Flame Divinity put the Crown of Gods on him with his own hands.

Following that, 16 Divinities jointly performed a secret technique in front of the Grand Divine Palace, a summoning technique.

After several dozen seconds of chanting, the Divine King Scepter appeared from the void of space and hovered in front of the God of Frost and Chill.

—only on the day of a new Divine King's coronation would the Divine King Scepter appear and grant the new Divine King one use of it.

This was a pure-white long scepter that was heavier than it appeared as if there was something flowing inside.

—at the same time, it was said that immense mystical power flowed inside the scepter, giving the false impression that it wasn't completely solid.

The God of Frost and Chill now wore the crown on his head and raised the Divine King Scepter to the sky.

The Divinities all praised and blessed him.

The new Divine King briefly paused.

He was reading the lines of glowing text flowing across the War God UI.

[Item: Memory Storehouse Secret Key]

[Grade: Unique item]

[War God Skills: None]

[Doomsday Chronicles: None]

[Note: This was the exclusive secret key of a certain standard storage facility— from the Bygone Era]

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath, turned around and headed for the inside of the Grand Divine Palace.

He must now enter the vault of inheritance to receive the true heritage of the Divine race, then once again return to the Grand Divine Palace to announce to all of the Divinities that he had learnt the secret of the race, and vow to protect the Divine race as a whole.

Only then will the coronation ceremony be fully complete and he would truly become the Divine King.

Gu Qing Shan walked along the corridor of the palace and headed straight to the entrance of the inheritance vault.

This was a huge metal door with countless mysterious runes engraved all around it. You'd feel a slight prickly feeling from your soul vessel by just looking at it.

Any attempted attacks on the metal door would be met with intense counterattacks.

The assailant would be met with a soul vessel attack that would directly destroy their psyche and turn them into a complete idiot.

16 fully-armed Divine Guards stood in front of the metal door.

Following the required protocol, Gu Qing Shan stepped in front of them and questioned with a raised voice: "Loyal guards of the Divine race, servants willing to give up their lives to protect our secret, why have you stood in my path of searching for the truth?"

The 16 guards spoke in unison: 「 「 「 If you are not the Divine King, please turn back, because you are not qualified to learn the ultimate secret of the Divine race 」 」 」

At this point, Gu Qing Shan displayed the Divine King Scepter to the 16 guards.

As the Divine Guards saw the Divine King Scepter, they respectfully bowed to the new Divine King and stepped to either side of the gate, giving way.

Gu Qing Shan quickly came in front of the large metal door.

Apparently sensing the Divine King Scepter, the runes of the door lit up.

They gathered at the center of the metal door and formed a swirling spiral.

Gu Qing Shan raised the Divine King Scepter and pushed it into the black hole at the center of the runes.

For a brief moment, a flash of light came from above and shined on Gu Qing Shan's body.

He disappeared from in front of the metal door.

A second later, he reappeared inside the inheritance vault.

The Divine King Scepter had also gone through the metal door, floating lightly in front of him.

Gu Qing Shan began to observe his surroundings.

The entire floor of the inheritance vault was made of the same metallic material of the door.

The vault itself was about several hundred square meters, completely empty without anything here.

Gu Qing Shan waited for a few moments.

Nothing appeared, nothing happened.

The previous Divine King died too suddenly to give him any experience— although, even if the previous Divine King was still alive, he wouldn't be telling Gu Qing Shan how to use the vault.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a few moments and grabbed the Divine King Scepter floating in the air.

Almost immediately, a bright glow began to emit from the top of the Divine King Scepter.

A cold, mechanical voice came from the Divine King Scepter:

[Storage facility detected, please put me into contact with the carrier]

Carrier...

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the metal floor.

As it sensed the glow of the scepter, numerous runes appeared on the surface of the metal.

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After some thought, Gu Qing Shan lightly put the scepter on the metal floor.

As soon as they touched, layers upon layers of metal rose up from below and tightly enveloped the scepter.

The mechanical voice resounded again: [You have the authority to retrieve the items stored here. Authority level: random retrieval]

[You have the authority to observe the record stored in the storage]

[Please choose among item retrieval or record observation, according to your authority, you may only choose one]

Gu Qing Shan froze.

I can only choose from obtaining a heritage item or observing a record?

Which means I can only choose to take something to increase my card grade, or choose to learn one of the records stored here.

If I increase my card grade and obtain the second Lapis card, I will have officially become a Lapis-grade card.

Lapis was a huge upgrade from being Grey.

Little Dusk's grade dropped to being Lapis after she escaped her seal, but Gu Qing Shan was still impressed by her fighting prowess.

—cards of this grade have a lot of utility, so as long as Gu Qing Shan successfully upgrades himself, he'll be able to slowly construct a card deck for himself.

But what is the stored record?

Could it be the Divine race's ultimate secret?

—-even so, no matter what their secret is, I will have to fight the Divine race one day and wipe them all out.

So there's no real reason to learn their secret.

But then...

What if the record is an extremely crucial piece of information?

Gu Qing Shan scowled, a bit indecisive.

It was rare to see him being this hesitant.

After careful consideration, Gu Qing Shan chose to observe the stored record.

After my coronation is over, the Divine King Scepter will disappear, only showing up again when the next Divine King is crowned.

—-I'll be able to increase my card grade sooner or later.

But I'm not always going to be able to obtain this secret.

Let's choose to observe the record.

That was the decision Gu Qing Shan made.

When he was about to speak, a line of glowing text quickly scrolled past the War God UI.

[If you don't want to regret this, put your hands on the scepter]

Gu Qing Shan froze, then suddenly realized something.

He quickly put both hands on the Divine King Scepter.

The War God System's voice appeared: [Remember, you owe me some Soul Points]

"How much?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[When you have enough Soul Points, I'll tell you] the System replied.

Almost immediately, the Divine King Scepter began to tremble.

More blinking runes appeared all over the metal floor.

Lines of notification popped up on the War God UI:

[Currently dismantling storage facility runes]

[Obtained backdoor key rune construction]

[In consideration of the storage facility's alarm system and lowest instant-kill trigger, reconstructing scepter's runes to independently define this occasion's access authority]

[Access authority changed]

[Current access authority: Obtain a stored record, at the same time retrieving the most precious item within the storage]

All the notifications then disappeared.

Inside the inheritance vault, countless sparks of light manifested from the ground and formed a video screen in the air.

A person appeared in the recorded footage.

He spoke: [In summary, since we're all going to depart, I will leave these personal Combat-type Soul Artifacts behind. After all, bringing too many useless items to the other side is also a burden]

He slightly shifted away from the center of the screen.

Behind him, various balls of light were floating in the sky.

The man happily explained: [These are the results of my personal experiment. A combination of technology and magic combined with a bit of derived chaotic Elemental power. They're not highly useful, but they were a hugely interesting research]

[The only point to be wary of is that these things might have an expiration date, so I don't want to bring them to the other side of the door]

He lightly tapped one of the balls of light.

The ball of light then turned into a miniature humanoid creature clad in light.

Between this humanoid creature's eyebrows, a flaming light silently burnt.

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The Divine King's voice faded.

The screen completely shattered into sprites of light that slowly disappeared.

Only a glowing piece of paper floated into Gu Qing Shan's hand.

This was written on the paper:

[Two Divinities die, one Divinity is born, 7 days apart]

Poof!

After a few moments, the paper also scattered into sprites of light and faded away.

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

Fortunately, the fact that a new Divinity would be born for every 2 Divinities that die wasn't known to anyone but the Divine King.

That's why no one noticed that in Cold Jade Forest, besides the Lord of Desolation, I had also killed a Divinity.

But—

The Golden Flame Divinity came from the future.

Perhaps he knows this secret.

If a new Divinity is born, he will definitely notice this fact.

I have to think of something...

Gu Qing Shan stood still for a long time until he was startled by a sound coming from the storage facility.

A rock pillar with complicated runes engraved all over it rose from the floor.

The pillar then scattered into many tinier rocks that floated in circles around a central point.

A rock cube was sitting at the central point, slowly rotating around itself.

A mechanical voice came from the Divine King Scepter again: [New Divine King, you may now retrieve the item]

Gu Qing Shan looked at the rock, a bit curious.

The War God System changed the authority so that I would obtain the most precious item in this storage facility.

—which means this rock cube is the most precious item?

After a brief moment of thought, Gu Qing Shan put his hand onto the spinning rock cube.

In that instant.

The rock cube disappeared without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan checked himself.

Nothing.

He couldn't help asking: "System, where did that rock cube just now go?"

[Ting]!

The War God System replied: [That thing is useless to you. That was an information recording rock from the Bygone Era. A large amount of knowledge of the Bygone Era is stored inside. With it, Doomsday Chronicles will be upgraded]

"Upgrade?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Indeed, your Doomsday Chronicles will use the rock to absorb information and descriptions of items from the Bygone Era. From now on, whenever you touch items from the same era, you will quickly recognize its use and the relevant information] the System replied.

Following the System's explanation, the icon for [Doomsday Chronicles] below the War God UI became blurry.

Apparently it was undergoing some sort of change.

A few moments later.

The shape of the icon changed completely, it now looked like a thick green book.

The letters for [Doomsday Chronicles] also disappeared.

New text appeared below the icon.

[Upgrading]

Gu Qing Shan stood still without moving.

He took a deep breath and asked: "In other words... you just took the entire thing and I didn't gain any benefits, correct?"

Noticing the subtle change in Gu Qing Shan's tone, the System responded: [No, I did leave a bit for you]

As it did, a small piece of rubble appeared in Gu Qing Shan's hand.

From the looks of it, this was a small piece of scrap that fell off the rock cube.

Looking at this piece of rubble, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help asking: "What am I going to do with this?"

[You can use it to increase your card grade] the System replied.

Gu Qing Shan pulled up his card UI and looked at the card that depicted himself.

That's right, I'm only a Grey card right now, so I should quickly evolve.

Cards are really powerful, an excellent means of support in battles.

He tried putting the piece of rubble into his card UI.

The piece of rubble slowly sank into the card UI and disappeared.

The UI started to tremble.

Within that trembling, the Grey card that depicted Gu Qing Shan shattered into many pieces, fell down, and disappeared.

Immediately after, a new card replaced it in the same spot.

This was a Lapis card.

Gu Qing Shan noticed that he was still depicted the same way on this card, wielding two swords in both hands.

But the card now appeared a lot less transparent, it also felt more realistic.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[You have become a Lapis-grade card]

[You may now draw your second Lapis card]

[From now on, you may use Lapis-grade cards in battle]

The lines of text then disappeared.

Three Lapis cards appeared at the center of the UI.

They all had their backs to him so Gu Qing Shan couldn't see what was depicted on the front.

And so, Gu Qing Shan had no way to tell what kind of ability each of these three cards had.

Below the three cards, a notification appeared.

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[Please choose one Lapis card to become your second battle card]

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the three cards.

In reality, regardless of which Lapis card it was, they all had their unique niche that would be useful for different situations.

——so there was nothing for him to hesitate about, any card he drew would be usable.

Gu Qing Shan randomly tapped one of the Lapis cards.

Sensing Gu Qing Shan's action, the card turned around.

A blinding crimson light was displayed on the front of the card, making it so that one couldn't tell what the card depicted.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and felt very satisfied with his luck.

Indeed, this was a very unique weapon.

And the description of the War God UI proved his guess to be true.

[Rare Item: True Crimson Demon Spear]

[While equipped with this spear, you can't wear any armor at the same time]

[This demon spear carries the Law-grade property: Absolute Sharpness]

[Note: This is the first weapon created by Divinities from the Age of Old that can hurt them]

[Unstoppable!]

When Gu Qing Shan took this card, the other two quickly faded into the void of space.

A second later.

A spear with boundless crimson glow appeared from the void of space and appeared in Gu Qing Shan's hand.

As he stared at this spear with the [Absolute Sharpness] property, Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized something.

No wonder the Divinities created so many things that were so much more powerful than themselves.

They have been imitating the creations of the Bygone Era humanity.

—-considering how powerful the Bygone Era humanity was, it was naturally for imitations of the things they created to be much more powerful than the Divinities themselves.

The most direct example of which was this [True Crimson Demon Spear]

Gu Qing Shan randomly wielded the spear.

Shu shu shu shu!

The sound of the air being ripped could be heard clearly.

Gu Qing Shan muttered: “Unfortunately, it’s a spear, it would be so much better if this was a sword”

As soon as he mentioned that, a line of glowing text appeared on the green book icon that was still being upgraded on the War God UI:

[This item is only an imitation, but it contains a crucial factor. If you need a sword, you can derive that crucial factor within the card and use it as a material to forge a new sword]

Gu Qing Shan’s eyes lit up.

The [True Crimson Demon Spear] is a weapon that can harm even a God.

If I have a similarly sharp sword, many of my battles would be a lot easier.

But this will probably take a very long time to complete, let’s just take it slow.

Gu Qing Shan silently put this information to heart.

He let go and had the [True Crimson Demon Spear] turn back into a card before flying back into his card UI.

At this point, he had become a Lapis grade card that had 2 Lapis card in his deck, the passive ability [Bleed] card and the rare weapon [True Crimson Demon Spear]

The Divine King Scepter slowly floated up and disappeared into the void of space.

It had accomplished its mission.

Gu Qing Shan felt an immense force pushing against him, then found himself already standing outside of the vault a split second later.

As the 16 Divine Guards saw him outside again, they quickly knelt down on one knee to welcome him back.

After conducting the coronation ceremony and going into the inheritance vault, Gu Qing Shan had truly become the Divine King.

He looked down at the Divine Guards, a bit unsure on how to treat these creations of humanity.

Gu Qing Shan was quite sure he had already found out most of the truth.

The current Divine race were all sentient and had their own consciousness most likely because they had already passed their expiration date.

In order to not go extinct, they hoped to venture into the Gate of the World in the Desolate race's hands.

———to gain entry into that gate, the Divine race and Desolate monsters made a treaty:

The Divine race would help the Desolate race deceive humanity and turn them into the monsters' food, at the same time helping the Desolate monsters destroy the [Orders] that humanity left behind.

If the Divine race could accomplish this, the Desolate race would have to hold onto their end of the bargain and help the Divine race enter that Gate.

This was the gist of the treaty between these races.

The only clueless ones were humanity, deceived by the Divinities, they were forced to fight against the Desolate monsters and eaten by them.

What a sorrowful fate!

Gu Qing Shan silently shook his head and slowly walked back to the audience hall.

He sat down on the Divine King's throne, silently contemplating this.

The Golden Flame Divinity appeared before him.

"Have you found the human yet?" Gu Qing Shan asked in a low voice.

「 I haven't, he suddenly disappeared without a single trace 」 the Golden Flame Divinity dejectedly replied.

"I suppose the human realized his actions at the frontlines were too eye-catching so he already concealed himself. Most likely we wouldn't be able to find any trace of him, let's not openly hunt for him right now, after that human thinks we let our guards down, he'll surely appear again" Gu Qing Shan said.

「 Hm, that makes sense. Perhaps we have been searching a bit too eagerly that he felt alarmed 」 the Golden Flame Divinity slowly nodded.

All of a sudden, a commotion was heard from the entrance of the Divine Palace, drawing their attention.

"What's happening? This is the Grand Divine Palace, who is causing a scene?"

Gu Qing Shan scowled and shouted.

A Divinity flew in from outside the Divine Palace and knelt down before Gu Qing Shan from afar: 「 Your majesty, our great Divine King, we have caught the human 」

「 "You caught him?" 」

Gu Qing Shan and the Golden Flame Divinity both uttered in surprise.

The Divinity continued to report: 「 Yes, she¹ was hiding among humanity's sects, traveling from place to place investigating something, when she was exposed, we managed to set up a trap that ensnared and captured her 」

Saying so, two Divinities brought a detained human female into the Grand Divine Palace.

The human female was completely exhausted from being attacked with wounds and blood all over her body, she was Luo Bing Li.

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Gu Qing Shan sat on the throne of the Divine King with a chilling expression on his face.

Faint but an intense killing intent drifted from his body.

“Is this the human who massacred our Divine race in the future era?” he questioned.

「 No, it isn't her 」 the Golden Flame Divinity appeared very disappointed.

Gu Qing Shan was slightly shocked.

Hearing that, the two Divinities hurriedly explained to the Golden Flame Divinity: 「 We used the method you taught us to single out suspicious humans. She was found to be the most suspicious of them all, jumping from sect to sect as if trying to look for something, that's how we captured her 」

The Golden Flame Divinity sighed: 「 It seems she also came here to look for that human 」

The Golden Flame Divinity felt sluggish from being hopeful for no reason and continued: 「 This human is useless to us, kill her 」

Gu Qing Shan glanced at Luo Bing Li, then said: “Not so soon, perhaps we can use this woman as bait to lure that human out”

「 It's useless 」 the Golden Flame Divinity shook his head, 「 Whenever these humans concealed inside the phantom images realized that we are trying to use them for something, they would immediately kill themselves 」

Gu Qing Shan smirked cruelly and slowly spoke: “Kill herself? Facing this Divine King, she won't get a chance to even try”

Hearing that, Luo Bing Li showed a resolute expression.

Before she was captured, she used a unique method to locate Gu Qing Shan and arrived at this phantom image to look for him.

But even after several days of searching all over the largest sects of humanity, she couldn't even find a trace of him.

Even after she was captured, she still held some hope of seeing if Gu Qing Shan was in the Sky Beyond Heaven.

But she still couldn't find Gu Qing Shan here.

It was time for her life to end.

As long as a special technique was used to burn away both my life and soul, even the Divinities wouldn't be able to obtain any useful information from me.

This way, Gu Qing Shan will be completely safe and humanity's secret will be preserved.

With that in mind, Luo Bing Li was about to off herself.

All of a sudden, a voice was sent through inner sight directly into her mind.

"It's me, don't die"

Luo Bing Li froze.

This was clearly Gu Qing Shan's inner sight and Gu Qing Shan's voice.

— --but where is he?

Luo Bing Li tried to maintain her calm and quickly scanned the entire Grand Divine Palace.

That reckless brat, he was actually hiding here!

People say that the most dangerous place was also the safest place— -- but this place is simply too dangerous! Not only is the Golden Flame Divinity here, the newly crowned Divine King, the God of Frost and Chill is also here.

Where is Gu Qing Shan hiding?

Luo Bing Li opened her eyes wide, trying to look around.

But she found nothing.

Only the God of Frost and Chill coldly scoffed on this throne and cruelly spoke: "I will completely seal her power with extreme frost and let her suffer every waking moment of the day, let us see if that human is going to save her"

The Golden Flame Divinity shook his head: 「 It's useless, she will definitely burn her life and soul away, erasing every trace of her existence 」

He then glanced at Luo Bing Li with a puzzled look.

Before coming here, he already went with the figure of light to several phantom images and captured quite a few real human cultivators hiding inside the phantom images.

But those humans have always killed themselves immediately without hesitation.

So why hasn't this woman done that?

It wasn't just the Golden Flame Divinity who was puzzled, Luo Bing Li herself was also puzzled.

That brat really is impressive, he's clearly hiding inside the Divine King's Palace, but not only am I not able to find him, even the Divine King and the Golden Flame Divinity were unable to find him.

—where exactly is he hiding?

At this point, Luo Bing Li realized that the ice had already begun to form around her feet, quickly spreading up her body.

Oh no!

The Divine King already acted!

They want to capture me to lure Gu Qing Shan out.

I can't let that happen!

Luo Bing Li triggered the suicidal secret technique again.

An intense wave of spirit energy was being emitted from her body.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan's inner sight came again.

"Oi, what are you doing? Don't suicide, I have complete confidence to be able to save you"

He hurriedly sent his voice.

This time, Luo Bing Li followed the inner sight to find where he was.

As she carefully sensed his location, Luo Bing Li noticed something.

She noticed a fact that she found it impossible to believe.

She abruptly looked at the Divine King's throne, at the newly crowned Divine King.

The God of Frost and Chill was leaning back on his throne, manipulating the frost in the air with one hand.

Boundless frost had already frozen Luo Bing Li's legs up to her knees and quickly spread towards her hips.

The Divine King appeared triumphant: "Just look, she still hasn't suicided. I knew not every human had the bravery to kill themselves"

The Golden Flame Divinity paused briefly before speaking: 「 That would be best, I hope we'll be able to lure him out this way 」

The Divine King clenched his fist tightly: "Indeed, at that time, all of us will act, we can definitely capture the human you spoke of"

The Golden Flame Divinity nodded.

The chilling ice continued to spread towards the top of Luo Bing Li's body.

Half of her body was already sealed inside the ice.

But she didn't have the time to pay attention to that— she was completely focused on maintaining her desperate expression.

“You...” Luo Bing Li tried probing by sending her voice towards the Divine King.

“It’s me”

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“Prove it”

“The Spirit Tortoise sent me into the phantom images, Xie Gu Hong is my Master, you wanted me to take a Desolate coin, telling me that the coin would be able to counter Divinities. After that, the Divine race and Desolate race both attacked the Barren Cloud Heaven’s Grotto of that era. You and I then escaped from that phantom image” Gu Qing Shan quickly sent his voice.

“It is you, but how did you become the Divine King?” Luo Bing Li was still unable to believe what she was seeing.

“I took a special acting class”

“...What’s acting?”

“Let’s not talk about that for now. If you were able to find me among countless phantom images, you must’ve made the appropriate preparations—— what should we do now?”

Luo Bing Li immediately answered him: “Leave this phantom image”

“How do we do that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Luo Bing Li replied: “We need to collect a lot of materials to create the jade disk that leads to another set of hidden phantom images”

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief: “So humanity actually had something else prepared, that’s great, let me think this through...”

The two of them quickly conversed and made things clear in a split second.

Gu Qing Shan quickly tried to come up with something.

One breath later.

He sent his voice: “How about we do this...”

...

When the frost reached Luo Bing Li’s neck, she suddenly cried out.

“I surrender, I don’t want to die!”

The Divine King’s expression twitched lightly and stopped freezing her.

“Human female, tell me all of your secrets, or I will let you experience the suffering of being eternally frozen” the Divine King declared.

Luo Bing Li was about to say something.

「 Wait! 」 the Golden Flame Divinity stopped them.

“What is it? Why did you stop me from hearing what she has to say?” the Divine King scowled.

「 I think we need the God of Lies on the scene 」 the Golden Flame Divinity suggested.

The God of Lies had the unique ability to recognize a lie that any creature utter in front of him.

The Divine King paused, then slowly nodded: “You are right, summon the God of Lies”

「 Yes 」

A Divinity received the order and left.

A few moments later, the God of Lies came into the palace.

The Golden Flame Divinity now looked at Luo Bing Li and spoke seriously: 「 Now, you may speak. But know this, if you utter so much as a single word of falsehood, the Divine King shall let you taste the pain of being frozen for 10,000 years 」

“If I tell nothing but the truth, will the Divine King spare me?” Luo Bing Li questioned.

“Naturally, as long as you say nothing but the truth, this King can guarantee your life” Gu Qing Shan replied.

“But he——” Luo Bing Li hesitantly glanced towards the Golden Flame Divinity.

The Golden Flame Divinity avoided her gaze and spoke: 「 No need to look at me, the will of the Divine King is the will of the Divine race 」

「 Now spit it out! 」 he loudly ordered her.

Luo Bing Li spoke every word clearly: “I have a unique jade disk that can sense any human that enters a phantom image, so I came here”

「 After you found him, what did you intend to do? 」 the Divine King questioned.

Luo Bing Li looked at the Divine King and hesitantly answered: “I want to tell him not to follow the previous secret order and continue towards the next phantom image. In fact, he shouldn’t even go into the phantom image after the next”

「 Why? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity questioned.

“Because after the phantom image where I hid was destroyed, I used a unique method to investigate and found out that several of the following phantom images were rigged” Luo Bing Li replied.

「 Go on 」 the Divine King curtly ordered.

Luo Bing Li continued: “I want to make a new jade disk with him to completely avoid the rigged secret phantom images and head towards another set of hidden phantom images”

The Golden Flame Divinity was ecstatic.

It turns out humanity still had other preparations.

The path towards the true final moment of the Age of Old must be hidden among the hidden phantom images.

At the true final moment of the Age of Old, a sword that could kill Divinities was hidden!

— I absolutely will not allow Gu Qing Shan to enter that phantom image!

The Golden Flame Divinity shouted: 「 How is that jade disk created? 」

Luo Bing Li answered: “Only after all the materials have been gathered will the seal within my Thought Sea be released. Only then would I know the method to craft that jade disk”

“Which materials are needed?” the Divine King asked.

Luo Bing Li listed a large amount of precious Smithing materials.

The Divine King and Golden Flame Divinity both glanced towards the God of Lies.

The God of Lies nodded: 「 She isn't lying 」

The Divine King waved his hand.

Boundless frost immediately gathered and completely froze Luo Bing Li's body, sealing her inside.

「 What are you doing? 」 the Golden Flame Divinity asked.

“Sealing her right here” the Divine King stood up, still absolutely calm and composed: “I will send even more people to surround and guard this place. The human you spoke of would not be able to get close or find out how to create the jade disk”

The Golden Flame Divinity thought briefly: 「 Meanwhile, we will gather the materials in preparation for creating the jade disk? 」

“Exactly” the Divine King glanced at the Golden Flame Divinity and spoke in a low voice: “As soon as we obtain the method, we will kill his human female”

The Golden Flame Divinity muttered to himself: 「 This way, both the material and the method for creating the jade disks will be held in our hands, that human would have no chance to obtain either of them 」

“Indeed, that human is no longer important— the true future will be held in this King's hands” the Divine King declared.

The Golden Flame Divinity thought back and forth a few times, concluding that this was indeed the best solution.

Since the original path was already cut off, Gu Qing Shan would definitely not be able to travel along the secret phantom images and arrive at the moment when humanity hid the Heaven sword away.

While the new path will be held in my and the Divine King's hands.

With that in mind, the Golden Flame Divinity slowly relaxed, a bright smile appeared on his face.

Chapter 780

The Primordial Heaven Realm.

The Sky Beyond Heaven.

The Divinities were busy with their preparations.

Luo Bing Li listed several hundred different types of precious materials, some of them extremely rare even in the Primordial Heaven Realm.

The Divinities had no choice but to rally as much manpower as possible in search of these precious Smithing materials.

Even the Golden Flame Divinity participated in this search at the Divine King's request.

Inside the Grand Divine Palace.

The Divine King was sitting on his throne.

Within the large empty audience hall, the only other thing was a large piece of ice.

Luo Bing Li was frozen inside.

"I didn't think you could actually order the Divinities to collect all of these materials. At this rate, the seal in my Thought Sea will be released soon" Luo Bing Li spoke.

"Indeed, but before that, I'll have to trouble you to stay inside that chunk of ice" Gu Qing Shan apologized.

Luo Bing Li was concerned with something else: "That God of Lies——"

"Is real, once he activates his power, no one would be able to tell a lie in front of him"

"Then you——"

"He doesn't dare to use his power on the Divine King unless he wants to die" Gu Qing Shan casually told her.

Luo Bing Li sighed in relief.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "Are you the same as my Master, a strand of a remnant soul?"

"No, I'm the real thing. I've stayed alive since then until now" Luo Bing Li told him.

She added: "In the Age of Old, beside the Spirit Tortoise, I was the only one who maintained a complete soul and body"

"Why is that?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"I'm the strongest Sound Cultivator, if it's 1-on-1, I wouldn't lose to any Divinity or normal Desolate monsters—— so everyone decided that I should live on and be responsible for making sure that nothing goes wrong with the phantom images" Luo Bing Li replied.

"But humanity's plans were still discovered by the Divinities" Gu Qing Shan sighed.

“Yes, but we did prepare another path. To make sure that this path isn’t discovered, it was sealed inside my Thought Sea, making sure that not even I know its details” Luo Bing Li told him.

She looked at Gu Qing Shan and firmly spoke: “Once the seal is released, I will immediately pass it on to you through my inner sight, then burn my soul away and die. This way, the path would not be revealed to the Golden Flame Divinity”

“Are you afraid of him?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“I’m not afraid, but I can tell that he greatly desires to obtain the final secret of humanity, even more so than he wants to capture and kill you” Luo Bing Li replied.

Gu Qing Shan went silent briefly, then replied: “You shouldn’t die”

Luo Bing Li insisted: “I have to die— I will act as if the seal was disturbed and killed me, that way the Divinities wouldn’t suspect that you know that secret”

Gu Qing Shan firmly spoke: “Definitely not, we have to think of something else”

Luo Bing Li shook her head: “From the very start, all of us were determined to die, countless of our comrades sacrificed themselves for the sake of keeping this secret. I will also use my death to make sure that the secret doesn’t get exposed, you don’t have to mind it”

Seeing her determination to die, Gu Qing Shan had a thought.

He spoke in a low voice: “Then even more so, you shouldn’t die at a time like this”

“Why not?” Luo Bing Li asked.

“The fact that the first path was destroyed showed a problem with humanity” Gu Qing Shan told her.

Interested in what he had to say, Luo Bing Li asked: “What is humanity’s problem?”

“They underestimated their enemies”

Gu Qing Shan slowly spoke: “You have to understand something clearly: Divinities aren’t as easy to deal with as you think. They were even able to make a Samsara, so they surely have many other means prepared”

He smiled bitterly: “Why do you think I’ve been staying inside the Grand Divine Palace and sitting on this throne without moving? Because I know too little about the Divinities, I can’t leave the palace to do anything else, otherwise, I might mess up my act in front of other Divinities”

“Furthermore, the Desolate monsters were even harder to deal with compared to the Divinities. The Lord of Desolation had already seen through what the Divinities were trying to do, but he didn’t do or say anything, only to suddenly appear to kill the Divine King”

“The Lord of Desolation was always wary of humanity, so I assume he must know even more about humans than the Divinities”

Luo Bing Li trembled slightly and looked at Gu Qing Shan: “Do you not feel confident?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Of course, I don’t”

“Why not?” Luo Bing Li asked.

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Gu Qing Shan answered: “Confidence is built on the basis of knowing yourself and the enemy—— right now I don’t know how many unimaginable things the Divinities have created by imitating humanity, I don’t know the extent of the Desolate race’s power, and I don’t know what secret or goal they had prepared to deal with humanity”

He helplessly sighed: “I don’t know anything, I’m not sure of most things, and I don’t even have a trustworthy place to learn these pieces of information. How high do you think the chances of me winning are?”

Luo Bing Li paused briefly.

She spoke with great difficulty: “If the situation was this desperate, the more reason for me to commit suicide and protect the secret of humanity”

“No, leave this to me, you have to live to help me” Gu Qing Shan told her.

“Help you?”

“Yes, I don’t think for a second that I would be able to win against two fully prepared races by myself—— that is nothing but daydreaming, so I need people to help me”

Perhaps recalling someone, Gu Qing Shan sighed: “My friends all have excellent and unimaginable potential to be explored, but they will probably need more time to grow, so right now, I have no choice but to do this by myself”

“Which is why I’m asking you to not kill yourself and help me”

Luo Bing Li silently listened, hesitated for a while before speaking: “But if I’m alive, the secret might be exposed”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Only the weak would need to employ death to protect a secret”

Luo Bing Li gave him a sidelong glance.

Gu Qing Shan changed his words: “From my experience, the biggest variable in any war is always the will of a person, only by staying alive can a person have the hope to change everything”

Luo Bing Li told him: “I’m more than willing to help you, but if me living means exposing the final secret of humanity...”

“I guarantee you that won’t happen” Gu Qing Shan emphasized every word.

“If that’s the case, I’m willing to help you—— but when it comes to a situation where I have no choice but to die, please don’t stop me” Luo Bing Li told him.

“Got it” Gu Qing Shan replied.

A voice suddenly came from outside the palace: 「 Sire, as you ordered, the materials have been gathered 」

Gu Qing Shan's and Luo Bing Li's expressions both changed.

Once the jade disk materials were fully gathered, the seal in Luo Bing Li's Thought Sea would be released.

The final secret of humanity was about to be revealed to the Divine race.

Luo Bing Li asked: "What's your plan? They're about to force me to reveal the method to create the jade disk already"

Gu Qing Shan sat still on the throne with a deeply uneasy and contemplating expression on his face.

Seeing his expression, Luo Bing Li's heart slowly sank.

She slowly spoke: "Do you not have a plan yet? Then we should follow my suggestion, once the materials are gathered near me, I will secretly tell you the method through inner sight and burn my soul"

"No" Gu Qing Shan regained his senses and told her: "I'm not worried about the current situation"

"Then what are you worried about?" Luo Bing Li was surprised.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and muttered: "Up to this point, the Desolate race still hasn't shown any movements, that shouldn't be the case"

"You mean..."

"The Lord of Desolation is even harder to deal with than the entire Divine race, but it didn't come here to try and take this secret... this was outside of my expectations..."

Gu Qing Shan continued muttering to himself: "I've already made a lot of preparations, but the Desolate race still hasn't shown up. This was the situation I didn't want to see the most. Because it meant the situation was still under their control"

"So now, I have to use other means to break through this situation..."

Gu Qing Shan relaxed his gaze completely, apparently immersed in his own thoughts.

Looking at Gu Qing Shan's contemplating appearance, Luo Bing Li was a bit stunned.

This guy---

The current situation wasn't even worth his consideration or attention.

He was currently thinking of how to deal with a more terrifying, more hidden enemy.

What kind of person is he!?

With that in mind, Luo Bing Li suddenly felt a brief moment of hope.

For the first time in this dark and desperate era, this was the first time she ever felt hopeful.

Perhaps...

She had a certain thought.

Perhaps she didn't notice it herself, but from the very start, she had never felt that humanity's secret plan would succeed, but to combat her despair, she deceived herself, telling herself that as long as she waited, hope would come.

But now, she was feeling a true sense of hope blooming in her heart.

Chapter 781

Perhaps Gu Qing Shan was contemplating for a bit too long.

Outside the Grand Divine Palace, the Golden Flame Divinity slowly called out once again:

「 The materials for crafting the jade disk have been gathered, please give your orders, sire 」

Gu Qing Shan regained his senses.

He glanced at the frozen Luo Bing Li.

Luo Bing Li opened her eyes wide, stared straight at him as if she was asking about his plan.

“Just listen, he already can't wait to find out the secret of the Heaven sword” she sent her voice.

“It's fine, leave it to me”

Gu Qing Shan told her.

He clapped his hands.

Behind the Grand Divine Palace, 12 out of the 16 Divine Guards came out to the audience hall and knelt with one knee on the ground.

These Divine Guards were protectors of the inheritance vault, but after the Divine King was crowned, they would usually take direct orders from the Divine King.

「 Divine King, did you summon us? 」 the leading Divine Guard asked.

“Hm, I have a mission for you all” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「 Please give your orders, sire 」 the Divine Guards spoke in unison.

“Guard the palace, without my permission, no one is allowed inside” Gu Qing Shan said.

「 Yes! 」 the Divine Guards spoke.

They quickly came out and stood guard at the entrances of the Grand Divine Palace.

Gu Qing Shan nodded satisfyingly and loudly ordered from inside the palace: “Summon the God of Lies, I need him”

「 Yes! 」 a response came from outside the palace.

Following that, the Divine Guards stood to either side to make way for the God of Lies into the palace.

「 Sire 」 the God of Lies bowed.

“Hm, I have a mission for you” Gu Qing Shan spoke.

「 Please go ahead, sire 」

...

A few moments later, the God of Lies took his orders and left the Grand Divine Palace.

At this time, Gu Qing Shan declared: “You have all worked hard so far. Leave the materials at the entrance of the palace, then everyone is dismissed”

「 Understood 」 the Divinities all answered.

They put the precious materials in front of the palace one by one and turned around to leave.

At this point, the Golden Flame Divinity’s voice came again:

「 Sire, why aren’t we allowed to enter the palace and see the method to forge the jade disk? 」

Leaning on his throne, Gu Qing Shan lazily replied: “This is a confidential matter. It is enough for this king to know, the rest of you don’t need to look”

As he said this, the other Divinities found that to be obvious.

—matters directly related to the fate of humanity were obviously best left to the Divine King’s control.

But the Golden Flame Divinity couldn’t calm down at all.

When the secret to the Heaven sword lies so close in front of my eyes, how could I just watch as it is taken away?

Indeed, Gu Qing Shan had already been excluded from this, but the Divine King now suddenly became greedy and wanted to take the Heaven sword for himself.

—this is the Heaven sword, an artifact powerful enough to kill Divinities. Wouldn’t it be much better kept in my hands?

Countless thoughts drifted in the Golden Flame Divinity’s mind.

He couldn’t help but try to step into the divine palace, but was immediately blocked and pushed back by the 12 Divine Guards.

Each Divine Guard was an elite of the Divine race, so the Golden Flame Divinity alone couldn’t go against them all.

The Golden Flame Divinity gritted his teeth: 「 Sire, I suggest that you don’t look into humanity’s secret yourself 」

“Ah? Why is that?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Because this jade disk will bring you towards an unknown dangerous location. Only a Divinity from the future like myself would know how to react and act accordingly, no one else would be able to 」

Perhaps to convince the Divine King, he continued: 「 Sire, you must give up on this secret, otherwise, you would definitely lose your life— — this had already happened in the future not too far from now, I trust that you aren't willing to give up your life so easily 」

Outside the palace, every Divinity froze.

This Divinity from the future knew a lot of what would happen in the future.

Gu Qing Shan fixed his posture, leaned back on the throne in a relaxed manner, and continued asking: “If I insist on looking into the secret, what danger would befall me?”

The Golden Flame Divinity replied: 「 The Lord of Desolation would come here directly, kill you and steal the Heaven sword 」

Gu Qing Shan said nothing.

He only smirked.

After a moment of silence outside the palace, another voice came.

「 Sire, he is lying 」

——it was the God of Lies who said this.

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Which part was the lie?”

「 All of it 」 the God of Lies replied.

The Divinities were shocked.

This Divinity from the future had the gall to deceive the Divine King!

How dare he do such a thing?

Could it be to take that secret for himself?

Gu Qing Shan chuckled lightly, but his tone became stern and furious: “Restrain him!”

「 「 「 Yes! 」 」 」

The 12 Divine Guards answered at once.

Luo Bing Li opened her eyes wide, unable to believe what she was witnessing.

Just... like that? The problem was already solved?

Am I dreaming?

She couldn't help but send her voice: “Why not kill that bastard and get it over with?”

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “That would show my impatience, not only would that be suspicious, it would also cause problems”

“What problem?” Luo Bing Li asked.

“Wait”

Gu Qing Shan only said that.

Luo Bing Li didn't have to wait for long.

Faced with this situation, the Golden Flame Divinity suddenly took out a coin and crushed it.

「 Quickly help me! 」 he shouted.

Ripples appeared in the void of space.

The figure of light arrived.

He appeared from the sky and landed in front of the Golden Flame Divinity, stopping the other Divinities: 「 You can't detain him 」

The Divinities all stopped.

This figure of light was without a doubt very powerful. He was created from a unique technique of the Divinities, the crystallization of their intelligence and will, he couldn't be fake, and he would never betray the Divine race.

It was because of this that the Divinities hesitated.

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“What's going on? Unless I'm wrong, you should be a part of our era, why are you protecting that Divinity from the future?” Gu Qing Shan questioned.

「 He did not purposely offend your Divine Majesty, he only wanted to take the sword for himself and use its power to change the future of our race 」 the figure of light replied.

“He isn't lying” the God of Lies declared.

Hearing that, the other Divinities relaxed a bit.

That's true.

As a Divinity, unless they are very troubled, they wouldn't offend the Divine King without a reason.

Gu Qing Shan seemed surprised: “His mission from the very start was very clear, that is to find that human sword cultivator and kill him”

The figure of light explained: 「 Stealing the Heaven sword is more important than to kill that human 」

“You mean that if he obtained the thing you call the ‘Heaven sword’, he could change the future?” Gu Qing Shan pressed on.

「 Indeed 」 the figure of light replied.

Gu Qing Shan suddenly asked: “Then I must ask him something. In his future, how many of the Divinities here were still alive?”

This was such a sudden question that Golden Flame Divinity was stunned, unable to say a word.

The Divinities were all cautious.

This was a direct question regarding their lives, why isn't this one answering?

Could it be...

“Hurry up and speak!” one Divinity couldn't help and shouted.

But the Golden Flame Divinity kept his mouth tightly shut, not saying a single word.

At this point, he truly regretted relying so much on his precognition advantage and informing Divine King of the events of the future.

—so the Divine King was setting me up for this!

The Golden Flame Divinity felt a bit emotional.

As expected of a King awoken by his own fate, he was able to push me into a corner so easily!

Sure enough, what happened next was just as he expected.

The Divine King sighed: “God of Lies! At this moment, I order you to check if this king's words are true or not!”

「Understood」 the God of Lies respectfully answered him.

“This Golden Flame Divinity once told me that among all the Divinities here, very few would be able to make it in the future, the others would all die without fail!”

Indeed, the majority of these Divinities were going to die.

This was something that already happened in history.

The Golden Flame Divinity once provided his knowledge of the future to exchange for Divine King's unrestrained help.

—help to find Gu Qing Shan.

The Divinities fell silent.

No one would be able to accept the fact that they would definitely die.

Gu Qing Shan shouted again: “God of Lies!”

The God of Lies dejectedly answered him: 「His majesty isn't lying...」

“Good, dispel your ability” Gu Qing Shan ordered.

「Understood」

For a short while, no one else said a single thing.

The figure of light wanted to say something, but it didn't want to stir the emotions of the Divinities here.

Gu Qing Shan's voice resounded.

He spoke in a low voice: "If we're all going to die, why should I give this secret, this jade disk, this sword to him?"

His tone suddenly shifted and changed to what sounded like a wishful thought: "Why can't destiny be changed, right here and now?"

The figure of light froze.

The Golden Flame Divinity froze.

Every Divinity was shocked and frozen!

Gu Qing Shan continued: "Indeed, if I obtain the Heaven sword, the fate of the Divine race would be changed right now, we don't need to wait until most Divinities have died to change it"

He stood up from his throne, raised his voice, and loudly declared:

"Members of the Divine race, at this very moment, destiny had shown me a path itself— tell me, do you want to take control of your destiny with me, or place your hope in the future!?"

「 Sire, I want to follow you and change my fate of death! 」 one Divinity loudly shouted.

「 I will follow his majesty! 」 another Divinity declared.

「 Sire, I will follow your steps! 」

「 Sire, I am your loyal servant! 」

「 We will follow your majesty! 」

Every Divinity declared.

—-in the face of death, their choice was terribly easy.

Gu Qing Shan waited until the Divinities' voices have calmed down a bit before roaring furiously again: "Then who do you think should take that sword!?"

Responding to him, all the Divine Guards and Divinities answered at once: 「 TO YOUR MAJESTY!! 」

Gu Qing Shan loudly declared: "And so, my apologies to our brethren from the future, or any other time. Our fate should be held in our hands, the destiny of our deaths will be changed by our own hands"

"This secret, this sword; hidden inside the secret, all of it belongs to this king if anyone dares to covet it—"

Rumble rumble!

The Divinities stepped up to the entrance of the Grand Divine Palace, standing by the Divine Guards' side.

They all drew their weapons facing the figure of light and the Golden Flame Divinity with expressions of hatred.

What a bullshit future, what damned collective consciousness, compared to that, nothing is more important than our own lives.

The Heaven sword must be held within our Divine King's hands!

The Divinities all thought the same.

Sensing what was happening at the entrance, Gu Qing Shan appeared pleased and slowly sat back down on the Divine Throne.

His tone maintained a sense of solemnity and dignity: "Indeed, this is the will of our Divine race, it would not be changed because of any future"

At the same time, he leaned and stretched his back, sending his voice to Luo Bing Li: "That's dealt with"

Luo Bing Li was already stunned.

She was now literally frozen inside the block of ice, unable to make sense of what she just witnessed.

How did he...

Why did a few words turn the secret of the Heaven sword into his exclusive secret?

And he even caused discord between the Divine race.

A conflict between the present Divine race and future Divine race.

—because most of the present Divinities were going to die, the conflict between them was one that couldn't be resolved.

For the sake of their believed survival, the Divinities would not hesitate to eliminate the Golden Flame Divinity.

—at least, if he continues to covet the Heaven sword.

...

Various thoughts crossed Luo Bing Li's mind.

She already didn't know what happened and what was going to happen.

But she knew one thing for sure.

She wouldn't need to commit suicide to protect the secret today.

Chapter 782

The Sky Beyond Heaven

Outside the Grand Divine Palace.

The Divinities willfully stood around the entrance of the palace, blocking the Golden Flame Divinity and figure of light outside.

Gu Qing Shan, on the other hand, no longer paid any attention to this.

With a wave of his hand, he summoned all the precious materials into the palace and neatly lined them in front of Luo Bing Li.

Gu Qing Shan tapped the void of space in front of Luo Bing Li from afar.

The block of ice that trapped Luo Bing Li scattered into mist and disappeared.

Luo Bing Li regained her freedom.

She landed on the ground and looked over the precious materials.

“All the materials are here, I can sense the seal gradually being released in my Thought Sea. I’m going to actively quicken the release, protect me”

Luo Bing Li closed her eyes and began to try releasing the seal in her Thought Sea.

Gu Qing Shan then stood up from the throne and slowly walked around the palace, finally standing behind Luo Bing Li.

This was a crucial moment, even if he had complete control of the situation, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t let his guard down.

He silently drew the Frostlie Long Staff, prepared the most powerful Ice Divine Craft to block any sudden attacks.

All the Soul Points that were used to upgrade [War God Skills] and learn the God of Frost and Chill’s Divine Craft now became Gu Qing Shan’s final trump card.

Outside the Grand Divine Palace, the Golden Flame Divinity angrily shouted: 「 Are you going to just ignore our race’s future!?’ 」

Another Divinity shouted in return: 「 We need to survive first before we care about any future! 」

Many Divinities expressed their agreement.

The Golden Flame Divinity gritted his teeth but was unable to do anything.

He was only a single Divinity, but his opposition was the entire Divine race, they weren’t a force he could go against.

The Golden Flame Divinity turned and whispered to the figure of light: 「 Quickly think of something 」

The figure of light spoke up: 「 Your Divine Majesty, believe me, the future is very important, I beg you to aid him! 」

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan chuckled.

He answered: “That is no problem since he’s here to kill the human cultivator, I will do everything in my power to aid him”

The figure of light spoke: 「 The sword—— 」

Gu Qing Shan cut him off and continued: “How strange, he said he would be able to change the future by killing that human. So why isn’t he doing that now and instead wants to compete for this sword with this king?”

The Golden Flame Divinity cut in: 「 That is because if I can obtain the Heaven sword, I can make the future better 」

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “Your greed had clouded your eyes, making you forget the very reason you were here in the first place. Right now you want nothing but the treasure”

He then told the figure of light: “I can offer a solution that is the best of both worlds”

「 Pray tell 」 the figure of light replied.

“I will send my most powerful Divinities to seek that human cultivator out and kill him, that way, our Divine race’s future will be fine”

“While I will hold onto the secret of the Heaven sword and search for that sword myself. From then on I will change the destiny of our entire Divine race, making it so that the Divinities here no longer have to die”

Gu Qing Shan slowly explained.

Hearing him, the Divinities of the past all nodded in agreement.

Indeed, that way, both the problem of the present and future will be solved without any issues.

The figure of light contemplated a bit, then spoke hesitantly: 「 The search for the Heaven sword will be exceedingly dangerous, you might not survive 」

Gu Qing Shan laughed: “I’m the strongest Divinity, the Divine King himself. Who else is suitable to do this but me?”

The figure of light spoke: 「 But the Golden Flame Divinity knows many secrets. He might not be as powerful as you, but he can better deal with various circumstances 」

“Are you sure that he knows the necessary secrets to deal with every circumstance?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 Very sure 」 the figure of light replied.

“That’s perfect then” Gu Qing Shan seemed pleased, “then he can simply tell me those secrets. That way, not only would I be the most powerful Divinity, I would also be the Divinity that holds the most secrets”

“Besides me, no one else would be more suitable to control this sword!”

The figure of light went silent.

The Golden Flame Divinity opened his eyes and mouth wide, completely speechless.

—so after all that talk.

Not only would I not have the right to obtain that sword, but I also have to give up all of my secrets?

This is...

While the Golden Flame Divinity was still thinking, Gu Qing Shan had already spoken: “Then it’s decided. God of Lies, you will be responsible for making sure he tells nothing but the truth. I don’t want any falsehood to cloud my judgement”

“Life God, Assessment God, Sound God, Water God, the four of you bring him down and have him tell you the secrets. Once he divulges everything, report back to me”

「 Yes, sire! 」 the Divinities responded.

The Golden Flame Divinity was led away.

The only one left standing there was the figure of light, unable to say a single word.

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Gu Qing Shan didn’t pay any more attention to the matter outside the palace and turned back to look at Luo Bing Li.

She had opened her eyes again.

“The seal was released. I know the method to forge that jade disk now, please wait a moment, I’m going to make it here” Luo Bing Li told him.

She formed various hand seals and made a fire in the air, throwing the precious materials inside one by one to melt them down.

Gu Qing Shan stood with his hands behind his back on one side, silently waiting.

After so much hardship, finally, I’ve gotten a step closer to the Heaven sword.

At this point, the figure of light outside the palace suddenly moved.

He spoke to Gu Qing Shan: 「 Your Divine Majesty, I have a certain secret I must tell you 」

“What secret is it?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The figure of light took a glance at the Divinities standing guard in front of the Grand Divine Palace and said: 「 Only you can know this secret 」

Gu Qing Shan generously spoke: “Then enter the palace”

After transforming into the God of Frost and Chill, he was a bit more confident—— at least the other party wouldn’t be able to kill him in one hit.

Hearing the Divine King’s words, the Divinities made way for the figure of light to enter the Grand Divine Palace.

He glanced at Luo Bing Li who was busy making the jade disk, then at Gu Qing Shan.

“So? What was it that you wanted to tell me?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The figure of light muttered: 「 As a Divine King, that you would be able to accomplish this much had already far surpassed the recorded history 」

“What are you talking about?” Gu Qing Shan appeared puzzled.

The figure of light suddenly asked: 「 Your Divine Majesty, what is your goal? 」

“My goal?”

「 Yes, the true goal for everything that you’re doing 」

As Gu Qing Shan wanted to reply, he noticed the hidden tone inside the other party’s words.

He stopped himself and slowly answered while contemplating: “After I found out the true secret of our race, the only goal I have is to enter that Gate—— only then, can we truly hold destiny in our own hands”

The figure of light replied: 「 But according to our treaty with the Desolate race, you can simply continue to provide humans to them as food. In the end, they would still allow us to enter that Gate 」

“No” Gu Qing Shan sternly refuted, “placing one’s hope on someone else was and had never been reliable. The basis of a fair treaty is that both sides hold similar levels of strength”

After staying silent, the figure of light nodded.

Apparently it had made a decision and spoke: 「 Your Divine Majesty, did you know? You have actually been living in an illusion 」

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan’s heart jumped slightly.

What does this mean?

Does the figure of light intend to reveal to me the true nature of the phantom images?

What does it want to do?

Gu Qing Shan stared at the figure of light and spoke in a heavy tone of voice: “If you have any secrets to tell this king, you may do it. But if you intend to tell some sort of tall tales to deceive this king, then let me apologize first before kicking you out”

「 No, I am not deceiving you 」 the figure of light shook his head: 「 Your Divine Majesty, I will show you the truth of this history 」

He reached his hand out to Gu Qing Shan: 「 Your Divine Majesty, you have used your actions to prove that you are an excellent monarch. Not even a brethren from the future managed to waver your position. Instead he had made you more powerful from letting you know the direction of the future 」

「 Your Divine Majesty, you are now qualified to participate in the true history 」

“What do you mean by the word ‘true’?”

「 Your Divine Majesty, you need not ask too much. Please take my hand, I shall take you to see the secret of the phantom images 」

Gu Qing Shan went silent briefly.

“Will I need to fight?”

He appeared a bit unsure about everything and hesitantly asked.

「 No 」 the figure of light answered, 「 This first trip will only help you understand the truth, everything else can be left for later 」

Gu Qing Shan glanced back at Luo Bing Li.

Luo Bing Li didn't meet his eyes, but sent her voice: “To be this serious, it must be one of the secret preparations of the Divine race, make sure to be careful”

Gu Qing Shan sent his voice: “If I go, what's going to happen to you?”

“Don't worry, while you're not here, I will delay the crafting of the jade disk all the way until you return” Luo Bing Li assured him.

Gu Qing Shan looked up and ordered those outside the Grand Divine Palace: “Divine Guards, protect this king's palace, no one is allowed to go in or out”

「 Yes, sire 」

The voices of the 12 Divine Guards resounded from the outside of the palace.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan took the figure of light's hands and muttered: “Don't try to pull the wool over my eyes. Otherwise, I wouldn't forgive your offense even if you are the collective consciousness of our Divine race!”

The figure of light spoke: 「 Your Divine Majesty, very soon, you will feel grateful to me 」

“Grateful to you?”

「 Indeed, grateful to me for obtaining a true new beginning 」

Chapter 783

After saying so, invisible ripples appeared around the body of the figure of light.

These ripples expanded to cover both him and the Divine King.

A moment later, both the figure of light and Gu Qing Shan disappeared without a trace.

The only person left inside the Grand Divine Palace was Luo Bing Li.

She continued to create the jade disk following the method in her mind, but at a significantly slower pace.

The audience hall was now empty.

Luo Bing Li sighed sorrowfully.

Within the phantom image that she was responsible for, the Divine race and Desolate race coordinated an invasion that thoroughly destroyed the hidden path of humanity.

From what I just saw, the Divine race clearly had other means prepared.

If it weren't for Gu Qing Shan transforming into the Divine King and openly deceiving them, I would have never even found out about this.

For some reason, Luo Bing Li suddenly recalled what she had just talked with Gu Qing Shan about earlier.

"You have to live and help me"

"Help you?"

"Yes, do you actually think I would be able to win against two powerful and prepared races on my own?"

Luo Bing Li fell silent.

—it's very clear now that his judgement was correct.

The Desolate race was even more powerful than the Divine race and caused humanity to feel more desperate.

If the Divine race had so much prepared, what about the Desolate race?

As soon as she had this thought, Luo Bing Li couldn't help herself shaking.

She felt a chill run down her spine.

...

The endless fog of space-time.

Countless phantom images from the Age of Old flickered in and out of existence like a sea of stars in the night sky.

"What's going on here?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The figure of light answered: 「 Billions of phantom images. Each of them is a unique period of time within the Age of Old. They are real, they are connected, but at the same time, they are isolated 」

"I don't understand" Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

「 That is simple—— 」

The figure of light pointed at a phantom image closest to the two of them and spoke: 「 Take a look, this fragment should come to an end very soon 」

Gu Qing Shan's gaze followed where he pointed.

Within that phantom image, he could see a certain scene.

The Divinities had just descended on the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect to help humanity rebuild this famous sect.

When the sect finished reconstruction, the scene suddenly froze.

Then everything disappeared.

Within the phantom image, another scene appeared.

It was the scene before the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect was destroyed the first time around.

As time passed, humans and Divinities appeared to make preparations to reconstruct this sect.

They seemed to have returned to the past, not knowing that they were rebuilding Drifting Moon Immortal Sect again.

As if this was the first time for them.

“Why is this...” Gu Qing Shan muttered.

The figure of light spoke: 「 Because their phantom image only lasts that long, they have no choice but to repeat that process over and over again until the end of time 」

As if realizing something, Gu Qing Shan asked: “You mean to say that I am also in one of these fragments?”

The figure of light replied: 「 Indeed, within the countless phantom images, there are countless Gods of Frost and Chill. You are the only one among them who changed the course of history due to our interference 」

“Why is space-time like this?”

「 The true space-time is not like this. It only keeps moving forward without repeating itself, no one would be able to return to the past and redo what had already happened 」

“What do you mean...”

「 Yes, the space-time where you reside is nothing but a short fragment of the true space-time, it was the result of a spell—— a spell of humanity 」

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: “Humanity couldn’t possibly have such a powerful spell”

The figure of light replied: 「 All of the Divine race also believed that humanity couldn’t have such a spell. But they, in fact, were able to accomplish this. We believed that humanity, through some way, obtained a piece of their inheritance from the Bygone Era 」

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought and slowly spoke: “And that’s why they were able to create the twin swords Heaven and Earth and perform such an inconceivable spell?”

「 That should indeed be the truth 」 the figure of light replied.

Gu Qing Shan hung his head and spoke in a tone of defeat: “I am only part of a fragment of time... I still can’t believe...”

The figure of light turned around and faced him: 「 There is no time to be emotional, your Divine Majesty. You must quickly make a choice 」

“What choice?”

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「 In your phantom image, the final moment is actually half a year later. At that time, you were still the one on the Divine Throne, ruling over the two races of human and Divinity 」

「 But if you want to escape that phantom image and truly become ‘alive’, you would have to face countless trials that could cost your very life, all to obtain a small chance to enter the real world 」

「 To stay as the rightful Divine King within a repeating fragment of time. Or to risk everything, including death, to enter the real world and begin your journey anew with a completely unpredictable future 」

「 Between these choices, you must choose one, your Divine Majesty 」

Gu Qing Shan stayed silent briefly before speaking: “I must ask one thing. Within the true space-time, what is the current situation of our Divine race?”

The figure of light replied: 「 The majority of the Divinities have died. Only a few of our brethren have hidden themselves within our imitation of humanity’s 9.9 billion World Layers, barely clutching onto survival 」

Gu Qing Shan showed an appropriate expression of sorrow.

He was actually recalling the conversation he overheard between the Lord of Desolation and the previous Divine King.

...

At the time the Divine King said: 「The reason we created so many worlds was to attempt to recreate the past. To see what kind of things the Bygone Era humanity was thinking that they gave up on everything and entered that gate 」

『You—— mere insects would be so full of yourself to try and look into the ultimate secret of the Bygone Era? 』

『The Samsara cannot be controlled. You dared to imitate the power of the human race and created it means that you’re challenging my authority 』

「Lord of Desolation... the Samsara had only just been created, it doesn’t have any power... I... offer it to you...」

...

——Those were the Divine King’s last words.

What kind of secret could be hidden there?

Gu Qing Shan silently kept that thought in mind.

He didn't have time to carefully consider that right now.

The figure of light spoke again: 「 Your Divine Majesty, make your choice. Would you rather return to your own phantom image and continue to be King, or face the harsh trials ahead and use everything to move into the real world 」

Gu Qing Shan spoke calmly: “You call that a choice?”

The figure of light looked straight at him: 「 Your Divine Majesty, you mean? 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: “How could the King of Divinity bear to live within his temporary illusion?”

After a moment of silence, the figure of light slowly nodded.

「 Your Divine Majesty, I have once again been assured, you truly are a King worthy of the Divine race's hope 」

「 Your Divine Majesty, you must now face your first trial 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Tell me”

The figure of light spoke: 「 Within your phantom image, at the moment of your coronation, a certain crucial event happened to humanity 」

“What was it?”

「 A few human cultivators managed to escape our surveillance and travel to the Desolate world—— after studying history, we found that it was exactly after their return from the Desolate world this time that many changes began to occur within humanity 」

「 That is our reason to believe that humanity must have discovered some sort of secret within the Desolate world 」

「 Perhaps both the twin swords Heaven and Earth, as well as the phantom image spell, were obtained within this period of time 」

「 Your Divine Majesty, you are the most powerful Divinity, you must travel to the Desolate world and find that secret 」

Gu Qing Shan wasn't surprised.

Sure enough, after the final moments of history, the remaining Divinities deeply studied history and reconsidered the past events.

And they discovered that detail.

——the fact that Xie Gu Hong came to the Desolate world and returned unharmed.

And that humanity began to change at this time.

...Gu Qing Shan had also thought of this.

He originally intended to make a trip to the Desolate world— because after leaving this phantom image, he couldn't be sure that he would stumble into the same period of time again— the time that Xie Gu Hong was in the Desolate world.

So the figure of light's request was the perfect chance for Gu Qing Shan to go.

"Very well, after the Heaven sword jade disk is complete, I will be on my way" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The figure of light spoke: 「 Your Divine Majesty, once you are discovered by the Lord of Desolation, you will surely be met with his furious rage, you would be eliminated without a doubt— are you sure you still want to accept this trial? 」

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I have to"

The figure of light stared straight at him and spoke in a slightly glad tone of voice: 「 Excellent, your Divine Majesty. I will provide you some help 」

"What kind of help?"

「 You cannot enter the Desolate world as a Divinity as you would surely be exposed, I will use a secret technique to disguise you as a human, giving you a more secure identity and help you silently infiltrate the Desolate world 」

Gu Qing Shan froze as he heard that.

I didn't even know the Divinities could do such a thing, seriously...

Gu Qing Shan appeared a bit anxious.

"You want this king to disguise himself as a human? Can this really be done?" he asked with a doubtful voice.

The figure of light replied: 「 Do not worry, your Divine Majesty. This disguise is surely the best, I guarantee that if you pose as a human cultivator, no one would be able to discover your true identity 」

"...If that's the case, I shall try it once" the Divine King answered with a solemn tone.

Chapter 784

The early morning sun shined.

The thousand-mile long river below was dyed in a glorious brilliance.

Gu Qing Shan stood within the Cold Jade Forest and gestured with his hand.

The 16 Divine Guards stopped.

The figure of light spoke: 「 They should stop here, there is no need for too many Divinities to know the identity of our human spy 」

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the 16 Divine Guards.

They all knelt down on one knee: 「 Sire, let us accompany and protect you 」

Gu Qing Shan smirked: “None of you are as powerful as I am, no need to follow me. Instead, keep a close eye on that human female cultivator for me. Do not allow anyone who enters the Grand Divine Palace to approach her— she’s a crucial factor in deciding our Divine race’s future”

「 Understood! 」

The 16 Divine Guards answered at once, turned around, and headed back to the Sky Beyond Heaven.

“Let us continue” Gu Qing Shan told the figure of light.

「 Very well 」 the figure of light said.

They flew deeper into the forest.

A few moments later.

The two of them stopped in front of a large tree.

The figure of light spoke towards the tree: 「 Come out 」

The tree opened up as a middle-aged cultivator came out.

He kept a long beard, wore a Daoist garb, and gave off a vague sense of authority.

He seemed to be someone who has been in charge of other people’s life and death for a long period of time.

The Daoist cautiously looked at the figure of light, then at Gu Qing Shan and asked doubtfully: “Venerable Gods, I seem to have never met you before”

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the figure of light.

The figure of light explained: 「 To conceal this from the top cultivators of humanity, and even from the Desolate race, we have planted people in the most important positions within humanity 」

「 Unless absolutely necessary, these people normally do not contact or have any relations with us. Furthermore, without the appropriate token, regardless if they faced a human or a Divinity, they would not recognize their orders 」

“Then what do they recognize?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

The figure of light took out a coin and tossed it to the cultivator.

The cultivator received the coin, then carefully checked it before relaxing his stance.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

—so they recognize the coin.

This middle-age cultivator quickly knelt down in front of the figure of light and Gu Qing Shan, speaking anxiously: “Your humble servant the sect master of Drifting Moon Immortal Sect, Zhao Wu Zong, greets the venerable Gods”

The figure of light told Gu Qing Shan: 「 This is Zhao Wu Zong, someone hidden within the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect for a long time. He very rarely appeared in the world or had any relations with cultivators of the same rank, so no one would suspect you if you used his identity 」

Hearing that, Gu Qing Shan ordered Zhao Wu Zong: “Stand”

“Understood”

“We have a use for you”

“How can this humble servant serve you?”

The figure of light replied: 「 I will perform a spell on both you and this Divinity to let him take your appearance and your identity to accomplish something. During this time, you need to hide away and not reveal yourself 」

As the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect master Zhao Wu Zong heard that, his expression slowly became calm.

And here I thought it would be something difficult.

Turns out only my identity is required.

That’s simple, I only need to hide somewhere for a few days.

“This humble servant understands” he loudly declared.

The figure of light reached both hands out and said: 「 Come, each of you take one of my hands 」

Gu Qing Shan took his hand.

Zhao Wu Zong also followed his order.

The figure of light explained to Gu Qing Shan: 「 This is a technique that uses the power of Laws to change your appearance, giving you this human cultivator’s appearance and aura. But do not worry, your power will remain exactly the same. I had even specifically chosen this human cultivator, someone who had the power of Elemental Water and ice 」

“Then how should I regain my original appearance?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

「 This is an imitation of a high-level concealment technique from the Bygone Era humanity. It is endlessly useful but without any restrictions. If you want to return to normal, simply dispel it with force 」 the figure of light told him.

He continued to explain: 「 The only thing you must pay attention to is that our Divine race does not use the human’s inner sight. What we use is direct telepathy, so if you run into other cultivators, make sure not to expose yourself on this 」

Gu Qing Shan kept that noted and grinned: “Then I’m assured”

While talking, he was gradually turning into the middle-aged cultivator.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand in the air to create a mirror of ice.

Looking at himself in the mirror, he found that he looked exactly the same as the cultivator.

But I'm still the God of Frost and Chill in essence.

Hmm... one step worse than the [Mystery of All Beings Equal].

Gu Qing Shan then walked in front of Zhao Wu Zong.

“Give all of your personal items to me” Gu Qing Shan ordered.

“Huh? Ah, yes, venerable God”

Zhao Wu Zong was surprised briefly before responding.

He took off all of his items as well as Inventory Bags, only when he reached for the frost Blade at this side was he a bit hesitant.

This was the most precious Blade of the sect, something of immeasurable value.

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan scoffed: “I don't want your garbage items. I'm only taking them with me to pretend to be you more effectively”

After a bit of thought, he summoned the Frostlie Long Staff and showed it to Zhao Wu Zong.

—this was the God of Frost and Chill's weapon, a true Divine Armament.

This was thanks to this staff that Gu Qing Shan managed to learn the God of Frost and Chill's skills.

As soon as he Frostlie Long Staff was taken out, Zhao Wu Zong opened his eyes wide.

He was an Elemental Water cultivator.

This staff constantly manifests countless mystical Ice-type Laws, I've benefited greatly just by looking at it for a few seconds.

If I could touch this staff, even without cultivating at all, my comprehension of Ice-type Laws would easily break through.

Zhao Wu Zong deeply sighed.

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That's true, the Divinity's weapon is so powerful, how could my Blade even catch the Divinity's eyes?

—such powerful weapons, such great power, isn't that exactly why I obey the Divinities in the first place?

He took off the Blade, knelt down on one knee and presented it to Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan took the Blade, then tossed him the staff, casually saying: “Keep that safe for me”

Zhao Wu Zong hurriedly caught the Frostlie Long Staff and doubtfully asked: “Venerable God, what do you mean?”

“I will take your identity, weapon, and items for a while, your repayment is looking after that staff for a few days” Gu Qing Shan smiled.

Zhao Wu Zong joyfully spoke: “Praise o’ venerable God! Praise o’ venerable God!”

“You don’t need to”

Saying so, Gu Qing Shan swung the Blade in his hand towards Zhao Wu Zong.

Zhao Wu Zong’s expression warped, but found that the Frostlie Long Staff in his hands had already frozen him solid without a sound.

Sha!

A cold flash of the Blade.

Zhao Wu Zong was cut in half and killed on the spot.

The figure of light questioned: “ 「 Why did you kill him? 」

“My identity is too important, only a dead man can preserve the secret of who I am” Gu Qing Shan replied.

—indeed, compared to the safety of the Divine King, a dead spy is nothing.

Not to mention, this is only a phantom image, him dying or not doesn’t change a thing.

The figure of light nodded and waved his hand towards Zhao Wu Zong’s body.

The severed body was absorbed into the void of space and disappeared without a trace.

Gu Qing Shan glanced over at the War God UI.

A few glowing lines of text quickly appeared:

[Your own strength is vastly inferior to Zhao Wu Zong]

[But because you acted as the God of Frost and Chill]

[And furthermore because you acted as Zhao Wu Zong himself]

[This Soul Points obtained from the battle cannot be considered using your strength alone]

Gu Qing Shan directly told the System: “Just take however much you want and leave some for me, no need to make excuses”

The System remained silent for a few moments.

[Ting]!

A single line notification popped up on the UI:

[You obtained 5 Soul Points]

5 Soul Points!?

The fuck, that was a sect master I killed, do you know the meaning of 'restraint'!?

Gu Qing Shan silently complained.

The System immediately answered: [Don't forget, during the Divinity's inheritance ceremony, I used a lot of Soul Points in advance]

Seeing that, Gu Qing Shan had no choice but to give up.

—yes, it actually did do quite a bit, otherwise, at that time I wouldn't have been able to both obtain the secret and the way to increase my Card grade.

Hah, I can only hope that I'll be able to get a bit more Soul Points next time...

While he was thinking that, the figure of light took out two more coins and gave them to him.

The figure of light carefully explained: 「 This coin is specifically made to warp you into the Desolate world. Simply go to the border between the two worlds and activate this coin, you will be transported into the Desolate world 」

「 The other coin is the Primordial Heaven Realm warp coin, if you activate it, you will immediately return 」

「 Remember, you can only use each coin once 」

Gu Qing Shan looked carefully at the two coins, a bit curious.

They were quite different.

The Desolate world warp coin had a unique, rarely seen style and shape that appeared to be really ancient.

As for the Primordial Heaven Realm warp coin, it was made to the same style and material as the coins he saw in the Strife Zones.

The figure of light asked: 「 Do you have any questions about these two coins? 」

Gu Qing Shan went quiet and didn't say anything.

—-I don't know anything about the coins.

Is the difference between these coins a secret, or common sense that every Divinity knows about?

Without confirming it, anything he asked carried a certain level of danger.

Gu Qing Shan's mind quickly moved and skipped this question, instead, asking in return: "Are you going to come with me?"

—this was another very crucial question.

Hearing his question, as expected, the figure of light shook his head: 「 I do not have a real body, I cannot turn into a human to infiltrate the Desolate world. And since I am the collective consciousness of

countless Divinities, once I appear inside the Desolate world, the Lord of Desolation would immediately sense me 』

“Then you can return and look after that human female cultivator for me, don’t let anyone disturb her creation of the jade disk” Gu Qing Shan replied.

「... Very well 』 the figure of light replied.

Gu Qing Shan emphasized: “Not even the Golden Flame Divinity!”

The figure of light hesitated briefly.

Gu Qing Shan came forward and whispered by the figure of light’s ear: “The Golden Flame Divinity only cares about the future. Besides asking us for help, he brings no benefit to our current Divine race as a whole”

He continued: “This king lives in this era, my desire is to make Heaven serve the Divinities of this era, to use this sword to change the destiny of this era’s Divinities!”

The figure of light became silent.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “You represent the will of countless Divinities of this era, tell me. Do the Divinities of this era want the Golden Flame Divinity’s future or their own present?”

The figure of light stopped hesitating and nodded: 「 I understand, I shall watch over that human female cultivator, not letting anyone touch her 』

Gu Qing Shan backed away, pleased.

16 Divine Guards, all the Divinities of the Sky Beyond Heaven, and now the figure of light—— with so many Divinities protecting Luo Bing Li, Gu Qing Shan didn’t believe that the Golden Flame Divinity would be able to kidnap Luo Bing Li in front of their eyes.

Now I can go to the Desolate world without worries.

He placed the frost Blade on his hip and briefly recalled Zhao Wu Zong’s expressions and demeanor.

“I’m going”

A cluster of icy mist appeared around Gu Qing Shan and enveloped him as he disappeared from the figure of light’s sight.

Chapter 785

A barren field.

A cluster of icy cold fog suddenly manifested.

The fog quickly dissipated to reveal a middle-aged cultivator.

He kept a long beard and wore a Daoist robe with a Blade by his hip with an air of superiority.

Drifting Moon Immortal Sect master, Zhao Wu Zong.

Of course, the real Zhao Wu Zong had already been killed, this was Gu Qing Shan who took his appearance and identity.

Gu Qing Shan paced back and forth in the wilderness, carefully searching for the Desolate world's location.

— the Desolate world and Primordial Heaven Realm were always overlapping at a certain place, that was why creatures of these two worlds could travel back and forth between them.

Gu Qing Shan had to locate the overlapping location before he could enter the Desolate world.

A few moments later.

Gu Qing Shan crouched down in front of a few rocks, picked them up and carefully observed them.

The rocks were filled with chaotic and powerful energy, they were the Desolate world's demon stones.

"Seems like this is the place"

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

— according to the Golden Flame Divinity, when the Bygone Era's humanity left, the worlds that they created also vanished. The only ones left were the Primordial Heaven Realm and the Primordial Wraith Realm.

As for the Desolate world, it wasn't actually a complete world.

It was actually a temporary base that the Bygone Era humanity constructed before they left.

The Bygone Era humanity used a kind of unimaginable power to create this base next to the Gate of the World to make it convenient for them to study and explore the mysteries of the Gate.

After the Bygone Era humanity entered the Gate of the World, this place became empty.

After the Desolate race betrayed humanity, they took over this place.

Took over...

Recalling the Golden Flame Divinity's and the figure of light's description, Gu Qing Shan felt that the word 'took over' wasn't actually correct.

Because the Desolate race still hadn't stopped exploring this world even now.

They haven't managed to fully understand this place.

The only thing they did was use their power that far eclipses that of the Divinities and humanity to keep this place to themselves, not allowing any other race to take a single step inside.

Gu Qing Shan stood up next to the demon stones and crushed the Desolate coin.

Almost immediately, a powerful force appeared out of nowhere and pulled him into the void of space.

...

The Desolate world.

An artificial wilderness created from demon stones filled with immense but chaotic power.

The sky was completely dark except for the flashes of lightning that constantly arc across the sky.

Intense storm wind swept across the dark clouds in the sky, eternally howling under the influence of the chaotic power.

Gu Qing Shan silently appeared from the void of space.

He nimbly landed on the ground with the frost Blade in his hand.

There was no sound around him.

The intense stench of blood rushed into his nose.

Gu Qing Shan took a sniff.

Hmm...

It's not the smell of human blood...

He released his inner sight and followed the direction of the stench.

Several hundred feet away, the bodies of countless Desolate soldiers laid scattered on the ground.

Gu Qing Shan flew over and carefully searched these corpses.

“Their flesh is already rotten... quite a bit of time ago...”

Gu Qing Shan muttered.

From the traces on their bodies, these monsters were most likely killed by various spells and sharp weapons.

In other words, the missing great cultivators followed this direction.

Xie Gu Hong was also among them.

—-if I follow Xie Gu Hong, I'll be able to find out what exactly happened.

Without hesitation, Gu Qing Shan decided to follow their trail.

The chaotic power in the sky was so thick it was almost solid, and because of how eye-catching flying would be, Gu Qing Shan didn't want to risk being noticed.

He quickly ran along the barren wilderness of nothing but demon stones.

An incense's worth of time later.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't do anything but conceal his presence and lay still inside a hole of rocks.

Innumerable amounts of different Desolate monsters were gathered in the area right in front of him.

The horde of Desolate monsters stretched as far as the eye could see, all with their eyes closed as if they were hibernating.

Looking past these Desolate monsters, further away in the wilderness, he could faintly see an enormous structure.

That is probably something the Bygone Era humans created.

Sadly, this place is full of Desolate monsters.

I can't get through at all.

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Gu Qing Shan paused briefly, picked up a demon stone at his feet, and threw it towards the general direction of the monster horde.

In mere seconds, a blurred image struck and decimated the stone.

The blurred image stopped in mid-air.

——it was a mile-long tongue that came from a certain Desolate monster.

It was a huge frog with three large eyes.

Croak!

Its croak echoed across the entire wilderness.

Almost immediately, all of the Desolate monsters woke up and looked around cautiously.

Phwohm!

Several hundred Desolate monsters took flight to search for the source of the disturbance.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan had already activated his concealment formation and used a presence concealment technique to obscure his aura.

——perhaps because these monsters weren't too powerful, as they weren't able to find anything.

The flying monsters also retracted their wings and landed back down.

They quickly closed their eyes and went back to sleep.

Gu Qing Shan waited for another long while till the world had returned to silence before he sighed in relief.

There were countless unknown and different monsters here.

It wasn't possible for him to evade them and go through.

It wasn't realistic to cut them down to open a path either.

If he used the God of Frost and Chill's power or used the several hundred flying swords to perform his sword arts, the higher-ranked Desolate monsters—— or even the Lord of Desolation himself might be alarmed.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit impressed with the Lord of Desolation.

No need to arrange any sort of complicated patrol or guards, just send enough monsters to fill the wilderness and no one would be able to enter that place.

—so how do I go pass them now?

Gu Qing Shan fell into thought.

All of a sudden, a faint sign of spirit energy appeared and vanished not too far away from where he was.

Gu Qing Shan raised his eyebrows.

Only humans know how to use spirit energy.

Which means there are other people here!

Gu Qing Shan put the formation away and formed a simple hand seal.

The most simple spell.

Telekinesis.

Unlike when sword cultivators use their mind to control flying swords, telekinesis couldn't intricately control a weapon and channel spirit energy through it, or perform powerful attacks through it without stopping.

—telekinesis was simply a cultivator using his spirit energy to lift an object and move it around.

As Gu Qing Shan completed his seal, a piece of demon stone on the ground jerked slightly.

Gu Qing Shan immediately stopped.

The hand seal was dispelled.

A tiny bit of spirit energy was released in a split second before vanishing.

None of the Desolate monsters from afar noticed this.

But Gu Qing Shan felt that this should be enough.

—a human great cultivator would definitely notice the spirit energy ripples created by the spell.

That was more than enough to prove that he was human.

—during this era, with the Desolate monsters as their common enemy, humanity was very united, so as long as he could prove his identity, there shouldn't be much trouble.

Gu Qing Shan stood silently inside the rock hole and waited.

A few moments later.

A voice was transmitted to him through inner sight: "So it was sect master Zhao, please wait a moment"

The voice went away.

Very quickly, the bottom of the rock hole Gu Qing Shan was standing in trembled a bit to reveal a bigger tunnel below.

A talisman that gave off a red glow came from inside the cave and spoke: "Brother Zhao, it's not safe where you are. When the chaotic tides erupts, you'll be discovered very easily, please come down here with us"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Thank you"

Without hesitation, he jumped into the tunnel and followed the talisman until he reached an underground cave.

A white-haired old cultivator was already waiting for him at the entrance to the cave.

He first observed Gu Qing Shan, then sensed the spirit energy waves coming off his body before he truly relaxed.

"Quickly, come"

After Gu Qing Shan came out of the tunnel, the white-haired old man put the talisman away and formed a hand seal towards the tunnel.

The tunnel closed off instantly as if it had never existed in the first place.

At the same time, another voice called out: "Sect master Zhao, why are you also here?"

Gu Qing Shan turned to look.

The man who asked that question had 7 flying swords silently floating behind him.

The Barren Cloud Palace Master, Xie Gu Hong was here.

Chapter 786

There were a total of 4 people within the cave.

One of them was the old man who controlled the talisman to open and close the entrance of the cave.

One of them was Xie Gu Hong who had 7 swords behind his back.

There was also a burly man who was naked on top and carried a long staff in his hand.

And finally, Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan clasped his fist towards the three people and spoke: "Gentlemen, I didn't think I would run into you in this place"

The white-haired old man asked doubtfully: "Sect master Zhao, why have you come to this dangerous place?"

Gu Qing Shan nonchalantly answered: "My sect was destroyed, as the sect master, how could I not avenge them?"

The three of them went silent.

Indeed, during the war, because of how close the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect was to the frontlines, they were responsible for many crucial points in the war, becoming a thorn in the monster's eyes.

And the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect was destroyed.

This was painful for humanity as a whole.

Hearing Gu Qing Shan say that, the three people felt sympathy and respect.

He came here by himself in order to perish with the enemy!

Xie Gu Hong sighed: "Sect master Zhao, the Divinities are still with us. After we return safely, I will personally ask them to help you rebuild your sect"

"Thank you for your goodwill, but I've already decided" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Hearing that, the three of them no longer tried to convince him.

At their level, each decision they made wasn't going to be changed by the words of someone else.

The burly man changed the subject: "It is such a rare chance for the two worlds to intersect like this, so we felt that it would be better to obtain more information here rather than defend against the siege in the Heaven realm"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I also agree"

Xie Gu Hong asked: "Sect master Zhao, how long has it been since you came here?"

"Not too long ago. I was thinking of how to get past these monsters when you noticed me" Gu Qing Shan replied.

As he glanced at these people, he slowly recalled who the old man and burly man were.

While he was still a disciple in the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace, Gu Qing Shan had already learned of the powerhouses of humanity. Once he became the Divine King, he received even more detailed information about each of humanity's top Combatants.

This white-haired old man was the Grand Elder of a certain sect, an expert in Elemental spells and the 6 arts, including Divination.

The burly man was a loose martial cultivator, but he was also one of the strongest people humanity had, an almost unbeatable Combatant in close combat.

These three were all cultivators beyond Void Beholder realm.

The old man was a Void Wanderer realm cultivator, even if he was categorized by the future 900 million World layers standard, he would be ranked as a top Combatant.

This was also the main power level of the 900 million World Layers, highly respected by living beings everywhere.

The burly man was a bit stronger, a Void Revolution realm cultivator.

Void Revolution realm cultivators could already be considered Lord-class Combatants within the 900 million World Layers, but they weren't the most powerful among Lord-class.

——the standard for Void Wanderer realm in the future were Combatants that could break the void of space with a single strike and observe at least 90 worlds for a brief moment.

——the standard for Void Revolution realm were Combatants who could break the void of space with a single strike and see at least 800 worlds revolving in front of their eyes.

There was another realm above these two realms, when compared to the 900 million World Layers' standards, cultivators of this realm would be equivalent to the strongest Lord-class Combatants. Capable of breaking through and witnessing 3000 worlds with a casual strike, lingering for a long time without fading away. Because of that, this realm was simply called Three Thousand Worlds realm.

These three realms were commonly referred to as 90-Void Wanderer, 800-Void Revolution, and Three Thousand Worlds realm.

The difference between these realms was so great that there was practically no way to win against an enemy above their level.

As far as Gu Qing Shan knew, Xie Gu Hong had already reached Three Thousand Worlds realm a long time ago, the strongest Combatant of humanity, the pinnacle of power.

Before the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace was destroyed, Xie Gu Hong was suspected to have broken through this realm and reached Paragon realm.

The Paragon realm was the realm of Divinities, where one can use the four pillar Elements of Earth, Water, Fire, and Wind to create a new world for themselves.

Because of that, the Divinities wanted to spar with him to check his real strength.

In the end, even though Xie Gu Hong hadn't reached Paragon realm, his swordsmanship was so great that he managed to win against a Divinity by half an exchange, leading to the fall and calamity of the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace.

Right now, Gu Qing Shan was taking Zhao Wu Zong's appearance—— a Void Revolution realm peak cultivator, a bit stronger than the burly man and the old man, but much weaker than Xie Gu Hong.

Gu Qing Shan quickly determined the difference in everyone's strength before asking: "Have the three of you came up with a way to go past these monsters?"

Xie Gu Hong replied: "We wouldn't be able to kill them all, and doing that can easily draw the attention of more powerful monsters, so we are waiting"

"Waiting?" Gu Qing Shan asked, puzzled.

"Yes" the old man continued: "Periodically, the chaotic tides would erupt here, followed by an extremely strange noise"

The burly man added: "We've managed to faintly determine the pattern. When the next chaotic tides arrive, we will follow the strange voice and attempt to break deeper into the Desolate world"

“Strange voice?” Gu Qing Shan asked doubtfully.

The old man explained: “When the strange voice appeared the last few times, in consideration of danger, we decided to ignore it”

Xie Gu Hong continued: “But now we don’t have any better ideas, so we’re planning to risk it once and follow that sound during the next chaotic tides”

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“Wait a minute— aren’t you afraid this might be a trap set by the Lord of Desolation?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

Xie Gu Hong replied: “Before we found you, we heard the Lord of Desolation’s furious roar resounding across the entire world, apparently it was being held back by something”

The old man added: “Furthermore before we noticed sect master Zhao, I performed Divination and found that it would be safe”

Divination was mystical and mysterious, as long as the practitioner reaches a certain level of expertise, they would be able to receive trustworthy predictions at the cost of their life force.

Furthermore, the spirit sense of these three cultivators was considerably powerful, so their sense of danger was quite reliable.

Gu Qing Shan slowly nodded.

“Then let’s wait together” he said.

A few moments later.

The three cultivators’ expressions changed at the same time.

The burly man whispered: “The chaotic tides are here!”

Everyone went quiet.

The ‘chaotic tides’ that they’ve been talking about was a natural phenomenon created by the demon stones that existed all over the Desolate world.

The countless demon stones in the world would give off chaotic energy that would fill the void of space. The longer they were undisturbed, the more energy it would accumulate, and this energy would periodically erupt.

Boom— —

The intense sound of explosions resonated across heaven and earth.

Elemental energy clashed and overlapped, forming a constant sharp sound of friction that felt like a gigantic monster was constantly howling and crying in pain.

The cave itself began to shake and tremble as well.

The chaotic tides continued to exert its power, lasting for several dozen seconds.

At a certain point, a lively female voice resounded inside the cave:

[Discovered four humans in danger, attempting to provide aid to safety]

[As the System is in a state of severe energy deficiency, only one option remains]

[I will provide you with Shadow Origin Power to conceal your figures, will you accept?]

The four people exchanged glances.

The other three were relatively fine, as they had already been through this before.

But Gu Qing Shan was almost shocked stiff.

Lines of glowing text were scrolling across his retina.

[Discovered large-scale human war facility, attempting contact]

[Attention please!]

[The other side is in a state of severe energy deficiency, connection failed]

[Please replenish energy to the other side and awaken this large-scale war system]

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help asking in his mind: "System, what kind of energy does it require?"

[Ting]!

The War God System replied: [I haven't directly come into contact with it so I don't know its operational energy source, you will need to find out yourself]

Gu Qing Shan fell silent.

At this point, Xie Gu Hong spoke: "I'll go first. If this is a trap, I'll jump outside and fight with the monsters until my death"

He glanced at the other three cultivators: "If things really come to that, I'll draw the monsters' attention. The three of you can decide for yourself whether to search for a way to continue forward or to return"

Saying so, Xie Gu Hong didn't wait for their answers and flew upwards: "I accept!"

The female voice responded: [Providing Shadow Origin Power]

[Please pay attention, as the System's energy is inefficient, the Origin Power can only provide concealment for 1 hour]

Oong—

From the void of space, grey circles suddenly manifested and wrapped around Xie Gu Hong.

The circles slowly faded away.

Xie Gu Hong also disappeared from the three people's sight.

Even after releasing their inner sights, the three of them still couldn't sense Xie Gu Hong's existence.

The old man hesitantly spoke: "Palace Master Xie, are you still here?"

Across from them, Xie Gu Hong's voice replied: "How miraculous, I'm clearly still standing here, but I can't see myself at all— not even with inner sight"

The burly man spoke: "If you're already accepted the spell, we're probably going to find out whether or not this is a trap soon enough"

The four people waited for a few breaths of time.

Nothing happened.

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The Desolate world.

On the vast field of pebbles, a chaotic tide that swept across the entire world was rampaging.

The mixed Elemental energy as well as other unrecognizable energies filled the void of space, manifesting as intense tornadoes that ravaged the earth.

The gigantic horde of Desolate monsters on the ground were clearly restless and uneasy.

— — — however, this was due to the chaotic tides, it had nothing to do with what happened to Xie Gu Hong.

Seeing this, the cultivators calmed down.

The burly man and white-haired old man exchanged glances, both feeling a bit fortunate.

Because whatever the voice was, it was able to easily sense the four of them, a terrifying enemy to face.

They followed Xie Gu Hong and said 'I accept' towards the void of space, quickly obtaining the temporary concealment.

Xie Gu Hong's voice came from the void of space: "Seems like I'll be able to investigate the Desolate world's deeper end now"

"I'll go with you" the white-haired old man said.

"I as well" the burly man followed.

"Sect master Zhao, what about you?" Xie Gu Hong asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Fellow Dao seeker Xie, you can go ahead first, I want to know where the voice just now came from and what it was"

Xie Gu Hong's voice replied: "That is fine, then we will go on our separate ways— we will investigate the Desolate world while you search for the secret of that voice"

This was the most reasonable way, as Xie Gu Hong and the other two only had 1 hour of concealment, enough to investigate this world.

In their minds, that time wouldn't be enough to understand what this voice meant or how to deal with it.

Since Zhao Wu Zong expressed interest in it, let's leave it to him.

"Good, we'll split up" Gu Qing Shan slowly nodded, then asked another question: "If this voice appears together with the chaotic tides, how long does it usually take for a chaotic tide to erupt?"

Xie Gu Hong told him: "From what we've seen, a chaotic tide would erupt once every 3 to 4 hours"

Gu Qing Shan continued: "In other words, your 1 hour of concealment wouldn't be enough to last until the eruption of the next tide"

Xie Gu Hong nodded: "Indeed, there's only 1 hour, we wouldn't be able to obtain this great concealment ability again"

Since there wasn't much time, he told Gu Qing Shan: "Sect master Zhao, take care of yourself, we need to go first"

Gu Qing Shan said: "Wait!"

He tapped his Inventory Bag, took out a formation plate and quickly arranged a warp formation.

He tossed three single-use warp talismans out for the three cultivators to catch.

"If there are any dangers, you can return straight to this place" Gu Qing Shan explained.

"Perfect, sect master Zhao is truly a considerate person" Xie Gu Hong praised.

"But why haven't I ever heard that sect master Zhao was an expert in formation arts?" the white-haired old man doubtfully asked.

Gu Qing Shan casually answered: "Who doesn't have a few tricks up their sleeves?"

The other three nodded slightly.

Indeed, which high-realm great cultivators don't have a few means that others don't know about?

Three voices came from the void of space: "Take care!"

Gu Qing Shan also clasped his fist and replied: "Take care!"

A hole opened above the cave, then quickly closed again after a few moments.

They left.

The only person left in the cave was Gu Qing Shan himself.

He quickly began contemplating.

—from what those three said earlier, that female voice would appear whenever a chaotic tide erupted.

This was a periodic event, but the female voice claimed that she was in a state of energy deficiency.

Then how did she keep showing up to check, ask their opinion and prepare Shadow Origin Power to conceal the three of them each time?

Does doing that not cost any energy?

There are many possible reasons for this, I can't confirm any of them for now.

Gu Qing Shan continued to think.

Even now, the secret of this war System has far surpassed what Xie Gu Hong discovered in the Desolate world.

The chaotic tides...

Maybe the chaotic tides replenish just enough energy for humanity's large-scale war System each time?

Energy of the chaotic tides comes from demon stones.

And the entire Desolate world is made from demon stones...

There aren't any holes in this train of thought, but I need to further confirm it.

At this point, it started to become calmer outside.

Gu Qing Shan realized something.

———this chaotic tide is about to end.

That's not good, if the war System loses its power again, I won't be able to conceal myself for the next 3 to 4 hours.

Gu Qing Shan immediately said: "I accept your proposed strategy"

As soon as he said so, grey circles manifested around him.

Very quickly, his body disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan didn't waste any time and immediately asked: "How should I replenish energy for the war System?"

No response.

The female voice didn't answer him.

After waiting for a bit more, Gu Qing Shan noticed that the outside had become calm again.

The chaotic tide is over.

Seems like that system went dormant again.

Fortunately, I'm concealed now—— or perhaps I used up the last of its energy.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and glanced at the War God UI.

A few lines of glowing text hovered on the War God UI.

[You have been reinforced by Shadow Origin Power]

[You have 2 hours of concealment]

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[As the power source of this concealment was Origin-level energy, Desolate monsters won't be able to perceive your actions]

Gu Qing Shan quickly read through them.

“What is Shadow Origin Power?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Ting]!

A clear chime came from the System.

[Seeing how you currently are in a dirt-poor state, the System won't take your Soul Points and answers as such:]

[Shadow Origin Power is power from the Origin of a Shadow-type world]

[P.S: As you have now begun to comprehend the categorization and structure of power, further explanations provided below:]

[At their essence, power can be divided into two categories, the first is Origin of worlds, the second is Soul Essence or Soul Points of living beings]

[The countless powers that all living beings of the infinite worlds possess all came from these two types of power]

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly: “Since Divinities imitate humans, they also use Soul Points?”

[Correct] the System responded.

“Then, which is more powerful?” Gu Qing Shan continued to ask.

[From an objective point of view, both types of powers have their own advantages, but from the War God System's point of view, you will need to answer this question yourself— just like the time you were in the Suspended world] the System answered.

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

The Suspended world...

During the time of the world's destruction, I competed to the death against a Rakshasa who had the [Mystery of All Things Equal] with my own [Mystery of All Beings Equal].

Gu Qing Shan then recalled the situation when he killed the God of Frost and Chill.

In theory, I wouldn't have been able to win against him at all.

But because he was heavily wounded by the 7-colored spear and fully focused on inheriting the Divine King's throne, he let his guard down for a brief moment and was killed by me who turned into the 6-legged Winged Snake.

Gu Qing Shan thought for a while and muttered: "The problem isn't which power, but rather how and when to use it..."

The War God System remained silent and said nothing else.

Gu Qing Shan released his inner sight to observe himself.

Indeed, even I can't see myself right now, this is absolute concealment.

Let's begin then.

He untied the frost Blade at his hip, wielded it, and closed his eyes.

His inner sight expanded outside, went through the mud and rocks before focusing on a demon stone on the surface.

Divine skill, [Shadow Shift]!

Gu Qing Shan disappeared from inside the cave and reappeared on the barren field full of pebbles and rocks.

He was still quite far away from the horde of monsters, and this was a relatively secluded location.

Gu Qing Shan took out an Inventory Bag and began to gather demon stones on the ground.

If the chaotic energy these things give off could power the war System, I need to bring quite a few of them with me.

He filled an Inventory Bag of 500 cubic meters.

Gu Qing Shan hesitated for a bit, then took out another Inventory Bag.

This was one of the Inventory Bags Zhao Wu Zong carried on himself, the most empty among them. There were just a few bottles of pills and spirit cooking inside.

Gu Qing Shan put all of them into his own Inventory Bag, then began to fill this one up with demon stones as well.

— — —there's no harm in bringing a bit more, even if they're useless, I can just throw them away without losing anything.

After this Inventory Bag was also full, Gu Qing Shan leapt to the sky.

The chaotic tide had just ended, so the various twisted and clashing types of energy had all been released and returned the void of space to a relatively peaceful state.

Gu Qing Shan hovered in the sky, determined where he needed to go, and started to fly towards the faint distant towering structure.

On the ground below, the horde of monsters took up every free spot in the wilderness, either sleeping or moving around, but none of them noticed him.

As Gu Qing Shan looked at these monsters, he suddenly realized something.

He glanced at the War God UI, selected the [War God Title] icon, and equipped the [Sword Demon] title.

He picked a particularly big Desolate monster and looked at it.

Countless sword images surged in a frenzy inside his eyes.

——-title skill, [True Soul Severing Eyes]!

For a brief moment, the monster vanished, then reappeared.

When it came back, the monster was already sliced in half, completely dead.

The monsters around it became rowdy.

But even after looking around, none of them found anything.

After a few moments, the monsters couldn't resist the temptation of flesh and blood anymore as they began to rip and tear that dead monster's body apart.

At the same time, a few lines of notification appeared.

[You killed a Desolate soldier]

[As you are disguised as the God of Frost and Chill, at the same time disguising as the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect's master Zhao Wu Zong, your personal strength——]

Gu Qing Shan immediately cut the System off and spoke: "During that fight, I used nothing but my own strength, don't you dare use that same excuse"

The text of the notification stopped.

A few moments later.

A new notification appeared.

[You killed a Desolate soldier]

[As you only used your own strength, the battle was judged as follow:]

[Soul Points +30,000]

Seeing this notification, Gu Qing Shan looked up and sighed, unable to hold back his smile.

But the notifications continued:

[As the System gave you a great amount of Soul Points in advance during the Divine race inheritance ceremony, the System will deduct an appropriate amount from this battle]

[Through calculations of all factors, the System had determined the number of Soul Points to deduct]

[System deduction complete]

[Remaining Soul Points: 3/600]

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Seeing the remaining Soul Points number displayed on the War God UI to be [3/600], Gu Qing Shan almost fell down from the sky.

There was an entire horde of monsters down there, even if Gu Qing Shan was currently reinforced by an Origin-grade concealment, he would definitely be discovered if he fell directly on top of the monsters.

He barely managed to regain his balance and calmly spoke: "System, just exactly how much Soul Points did you provide me in advance, tell me clearly"

The War God System remained silent without replying.

Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but ask again: "At least tell me the number so that I can keep count and know how long until I can pay everything back"

A few moments later.

[Ting]!

The System finally answered him with a clear chime: [When providing your Soul Points in advance last time, the System used up a lot of its Soul Points, causing the System to be damaged to a certain degree. The System might require a long period of time and a constant flow of Soul Points to gradually heal]

A long period of time---

A constant flow of Soul Points---

Gradually heal---

Hearing these three keywords, Gu Qing Shan almost felt impressed.

He sighed: "Let me guess--- when I learnt how to act before, you also took a lesson, didn't you?"

The System didn't answer.

Gu Qing Shan waited for a while more, but still didn't get a reply, so he continued flying forward.

He carefully thought about it.

All things considered, the System was still the one that saved me in the Apocalypse and brought me back to the past.

Furthermore, I can't deny that the System did provide Soul Points for me in advance.

That was why Gu Qing Shan didn't mind it too much.

---so you want some Soul Points?

As long as you don't act like the bike chains that break in the most crucial moment, I'll indulge your whims for now.

Gu Qing Shan continued to fly, occasionally looking down at the horde of monsters below and killing a few of them.

He didn't want to kill too many, otherwise he might attract the attention of more powerful monsters.

Soon enough, his total Soul Points increased to [22].

Hm...

It's a gradual but real improvement.

...

He kept flying forward.

And then finally reached his destination.

Even as a Void Beholder realm cultivator, it took Gu Qing Shan several minutes to get to his destination while flying at full speed.

Finally went past the sea of monsters and reached a high fortress wall.

This was a gigantic fortress wall made out of an unknown material that seemed like black stones, connecting one end of the horizon to the other without him being able to see the edge.

A warning plate was clearly attached to the wall, clearly aged, but he was able to make out the words written in Desolate Tongue.

[Do not climb the wall, do not stand on the wall, do not go past the wall. Violators will face the consequences of their own actions].

Gu Qing Shan took two steps back and looked up on top of the wall.

There was nothing above

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly and tried throwing a piece of demon stone on top of the wall.

As soon as the demon stone approached the wall, a gust of gray wind lightly swept across it.

The demon stone was gone without a trace.

The grey wind also quickly disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan's expression turned serious.

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword appeared from the void of space and turned into Shannu as she worriedly told him: "Gongzi, it's Winds of Chaotic Tribulation"

Gu Qing Shan lightly nodded.

It turns out there were Winds of Chaotic Tribulation blowing on top of the wall.

This was a kind of wind that could destroy countless worlds, no one was known to be able to stop it.

As far as Gu Qing Shan knew, the only thing capable of blocking it was the Grand Tie Wei Mountain of the Samsara Huang Quan Path.

But here, this ferocious wind was being blocked out by this fortress wall.

Gu Qing Shan reached his hand out and pressed it flat on the wall.

A few glowing lines of text appeared on the War God UI.

Perhaps he was imagining it, but Gu Qing Shan felt like the War God UI's text displaying speed became a bit faster after he stopped being concerned with the Soul Points...

[Discovered structure: Bygone Era War Barrier]

[Description: This is a fortress barrier created by the Bygone Era humans. Humanity used this grand wall to protect themselves against the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation and other things]

[Note: This barrier consists of materials from the greatest achievement and crystallization of human knowledge: The Bygone Era Samsara— Huang Quan Path]

Shannu carefully observed the wall as she felt a sense of closeness to it.

“Gongzi, I think this wall was made from the Grand Tie Wei Mountain” she whispered.

Gu Qing Shan sighed: “That’s right, what a shocking thing”

He went silent and carefully considered this information.

The Samsara was the greatest crystallization of human knowledge?

I recall that the Samsara replica created by the Divinities was destroyed by the Lord of Desolation.

—why did the Divinities sneakily create the Samsara behind his back?

—and the Lord of Desolation was so furious with this that he killed the Divine King without question, this was also a point of concern.

Why?

Gu Qing Shan closed his eyes and recalled the words the Lord of Desolate had said when he killed the Divine King.

...

『The Samsara cannot be controlled. You dared to imitate the power of the human race and created it means that you’re challenging my authority 』

『You don’t understand, even though that thing is still incredibly weak right now, it will surely grow on its own, finally becoming a powerful tool of the human race, becoming so great that neither you nor I will be able to control 』

...

Gu Qing Shan opened his eyes.

He had a certain thought, but it would need to be confirmed with other clues.

As for now——

Gu Qing Shan began to carefully feel the wall.

Perhaps Xie Gu Hong and the other two don't understand Desolate Tongue, but as the top Combatants of humanity, they wouldn't randomly risk their lives by trying to go over the wall.

——especially since I know Xie Gu Hong would return to humanity unharmed.

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They must have found other ways.

After a short search, Gu Qing Shan noticed a place on the ground right in front of the wall that was clear of dust.

He came down, pressed his hand on the ground and tried knocking it.

The ground was solid with no clear reaction.

Seems like this isn't the place.

Gu Qing Shan stood up and pressed his hand on the wall right above.

A voice suddenly came from the fortress wall:

[Begin verification]

[From lifeform structure, determined to be: human civilian, little boy]

[In accordance with wartime protection protocols, young children may seek refuge here]

The wall parted ways to reveal a small opening just enough for Gu Qing Shan to enter.

Gu Qing Shan was stunned for a while.

I've already lived two lives and went through countless battles and apocalypse, why did it determine me to be a civilian little boy?

If assuming the same procedures as testing for diseases and health...

Then it was my strength——

Gu Qing Shan didn't want to think too deeply about it.

This was too embarrassing.

He forced the puzzled feelings in his mind down and quickly entered the fortress.

As soon as he came in, the wall closed behind him.

A flight of stairs heading downwards appeared at his feet.

Gu Qing Shan walked down this flight of stairs as his thoughts fluctuated.

—seems like Xie Gu Hong and the rest entered the inside of the wall through this place— I wonder what age they were determined to be.

Considering how powerful Xie Gu Hong was, maybe he isn't a 'little boy' but rather a 'civilian teenager'?

With various thoughts on his mind, Gu Qing Shan maintained a level of caution as he continued walking deeper into the fortress.

After a while, he decided to walk faster.

The concealment only lasts for 2 hours, I don't have time to waste.

He was almost flying down the flight of stairs at this point.

About 100 breaths later.

Gu Qing Shan reached the deepest part of the underground fortress.

He stood on the final step of the stair.

Walking off this step would place him in an endless void of darkness. It was similar to looking down a cliff of a mountain without seeing anything below— or perhaps a bottomless abyss, no matter how far he extended his inner sight, he couldn't sense what was at the bottom if anything at all.

Gu Qing Shan waited for a few moments.

If Xie Gu Hong found this place, then they wouldn't have disappeared without a reason.

Time slowly passed.

10 breaths later.

From a distance, countless stars were heading towards Gu Qing Shan.

Almost immediately, Gu Qing Shan found himself being surrounded by stars.

These stars circled around him and formed a river of light within the endless darkness.

It was magnificent and unimaginable.

Gu Qing Shan regained his calm and glanced at the nearest moving star.

The star seems to have noticed his gaze as it turned into a card.

The card depicted a beautiful woman wearing a long white skirt, looking at him with an expression of grief.

The woman spoke: [This place was already close to being completely destroyed, fortunately, I can still provide you a place of shelter]

As soon as she started speaking, Gu Qing Shan noticed that she was the female voice that appeared in the chaotic tides.

The woman slightly shifted her body to allow Gu Qing Shan to see the background of her card.

It was a peaceful and beautiful small island.

Gu Qing Shan stared closely at the woman, feeling an uncontrollable sense of awe.

He had never felt this kind of emotion towards any Divinity.

He clasped his fist: "Thank you for your kindness, but I did not come to seek shelter"

The woman asked: [Then why did you come?]

"I came to find the way to win against the Desolate race and Divine race" Gu Qing Shan replied.

The woman told him: [Regretfully, you've come here too late. The 18,800 civilization subsystems of humanity here have all been destroyed]

She gestured for Gu Qing Shan to look around.

[Please look, the dim stars are the civilization subsystem worlds that have been destroyed]

As Gu Qing Shan looked around the sea of stars, he found that most of them had indeed become dim.

The woman continued: [There are also 5300 subsystem worlds that are in a state of energy deficiency, unable to operate. They are the stars that give off blinking faint light]

[Please take a look at the red star]

Gu Qing Shan followed where the woman pointed and found a star that was glowing red.

"This is?" he asked.

[The King of the Desolate race was currently rampaging within this final secondary defense subsystem world together with its kinsmen, attempting to destroy it] the woman answered.

She sighed: [The secondary defense subsystem is one of the two only operational subsystems left. If it is also destroyed, the subsystem I have will be the last one remaining]

"Secondary defense?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Indeed, I used to have many other defense subsystems, but they have all been destroyed by the Desolate race] the woman answered.

"Are the Desolate race stronger than these defense subsystems?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[No. The subsystems require energy as well as human operation to show its true power, but no humans have been here for over a million years] the woman replied.

"In other words, the previous three people who came before me entered the final subsystem world?" Gu Qing Shan continued to ask.

The woman replied: [Indeed, that place is a cultivation-type subsystem world, as well as the final intact subsystem world. It is very suitable for them]

She then looked straight at Gu Qing Shan: [The gate into the cultivation-type subsystem world is still open and fully functional. You can take this time when the Desolate race have yet to invade that world to go in]

Gu Qing Shan went silent briefly before suddenly asking: “Would the concealment spell you used on us be able to deceive the King of the Desolate race?”

The woman replied: [I can increase the output of the Shadow Origin Power on your body to achieve this effect, but the time of your concealment will be halved]

“Very well, then please increase the output for me, and then——”

Gu Qing Shan pointed at the glowing red star: “Please send me into the secondary defense subsystem, thank you”

Translator: La0o9 **Editor:** La0o9

The secondary defense subsystem world.

The large-scale war alarm system was spread out all over the world, dying the sky in crimson light.

Because the entire world was in a state of war, the sound of the alarm hadn't stopped even once.

Despite this sound being an ear-piercingly high-pitched and loud, it was being overshadowed by a smaller but more constant sound of chewing.

It was the sound of the monsters chewing everything they could.

The Desolate monsters were slowly but surely advancing forward.

Over 2/3rd of the world had already fallen, the only place left still standing was the core defense point of this world.

This was a hard and slow battle.

Fortunately for the Desolate monsters, they had ample experience with wars like this. They would alternate between attack and defense, calmly and orderly coordinating organized attacks without appearing impatient.

The Lord of Desolation and its strongest subordinates hadn't appeared on the battlefield at all.

They were resting at the backline, silently waiting for the decisive battle.

——they have already destroyed over 18,800 subsystems, among which there were 647 secondary defense subsystems of the same level as this one.

That was why they knew very clearly how to win this war with the least amount of casualties.

They can simply follow every single step of what was already found out from long ago to easily obtain victory.

——but they didn't know that right above them, a person was watching over everything.

Gu Qing Shan.

Still in a concealed state, he had just arrived in this world.

“A technological world... but it’s a bit strange...”

Gu Qing Shan stared closely at the battle mechs that were wrestling against the horde of monsters and muttered.

He was unable to tell for sure, so he descended a bit lower and entered the battlefield.

At this point, over a dozen Desolate monsters charged at once and pushed one of the battle mechs to the ground, ferociously ripping it apart.

The battle mech simply emitted a type of constant shockwave attack to destroy its nearest enemy.

Against so many monsters, it was unable to put up much of a fight before being thoroughly destroyed.

The monsters continued to head towards the next battle mech.

It was now that Gu Qing Shan came closer and checked the wrecked mech.

He carefully observed it, then used the frost Blade to slice along the broken portion of the mech.

Sha—

Blood began to flow out, there were even severed red muscles where he cut.

Gu Qing Shan put his sword away and nodded.

He finally understood the strange feeling from before.

These weren’t regular metallic mechs.

They were lifeform-based weapons, their bodies were structured in the same way that a human body would be, if they become too heavily wounded, they could even bleed.

Gu Qing Shan once again took flight and observed from above.

This entire area was made from a metal alloy, but every metallic structure was being swarmed by a type of flying ant-shaped small Desolate monster, slowly eating through them.

Some of the structures would occasionally retaliate with powerful attacks that would wipe out a huge chunk of the horde of flying ants.

At times like these, the flying ants would retreat and let more powerful Desolate monsters like the 6-legged Winged Snake go in front to completely destroy the artillery of these structures.

And then the battle mechs would come out to go into close combat with their enemies.

The Desolate monsters would also respond in kind.

The battle would instantly enter its most intense close combat phase.

After struggling for some time, thanks to their advantage of number and strength, the Desolate monsters would manage to invade that area of the battlefield and continue moving forward.

By repeating this indefinitely, the monsters would take over more and more areas.

Gu Qing Shan stared blankly at what was happening on the battlefield.

—-*you call this war?*

He shook his head and glanced at the War God UI.

Some notifications had popped up on the UI.

[The War God System has taken over the controls of this world's defense system]

[Detected this world's central defensive processor]

[Please move South East 1200km and prepare to take control of the defense system]

Reading through, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help asking: "You can take over this entire world's control system?"

[Ting]!

The War God System replied: [Not me, but you. You are a human so you naturally have the authority to take over the defense system]

"Ah, and here I thought you had that much power" Gu Qing Shan commented.

The War God System ignored him.

Gu Qing Shan carefully counted the concealment time he had left and began to head South East.

The War God System's voice came again: [Wait]

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"What is it?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[You still have a lot of concealment time left, please collect a bit more Soul Points before heading towards the central defensive processor] the War God System said.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I can't even scratch the high-ranked monsters"

[Kill the soldiers] the War God System replied.

Gu Qing Shan hesitated for only the blink of an eye before replying: "Alright, keep track of time for me. Remind me again when time is about to run out"

[Understood] the War God System answered.

Gu Qing Shan flew into the battlefield and swung his frost Blade.

A cold gleam flashed.

A Desolate soldier was easily bisected.

A notification popped up on the War God UI.

[You killed a Desolate Spiked Beast, Soul Points +40,000]

[The System has taken 39,995 Soul Points]

[Remaining Soul Points: 27/600]

Gu Qing Shan glanced over and attacked another monster.

The entire battlefield was about several thousand miles long, with intense battles everywhere, thanks to his concealment and the fact that Gu Qing Shan didn't cause too much commotion while constantly changing his position, his actions weren't noticed by the Desolate race.

His Soul Points quickly increased.

[Soul Points +1]

[Soul Points +3]

[Soul Points +5]

[Soul Points +9]

...

While collecting the monsters' lives, Gu Qing Shan was full of questions.

——this was the first time that the War God System had openly prompted him to collect Soul Points.

This was unprecedented.

Was the War God System damaged that heavily because it provided me Soul Points in advance?

Gu Qing Shan squinted his eyes.

That can't be right.

Back in Shen Wu world, even in a desperate situation, the War God System only asked if I wanted to return to the past again to avoid dying.

While it's true that the War God System can no longer bring me back in time, the System never mentioned a single word about Soul Points during that dangerous situation.

So why is it asking for so much Soul Points right now?

While he was thinking, Gu Qing Shan's hands never stopped.

He swung his Blade and killed a Desolate monster in front of him before moving to another place and continuing to kill monsters.

As he fell deeper into thought, Gu Qing Shan was killing faster and faster.

——if the System needs Soul Points, regardless of whether it needs to heal itself or anything else, Gu Qing Shan had to support it to the best of his abilities.

After all, the System never treated him badly before.

The frost Blade was like a dancing white snowflake, flashing in and out of existence on the battlefield, wherever it passed, the monsters would always be cut up without fail.

None of the monsters could see Gu Qing Shan.

At this moment, he was their unseen Death.

...

After an unknown period of time.

A clear chime resounded.

[Ting]!

The War God System spoke: [Enough, you must immediately move to this world's central defensive processor while you still have time]

Gu Qing Shan stopped.

He glanced at the War God UI and checked his current Soul Points.

[Remaining Soul Points: 3927/600]

For him, this was quite a bit.

As for the War God UI, the amount of Soul Points it obtained was an astronomical amount, easily several dozen million.

This was enough Soul Points to do practically anything.

Even if the System was really wounded from providing him Soul Points in advance, it should heal in a flash.

Gu Qing Shan tried asking: "System, if I get another chance to conceal myself like this, should we continue killing like this?"

[Naturally— I need more Soul Points] the War God System replied.

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly.

"Alright then, let's hope we get a chance to collect even more Soul Points later on"

Gu Qing Shan smiled as he spoke, but his heart slowly sank.

Chapter 790

The intense sound of battle was left behind by Gu Qing Shan.

No person or monster was able to discover him.

He flew straight above through the smoke and fire-filled battlefield.

At some point, it became silent again.

A towering structure made completely out of metallic alloys stood still at the very end of the world.

—this was the secondary defense subsystem's innermost portion, as well as the central processor of this world.

Countless war machines and living mechs surrounded this mountainous metal structure.

They were protecting this place.

When Gu Qing Shan appeared, none of the war machines reacted or attacked him.

Gu Qing Shan flew up the metal structure and stood at the top.

He could see the flames of battle on the horizon.

—in truth, that wasn't actually very far away, the Desolate race only needed to put in work and it would only be a matter of time until they completely destroy this world.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head and asked: "Is this the core of the world?"

[Correct] the War God System replied.

As soon as it replied, the ground behind Gu Qing Shan opened up and released multiple mini flying devices that slowly assembled to form 2 transparent screens in front of Gu Qing Shan.

The two screens circled around Gu Qing Shan once before lighting up and stopped.

A gentle female voice resounded: [Identity confirmed, begin authority transference]

Hearing her voice, Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise: "Why are you also here?"

Indeed, this was the voice of the woman who helped conceal him and brought him here.

The woman answered: [This place is my subsystem, so naturally I would be able to come here and fight alongside you]

Gu Qing Shan asked: "What should we do next?"

The woman answered: [You will be responsible for commanding this siege battle, sir. I will extract your essential battle factors and provide it to various war weapons]

She then smiled at Gu Qing Shan and asked: [I still don't know your name yet, sir]

"Gu Qing Shan, and you?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The woman answered: [I am the soul of this large-scale war system, you can call me Water God]

"Water God? Are you a Divinity?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Water God is only my incarnation, I've managed to infiltrate the Divine race to try and help humanity, but I only have ample World Origin that is unable to synthesize any other types of power. I could only make sure that humanity's inheritance isn't lost while unable to do anything else] the woman answered.

While they were talking, one of the screens slowly shrunk down to the size of a fingernail and went inside Gu Qing Shan's body.

Almost right away, a long notification appeared on the other screen.

[Humanity's battle System has been activated]

[Commander: Sir Gu Qing Shan]

[Begin extraction of Gu Qing Shan's battle skills]

[Discovered a total of 79 Ice-type spells]

[Omitted 16 non-combative spells]

[Remaining spells to manifest: 63]

Gu Qing Shan looked at the Ice spells that appeared on the screen.

——*all of these were Zhao Wu Zong's Skills.*

He asked in contemplation: "You can use my battle skills?"

Water God's voice came from inside the screen: [Yes, I can use Origin to manifest your battle skills as well as providing them to all living mechs. Each living mech will carry one of your Skills, this way, their overall battle abilities will be increased by 200%]

"That much?" Gu Qing Shan asked with interest.

[The first batch of living mechs that carry your battle factors have been prepared, please give the orders] Water God told him.

"Sortie" Gu Qing Shan ordered.

[Understood] Water God replied.

The scene at the frontline appeared on the screen.

The ground suddenly opened up as brand new living mechs rose up from below.

A living mech on the first row

It leapt high into the air and descended on the battlefield, striking the ground with all of its strength using its fist.

Doong!

With a heavy dull sound, the ground shook, the monsters around it were also stunned briefly.

But this wasn't the main point.

The main point was——

Layers of frost began to manifest at the living mech's knuckle and expanded all over the ground.

Everything within 300 meters was completely frozen.

The ice slowly climbed onto the Desolate monsters' bodies and caused their actions to become dull.

Elemental Ice, [Frost-woven Ground]!

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

This was one of Zhao Wu Zong's ice techniques!

Gu Qing Shan saw this technique mentioned among Zhao Wu Zong's personal jade tags.

Following that, the second living mech also entered the battlefield.

It charged towards the group of frozen Desolate monsters and suddenly turned into a wave of icy wind.

The icy wind swept through the bodies of 7-8 monsters before reassembling as a mech over a dozen meters away.

Those Desolate monsters were thoroughly turned into ice sculptures that were easily crushed by the fists of the mechs that followed.

The ice can dull the monsters' movement as well as kill them, a type of Elemental power exceptionally suitable for wide-ranged combat.

And now, each of the living mechs here were given the ability to use one of Zhao Wu Zong's ice techniques...

The monsters were unable to adapt to this change.

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The situation of the battlefield began to change.

At this point, Water God continued: [Sir Gu Qing Shan, please assume command]

Countless metallic tentacles reached out from inside the structure.

They attached to Gu Qing Shan's body and covered his back.

All of a sudden, Gu Qing Shan felt that he was able to sense each mech and each artillery structure in this world.

With a single command, he could direct their forces to any location he wished.

But Gu Qing Shan didn't give any orders.

He only watched the scenes of the battlefield on the screen, feeling this to be a real eye-opener.

Extracting the ability of one person and bestowing it individually to war machines that fought their wars for them, is this the culmination of the Bygone Era humanity's civilization?

He grinned: "There's not much to command here, increase our forces by double after 10 more breaths and continue to clean up the battlefield. After that, when the higher-ranked Desolate monsters show up, I'll formulate our strategy according to the situation"

[Understood] the female voice responded.

Gu Qing Shan continued to observe the war situation.

The Desolate monsters were constantly being pushed back.

After the double the number of living mechs entered the battlefield, the entire war almost became a one-sided massacre.

Gu Qing Shan had a sudden thought.

This was only Zhao Wu Zong's own power that was extracted and given to the living mechs.

If...

If this large-scale war machine could extract the God of Frost and Chill's Divine Crafts...

While he was contemplating, Gu Qing Shan noticed that lines of glowing text were scrolling across his retina.

[As the deciding factor of this war came from you, you are considered to indirectly participating in this war]

[Because of that, you can collect Soul Points from monsters killed in this battle]

[Soul Points +7]

[Soul Points +11]

[Soul Points +8]

[Soul Points +3]

...

Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

Being able to collect Soul Points is a good thing.

But from how I've been collecting Soul Points, it's clear that the System is also currently amassing large numbers of Soul Points as well.

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and asked: "War God System"

[Ting]!

The System responded: [Gu Qing Shan, you must be ready, the Lord of Desolation has already noticed the change in the war]

Following that, the War God System continued: [War System: Water God, according to my calculations, a drastic change will soon appear in this war, you need to immediately evolve into an Order]

The woman called Water God replied: [Humanity had disappeared for countless years. I have accumulated enough Origin, but without Soul Points provided by humanity, I cannot synthesize the necessary factors and energy]

The War God System replied: [I shall provide you enough Soul Points, you need to evolve as soon as possible]

Water God answered: [As soon as there is enough Soul Points, I will immediately evolve]

A card went through the screen and manifested itself in front of Gu Qing Shan.

It was the card that depicted Water God.

At this point, the War God System explained: [Gu Qing Shan, I can sense extreme danger, you need to immediately put your hand on her card, I shall provide a huge amount of Soul Points for the card to help her evolve into an Order]

Gu Qing Shan placed his hand on the card without hesitation, then asked: “What are the benefits of turning into an [Order]?”

The War God System responded: [At the very least, she wouldn’t die and be able to use all the power available to help us fight]

“Have you been collecting Soul Points for this moment?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

[No, I only hope that all my preparations were excessive] the War God System replied.

When Gu Qing Shan wanted to ask more, he felt an astronomical amount of Soul Points exuding from his body.

The supernatural phenomenon began to manifest.

Due to this immense amount of Soul Points, powerful wind began to pick up around the metallic structure.

The wind formed into hundreds of tornadoes that began to rampage on the surface of the world.

— — — who knew how much Soul Points the War God System had just used.

Gu Qing Shan saw the same notifications appear both in front of his eyes and the floating screen.

[Soul Points have been replenished for the first time in a million year]

[World Origin prepared]

[Fusion begin]

[Factor created]

[Energy rising]

[Evolution begin — —]

At this point, on a far point of the battlefield, an angry roar echoed.

『 Despicable war machines! Die, all of you! 』

Boom — —

A 7-colored light erupted all the way to the sky.

The Lord of Desolation has arrived.

At the same time, the card in front of Gu Qing Shan began to crumble.

The woman on the card—— Water God, smiled at Gu Qing Shan and muttered: [We have waited over a million years to finally reach this time of evolution]

She suddenly vanished.

A glowing red notification appeared in front of Gu Qing Shan's eyes on the War God UI.

[Worlds Apocalypse Online: Human Regiment, is activating!]

Chapter 791

Above the sky.

At the end of the horizon.

The light of the 7-colored spear erupted all the way to the sky.

The living mechs, defensive artilleries, and metal structures were like paper against the 7-colored spear.

The Lord of Desolation's voice echoed:

『 Everything of the human race shall crumble to dust at my hands! 』

Its voice was solemn and dignified, spreading across this entire world.

Standing on top of the mountainous metallic structure over thousands of miles away, Gu Qing Shan could still hear the Lord of Desolation's declaration.

He stood still.

Currently, all the notifications on his retina had vanished and temporarily went silent.

[Worlds Apocalypse Online: Human Regiment] was currently in its activation stage and would become fully operational in a few minutes.

During that time, Gu Qing Shan asked: "System, we're currently inside a phantom image, so even if we awaken an [Order], that wouldn't affect the present, why did you do this?"

[Ting]!

A clear chime.

The War God System replied: [A phantom image is also a short fragment from a parallel world, everything that happened here would simply reset, thus unable to affect our reality in the past, present or future—— so why do you think I had to do this?]

Being asked that in return, Gu Qing Shan was a bit surprised.

He spoke as he contemplated: "Why did you use so much Soul Points to do something that wouldn't alter reality in a phantom image of the past..."

After a short pause, Gu Qing Shan continued: "Unless—— you have a way to bring the [Order] with us?"

The War God System replied: [That is one of the reasons, but not the most important one]

Gu Qing Shan was speechless.

So orchestrating the creation of and bringing an [Order] into reality from a phantom image wasn't even the most important reason for the System's actions!

What exactly is the War God System trying to do?

Gu Qing Shan maintained his calm and went silent for a few moments before muttering: "Some of the events that happened in history would be recreated in this repeating fragment of a parallel world... Are you trying to search for a secret hidden inside the history of this era?"

[Absolutely correct. This secret is related to the survival of humanity, or perhaps of all things] the War God System replied.

"What kind of secret is it?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The War God System answered: [It is hard to say right now, we need to patiently wait for a bit longer to see if that event will happen or not]

Gu Qing Shan silently nodded.

He could feel a sense of heaviness within the System's words.

The transparent screen floating in front of Gu Qing Shan suddenly lit up.

Lines of notification appeared.

[Worlds Apocalypse Online: Human Regiment is about to activate, begin countdown]

[10]

[9]

[8]

[7]

...

Gu Qing Shan looked up at the faraway horizon.

The 7-colored light was slowly heading towards his direction.

To avoid any other unexpected occurrences, the Lord of Desolation had decided to personally lead the troops against the resisting force.

The living mechs reinforced with Zhao Wu Zong's ice techniques were not even obstacles for the Lord of Desolation and the powerful monsters by his side.

Their frontline was once again being forced back.

At this point, notifications began to appear on both Gu Qing Shan's retina as well as the screen in front of him.

[Regiment has been activated]

[Beginning reorganization of this world's resources to select as the Order's preliminary evolution]

[Selection complete]

[In consideration of this world's resources and energy, preliminary evolution determined: Technological]

[Other regiments have entered recuperation state, technological regiment preparing for warring state]

[In consideration of the seriousness of the circumstances, personal growth mode has been skipped, forcefully initializing summoning mode]

[Beginning first regiment summoning]

[By gathering all materials, technology and energy in this world, only the primary Profession: Regiment Soldier can be summoned]

[War commander sir Gu Qing Shan, would you like to perform the summoning now?]

Gu Qing Shan quickly read through everything and replied: "Summon Regiment Soldier"

Following his orders, several dozen different-colored metal cubes appeared on the screen.

[The Order is still newborn and currently lacking energy, only random summoning can be performed]

[Summoning count: 2]

[Begin summoning]

Two cursors began to jump from cube to cube at high speed, finally stopping on two of them.

The silver metal cube.

And the black metal cube.

[Summoning complete]

A moment later, Gu Qing Shan felt his hands become a bit heavier.

Two cold metal cubes suddenly manifested in his hands from thin air.

One silver, one black.

———exactly the two that were summoned.

"How do I use them?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

A small line of text appeared on the screen: [Activation method is the following order: Begin the war]

Gu Qing Shan loudly uttered his order: "I declare, begin the war!"

With those words, the two metal cubes began to expand uncontrollably.

Gu Qing Shan quickly put them both on the ground.

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The two metal cubes gradually turn into humanoid metal figures.

They both saluted Gu Qing Shan and spoke in a mechanical voice:

[Biochemical Project 1st class soldier reporting to the commander]

[Sniper 1st class soldier reporting to the commander]

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Engage in combat"

[[Roger!]]

Both of the humanoid metal soldiers both turned towards the end of the horizon.

———the Lord of Desolation was rampaging together with his troops at that location.

The metal soldier observed briefly, then pulled out a 2-meter-long sniper rifle from inside his body.

The soldier raised the rifle, propped it against his shoulder and took aim towards the horizon, then stopped moving.

One breath later, his body slowly became faint, as if he had entered another world.

While watching that, Gu Qing Shan suddenly noticed that he was unable to sense his existence at all.

———*even with my inner sight I can't sense him, this is similar to the Shadow Origin Power that Water God provided me before.*

At the same time, the black metal soldier asked Gu Qing Shan: [Commander, requesting permission to use this world's resources to construct biochemical creations]

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I authorize"

[Authorization received]

The black metal soldier bowed to Gu Qing Shan a bit and crouched down.

His arms turned into liquid metal tentacles that protruded into the mountainous metallic structure.

One breath,

Two breaths,

Three breaths,

The black metal soldier suddenly started blinking in red light.

At the same time, the entire metallic ground began to rumble.

Gu Qing Shan looked down to see that besides the mountain of metal he was standing on, the metallic flooring all around was collapsing outward and quickly expanding.

This was an unprecedented earthquake!

—no, that's not it!

Releasing his inner sight to look carefully, Gu Qing Shan found that all the metal flooring that collapsed had actually turned into metal insects about the size of his thumb.

The insects' back and head were covered in a thick metal carapace, while their exposed mouth apparatus was covered in razor-sharp teeth.

It turns out the metal flooring didn't collapse, they were just transformed into this swarm of metal insects!

On the metal mountain, the black metal soldier gave his order:

[Metal biochemical insects, engage the battlefield]

Oong—

The loud, resounding sound of insects filled the air, causing the void of space itself to tremble.

The entire world had turned into a sea of insects, and at this moment, the sea of insects were turbulent!

The boundless swarm of biochemical insects took flight and crashed down onto the frontline of the battlefield like a tsunami.

This was a terrifically impressive sight to behold!

On the screen in front of Gu Qing Shan, the battle situation at the frontline was being displayed.

A 6-legged Winged Snake was the first to take flight and enter the fray.

It raised a loud cry towards the swarm of insects.

The insects right in front of it slowed down a bit.

Something in the air seemed to have struck the bugs' bodies.

In an instant—

The metal insects were angered.

They charged all at once and surrounded this 6-legged Winged Snake.

Without having time to scream its last, the 6-legged Winged Snake was completely devoured.

From afar, it looks as if a gigantic metal hand swiped at the creature and made it vanish without a trace.

The hundreds of insects that devoured the 6-legged Winged Snake's flesh paused in the air.

The other insects continued crashing down on their enemies.

After only one breath's worth of time, the several hundred insects that paused in the air began to change.

They had absorbed the 6-legged Winged Snake's flesh and began to mutate on a genetic level, slowly turning into the same appearance as the 6-legged Winged Snake.

———unlike the 6-legged Winged Snake, their bodies were still only about the size of a thumb.

But their metal carapace appeared a bit sturdier and shinier.

These mutated insects also became faster and quickly caught up with the rest of their swarm.

———the sea of insects descended from above, crashing straight into the monster's army ranks.

A massacre began.

Most Desolate monsters were unable to escape from the insects' bite and were directly erased from this world, becoming their gene specimens.

The higher-ranked Desolate monsters constantly unleashed powerful attacks of absolute power to eliminate the insects that surrounded them.

———but there were simply too many insects, this was a swarm of metal insects created from the resources of an entire world, they weren't going to be completely eliminated in a short amount of time.

The Desolate monsters' attacks were powerful enough to blast away a huge chunk of this world's surface with each hit.

But the swarm of insects seems to have a strange defensive ability that allowed them to negate most of the power in the monsters' attacks.

『 Gather by me! 』

The Lord of Desolation raised his 7-colored spear high.

Millions of rays of 7-colored light erupted from the spear, cutting down a large portion of the boundless swarm of insects.

None of the insects could approach the Lord of Desolation.

As time passed, the Lord of Desolation would eliminate a huge number of metal insects with each strike.

The Lord of Desolation angrily exclaimed: 『 Hateful insects, you dare to devour my army, I will——— 』

Time stopped right at this moment.

Bang!

Over 10,000 miles away from the battlefield, on top of the metal mountain, a dull sound of a gunshot resounded.

Chapter 792

With the sound of the gunshot, Gu Qing Shan suddenly turned his head.

The silver metal soldier had just become solid again from a concealed state.

He pulled the trigger.

An intense light flashed across the void of space for a split second.

Over 10,000 miles away.

The Lord of Desolation's head vanished, leaving only his body behind.

Thud—

His gigantic body collapsed.

The rampaging 7-colored spear also dropped to the ground.

All of the Desolate monsters stopped moving.

Their king died so suddenly that they had no idea what to do.

Of course, the metal insects didn't care what the Desolate monsters thought, they simply leapt forward to try and devour the Lord of Desolation's body.

All of a sudden, the 7-colored spear jumped up from the ground and floated in mid-air.

Countless amounts of spear images were shot from the 7-colored spear, eliminating everything around it.

Both the Desolate monsters and the mutating metal insects were unable to resist the overwhelming power of the spear.

The spear began to attack without regard for friend or foe, displaying even greater power than when the Lord of Desolation wielded it.

And then something unbelievable happened.

The Lord of Desolation's dead body suddenly started to stand up again.

— even without a head, the body could still move.

The headless body stood up and quickly headed towards the floating 7-colored spear.

Over 10,000 miles away, Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows twitched.

Staring at this eerie sight, Gu Qing Shan felt an indescribable emotion.

A sense of dread, a chill so bad it caused him to feel hard to breathe suddenly appeared and put pressure on his mind.

Gu Qing Shan felt that he was already standing at the verge of life and death, constantly lingering at the edge of a bottomless pit of despair.

No, this is fear towards a fate even worse than death!

This feeling was so similar that Gu Qing Shan immediately recalled something that happened before.

The monster that almost manifested inside the Huang Quan realm.

The monster that defeated the entire Spire Keeper Association.

An unbeatable creature!

On the screen, the headless body walked up to the 7-colored spear, reaching its hands out to grab it.

This isn't good!

Gu Qing Shan's pupils contracted, gave up on thinking any further, and shouted: "Don't let it grab that spear!"

[Understood!] the black metal soldier answered.

Oooo!

All the metal insects on the battlefield pooled together like a tsunami to stop the Lord of Desolation.

———no, not the Lord of Desolation, but his headless body.

The metal insects crashed into it, trying to devour its corpse, but the corpse was completely unharmed, the insects couldn't do anything to it.

The corpse was being pushed by the huge swarm of insects, but it maintained its balance, stepping closer and closer to the 7-colored spear.

It was about to grab the spear!

"Take aim——" Gu Qing Shan ordered.

Bang!

A dull sound of gunshot resonated in his ears.

A hole about the size of a knuckle appeared on the Lord of Desolation's body.

After consecutive gunshots, the body was struck so much it became frozen in place, unable to move towards the 7-colored spear any more.

Gu Qing Shan relaxed and exhaled in relief.

But the situation suddenly changed——

The floating 7-colored spear suddenly trembled and flew into the headless body's hands by itself.

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The headless body wielded the 7-colored spear and raised it high.

As soon as it caught the spear, an intense waterfall of light descended from above.

The boundless swarm of insects shrieked and quickly scattered, unwilling to approach that blinding brilliance.

An unspeakable change was taking place.

"System, tell me, what is that thing?" Gu Qing Shan loudly asked.

But the War God System simply remained silent without answering.

Apparently it was silently observing.

Time quickly, but gradually passed.

The sky-high waterfall of light faded away.

A cruel female voice resounded across the battlefield, coming from inside the Lord of Desolation's body.

『 Soul cattle that the Divinities shepherd, you are wonderful existences that should not have had anything to do with the hateful [Orders] 』

Following that, a male voice came from the Lord of Desolation's body:

「 Humans! Pitiful creatures that long for life, know your place as mere conduits of souls! 」

Oom!!!!

A sorrowful yet shrill sense of chill began to exude from the headless body.

The male and female voices both chanted at once: 『 「 Souls! Present your souls to me! Aaa——— 』
』

Within the grating squeal, huge numbers of metal insects were falling like rain.

Tiny, faint sprites of light came out of the insects' bodies and headed for the headless body.

『 「 And you! 』 』

The male and female voices both resounded.

The Desolate monsters also collapsed one by one, their souls escaping their bodies and flew into the headless body.

Both sides of the war, the human and Desolate side were both experiencing heavy casualties.

The moans of countless souls resounded across the battlefield.

This was a sharp, pitiful, and painful sound that caused anyone that heard it to feel the endless and ongoing suffering.

Seeing this, Gu Qing Shan finally realized.

That wasn't the Lord of Desolation.

It turns out the eerie 'God' of God Institute had existed since the Age of Old.

It pretended to be the Lord of Desolation—— or perhaps, it was hiding inside the Lord of Desolation's body, controlling him to restrain both humanity and the Divinities!

[Ting]!

The War God System suddenly spoke: [The worst-case scenario still happened, Gu Qing Shan, quickly, escape!]

Its tone became hurried: [Water God, you must devolve yourself—— return to your previous state as a war system and turn into a card so I can take you with me. Otherwise, you will die here]

[Understood] Water God's voice came.

"Where are we going?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

[Escape from here as soon as possible and return to the Strife Zones!] the War God System replied.

Gu Qing Shan immediately said: "No, Water God, take us to the other subsystem world"

[You are crazy! That is too close, it can pursue you at any time. If you die at its hands, you will not be able to redo this] the War God System responded.

"We have to go there" Gu Qing Shan spoke quickly: "I'm betting on the fact that Xie Gu Hong and the other two are still safe. None of them was a match for this monster, yet according to history, Xie Gu Hong still managed to return safely"

He shouted: "Don't you get it!? This meant that something must've happened to them, something that we don't know about, something that might be related to the Heaven sword!"

The War God System: [However——-]

Gu Qing Shan cut it off: "Trust me, I guarantee you I won't die in this world"

[...Fine, Water God, leave these two soldiers here to buy more time, we will go to the cultivation-type world first!] the System spoke.

Water God replied: [Understood, we're going!]

She turned into a card and fell into Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Layers upon layers of light descended and enveloped Gu Qing Shan.

Gu Qing Shan turned into a flash of light and vanished from this secondary defense subsystem world.

The two soldiers were still attacking with all they had on top of the metal mountain.

They were responsible for holding off this monster and buying time for Gu Qing Shan.

Chapter 793

After Gu Qing Shan left.

The secondary defense subsystem world.

The headless body of the Lord of Desolation wielded the 7-colored spear and advanced towards the metal mountain at a constant speed.

Wherever it went past, the endless swarm of metal insects as well as the powerful Desolate monsters would shriek and scream as their souls were ejected from their bodies.

The souls were flying into the Lord of Desolation's headless body, slowly replenishing some sort of power to it.

At a certain point, this headless body suddenly stopped.

Countless souls gathered at the neck of the body as a blinding cluster of light.

The cluster of light quickly morphed and changed to turn into an eerie purple color.

A few moments later, a face could be clearly seen within the purple light.

Half-man, half-woman.

It stared at the faraway metal mountain, displaying an emotion that humans did not possess.

The male and female voices spoke at the same time, containing rage, ferocity, pain, and fluctuating chill:

『 「 Troops of [Order]—— unfortunately, only two 1st level soldiers, are you asking for death? 』 』

On top of the metal mountain.

The two metal soldiers stopped their hands.

[Detected enemy, an Eternal True God]

The Biochemical Project 1st class soldier spoke with its mechanical voice.

Its entire black body slowly sank into the metal mountain and vanished.

Very quickly, a thunderous roar came from below the ground.

All the metal insects cried out at the same time.

They shrieked and took flight high into the sky, devouring one another.

On top of the metal mountain, the Sniper 1st class soldier also spoke with its mechanical voice:

[Reporting to commander, discovered Eternal True God: Soul Ripper on the battlefield, preliminary observations suggest it is not the main body. Initial conclusion: it is a miniature avatar]

[This campaign isn't conducted on a Samsara world, odds of victory are zero. Changing strategy]

Its silver metal hands began to sink into the sniper rifle.

The shape of the 2-meter-long sniper rifle slowly began to change.

Its body turned silver, the handle and gun shaft also became more complicated.

The tiny long muzzle grew to be as thick as the size of a bowl, an endless indigo light flashes on and off inside the gun barrel.

[Erasure Bullets ready!]

Right at this moment, an overwhelming amount of flesh rained down from the sky like shower.

Oong— — —

All the metal insects were now dead, only the final one remained.

This one metal insect had absorbed all of the other insects' mutated genes and slowly grew to become a gigantic metal bug that was several dozen meters long.

Its body was completely made of metal without any exposed flesh, even its composite eyes were glowing in a mechanical manner.

This giant metal insect spreads its 12 thin transparent metal wings and circled around in the sky.

Abruptly, the sound of an insect call resounded from deep underground.

This seems to be some sort of order.

Hearing this insect call, the giant metal insect began to assault the two-faced monster below.

At the same time, a cluster of light even brighter than the sun exploded on top of the metal mountain.

It was at this crucial moment that the sniper soldier attacked!

Boom!

The monster was sent flying into the sky by the bullet, then was caught by the metal insect.

Long tendrils extended from the metal insect's body, grabbed and began to spin the monster around.

A thin layer of white silk began to form around the monster.

『 「 You are courting death! You can't possibly win against me! 』 』

The monster angrily roared.

It then triggered the 7-colored spear's power.

...

On the other side.

Gu Qing Shan was being flown forward along a tunnel of light by an invisible power.

He asked in his mind: "System, do you know what that monster was?"

The War God System replied: [Through absorbing the information stored into the vault of the Divinities, I am sure that monster was an Eternal True God from the Bygone Era— the Soul Shrieker]

Gu Qing Shan scowled: "How was that a God?"

[They are not the same! Those expired personal combat Soul Artifacts only used humanity's nature of fearing the Divine and falsely proclaimed themselves as Gods]

[The Soul Shrieker isn't the same as the fake Divinities, but rather a terrifying True God that was born within the Eternal Abyss outside of the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation] the War God System explained.

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Gu Qing Shan recalled how that monster killed people and confirmed that it indeed used a kind of shriek to absorb souls.

That name is indeed fitting, but...

“Can such an eternal monster be considered a God?” Gu Qing Shan was puzzled.

The War God System replied: [Indeed, the Soul Shrieker has the divine attribute of Eternal Existence]

For some reason, Gu Qing Shan suddenly recalled the dark figure of light.

I've had this conversation once before——

It was the second time I traveled back in time and was eaten by a monster in the fog.

When I returned inside the seal, I asked the same question.

「A Space-time Fog monster, you can think of it as a God of your Divinities, it ate you 」 the dark figure of light replied indifferently.

“Can that really be considered a God?” Gu Qing Shan asked in disbelief.

「Living beings always worship things that they don't understand, it has always been that way, never changed 」 the dark figure of light replied.

...

If I remember correctly, the figure of light was also born within an Eternal property, that's why the Divine race feared it and sealed it away.

Gu Qing Shan's expression turned serious.

“What is a divine attribute?” he suddenly asked.

The War God System explained: [A unique attribute that humanity cannot explain, cannot grasp and has no way to ascertain]

Gu Qing Shan asked further: “In other words, humanity can't do anything to it?”

The War God System replied: [That is not the case, the Bygone Era humanity was able to chase them into the Eternal Abyss outside of the Chaotic Tribulation]

The War God system calmly narrated: [In the Bygone Era, humanity collectively called these incomprehensible powerful Eternal creatures as Gods]

Gu Qing Shan said: “...The sniper soldier among the two primary soldiers that I just summoned, his attacks weren't able to heavily wound the Soul Shrieker, but he was able to restrain its movements”

He thought for a bit, then muses: “But if the Soul Shrieker was only that strong, the Bygone Era humanity would've already killed it back in their time”

The War God System replied: [You are incorrect, the Soul Shrieker isn't here, its main body is still outside of the worlds, deep inside the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation, inside the Eternal Abyss that humanity can never reach]

[It is a place that is as deep as it is unfathomable, the creature we saw earlier was nothing but a small avatar of the Soul Shrieker]

Hearing this inexplicable explanation, Gu Qing Shan felt a bit heavier.

He asked: “Was the battle between the Bygone Era humanity and the Soul Shrieker recorded in the documents that you absorbed from the Divine race’s vault? What were the results?”

The War God System replied: [I already told you, they were evenly matched— humanly had the ability to chase this True God back where it came]

Gu Qing Shan asked: “Chase it back? Is that useful?”

[It was useful for stalling time, this Eternal True God would have to spend some effort and brave the Winds of Chaotic Tribulation to climb back up from the Eternal Abyss] the War God System explained.

Gu Qing Shan then recalled the huge fortress wall that extended as far as the eye could see.

It was the sturdiest wall.

— — — a wall created from the rocks of Huang Quan’s Grand Tie Wei Mountain.

Even the 7-colored spear wasn’t able to damage this wall at all.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan suddenly realized why the Bygone Era humanity had to build such a wall.

The War God System abruptly asked: [Gu Qing Shan, now I need to ask you— — — why are you looking for Xie Gu Hong?]

“Hard to say”

[You must tell me. I have to begin the preparations]

Gu Qing Shan fell silent briefly.

It was clear, even the System was feeling a sense of urgency.

In other words— —

The System and I are currently facing a true trial of life and death.

Gu Qing Shan sighed and said: “Considering how powerful the Soul Shrieker is, it can easily control everything. Even the Samsara that the Divinity sneakily created wasn’t able to escape its eyes”

“And so, don’t you think it’s strange that Xie Gu Hong was able to obtain the method to forge the twin swords Heaven and Earth without it knowing?”

The War God System fell silent.

Gu Qing Shan continued: “This is simply illogical, so we need to see the real situation with our own eyes. Otherwise, no matter where we go in the future, we would be walking with one eye closed due to missing a crucial piece of information, finally ending in an inescapable trap”

The War God System responded: [Understood, you have decided to see for yourself how Xie Gu Hong obtained the method to forge the twin swords Heaven and Earth]

“Yep— — — wait, why don’t I see Water God anywhere?” Gu Qing Shan asked again.

[Her devolving was actually a form of self-harm, so she has now fallen dormant. We need to return to the real world before we can find a way to awaken her] the War God System replied.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

An exit was finally seen on the other side of the light tunnel.

Gu Qing Shan flew through.

He appeared in a world of boundless pure white.

There wasn't anything in this world except an arena.

At the same time, a voice resounded in this world:

[Welcome to the cultivation-type treasure vault world. Countless Bygone Era cultivation methods, spells, and powerful tools are stored here]

[As this world has lost its administrator, you must stand on the ring and prove your identity as a human to enter]

Chapter 794

Hearing this voice's words, Gu Qing Shan immediately thought of the sleeping Water God.

Since she can't control this world anymore, the world has activated this automatic defense mechanism?

Gu Qing Shan felt a bit of a headache.

He asked: "What if I'm not human?"

[You can enter if you simply prove your human identity]

"Can Desolate monsters and the Divine race enter?"

[You can enter if you simply prove your human identity]

"...Fine"

Gu Qing Shan stepped onto the arena and stood still.

An invisible wave swept through his body.

[Welcome, Elemental Water, Ice Caster cultivator. Your identity as a human has been verified, I will now answer your question]

[If you were not human, you will be ejected by a spatial Law, unable to enter this System's world]

[You may now enter this world]

Hoh---

An immense force acted on him.

Gu Qing Shan felt like he was being squeezed into the void of space.

...

Intense blowing wind.

A vast but sorrowful world.

Spirit energy filled the air.

Nature lived and prospered within this wonderful environment.

Not a single person could be seen in this vast landscape.

Only a large towering Daoist temple stood at a distance, connecting heaven and earth.

Gu Qing Shan hovered in the blue sky, observing the Daoist temple.

A faint barrier of white light stopped him here and made it so that he couldn't enter this world yet.

The voice appeared again: [Please travel to the Daoist temple to look for the Bygone Era cultivation methods and treasure vault]

Gu Qing Shan smiled bitterly.

Xie Gu Hong once compiled all of his swordsmanship knowledge into a mega-size jade tag and passed it down to me.

Unfortunately, I didn't have the time to even cultivate recently.

If I haven't even grasped this swordsmanship, how am I going to comprehend the Bygone Era spells and techniques?

However, if nothing goes wrong, I can bring some weapons or cultivation scriptures back with me and gradually study them.

He suddenly sensed something and looked down at the path leading up the mountain.

A cultivator was there.

He was the burly man that came here together with Xie Gu Hong.

Still wearing nothing on top, he stood there with his staff in hand, apparently waiting for something.

The screen in front of him disappeared.

Gu Qing Shan appeared.

The burly man immediately noticed Gu Qing Shan.

"Sect master Zhao"

The burly man clasped his fist to greet him.

Gu Qing Shan recalled the man's name and also clasped his fist: "Fellow Dao seeker Lin, what are you doing here?"

The burly man told him apologetically: "I'm waiting for you"

"Waiting for me?"

"Indeed, after you entered the other world, I immediately received the orders. The Lord said that if you appear in this place, I need to obstruct and kill you"

Gu Qing Shan went silent, then chuckled: "You and I are both Void Revolution realm cultivators, what gives you the confidence that you can kill me?"

The burly man propped his staff on his shoulder and replied: "Humans are feeble and weak, killing you isn't very hard"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Humans... you are also human, why are you speaking like that?"

He didn't intend to waste time, so he wielded his Blade and attacked with several dozen cold slashes.

The burly man suddenly dropped his staff and smirked: "Sect master Zhao, you do not know the wonders that come with being Eternal, let me show you right now"

A dull purple glow suddenly appeared from his body to form an enclosed halo.

The burly man spread his arms wide and allowed the cold slashes to attack him directly.

In just a few moments, his entire body was reduced to a fog of blood.

Gu Qing Shan was shocked.

He didn't try to block it at all?

He pulled the frost Blade back.

But the drifting fog of blood didn't fade away and simply moved around a bit in the air before turning back into the burly man.

He reappeared in front of Gu Qing Shan, completely intact.

"What are you?" Gu Qing Shan scowled and asked.

The burly man crossed his arms and casually smirked: "Just like you, I'm a human with flesh and blood. But I was reinforced with the power of Eternal"

"Sect master Zhao, your sect was already destroyed, so I pity you. How about you join us and also obtain this immortal body"

Gu Qing Shan was incredibly shaken.

As soon as he saw the purple glow from the burly man's body, he realized what was going on.

This man called Lin had already surrendered himself to the terrifying True God from the Eternal Abyss—
— the Soul Shrieker.

When Gu Qing Shan brought Barry and Kitty back to his home-world, he already saw this purple glow once.

—-those people from God Institute!

They killed the Protector of the 9 Lords.

Luckily, Barry and Kitty happened to travel to his home-world as guests on that occasion, and the two parties met.

Kitty easily restrained them.

But this purple glow appeared on their bodies at the time as well.

From what Kitty said, even after those people were killed, their souls wouldn't be destroyed and would return to a certain location to be resurrected.

But this burly man seems to be a lot more impressive than those people, he instantly resurrected after death.

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If that's the case...

I wouldn't be able to kill him and be stuck here.

If I tried to use the power of Divinity, the world itself might discover it and throw me out.

How troublesome.

"Sect master Zhao, you won't defeat me, so I suggest you listen to what benefits we can give you before you decide" the burly man crossed his arms and spoke.

Gu Qing Shan shouted in disbelief: "What immortal body, I refuse to believe it! I wasn't using my full power just now!"

He wielded the frost Blade and attacked with countless layers of heavy cold slashes.

The burly man shook his head: "It's useless no matter what kind of attacks you use— very well, let me show you one more time"

Once again, he didn't bother to block and face the cold slashes head-on.

—-this was an all-out attack of a Void Revolution realm Ice caster, yet the burly man didn't even bother to block.

He was directly turned into a fog of blood again.

Now!

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed as countless sword images manifested in his eyes.

Title Skill, [True Soul Severing Eyes]!

For a split moment, the fog of blood disappeared from this world.

The [True Soul Severing Eyes] could create a temporary world from nothing, the fog of blood would then be pulled inside that world to face another all-out from Gu Qing Shan.

At the same time, Gu Qing Shan activated his Divine Skill—— [Ground Shrink]!

[Ground Shrink] could directly teleport him to any location within his inner sight.

As a Void Beholder realm cultivator, his inner sight easily covered half of this world.

In an instant, his body disappeared.

Time continued to flow.

The fog of blood once again manifested, gathered together, and reformed into the burly man.

He appeared a bit surprised and praised: “I never knew sect master Zhao had such a rare Eye-bound Thaumaturgy that could form a world of its own. Unfortunately, it still can’t kill me”

Zhao Wu Zong sighed: “So you really can’t die”

The burly man asked: “Sect master Zhao, do you still want to fight?”

Zhao Wu Zong fell silent.

He sent his voice over a thousand miles away: “Gongzi, what should I do now?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Since he’s stalling for time, then you don’t need to fight either. Just talk to him and see if you can find out more information”

“...Gongzi... I don’t really know how to chat with strangers”

“What’s so hard about it? You know all my tricks, just use them”

“I understand, then what about gongzi?” Shannu asked.

“I need to check the Daoist temple to see what exactly happened to Xie Gu Hong” Gu Qing Shan told her.

“Yes, gongzi”

Taking Gu Qing Shan’s orders, Shannu looked at the burly man and hesitantly asked: “What do I need to do to obtain that power you have?”

The burly man was a bit surprised and joyfully asked: “So you’ve thought it through, sect master Zhao?”

“Wait a minute, I still don’t understand what happened with you——”

Zhao Wu Zong appeared a bit puzzled.

The burly man happily continued: “Wait just a minute, I will ask the great True God to see if they are willing to accept you as their devout believer”

He formed a hand seal with both hands and began muttering to himself.

Zhao Wu Zong silently stood there without attacking.

A few moments later.

The burly man's eyebrows raised just a bit.

—originally, I only mentioned this to stall for time.

But the situation was a lot different from what I expected.

This Zhao guy seems to be a bit hesitant, but his eyes showed a very clear desire and craving.

Did he really get persuaded already?

Zhao Wu Zong is a considerable VIP in the cultivation world, and the True God felt him to be dangerous enough to order me to stop him——

If I were able to get someone like this to surrender to the True God, wouldn't that be a great contribution?

If that's the case...

The burly man swept his unnecessary thoughts aside and entered a meditative state to seek out the Eternal True God's will.

A few moments later.

The burly man smiled: "Congratulations, you have obtained the True God's favor"

Zhao Wu Zong asked: "True God? You mean the Divinities are also here?"

"No, you don't understand, the bunch that took over the Sky Beyond Heaven aren't actually Gods" the burly man explained.

"Huh? What does that mean?"

"Let me slowly explain to you"

"Wait!" Zhao Wu Zong stopped him.

"What? You want to change your mind?" the burly man's expression turned angry.

"That's not it"

Zhao Wu Zong took out a formation plate and arranged a soundproof formation around the two of them.

With this formation, no cultivator from the outside would be able to tell what was being discussed inside the formation.

——naturally, the cultivators inside wouldn't be able to extend their inner sight outwards either.

Zhao Wu Zong spoke with a serious expression: "If this is a confidential matter, being careful is a must. We can't allow anyone or anything to listen in on us"

The burly man faintly sensed the soundproof formation and chuckled: "Sect master Zhao, you're too careful"

...

On another side.

A few thousand miles away.

A fish that was swimming inside a pond silently transformed into a waterbird and took flight.

After a few moments, the waterbird disappeared.

Another Zhao Wu Zong appeared and began to head for the large Daoist temple at full speed.

Chapter 795

Standing in front of the Daoist temple, Gu Qing Shan looked up.

The wall of the Daoist temple was raised as tall as the sky itself so he wasn't able to see the end.

According to the subsystem of this world, the Daoist temple was the vault that stored the cultivation scriptures and weapons from the Bygone Era.

But because this world was under constant control of the Desolate race, no human cultivator had ever made it here.

—no.

From what I found out, it wasn't under the control of the Desolate race, it was under the Soul Shrieker's split body.

From a power perspective, the Soul Shrieker's split body was unbeatable in the Desolate race and had the ability to slaughter Divinity like killing chickens.

But it allowed Xie Gu Hong's group to enter this place.

Gu Qing Shan paused briefly before acting.

He pressed his hand on the door of the Daoist temple.

A voice came from the door.

[Welcome, human civilian, little boy]

[This venue stores many cultivation-type scripture inheritance and treasures, a total of 36 floors. Each floor has its own kinds of treasures and scriptures]

[Attention please, you may only choose one treasure when you enter]

[Some treasures have a certain level of recoil characteristic, some treasures will choose their own masters, as well as various other circumstances]

[Make sure to be careful, remember it well, remember!]

Rumble!

The door opened to either side.

Gu Qing Shan entered the Daoist temple.

The first floor of the Daoist temple was empty. There was only a single warp formation at the very center.

Gu Qing Shan scanned through with his inner sight.

This was a short-distance warp formation.

Short-distance warp formations were the simplest of all the formations, so much so that this formation from the Bygone Era wasn't that different from how they exist in the future.

The warp formation was already engraved with spirit stones by someone else, so they were ready to operate at any moment.

As an expert formation user, Gu Qing Shan quickly went around the formation to carefully sense the state of each spirit stone.

These spirit stones were relatively energized so they formed a gently circulating stable circuit of spirit energy.

The scattered spirit energy fluctuations around the formation have already settled down, but there was still a tiny bit of spatial fluctuation in the void of space.

...half an hour.

From this fluctuation, the last time the formation was activated should be about half an hour ago.

—yes, that must have been Xie Gu Hong.

Gu Qing Shan walked into the formation.

Oong!

With a bright glow, the formation warped Gu Qing Shan away from this floor.

The second floor.

Gu Qing Shan appeared on a high platform.

He was a bit shocked to see the scenery in front of him.

A vast sea of shiny metals was right below the high platform.

Countless weapons and armors were piled up there, layered one upon another, too many to even try and count.

There was no way to see how deep this pile of artifacts was.

Even with Gu Qing Shan's eyesight, all he could see was a platform at a distance extremely far away.

Gu Qing Shan leapt off the high platform and used [Ground Shrink]!

He didn't bother to look at this 'sea' of treasures a second time.

—-the burly man specifically waited at the entrance to this world to obstruct him.

Since that was the case, Gu Qing Shan decided to move as quickly as possible to see what exactly happened!

A second later, Gu Qing Shan made it past this sea of artifacts and reached another high platform.

Another warp formation.

The various slots on this formation have also been engraved full of spirit stones.

Gu Qing Shan stood on it and was instantly warped away.

He left the 2nd floor and reached the 3rd floor.

This floor was different from the previous one.

Innumerable talismans silently hovered below the high platform.

The Elemental talismans glowed with the appropriate Elemental color.

Reinforcement types talismans weren't glowing as countless runes flickered in and out of the void of space around them instead.

Spatial talismans have all gathered in one place to form a warped and twisted subspace.

There were also various kinds of strange and mysterious talismans that stood alone in their corners.

Gu Qing Shan only glanced at them briefly without feeling moved.

He quickly found the high platform that led to the next floor, used [Ground Shrink] again and moved to it.

The 4th floor.

Clouds drifted about this place.

Cultivation scriptures and techniques filled the area below the high platform.

These scriptures weren't too complicated, so they didn't need to be taught with special recordings or engraved directly into the mind. Books were more than enough to do it.

Gu Qing Shan knew that there definitely were a few sword techniques among those books.

The Bygone Era and the Age of Old didn't have the concept of Secret Sword Arts, as all of their sword techniques, were highly destructive and powerful.

From what he knew about swordsmanship over the ages, the cultivators of the future were troubled by two main factors: their cultivation was not high enough, and they didn't have enough spirit energy. They had no choice but to use all of their wits and innovation to focus all their strength into a single strike and exert power beyond what was normally possible.

This was how Secret Sword Arts were born.

Purely from the perspective of swordsmanship, this was an improvement.

If the Secret Sword Arts of the future were to be taught to the ancient sword cultivators—

Thanks to their cultivation and immense spirit energy, the Secret Arts of the future would have allowed them to unleash even more of their terrifying power.

Gu Qing Shan only hesitated for a brief moment before giving up on the idea of searching for a scripture from below.

There were more important things for him to do right now!

He quickly leapt onto the higher platform and warped to the next floor.

The 5th floor.

Spirit energy here had condensed into a stream of water that flowed around an island that exuded vitality.

This was an ancient spirit garden that cultivated all sorts of precious and rare herbs.

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Sweeping through them with his inner sight, Gu Qing Shan didn't see Xie Gu Hong here, so he once again leaped onto the high platform and moved to the next floor.

Sure enough, spirit stones have been engraved into all of the slots of the formation again.

Gu Qing Shan activated the formation and left this floor.

The 6th floor.

Countless precious Smithing materials floated in the air.

The 7th floor.

This place was filled with miniature treasure tools that could be worn on one's body, like earrings, rings, scrunchie, gem ornaments, and other small trinkets that are usually carried around.

The 8th floor.

From this floor onwards, there were a lot fewer items.

Gu Qing Shan immediately noticed a turtle shell in the middle of the room.

This turtle shell gave off an indescribable sense of vicissitudes, it was even giving off faint strands of dim light that were drifting to the sky.

This was the highest grade of Divination tools, even a complete novice like Gu Qing Shan was able to faintly sense some images on top of it with his spirit sense.

Gu Qing Shan sighed.

I don't know anything about Divination, but if either Xie Dao Ling or Qin Xiao Lou had this turtle shell, they would be able to predict everything related to Bai Hua sect for the next few hundred years.

—Gu Qing Shan suddenly thought of something.

Could it be that the Bygone Era humanity had to leave so hurriedly because they knew too much?

Shaking his head, Gu Qing Shan decided not to think too much about this.

He leapt up, landed on the platform to the next floor, casually activated the formation and left.

The 9th floor.

Sprites of dimly glowing light hovered in the air, dancing like fireflies beneath the high platform.

Seeing this, Gu Qing Shan was a bit shocked.

This was the Spirit Endowment technique from the Age of Old, each of them were a different Thaumaturgy that was made into these sprites of light.

If one wanted to obtain these techniques, they only needed to touch the sprite of light and absorb what was inside.

Certain powerful spells and techniques that can split seas and move mountains were inherited and passed on through this method by dead cultivators.

However, the method to do this has been lost to the ages.

Gu Qing Shan didn't have the time to search for the secret of these Spirit Endowment lights.

He once again left.

The 10th floor.

At this level, there were even fewer items than before, but they were considerably more precious.

Gu Qing Shan completely ignored every item he saw to prevent himself from being unable to restrain his desires.

He flew directly to the platform leading to the next floor.

———the warp formation here was still engraved full of spirit stones.

Gu Qing Shan sighed emotionally.

Even after seeing so many treasures, Xie Gu Hong still didn't care for any of them.

So what exactly was Xie Gu Hong doing?

The light of the formation flashed.

Gu Qing Shan vanished from this floor.

The 11th floor.

There were a total of 30 armors on this floor.

Even without anyone wearing them, just by standing there, these armors gave off a sense of power and charm that would tempt anyone who saw them to take them away.

Gu Qing Shan immediately left without looking back.

The 12th floor.

Over 20 pills were happily playing with each other below the high platform.

— they had gained life and became sentient. Even without eating or drinking them, any cultivator would gain immense benefits just by carrying one of these pills on their body.

The 13th floor.

18 formation plates lightly hovered in mid-air, various supernatural phenomena manifesting around their void of space where they were.

Gu Qing Shan was feeling a bit impatient.

Why isn't there a single trace of him, which floor did Xie Gu Hong actually go to?

The 14th floor.

Numerous spirit beast summoning plates were displayed here.

Gu Qing Shan didn't know how the Bygone Era humans guaranteed that these spirit beasts would still exist until this day.

There wasn't much time, so he didn't bother to investigate this.

The 15th floor.

Many jade disks hovered in the air.

These jade disks had the ability to open some Heaven's Grotto from the Bygone Era.

Gu Qing Shan was feeling very tempted.

But Xie Gu Hong was still nowhere to be seen.

He had no choice but to keep moving forward.

The 16th floor.

"Sect master Zhao, you are here as well?"

A familiar voice called out.

Gu Qing Shan was glad.

Xie Gu Hong and the white-haired old man were standing in front of a row of jade tags.

They both turned their heads to see him.

Gu Qing Shan noticed that Xie Gu Hong was holding a bronze mirror.

Bronze... mirror?

Gu Qing Shan stepped forward and smiled: "I didn't think this place would be an inheritance site of humanity. Palace Master Xie, did you choose this bronze mirror?"

Xie Gu Hong replied: "This was the treasure that fellow Dao seeker Lin left behind before his death"

'Fellow Dao seeker Lin', was referring to the burly man.

"Fellow Dao seeker Lin is dead?" Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

The white-haired old man answered with a heavy voice: "Fellow Dao seeker Lin chose this bronze mirror, but he passed away from receiving the backlash from it when he tried to use it"

"Passed away from receiving backlash..." Gu Qing Shan repeated.

Xie Gu Hong sighed: "Indeed, to find out the truth of the Divinity and the Desolate race, fellow Dao seeker Lin paid the price with his life"

Chapter 796

—That wasn't death from recoil at all!

That martial cultivator called Lin still isn't dead.

Even now, that Void Revolution realm martial cultivator was still standing guard at the entrance of this world.

He was patiently explaining to Shannu about the greatness of the Eternal True God.

But Xie Gu Hong and the white-haired old man didn't know about this.

Xie Gu Hong and the white-haired old man haven't seen the Soul Shrieker and they don't know what the Eternal Abyss is. They haven't even seen the sight of a cultivator's limitless resurrection after death, that's why even though they were greatly accomplished cultivators, they still couldn't discover the unimaginable clues from the dead body.

That's why they mistakenly thought that the martial cultivator called Lin was dead.

—-dead from the bronze mirror's recoil.

Then...

What kind of secret was hidden inside the mirror that the martial cultivator called Lin would give up his life to show Xie Gu Hong and the white-haired old man?

Gu Qing Shan glanced at the white-haired old man.

No changes.

He looks like he doesn't know anything.

If that's the case...

Gu Qing Shan sighed: "To think fellow Dao seeker Lin sacrificed his own life for the sake of our humanity's future, a true example to follow"

Xie Gu Hong and the white-haired old man nodded in agreement.

Gu Qing Shan asked: "What kind of secret was he looking for?"

Xie Gu Hong gave the bronze mirror to Gu Qing Shan and spoke with a sad tone: “Fellow Dao seeker Lin used his life to erase the seal on the bronze mirror. Sect master Zhao, you can see for yourself what secrets lie within”

Gu Qing Shan received the mirror.

Lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Item: Historic Mirror of Light and Shadow]

[Description: An item from the Bygone Era that humans used to record secrets]

The two lines of text faded.

Some faint images began to appear inside the mirror.

The birth of the Desolate race was something that the Bygone Era humanity just happened to accomplish.

As time went by, the Bygone Era humanity discovered that they could leave a few simple matters to the Desolate monsters to do, so they began to give them a bit more power and abilities.

And then the secret of the Divinities’ birth.

A failed experiment.

They were personal combat Soul Artifacts that went past their expiration dates.

The secrets of both the Desolate race and Divine race were shown to Gu Qing Shan just like that.

They were indeed accurate, the same as what Gu Qing Shan had learnt.

——in fact, within the mirror, the two races’ actions to harvest the lives of humanity was shown even clearer.

“Sect master Zhao, do you think what’s recorded inside this bronze mirror is true?” Xie Gu Hong asked.

Gu Qing Shan smiled bitterly: “It’s too clear to be false”

Xie Gu Hong nodded: “I’ve watched it many times, combined with some of the crucial historical records, I found what was shown to be accurate”

The white-haired old man sighed and spoke dejectedly: “The fate of humanity has truly been too sorrowful”

Xie Gu Hong and Gu Qing Shan both fell silent.

The white-haired old man took out a tortoise shell and carefully observed the patterns on its shell.

He began to mumble something.

Xie Gu Hong asked: “Old Meng, what are you trying to calculate?”

The white-haired old man paused and replied: "This is a treasure vault of the Bygone Era humans, there must be something here that can help us change the current situation and change the future of humanity!"

He showed a sorrowful and resolute expression: "I must find that something!"

Xie Gu Hong scowled: "No! To predict the chaotic tides, you've already paid a lot of your life, you can't calculate the fate of humanity as well!"

The old man was a Void Wanderer realm cultivator, so it wasn't an issue for him to spend life force to predict the next chaotic tides.

But what he wanted to do now was find the item that would change the future of humanity within this treasure vault.

This had already gone past regular Divination or calculations, this was related to the movement of the entire world, and definitely not something the old man could take!

Gu Qing Shan also tried to stop him: "You're crazy, if you do that, even if you find that item, you would die!"

The white-haired old man replied: "Sect master Zhao, didn't you also want to risk your life to avenge your sect?"

Xie Gu Hong hurriedly shouted: "But sect master Zhao wouldn't throw his life away meaninglessly—— you should not perform this Divination, otherwise you will surely die!"

"If I can find a way to fight against the Desolate race and Divine race, then my death is worth it. Don't stop me, this is my final choice!" the white-haired old man declared.

Boom!

An intense wind came off the old man's body, making his hair and beard flutter without end.

His hands formed a complicated set of seals and loudly declared: "I burn all my lifespan, present to me the method to conquer my enemies!"

The tortoise shell in his hand shattered and crumbled to dust.

From how it seemed, the Divination was complete.

There was no going back now!

The old man will have to give up his life!

Xie Gu Hong and Gu Qing Shan exchanged looks, feeling a sense of sorrow from one another.

The old man started to float upwards and fly into the warp formation leading to the next floor.

He shouted: "The vague Heaven's Will had descended on my body, allowing me to sense a certain treasure!"

"Quickly come with me—— I won't be able to endure this for long!"

Xie Gu Hong and Gu Qing Shan both chase after him.

All three people stepped into the warp formation and vanished from this floor.

17th floor.

18th floor.

19th floor.

...

33rd floor!

The old man finally stopped here.

His aura was now incredibly weak, his eye sockets sunken in, his complexion was pale like he was at his deathbed.

Under Gu Qing Shan's and Xie Gu Hong's help, he finally arrived in front of a certain treasure.

It was a piece of long, dark purple rock that seems to be about 5 meters long.

"This is it" the old man weakly said.

Xie Gu Hong and Gu Qing Shan both walked closer to the rock.

The old man reached his hand out, trying to grab it.

But he seemed to have already exhausted all his strength, unable to even grab it.

"Let me" Gu Qing Shan said.

He helped the old man close his hand around the rock and lightly shook it.

The long piece of rock crumbled into dust and revealed two jade tags inside.

The old man hurriedly grabbed the two jade tags, then coughed up blood.

He seems to have reached the end of his rope.

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"Palace Master Xie..."

The old man spoke with difficulty.

"I'm here" Xie Gu Hong held the old man up and replied.

The old man took a deep breath and tried his best to speak: "I was able to divine this, this... this is the method to forge the twin swords Heaven and Earth"

"The twin swords Heaven and Earth?" Xie Gu Hong doubtfully asked.

"Indeed, the twin swords Heaven and Earth, weapons made specifically to kill the Divine race and Desolate monsters"

While speaking, blood was flowing from the old man's seven orifices, but he endured and continued:

"The material that makes up these two jade tags are unique, there are no others like them. You need to imbue these two jade tags into each of the twin swords to fully complete them, remember it!"

"I will" Xie Gu Hong sincerely told him.

At this point, the old man seemed to have regained a bit of his spirit as his expression became a bit less pale.

Xie Gu Hong and Gu Qing Shan exchanged glances.

They both knew that the old man had already reached his final moments.

The man old took another breath and spoke: "Promise me... You will forge the... twin swords Heaven and Earth... and change humanity's..."

He wasn't finished, but he already couldn't say another word.

Xie Gu Hong cut in: "Don't worry, this Xie Gu Hong will definitely do it!"

The old man appeared to be glad and closed his mouth.

His head suddenly became limp, his body completely sunk down in their hands.

He was dead.

Xie Gu Hong and Gu Qing Shan both said nothing.

They only lifted the old man's body on either side, feeling a deep sense of sorrow and loss.

A while later.

Xie Gu Hong stood up first.

He carefully put the two jade tags away and spoke with a lonely expression: "Sect master Zhao, have you picked a treasure yet?"

Gu Qing Shan was surprised for a split second.

He replied: "I have"

Xie Gu Hong continued: "I haven't, I will now go through the remaining floors until I find a treasure I want, and then immediately leave this place"

"Leave this place?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

Xie Gu Hong said with conviction: "Yes, I want to return— from this moment on, I can't risk any other dangers, I need to bring the method of forging the twin swords Heaven and Earth back to humanity"

Gu Qing Shan was still holding the old man's body and sighed: "Then go, I will stay here with him for a while longer, don't mind me"

Xie Gu Hong nodded and clasped his fist: "Take care"

He leapt onto the warp formation and immediately left.

Gu Qing Shan just sat there for a bit longer.

He gently put the old man's body back on the ground, still holding onto one of his hands.

"For humanity, what a great sacrifice and accomplishment"

Gu Qing Shan lightly muttered.

He grabbed a black scepter from the void of space.

The horned skull on top of the scepter suddenly jerked.

A red glow emerged out from its eyes.

The most terrifying moment for all dead people was here!

As if sensing something, the body on the ground suddenly glowed purple.

At the very next moment, it began to give off an intense aura as if it was waking up.

This was a conversion between the boundary of life and death, completely unimaginable, unexplainable, and unbelievable.

This was the power of the Eternal True God!

But Gu Qing Shan was currently holding onto the body's hand.

Elemental Lightning of Life, [Dreamjolt]!

[Dreamjolt: When hit by your Elemental Lightning spirit energy, the target's consciousness will connect with the Lightning and be forced to enter a brief dreamscape, during which they lose control of their body. Duration: 5 seconds]

[Note: This is the evolved Thaumaturgy from Stunned, Rigid and Severance, no living being is immune to it]

The old man immediately went limp again.

The purple glow from his body instantly faded—— since the spell was interrupted, for the next few seconds, he had turned back into a dead person.

Gu Qing Shan directly stabbed the Devil King Warden Rod into his chest.

The body let out a sharp, harrowing scream.

He tried to struggle and resurrect himself again.

But as soon as he tried to trigger the purple glow, a sword cut off his head.

The old man was once again a corpse.

The sword didn't go away and stayed right at his neck, cutting it off again and again.

“If you struggle any more, I’m going to use the scepter” Gu Qing Shan gently said.

A bright red glow manifested around the Devil King Warden Rod.

Sensing the power of eternal death from the scepter, the body froze and stopped struggling.

“How impressive” Gu Qing Shan sighed emotionally.

He started to give off faint killing intent.

Sensing his killing intent, the old man hurriedly begged: “Please forgive me! Don’t kill me! I don’t want to die!”

“Ah?” Gu Qing Shan’s voice became contemplation: “Even as an Eternal life form, you could sense the power of eternal death from my scepter?”

“Yes, I know about it, this is the presence of the Huang Quan path from the Samsara”

As soon as he said that, the old man tried to grab the Devil King Warden Rod with his hands, apparently trying to do something.

But his hands were immediately turned into blood mist as he screamed even more painfully.

——this was the scepter of the Devil King, representing one of the three unrivaled powers of the Huang Quan path, how could a mere dead person touch it?

Gu Qing Shan held the scepter, looked down and stared at the dead old man.

“Do you want to live?” he asked.

“Yes” the white-haired old man immediately nodded.

In fact, if he didn’t wish for eternal life, why would he betray his past?

“So you want to live? Very well”

Gu Qing Shan lightly turned the scepter.

Since the old man was being pierced by the scepter at his chest, he immediately felt intense pain.

“Aaaaa! Forgive me, I beg you, I’ll do anything you want!” the old man begged.

Gu Qing Shan stopped his hand, feeling a bit more refreshed.

“In Xie Gu Hong’s eyes, that martial cultivator’s death was real, the information in the mirror was also real—— they were so real I couldn’t even find any mistakes in them, and then your death was also real”

“No wonder Xie Gu Hong was able to find the jade tags to forge the twin swords Heaven and Earth, no wonder humanity believes so strongly in forging the twin swords in the future”

“No wonder regardless of the time, the Desolate race never tried to stop humanity from forging the twin swords Heaven and Earth, not even once”

“Regardless of the time?” the white-haired old man was a bit puzzled.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head.

His voice became grimly low: "Alright, now please tell me, what exactly are the twin swords Heaven and Earth?"

Chapter 797

The old man laid on the ground, moaning from the constant pain of being impaled by the Devil King Warden Rod.

He tried his best to let out his voice and spoke: "So you want to know the secret of the twin swords?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "Of course, that's why I came here"

The old man stared at Gu Qing Shan and gritted his teeth: "The Eternal True God planned for a very long time to be able to reach this point. If you manage to ruin the plan because of me, I will definitely be eaten by the True God"

"If you don't tell me, you'll die right now" Gu Qing Shan directly declared.

Both a black and a red glow appeared on the Devil King Warden Rod, slowly weaving together to form an eerie light that slowly crept down into the old man's body.

This was the scepter's power of [Dispersion].

A dead person eaten by the Devil King Warden Rod would only become the scepter's nutrient, unable to ever revive.

Hah, hah, hah—

A heavy voice came from the Devil King Warden Rod as if it was preparing to feast.

The old man began trembling.

As a dead person, it was impossible for him to hide or conceal his fear towards the Devil King Warden Rod.

All of a sudden, the old man cried out in a broken tone of voice: "I'm only a minion, how could I know what the True God wants to do? Please spare my life, I will even be your servant!"

Gu Qing Shan spoke without changing his expression: "I can tell that the Soul Shrieker is very invested in this matter"

"That martial cultivator's job was only to stop me, while the one who strung this entire matter along was you— a mere minion wouldn't be trusted so much or be assigned such an important role"

"That's why you are no minion, don't lie in front of me"

The old man froze.

"I won't accept any begging" Gu Qing Shan coldly declared: "One last time, tell me, or die"

His killing intent became stronger.

Staring at his eyes that contained no emotions, the old man had countless thoughts, but none of them would guarantee his life.

He sighed and couldn't help but say: "Tell me first, how did you notice the truth about this? Only then can I tell you about the twin swords"

Gu Qing Shan questioned: "This is a transaction?"

"Yes, if the reason why this matter failed was due to the True God's arrangements, they wouldn't arbitrarily devour subordinates like us" the old man said.

"I have to confirm that I would be alive before I told you anything, otherwise there's no reason for me to do unnecessary things"

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly before confirming: "I also prefer fair transactions, so I can tell you, but if you change your mind, I will immediately grant you eternal death"

"Agreed" the old man quickly accepted.

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "Truthfully, this was so simple that I didn't even need to think to see the truth"

The old man couldn't help asking: "What do you mean?"

Gu Qing Shan slowly explained: "Because as soon as I reached this world, someone tried to stop me—— your God is still stuck on another world, unable to come here due to my interference, but since it was afraid that I would mess up its plan, it ordered someone to block my way and temporarily stop me"

"Since it wanted to stop me, it was clear that its arrangements were still ongoing in this world"

"After escaping from the obstruction, I caught up with you and Xie Gu Hong"

"It was a simple process of elimination: One of you must be trying to do something by the God's orders, so there must be an issue with either you or Xie Gu Hong"

"All I needed to do was keep observing"

"After you died, the only one left that could have an issue was Xie Gu Hong"

"But at this point, I still haven't confirmed if you were truly dead or if you have the resurrection power granted by the Soul Shrieker and only faked your death"

"If I wanted to find the key to the issue, I only needed to perform a simple confirmation"

"——confirm if you were truly dead or just faking death"

"Since you were faking your death, then the issue must have obviously lied on what you did before"

"And you only did a single thing: Telling Xie Gu Hong about how crucial the twin swords Heaven and Earth were to humanity's future"

"Since there's an issue with you, there must also be an issue with what you did"

"And so there must be an issue with the twin swords Heaven and Earth"

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Gu Qing Shan sighed: "I don't even want to explain this elementary-level deduction process a second time"

The white-haired old man trembled.

He thought over and over, then couldn't help but ask: "Are you also an existence from within the Eternal Abyss?"

Gu Qing Shan didn't answer.

His tone simply became cold and merciless: "You don't need to care about who I am, now it's your turn to fulfill our bargain"

"I'll ask you one last time, why did you purposefully give the jade tags with the forging method for the twin swords to Xie Gu Hong?"

The old man glanced at Gu Qing Shan, then at the Devil King Warden Rod, and recalled his previous words, slowly showing a dejected expression.

The old man sighed: "The True God needs a weapon"

"A weapon?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The old man continued: "Yes, I'm not sure what it is exactly, but they require the most precious material within the Eternal Abyss to be forged into the twin swords Heaven and Earth— for humanity, these two swords by themselves can be used as swords, but they were in fact only crucial components within that weapon"

Gu Qing Shan asked: "You told Xie Gu Hong that the two jade tags need to be imbued inside the twin swords because those jade tags themselves are materials from within the Eternal Abyss?"

"They are, you really responded too quickly" the old man sighed.

"Why didn't the Soul Shrieker forge the swords itself?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

The old man hesitated briefly before gritting his teeth: "The twin swords Heaven and Earth must be forged with extreme precision, and it must be done for over several years to fully complete"

"The True God's main body is still asleep, only one of their split bodies are awake"

"The avatar exists in order to provide nutrient to the main body, it is great at fighting, but it doesn't know how to forge weapons"

"Because of this, the avatar has to rely on an intelligent species to create the twin swords"

"The avatar believes that the human cultivators to be extremely weak and only have enough intelligence and technique to forge the weapons, but are unable to pose a threat. That's why it arranged everything"

Gu Qing Shan silently listened and asked: "Why was its body sleeping?"

"I don't know about this" the old man replied.

“Did the avatar ever tell you why it needs to forge the twin swords?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“To complete that weapon, but it didn’t tell me what the weapon was specifically” the old man answered.

Gu Qing Shan tried another question: “Did you surrender yourself to it? Why didn’t you find someone to directly help it instead?”

“I can’t” the old man smiled bitterly, “at least 5 to 10, Three Thousand Worlds realm cultivators need to work together to forge the twin swords”

The old man continued: “Cultivators of that realm can’t win against the avatar, but they can’t be controlled by it either— since it couldn’t enter the Primordial Heaven Realm”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised: “You said it couldn’t enter the Primordial Heaven Realm?”

“Yes, in the Bygone Era, a defensive measure was put around the Primordial Heaven Realm, making it so that if the True God appeared inside, they would be immediately warped away” the old man explained.

“But it was able to go in when it acted as the Lord of Desolation” Gu Qing Shan questioned.

“Only for a short moment, when time runs out, it would still be discovered and be warped away” the white-haired old man answered.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

No wonder the Lord of Desolation left so quickly after killing the Divine King in the previous war.

That was because it couldn’t stay for too long.

The old man continued: “More importantly, even though the True God supplied the method and main materials to forge the twin swords, they didn’t give the other materials”

“Other materials?” Gu Qing Shan asked.

“Yes, these two swords require all of the power and resources of the Divine race and humanity, including most of the Primordial Heaven Realm’s resources as well as sacrificing the bodies and souls of humans and Divinities in order to truly complete”

Gu Qing Shan muttered: “If that’s the case, both the Divine race and humanity would rather die in battle than forge the twin swords”

The old man continued: “That’s why the best method for them is to create a trap, a lie for humanity to believe in”

At that point, Gu Qing Shan couldn’t help but sigh.

“Indeed, once humans are deep enough in despair, they would surely devote all their resources, some would even be more than willing to give up their souls and place all of humanity’s hopes into these two swords”

“This would certainly make it so that humanity would willingly create the twin swords Heaven and Earth”

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The white-haired old man observed Gu Qing Shan's expression.

When he saw that Gu Qing Shan's eyebrows weren't too tightly knitted anymore, he carefully spoke: "As you have asked, I've told you everything I know"

"Please, let me go!"

Saying so, the old man was already moaning and crying a little.

Gu Qing Shan said nothing and just flicked his hand.

The Devil King Warden Rod left the old man's body and was hidden back into the void of space next to Gu Qing Shan.

The old man immediately flew backward.

While flying, he also activated the purple glow

With the power of his Eternal property, the old man returned to life in just one breath's worth of time.

It was now that he showed an expression of relief.

That scepter was too terrifying, it was able to completely dominate me as a dead person.

Only after returning to life did I not feel the despair and dread anymore.

But then---

Was he really so naïve that he would really let me go?

The old man appeared puzzled and couldn't help himself asking: "Are you really not going to kill me?"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I always keep to a transaction, since I told you to exchange your life for information, I'm going to hold myself to it"

The old man shook his head: "I really can't believe you would be so naïve, only a dead man can hold a secret. If I survive and report this to the True God, you're never going to get away from them"

"I don't think so at all. In fact, I think only an idiot would use their own death to keep a secret" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"Fool!" the old man shouted.

Oom---

Intense spirit energy erupted from his body.

In a flash, the old man's hands turned into blurred images as he made a complicated set of hand seals.

The Secret Art had been prepared!

At this very moment, as soon as the old man poured spirit energy into the hand seal, a powerful spell combined with his Thaumaturgy would be unleashed!

“If a fool like you managed to become the sect master of Drifting Moon Immortal Sect, it was inevitable that Drifting Moon Immortal Sect was destroyed!” the old man smirked.

When he wanted to infuse spirit energy, he saw that Gu Qing Shan had already crossed both hands behind his back, casually looking at him.

The old man: “...”

An indescribable feeling started welling up inside his mind.

This piece of shit!

I've already obtained an immortal body.

I've already prepared a powerful technique of absolute destruction.

Why do I not dare attack him when I see him like that?

The old man held himself back again and again, but finally asked: “Standing there like that, are you already prepared to die in my hands?”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Not at all”

The old man questioned: “Do you really believe I would feel grateful that you let me go just once?”

“That’s not it either, I simply feel that with your level of intelligence, you’d be able to see the key point of this matter” Gu Qing Shan replied.

The old man was surprised.

With my level of intelligence...

You shit!

I don't understand anything!!!

The old man felt like going crazy.

At this point, Gu Qing Shan asked: “What is your mission?”

The old man replied: “Of course it’s to make Xie Gu Hong bring the twin sword jade tags away”

As soon as he said so, he was stunned.

...oh yeah.

I've already finished the mission that the True God assigned.

Gu Qing Shan replied: “My subordinate is holding your God back in another world, but probably not for much longer, you should probably leave now, I’ll be leaving soon as well”

The old man was stunned again.

—*that’s right, I’ve already finished the mission, I would be praised by the True God.*

But if I tried to fight Zhao Wu Zong here, if I couldn't defeat him——

Wait a minute!

Zhao Wu Zong is the Drifting Moon Immortal Sect's master, he has countless treasure tools, numerous means, even his cultivation is 1 step higher than mine.

Even if I have an immortal body, it would be very hard to easily defeat him.

The most likely thing to happen is a stalemate.

It would be a very long battle.

At that time, the True God would come here to check the situation——

And I'm still fighting him.

The True God would definitely catch Zhao Wu Zong themselves.

If the True God asks, how am I going to explain this?

That I was already captured, tortured, and forced to divulge the True God's secrets?

The old man shivered.

No matter what happens, revealing the True God's secret is the heaviest form of betrayal!

The only outcome for a traitor when faced with the Eternal True God is...

The old man couldn't help but feel a chill run down his spine.

That definitely can't happen!

He immediately pulled his hands back and spoke awkwardly: "Then I'll be going first. You should leave soon as well, don't let the True God catch you"

Saying so, the old man stepped on a white cloud pattern on the floor.

Noticing Gu Qing Shan's gaze, he patiently explained: "This is the exit, there's one on every floor, as soon as you pick an item, it will teleport you back to the Desolate world"

"Alright, farewell" Gu Qing Shan briefly clasped his fist.

"You too, farewell" the old man also clasped his fist in return instinctively.

He vanished from this floor.

Right before he disappeared, the old man realized that he had just clasped his fist to greet the other party.

That person... how...

For some reason, a thought suddenly appeared in the old man's mind.

——I never want to face this sect master Zhao again.

Even if I have to fight to exhaustion for several days, even if I have to climb a mountain of blades or swim through a sea of fire.

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I really don't want to meet him again.

...

After the old man left.

Gu Qing Shan waved his hand.

Some scattered white hair came off the ground, he carefully placed them inside a pouch before putting it in his Inventory Bag.

Just now, when he used [Dreamjolt] to restrain the old man and the Chao Yin sword to cut off his head, he happened to also cut some of his hair.

At appropriate times, I might be able to use this hair.

Excessive preparation was far better than insufficient preparation.

Gu Qing Shan put everything away and fell into thought.

It turns out the twin swords Heaven and Earth are weapons that came from the Eternal Abyss.

—and they were only components of some sort of weapon.

It could be said that the Soul Shrieker's plan had already failed.

From what I know, when the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace was destroyed, Xie Gu Hong had Huang Zhan bring the wounded Earth sword away.

But since I entered that fragment of time, I know that only Shen Yang managed to survive out of his three disciples.

Shen Yang brought both the Earth sword and the sleeping Xie Dao Ling into a certain fragment of the Samsara.

—which later on became the cultivation world.

Shen Yang was probably wounded quite badly during his wrestle with Zhao Kuan, that's why he couldn't pass on all the inheritance of the Barren Cloud Heavenly Palace.

That's why many of the cultivation world's average standards were so low, they didn't even know many of what used to be considered basics.

As history goes, the Earth sword managed to be passed on and Xie Dao Ling also lived on.

Perhaps the Soul Shrieker never expected that the Divinity's framing would cause the Earth sword to suddenly disappear from the Primordial Heaven Realm.

As for the Heaven sword, it was hidden away by humanity through countless phantom images.

Neither of these swords were easy to find.

— that's why, at the final moments of the Age of old, the twin swords Heaven and Earth weren't stolen away, and they didn't become weapons of the Eternal Abyss.

The Soul Shrieker's plans failed.

But!

However!

I came back through countless years in time, arriving at the Age of Old from the far future.

I came with the Earth sword.

The Heaven sword's hiding place was also slowly being revealed.

This gave the Eternal True God a second chance to steal the twin swords.

Destiny is such a miraculous thing, it can't be explained at all.

Gu Qing Shan scowled and fully focused himself on countermeasures.

It's quite simple to solve this problem.

The Earth sword is already on the verge of breaking.

All I need to do is completely destroy the Earth sword and the Eternal True God's second chance would disappear as well.

Thinking this far, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but shake his head.

All of a sudden, spirit energy began to gather on the platform.

Gu Qing Shan immediately looked back.

'Zhao Wu Zong' appeared inside the warp formation.

Both Zhao Wu Zong faced each other.

— — — neither of them were the real Zhao Wu Zong.

"Ah? So fast? Where's that martial cultivator?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"He ran" Shannu said, "when he saw the white-haired old man, both of them immediately ran away"

"Did they say anything?"

"The old man said that 'the mission was over, retreat now', and the martial cultivator quickly left with him"

"Ah, that makes it really simple" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shannu took out a communication talisman and gave it to Gu Qing Shan.

"This is?" Gu Qing Shan asked in surprise.

Shannu replied: "That martial cultivator really wanted me to join them, he was still passionately talking before he had to leave. Maybe he felt regretful so he left me a way to communicate with him"

"Did the old man not say anything?"

"No, he just had a strange look on his face"

"What kind of look?"

"I can't really describe it..." Shannu thought briefly before explaining: "Like a man running in a hurry that suddenly crashed into a wall"

"Ah, I can imagine that" Gu Qing Shan said.

Shannu flew down and stood by Gu Qing Shan, silently glancing at him a few times.

"Gongzi... you don't look too happy, did something happen?"

"Hm"

Gu Qing Shan told her everything.

Shannu went into thought briefly before speaking: "I thought of a way that will make the Soul Shrieker's goal unobtainable"

"What way?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"If the Earth sword is destroyed, then the Soul Shrieker's plan would fail" Shannu lightly told him.

"Fool, we're here to save the Earth sword, not destroy it" Gu Qing Shan replied.

Shannu was a bit anxious: "But this way, when the time comes, gongzi might really have to compete for the twin swords with the Soul Shrieker—— it's too powerful, I don't have any hope to win"

Gu Qing Shan replied: "But I want to try"

Shannu nervously: "Gongzi, even in our time, even all of the Lord-class Combatants of the united 900 million World Layers weren't a match for it, you really don't have to show off"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "Shannu, do you know what true situation of despair is?"

Shannu replied: "When the difference in strength is too great?"

Gu Qing Shan shook his head: "No, true despair is when you know nothing—— you don't know the enemy, you don't know any secrets, you don't even know what the situation is. When you know nothing, the only thing you can do is to fight with all of what you have, unable to come up with even a simple strategy"

"But now that we've found a lot of information, we've even seen the Soul Shrieker fight with our own eyes, our chances of victory have only increased"

"I won't let the Earth sword die, I swear"

"In the end, even the Heaven sword will be mine, I won't give that True God any chance at all"

Hearing him, Shannu finally calmed down.

If gongzi says that our chances of victory are increasing, then it must be.

If gongzi says that the Earth sword wouldn't die, then the Earth sword wouldn't die.

In the end, I didn't need to worry about anything, I just had to be gongzi's sword

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"Gongzi, what should we do now? Are we going to go back?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Of course not. Since we already went this far, we have to at least get something out of this" Gu Qing Shan replied.

"What kind of thing?" Shannu asked.

Gu Qing Shan pointed below his feet: "This entire place is a treasure vault since I stalled for so long just now, I'm sure Xie Gu Hong had already chosen a treasure and left, so now it's my turn"

"Treasure? What kind of item does gongzi want to pick?" Shannu curiously asked.

"Ah... I'm also thinking about that... This was the 33rd floor, and from how it has been so far, the higher the floor, the fewer items there were and the more precious it is, so——"

Suddenly, Gu Qing Shan remembered something and loudly asked: "That's right, Shannu, you're still using [All Beings Equal] to become human, aren't you?"

"Yes, gongzi, should I turn back into my sword spirit form?" Shannu asked, a bit puzzled.

"Absolutely do not!" Gu Qing Shan hurriedly stopped her.

"Ah? But why not?" Shannu was still confused.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "We count as two people right now, which means, we can choose two treasures from this place before we leave"

He was feeling a bit excited.

——*it's been so long since I got something useful.*

Even the armor I wore during the previous phantom image was from an Elemental Fire cultivator.

——*it was that cultivator's heirloom armor.*

Unfortunately, without his armor, the Elemental Fire cultivator died on the frontlines.

After that battle, Gu Qing Shan went out of his way to search for that cultivator's relatives and returned that armor.

Not only did he return the armor, he even left quite a bit of cultivation resources in his house—— for that cultivator's son.

Indeed, this was only a phantom image, not actual history.

But Gu Qing Shan wouldn't betray a comrade's trust, no matter if they were real or not.

Shannu looked around: "Gongzi, I can see a lot of precious items here, aren't you going to pick one?"

This floor contained many rare Bygone Era materials and resources, enough to create powerful treasure tools.

And it wasn't just this floor, this entire Daoist temple was a world of treasures from the Bygone Era.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "I won't, it would take too much effort to even learn about these material's effects and uses. To refine and forge them would require extremely intricate control and a much higher level of cultivation, we don't have the time for that"

"So we're going to continue to take a look on the next floor!"

"Understood, gongzi" Shannu glanced back at the precious materials longingly, but agreed with him.

The two of them got onto the warp formation and headed for the next floor.

...

The 34th floor.

Gu Qing Shan slowly walked around.

He curiously checked the items of this place one by one, leisurely walking around.

Shannu asked: "Gongzi, didn't you tell me that the old man was afraid that the True God was going to come here soon that he had to leave right away?"

"Ah, he did" Gu Qing Shan answered while checking a cold seashell.

"Then why isn't gongzi in a hurry to pick out something and run? Is gongzi not afraid that the Eternal True God would come here?" Shannu curiously asked.

Gu Qing Shan asked back in surprise: "Why would it come here? It already perfectly achieved its goal, the old man would have also reported that I ran away"

"Is gongzi sure of that?"

"Hm, it is definitely escorting Xie Gu Hong back with extreme care, making sure that nothing happens to him"

"What if it still wants to come here and check?" Shannu was still unconvinced.

"If that's the case—" Gu Qing Shan took out a warp talisman: "Since this Daoist temple only allows humans to come in, it would have to spend some time to destroy this place. And I've already checked, my warp talisman isn't restricted here, I can escape at any time"

Shannu patted her chest in relief: "That old man really does make one feel assured"

"Hm, you can also help me pick out something" Gu Qing Shan told her.

Since Shannu is a sword spirit so her perspective is different from mine, she might be able to notice something I miss.

“Yes” Shannu replied.

The two of them split up and walked around the 34th floor.

A few moments later.

“Gongzi, come here!” Shannu called out from afar.

Gu Qing Shan came over.

“Look!” Shannu pointed at an armor.

Gu Qing Shan looked at it.

This was a set of beautifully shaped armor, silently hovering in the air with a faint glow.

“Hm... this might be the strongest armor I’ve ever seen” Gu Qing Shan commented.

“Right? I tried attacking it just now but couldn’t even leave a mark, this must be an exceptional armor”

Shannu continued: “Since gongzi is a sword cultivator, you urgently need a good set of armor. Choose this one!”

Gu Qing Shan muses: “Truly, with a suitable set of armor, a sword cultivator can display even more power than normal, however...”

“However?” Shannu asked.

“Shannu, didn’t you notice? This is a female armor, I won’t fit into that waist” Gu Qing Shan shrugged.

He suddenly understood and smiled: “Do you want to wear this armor? Shannu?”

“Me?” Shannu was a bit surprised.

“Indeed, if you like this set of armor, you can take it. I can tell such a set of armor isn’t something you can come by every day” Gu Qing Shan said.

Shannu waved her hands: “Gongzi, have you forgotten? I have the [Invincible] property so I normally won’t be damaged at all”

The Six Paths Great Mountain sword had a Thaumaturgy: [Invincible]

[Invincible: No power or magic can destroy this sword]

Gu Qing Shan thought briefly: “But you were wounded when I met you in Huang Quan”

Shannu replied: “I think I already told you. At the time, I was sleeping so the Demis managed to scheme and use a method to specifically damage weapon spirits to hurt me. Now that gongzi is my master, there would be no chance for anyone else to damage me again”

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Gu Qing Shan recalled.

Truthfully, it was because no weapon in Huang Quan could stop the 7-colored spear so I asked the Huang Quan weapons to take me to the only weapon that managed to stop the 7-colored spear.

And that was Shannu.

“So you didn’t want to wear this armor, but are really suggesting me to wear it... but I’m a man” Gu Qing Shan said.

Shannu replied: “Riches can be earned but great armor cannot. Gongzi can simply endure a bit and use [All Beings Equal] to take my form, you’ll be able to fit this armor”

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

If I take Shannu’s form with [All Beings Equal], I would become female.

If I were female, I would be able to wear this Bygone Era female armor as I wish.

Ah... that’s not a bad idea...

—yes it is!

This thought is too dangerous, I can’t believe I even considered changing genders!

Gu Qing Shan took a deep breath and smiled amiably towards Shannu: “Hm, I can see your goodwill. I’ll take a look around again, if there is nothing better, I’ll take this armor”

“Yes” Shannu happily replied.

After leaving Huang Quan and going through so many worlds, Shannu’s vision and mind had also slowly changed.

Even though she was still naturally aloof, being able to help Gongzi pick out a set of armor made her happy.

Gu Qing Shan once again looked around.

This time, he was going a lot faster.

Hmm, there are a lot of great things here, but not many that fit me.

Wait a minute—

Gu Qing Shan suddenly noticed something.

He stopped and headed for that item.

This was a jade pendant carved from pure white jade, faint mist drifted about the ornament, obscuring its shape.

When Gu Qing Shan looked at the jade pendant, the mist around it quickly faded to reveal its true form.

—it was a gourd-shaped jade ornament.

When he saw the mist fade by itself, Gu Qing Shan stopped.

He gently called out: “Come”

The gourd fluttered a bit in the sky before heading to Gu Qing Shan.

Shannu was surprised: “Gongzi, this is—”

Gu Qing Shan replied: “Indeed when a person picks an item, the items are also picking a person. Perhaps it felt that I’m worthy to it”

He didn’t expect to encounter the situation that the world’s automatic system mentioned.

Gu Qing Shan hadn’t found any item with recoil, but he got a gourd that automatically accepted him as its master.

This was a wonderful thing.

Gu Qing Shan stood next to Shannu, waiting for the gourd to come to him.

A few dozen seconds later.

The jade gourd was hovering very slowly and still hadn’t reached Gu Qing Shan.

Shannu looked at the jade gourd and scowled: “If you already want to come with gongzi, why are you flying so slowly?”

The jade gourd trembled slightly and flew faster.

—-but it was still pitifully slow.

Gu Qing Shan used a telekinesis hand seal to bring the jade pendant closer to him.

“Gongzi?” Shannu doubtfully asked.

“1 million years is a very long time, I guess that it’s probably really weak right now. And I also like it so I should at least show my sincerity”

Gu Qing Shan spoke emotionally.

Shannu smiled: “A gentleman does not leave his jade until death¹—- this jade pendant really is quite fitting for gongzi”

“I’m no gentleman, I’m only a sword cultivator” Gu Qing Shan replied.

When he took the jade gourd, lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI:

[Bygone Era artifact, jade pendant: Adorable¹]

[This jade pendant was naturally formed, a manifestation of the Bygone Era Heaven and Earth Bell. Usually hides in plain sight, only shows up when it’s happy]

[This jade pendant has the Thaumaturgy: Borrowing Wonder]

[This jade pendant has the Thaumaturgy: Hundred Lanterns]

[This jade pendant has the Thaumaturgy: Spotless Jade]

[Note: Only when the jade pendant informs you, can you learn of its specific Thaumaturgy attributes]

Reading that last line, Gu Qing Shan couldn't help but raise his eyebrows a bit.

Only the most powerful items among those Gu Qing Shan had met contained that description.

The Earth sword, Chao Yin sword and Shannu all had to inform Gu Qing Shan what kind of abilities they had.

So this was a common occurrence for his flying swords.

But now, a small jade pendant was also like this.

Gu Qing Shan looked at the second line of text.

If I take this description at face value, this means that the jade pendant will only show itself if it wants to.

Aside from that, it would be almost impossible for anyone to find it.

That alone shows that it wasn't simple.

Gu Qing Shan muttered: "How impressive"

Xiu...

The jade gourd let out a tiny weak response.

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Gu Qing Shan lightly stroked the jade pendant and carefully sensed its will.

"Hungry?"

He interpreted its intention.

This was the first time he had ever heard that an artifact could get hungry.

"Gongzi, what's going on with the jade pendant?" Shannu asked.

"Hm... Shannu, have you ever felt hungry?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Not at all, I am the spirit of the Grand Tie Wei Mountain itself, I don't get hungry" Shannu replied.

Gu Qing Shan nodded, then asked again: "This jade tag was left here for so long that it's telling me it's hungry. Shannu, if you don't receive any power for a long time, will you feel hungry as well?"

Shannu replied: "I wouldn't. The Samsara Divine Mountain is the manifestation of the Law that protects the six worlds, as long as the Divine Mountain still exists, I will be sustained by the Divine Mountain without needing any other source of power"

Gu Qing Shan looked down at the jade gourd and asked: "What do you want to eat?"

Xiu...

The jade gourd moved a bit and gave off a tiny sound.

An invisible wind began to pick up around the gourd before dissipating.

Gu Qing Shan's expression changed.

That was the supernatural manifestation of Soul Points.

So this jade gourd needs Soul Points?

Right at that moment, a line of glowing text appeared on the War God UI.

[Jade pendant: Adorable is asking for a few Soul Points]

[Are you willing to spend 100 Soul Points to help nurture its manifestation form?]

Seeing that it was only asking for 100 Soul Points, Gu Qing Shan directed the Soul Points from his body into the jade gourd.

Having used Soul Points since Qi Training realm, he was now able to utilize a bit of Soul Points without the System's help.

Receiving the Soul Points, the jade gourd lightly squeaked with a please voice.

And then it stopped moving.

—stopped moving?

Gu Qing Shan looked at Shannu with a questioning expression.

"What's going on?"

"It fell asleep, I can feel that it had entered a deep recovery process" Shannu replied.

Gu Qing Shan was surprised.

Perhaps the jade gourd has been weakened for so long that it needs to slowly regain its strength.

Gu Qing Shan put the jade gourd away.

"Let's go, Shannu, there's nothing else suitable for us on this floor, let's move on" Gu Qing Shan said.

"Yes" Shannu replied.

They landed on the warp formation heading to the next floor.

35th floor.

Gu Qing Shan and Shannu both appeared at the same time.

This was already the second-to-last floor of the Daoist temple.

From what they found out so far, the higher the floor, the fewer artifacts there were, but the more precious they were.

There were only a total of 4 platforms on the 35th floor.

Two of the platforms were already empty, only two platforms still had something displayed.

Gu Qing Shan quickly understood after a bit of thought.

The burly man and the old man both had always had the ability to come here, so it was likely them who took the items here.

The two other items on the platforms were an old Gupin and a giant bronze mace.

A faint, lingering melody could be heard from the Gupin, making those who listened to it unable to help themselves reminiscing about the past, but the more you did that, the more immersed you would become.

Gu Qing Shan managed to escape its influence after a breath's worth of time.

Even then, he found a layer of cold sweat on his back.

If he was completely immersed in the Gupin's influence, he would likely be unable to escape and forever trapped within his reminiscence.

Gu Qing Shan was careful not to look at the Gupin anymore.

He walked in front of the bronze mace.

This giant mace was about 5 meters long, he couldn't imagine who would be able to wield such a huge weapon at all.

But when Gu Qing Shan walked in front of the mace, a jade tag appeared from the void of space and fell into Gu Qing Shan's hand.

Gu Qing Shan scanned through it with his inner sight and quickly understood the mace's value.

———this was a Soul Artifact.

Any Soul Artifact that appeared within the 900 million World Layers would without a doubt be followed by a storm of blood and deaths.

A random Soul Artifact that Laura provided made the Progenitor Fiendess immediately agree to cooperate with Gu Qing Shan's plan.

That shows how coveted Soul Artifacts were.

And Soul Artifacts must be powered by Soul Points.

——*wait a minute!*

Does that mean the jade gourd I got earlier was actually a Soul Artifact?

But since the jade gourd fell dormant, I can't communicate with it for now.

Gu Qing Shan stopped thinking about that and focused on the bronze mace again.

A few lines of glowing text appeared on the War God UI as always:

[Bygone Era Artifact, World Remover Mace]

[Requires all the Soul Points of 16 human cultivators to wield]

[Wielding the World Remover Mace to strike the surface of a world will destroy it]

[A small world requires 21 hits to destroy the world's earth, water, fire, and wind, completely removing it]

[A medium world requires 36 hits]

[A large world requires 81 hits]

Gu Qing Shan gestured: "Shannu, try this item"

Since he already got the jade gourd, only Shannu had the right to pick an item now.

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Such a terrifying weapon is better off held in my hands, just in case some mad man gets their hands on it.

Not to mention, an artifact powerful enough to destroy a world would be very good if used well.

Shannu stepped forward and grabbed the long handle of the mace.

Bam!

Her hand was instantly pushed away.

"What happened?" Gu Qing Shan asked.

"Gongzi, I can't take it. I sensed that a special secret technique is required to use it" Shannu replied.

Gu Qing Shan sighed in relief.

Good, so at least the Bygone Era humanity took some precautions.

If that's the case, I don't need to worry about it.

"Let's go, there's nothing I can use on this floor, we're heading to the final floor" Gu Qing Shan said.

"I wonder what kind of treasure is on the final floor" Shannu curiously said.

Gu Qing Shan smiled: "No matter what is up there, Xie Gu Hong must've taken the phantom images technique"

"Why do you think so?" Shannu asked.

Gu Qing Shan replied: "The phantom images are countless fragments of time, from countless parallel worlds, besides the Bygone Era humanity, who could've created such an unthinkable technique?"

Shannu gave it a thought for a bit and then lightly nodded.

They flew onto the warp formation and left the 35th floor.

The 36th floor.

This was the last floor of the entire Daoist temple.

The entire floor was basically empty except for the warp formation and two high platforms.

Gu Qing Shan and Shannu flew onto one of them.

On this platform, there was nothing else but a long-necked jade bottle at the very center.

Gu Qing Shan and Shannu exchanged glances.

This was so simple that it was completely unlike what they had expected.

Gu Qing Shan first walked up to the jade bottle.

A jade tag immediately appeared from the void of space.

Gu Qing Shan scanned it with his inner sight and quickly understood what this jade bottle was.

Anyone could open this jade bottle.

The bottle would automatically sense the opener's cultivation and provide them with an appropriate Bygone Era's Realm Breaker Pill.

A Bygone Era's Realm Breaker Pill was an extremely practical item that immediately allowed a cultivator to break through to the next realm.

This pill was almost miraculous, but each cultivator could only use one of them in their entire life.

For this jade bottle in particular——

If the one who opened the bottle was at Chaotic Star realm, an Origin Aspect Realm Breaker Pill would appear and fly into that person's hand.

The Chaotic Star realm cultivator can consume that pill and enter Origin Aspect realm right away.

If the one who opened the bottle was at Three Thousand Worlds realm, the bottle would give them a Paragon Realm Breaker Pill.

The cultivator would immediately advance to Paragon realm.

The room was already set up so that each person could only take one pill, if someone tried to take more, they would be kicked out from this world.

Shannu also read through the description in the jade tag.

"Gongzi?" she appeared glad

"Hm, take it" Gu Qing Shan nodded.

Since the item on the other platform was already taken to Xie Gu Hong, Shannu could only take a Realm Breaker Pill.

Shannu walked up and opened the bottle.

A pill wrapped in layers of auspicious light came out from the bottle.

Shannu received the pill and flicked it to Gu Qing Shan.

As soon as the pill landed on Gu Qing Shan's hand, it immediately jumped up to try and get into his mouth.

Gu Qing Shan quickly caught the pill and placed it inside a jade box.

Gu Qing Shan didn't dare to consume the pill right now.

If he really did try to use this pill at his current low cultivation, the immense energy of the pill would overwhelm his body's acupoints and make him explode, killing him.

Gu Qing Shan carefully put the box into his Inventory Bag.

——*Zhao Wu Zong was a Void Revolution realm cultivator.*

Which meant that I can only use this Realm Breaker Pill when I reach Void Revolution realm and immediately advance to Three Thousand Worlds realm.

This was completely unimaginable, but the Bygone Era's level of pill making was indeed able to achieve this.

"Both the Adorable jade gourd and the Realm Breaker Pill are excellent items, we really got a good harvest this time around" Gu Qing Shan commented.

"Will we go back now?" Shannu asked.

Gu Qing Shan stood still in thought.

"Gongzi?" Shannu doubtfully asked.

"Master was able to endure the temptation of directly breaking through to Paragon realm and took the phantom images technique, he really is worthy of respect" Gu Qing Shan said.

"But I still want to see it with my own eyes"

He flew and landed on the other high platform.

A jade tag appeared from the void of space.

——It was the jade tag that described the treasure on this platform.

Gu Qing Shan scanned through it with his inner sight and learnt what was on here.

[Enemy-killing Sword technique]

[The technique contains are the crucial main points of the Enemy-killing Sword technique, a compilation of essential swordsmanship cultivation, exquisite and peerless]

Gu Qing Shan was stunned.

What?

It's a sword technique, not the phantom images technique?

Does the Bygone Era humanity's treasure vault not contain the phantom images technique?

