F.D Emperor 841

Chapter 841 Yan Liling's Battle (III)

"...a battle spirit," muttered Yan Liling as she saw a giant lion with flames for a mane and the tip of its tail. The creature had a terrifying flame surrounding it that burned anything that came close to it.

With its power, Gao Buqin survived the explosion of the array despite losing the protection of his Immortal Armor. And as soon as Yang Liling saw the creature, she knew it was a Battle Spirit from the Battle Spirit World.

The Dao Opening Sect already had a deadly enmity with the Spirit Genesis Sect, so they already gathered basic information about their Heaven Will World, including their cultivation system—the Battle Spirit System.

Yan Liling had read their techniques and remembered in detail their cultivation process. The first stage started like countless cultivation systems in both the lower and upper dimensions—Body Tempering Realm.

The cultivators in the Battle Spirit World began their first step toward transcendence by tempering their bodies. And the process is very thorough compared to some systems that mainly focus on cultivating the body.

And the reason is because of the second stage—the Battle Qi Realm. As the name indicated, this stage involved opening the dantian of the Sea of Qi to create a unique energy called Battle Qi.

Battle Qi is very rough due to its special nature that focuses on battle. As such, a cultivator must reach a decent level in tempering their bodies before they can bear the power of Battle Qi. Of course, one of its flaws is the lack of increase in lifespan.

The cultivators in the Battle Qi Realm can barely live up to 160 years.

The third stage of that system is the Battle Soul Realm, where cultivators open their Sea of Consciousness with their Battle Qi, accessing their spiritual power.

The fourth stage involved condensing the Battle Qi and Spiritual Power into a seed and entering the Spirit Seed Realm; this realm is the foundation of the Battle Spirit System and required great caution and preparations.

Afterward is the Spirit Nourishment Realm, where cultivators have to nourish the Spirit Seed with the Spiritual Qi and power of Heaven and Earth, preparing to hatch it.

The sixth is called the Spirit Enlightenment Realm, and it is probably the most important stage of this system. Cultivators have to decide what path or Dao they will walk on in this realm.

Then, they will use resources and their understanding to nourish their Spirit Seed. And based on what they choose will determine which spirit they will receive. For example, someone like Wang Wei would use his basic understanding of Fate and Fate-related resources to nourish his Spirit Seed to ensure he acquires a Spirit based on his Fate Dao.

The Battle Spirit World has existed for countless years and has given birth to countless Battle Spirits. In the sixth realm, people can begin to inherit certain powerful and unique spirits from their ancestors or renowned figures.

Another aspect of this stage is that things like Heavenly Physique can be used to enlighten the Spirit Seed and ensure a spirit perfectly suited for the Heavenly Physique.

The seventh stage is the Battle Spirit Realm, where the seed finally gives birth to a Battle Spirit. Or, someone inherits a Battle Spirit.

The eighth realm is the Spirit Law Realm, where cultivators understood the laws of Heaven and Earth and baptized their Battle Spirit with it. The Battle Spirit will turn from a more corporeal spirit to a more tangible concept.

The ninth realm is the Spirit Body Link Realm. Cultivators will link their Battle Spirits to their bodies, allowing them to eliminate the weakness they have to rely on their spirits to have high-level battle prowesses. In this stage, the Battle Spirit World's cultivators revert their mode of battle back from using spirit to their bodies.

And in the Quasi-Emperor Realm, the Battle Spirit and body are completely fused, creating their world's version of a Pseudo Dao Body.

The Battle Spirit and the Dharma Body are similar in many ways, with the only exception that the former does not have to resemble its owner. The Battle Spirit can be anything—including Innate Demon Gods, other races, weapons, and even phenomena—and will not affect the cultivators.

However, the Dharma Body can only be the cultivator's image or the creator of the technique they use.

The Battle Spirit and Dharma similarity could hint at a connection. For example, maybe the Battle Spirit World was one of the many places Qiyuan traveled to in his youth when creating the Origin System.

However, the concept of Dharma Body is often used in my cultivation systems, so it's hard to know for sure.

As Yan Liling watched Gao Buqin's Battle Spirit, countless thoughts flashed in her mind, 'His realm is Quasi-Realm, so his body should have already been fused with his Battle Spirit. As such, this battle spirit is an extra.'

According to the information she knew, it was not uncommon for geniuses from the Battle Spirit World to have more than one spirit. The truly rare phenomenon is to fuse more than one seed with the body.

Roar!

The Lion Spirit roared to the Heavens, his mouth spewing a flame so intense that the surrounding space-time twisted. Yan Liling reacted swiftly as she summoned her Cauldron of Desense while also using her Chaos Flame to form a fiery shield.

Boom!

The attack's power was devastating, and Yan Liling barely blocked. Her hands were peach black due to intense burns. If not for her high resistance to flame after spending millions of years before a cauldron and refining pills, the result would have been more catastrophic.

However, Yan Liling did not care about such an injury. Before the battle, she swallowed an Immortal Healing Pill that stayed in her heart, sending a soothing power that healed all her burns.

Instead, she focused on the Chaos Flame and pieces of the shield the cauldron created.

'Metals?' Yan Liling questioned as she realized the oddity of this flame. However, Gao Buqin did not give her time as he immediately went on the offensive, firing another terrifying flame breath.

Alas, there is a reason Yan Liling can be considered the bane of professionals in battles. She cultivated the Flame Emperor's [Flame Controlling Art], and Wang Wei gave her all the experience of controlling Flame he received from the latter while posing as Lou Cheng.

So, Yan Liling summoned one of her cauldrons and swallowed the flame. Upon contact, she immediately noticed a change to the cauldron, but she controlled the flame to reduce the damage it created while also analyzing the secrets or essence of this strange flame.

'A flame with the characteristics of [refining]?' she thought with slight surprise in her eyes. The Lion Spirit's flame contained the concept of refining. As such, after coming into contact with Yan Liling's Chaos Flame, it refined the flame by turning it into a metal suitable for refining artifacts.

And it did the same thing to her cauldron.

'At the highest level, this flame should be able to refine even concepts. However, the real issue is whether Gao Buqin reached such a level,' contemplating Yan Liling. The flame only showed effects on tangible things like the flame, her shield, and the cauldron.

'After analyzing the flame, I should be able to integrate it into the Chaos Flame and access its power,' she thought.

Meanwhile, Gao Buqin noticed his flame was ineffective on the steal his flame. After creating this Battle Spirit specifically designed to help his Refining Dao, many people tried to either take it away second attack. He also calculated his opponent might be trying to steal his flame. After creating this Battle Spirit specifically designed to help his Refining Dao, many people tried to either take it away from him or steal his flame.

'No more playing around.' This sudden, deep, and cold voice echoed in Gao Buqin's mind, making his body instinctively shiver. He immediately realized the situation of the others might not be ideal, so he needed to hurry to deal with his opponent and offer his aid to the others.

So, he did not hesitate to use another one of his trump cards—a second Battle Spirit.

The spirit looked eerie: a head with no nose, mouth, ears, eyebrows, and hair—only a pair of eyes with rainbow-colored pupils. Despite the creepy aesthetic of this spirit, its eyes were mesmerizing.

Anyone who looked at it would be fascinated by its beauty—at least for a short time. And that is what made it so dangerous.

As soon as this Battle Spirit appeared, Yan Liling's eyes lost focus as if she had shut down her brain. Her body relaxed, her breath shallower, her aura fading, and the cauldron disappeared; in an instant, she became defenseless.

Boom!

Another terrifying fire beam spewed from the lion spirit's mouth with the purpose of annihilating her with one hit.

Then, a cauldron manifested in her Sea of Consciousness and sent an energy wave that immediately woke her up from her state. Unfortunately, the flame vaporized her without resistance, as she was too late to respond.

Chapter 842 Yan Liling's Battle (Finale)

After seeing his opponent's annihilation, Gao Buqin did not immediately revel in his victory. His battle senses told him things would not be easy, so he used his Divine Sense to check his surroundings.

And as he expected, he noticed a strange pill floating amid the numerous space debris in the Northern Quadrant. And as soon he saw the pill, it changed.

Muscles, blood, bones, and skins regrew from the pill, and Yan Liling reappeared with a slightly pale complexion.

'This Flesh Reorganization Pill still feels disgusted,' she thought. She created this pill to imitate body refiner's Drop Blood Rebirth. However, the process of rebirth is painful and feels terrible.

Then, she focused on Gao Buqin, especially the second Battle Spirit.

'I should have expected his second battle spirit to be related to the Soul.' If Bao Buqin created his battle spirit to assist his Weapon Refining Profession, it would make sense to create one focus on Spiritual Power and the Soul.

After all, spiritual power is the most valued asset or talent of all professions.

'Be that as it may, his Duyi Realm is very weak. But it shouldn't?' By the previous attack, he realized Gao Buqin's Duyi Realm was only in the second stage. However, the easiest way for a person to achieve the Duyi Realm is by combining two cultivation systems.

Gao Buqin met the requirements, so Yan Liling predicted for him to have a higher level.

'It could be that his cultivation talent has not reached such a level,' she analyzed; fusing two or more systems is not something anyone can do.

'It could also be a side-effect of the Soul Enslavement.'

Thud!

While Yan Liling was in deep thought analyzing the situation, Gao Buqin was not idle; he gazed at her without hiding his deep killing intent. His cracked Immortal Tier Armor was replaced with black armor while the lion spirit fired the previous attack.

But, it suddenly began to change.

The first of which was the color that turned light golden. Subsequently, the armor seemed to have fused with Gao Buqin's body. His skin had turned a light golden color, making him look like some kind of robot with long black hair.

Spikes appeared on his shoulders, born from the tips of different sharp weapons like swords, spears, and arrows. Two metallic wings spread behind Gao Buqin's back, and the wings were composed entirely of different weapons.

The amalgams of so many different weapons should look weird, ghastly even. However, the entire thing had a natural and graceful appearance.

'Spirit Transformation,' thought Yan Liling, remembering the information; this technique imitates Dao Body's Awakening. The cultivators in the Battle Spirit World can transform into their spirit and use the full extent of their power.

After his transformation, Gao Buqin did not waste time and rushed toward his opponent.

Boom!

Yan Liling felt a terrifying force pushing her backward. If she did not rely on her instinct to activate her [Cauldron of Flesh], she would have burst into a mist of blood.

And even with these measures, the bones in her arms cracked, followed by great turbulence to her internal organs.

'Peak 7-Leaf Strength,' thought Yan Liling as she groaned internally. After stopping her momentum and regaining control of her body, she checked her arms and discovered an anomaly.

'A curse? There is also the power of the Bleeding Rune,' she analyzed. 'It seems he created a battle spirit dedicated to battle using the power of an artifact; his body became the embodiment of countless artifacts with different effects.'

The Bleeding Rune is often used when creating weapon artifacts to ensure the enemy will bleed to death and weaken them. It is one of the first Divine Runes that Weapon Refiners learn.

[Cauldron of Defense]

Gao Buqin's barrage of attacks landed on Yan Liling's protective shield. And with only a few attacks, he cracked the shield. However, strange blue-colored pills appeared before releasing an energy that healed the shield.

'Because I still hope to walk the Unorthodox Nine Extremity Foundation, I never used the Eight Heterogeneity Foundation, so my base strength is only 4-Leaf.

'I have a few pills and a secret technique to make me rival his strength. However, for the battle plan, we made to deal with him, there is a better way.'

[Pill of Intangibility]

The moment she swallowed the pill, Bao Buqin's fists—who had changed into the property of a shield-breaking treasure—finally broke her defense, and he went for the kill.

Boom!

Gao Buqin's fist twisted the space where the force of his fist hit. However, he felt nothing; it was like he was hitting air. No, even the sensation of his fist touching the air was not as odd as this one.

He did not believe what he felt, so he released a barrage of devastating attacks to no effect. His other two spirits joined the battle as they worked in harmony to aid him, but the result was the same.

Gao Buqin did not believe in this evil and used even more sophisticated methods.

His golding palm turned into a Yin-Yang Diagram as he tried to forcefully revert Yan Liling out of her current state, changing her from an intangible form to a tangible one.

Unfortunately for him, Yan Liling created that pill using Wang Wei's power of Nothingness. As such, its essence is not simply intangibility but the concept of nothingness.

Gao Buqin then changed tactics as his Weapon Body changed, taking the properties of a rare Time Artifact. Then, he attempted to revert Yan Liling to a few minutes prior when she was not in such a potent state.

His attempt failed as nothing can affect nothingness—not even time.

However, Gao Buqin currently had the mindset of a fool due to his desire to end this battle as his master ordered. As such, he did not believe he could not succeed.

He then chooses to attack Yan Liling's past self; by killing that version, he can eliminate the present version.

Alas, this method also failed. One of the properties of nothingness is its infiniteness, which transcends time. So, such a technique might have worked on past Wang Wei, who had little to no mastery of the Power of Nothingness.

But it was different for his current self.

'What is this strange technique?' cursed Gao Buqin internally. He could not find her past self to kill; to be precise, her past seemed to be this vast, even infinite, grand emptiness, devoid of life, matter, space-time, energy, or even concepts known to the mind.

Gao Buqin almost lost his mind after coming into contact with such a grand and ethereal entity. Luckily, he was careful and swiftly gave up attempting such an act of blasphemy.

'What should I do now? None of my attacks are working,' pondered Gao Buqin. 'It seems she wants to wait out until stamina and secret techniques run out.'

The Battle Spirit Transformation was not enough for him to have such tremendous power. Gao Buqin has to rely on the combination of the spirits and Immortal Armor to have such an achievement.

However, it won't last long. He could feel the terrible burden on his body and soul.

'Should I use more extreme measures?' He had a secret technique that sacrificed his spirits for another significant burst of strength. However, the consequences were too severe—especially if he destroyed his Weapon Body Spirit.

As the main Battle Spirit he fused with, it also acted as his soul or Primordial Spirit. So, he could die if something happened to it.

'Shall I take the risks or continue trying different methods?'

Boom!

A terrifying aura of death, killing, and slaughter burst into Gao Buqin's mind, turning his eyes red. He immediately had the impulse to kill anything his eyes could lie on.

Gao Buqin made a primal and bestial roar as he looked at Yan Liling like she was nothing but prey. A slaughter aura and desire overrode his consciousness.

Wish!

His battle spirit activated, releasing a mysterious spiritual power that awakened him from his state.

'Now,' thought Yan Liling, taking the perfect opportunity when Gao Buqin just awakened from the influence of the Slaughter Spear and his mind was at its weakness.

[Soul Seal]

A cauldron appeared above Gao Buqin, and a seal bypassed his spirits and entered his body. His body shivered briefly before spazzing like he was having a seizure while standing.

Blood overflew from his ears, mouth, and nose. His face contorted as he grinds his teeth. The process was visually brutal and lasted more than a minute.

Finally, Gao Buqin opened his eyes. At first, they were confused, followed by a burst of intense delight.

"I...am...free," he uttered in a coarse voice as tears fell from his eyes. The past few million years have been a nightmare for him. His mind forcefully twisted to serve someone else, someone he had hatred for.

Resistance was futile, and over time, his obedience grew exponentially. He feared that one day, he would ultimately lose himself.

But now, the nightmare is over.

Chapter 843 Gao Buqin's Worth

Yan Liling calmly watched Gao Buqin's reaction to his freedom. She did not interrupt him, allowing him to process his emotions. The cultivation world was cruel beyond what words can explain. Despite the many contradictions, the Myriad Emperor World is safer than most worlds in the Endless Void.

The factions competed against each other while respecting the written rules like the Immortal-Avenue Pact and other unwritten rules like allowing the young generations to compete by all means and accepting the outcome.

However, the competition is more brutal in other worlds because of the Heaven Will. After all, there is only one chance for immortality and eternity. For that one chance, many Emperor Lineages will not hesitate to send their Immortal Tier powerhouses—including Insurgent—to assassinate other factions' Heaven Chosens.

And in these worlds, enslaving other people's souls is too much of a common tactic.

So, as Yan Liling watched Gao Buqin's reaction, she empathized with him and waited.

'I'm glad this tactic worked. The power of an Emperor... it's terrifying,' she thought. She had to use Wang Wei's granted power to seal the enslavement. As such, she peaked at the essence of Di Tian's power and saw how scary it was.

Although Wang Wei has demonstrated his strength to them, Yan Liling discovered today he was still holding back to not hurting them physically and spiritually.

"Have you calmed down?" asked Yan Liling after seeing Gao Buqin's agitated mood return to normal.

Gao Buqin took a deep breath to calm down. He gazed at her before uttering, "I'm guessing you did not free me out of compassion of your heart?"

"You guessed correctly."

Gao Buqin quieted down, not saying a word for half a minute.

"I know what you're thinking," suddenly said Yan Liling. "But we will not enslave you; we only want to work together."

"Work together? You think I believe you."

"It's true. The invasion of our cleanup was the work of the Spirit Genesis Sect from your world."

As soon as Yan Liling said these words, the world began to pay attention. Many people wanted to know why the anomaly occurred during the Cleanup, but no answer was found.

But now, the truth was revealed, catching many people's attention. And that was Wang Wei and Yan Liling's purpose in the first place. Wang Wei needs the entire world to end their era of Xenophobia and close themselves from the Endless Void.

So, he will show them other worlds will interfere in their affairs even if they use such an approach. Furthermore, there is no better way to rally the world together than a common enemy.

"The Spirit Genesis Sect? Well, given their overbearingness, it's understandable they would do this," replied Gao Buqin with a frown. When the secret realm that led to the Cleanup appeared, he saw the Young Master of the Spirit Genesis Sect among the participants, so he never questioned the latter.

But now, he guessed they were using everyone as pawns for their plans.

"So, you should guess what we want from you," replied Yan Liling, who already accomplished her objective.

"Information."

"Correct, and not just about the Spirit Genesis Sect, but also the entire Battle Spirit World."

"Do you want me to be a traitor to my home?" asked Gao Buqin with a sneer.

"And what is the alternative?" countered Yan Liling. "Without our seal, you will return to your previous state."

Gao Buqin's body shivered out of his control.

"Even if we don't do anything, don't you know your fate? As soon as you leave, the Di Clan will hunt you down before you can go far.

"Finally, the Spirit Genesis Sect already bore their fangs at us and must pay the price. As such, we will do anything to get the information from you."

Yan Liling's gentle demeanor was gone, replaced by a deep coldness in her eyes. "So, although I sympathize with your situation, I will not hesitate to get the information from your dead corpse."

Gao Buqin's heart skipped a beat, and cold sweat almost fell from his back. His mind worked on overload, suppressing his emotions to analyze the situation.

"I agree to help you, but I have a few conditions."

"Please," replied Yan Liling, not surprised by his choice. Few people can control their fear of death and remain stubborn to protect their ideals, beliefs, and philosophies.

"No problem."

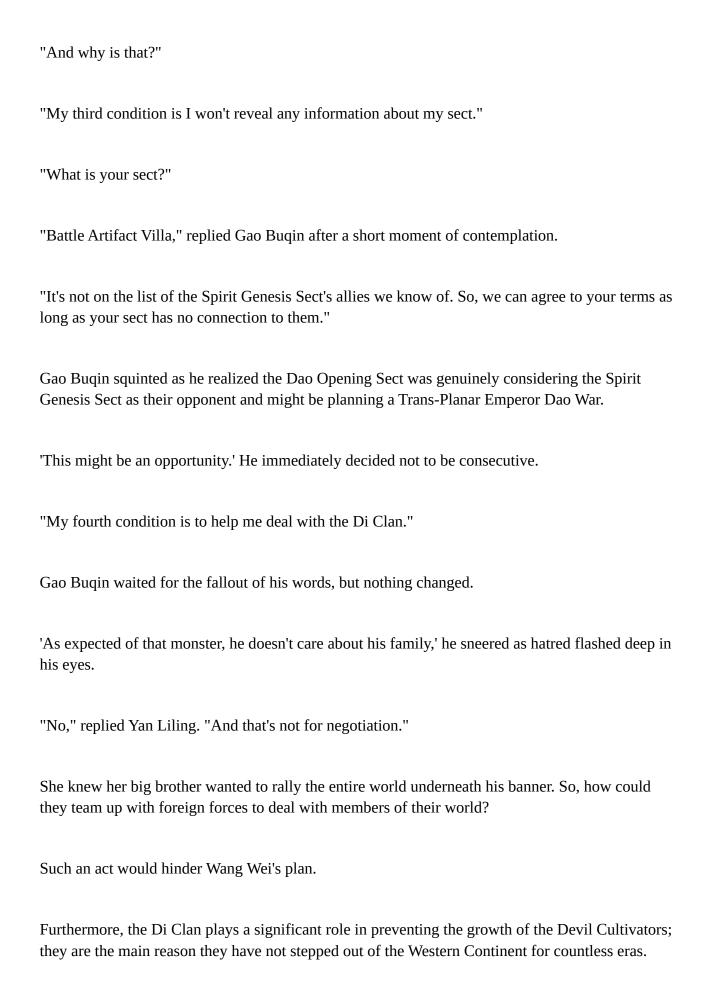
"First, I want your help to return home."

"No problem."

"Second, no one must search my soul." Gao Buqin's deep voice contained an unwavering determination he had never shown, making Yan Liling frown.

"Very well," she replied. "However, you must sign the most restrictive contract and oath to tell us all the information we want and not hide anything."

"I can't agree with that."



Such a family is blessed with merit and luck and cannot easily be dealt with. 'Regardless, big brother might use the contradiction between the Battle Artifact Villa and the Di Clan to his advantage. However, that's only if Gao Buqin's status in the villa is high enough.' Gao Buqin did not expect such a fierce and irrefutable objection. He opened his mouth to negotiate but closed them as he saw Yan Liling's eyes. "Fine. Then, I will change my fourth condition. I want an alliance between our two factions." "Oh, you want to join us?" "Yes." "Why? You should understand the meaning behind your actions." Gao Buqin shook his head, "You would think this would make me a traitor? But it's not true." "Oh?" "Over the years, the Spirit Genesis Sect has done too much. They were overbearing and eliminated anyone or faction, which threatened their power and status. "Things got to the point where all the other factions banded together, including foreigners, to weaken their power. According to historical records, this massive battle ended with the killing of one of their Immortal Sovereigns and injuring the other. "But even then, they were still so powerful." "So, the other factions have to ally with foreign powers to suppress the Spirit Genesis Sect?" asked Yan Liling.

"Correct."

"If that's true, then their hidden power is much deeper than we anticipated."

"Despite knowing this, you still want to deal with them?"

"Why not?" replied Yan Liling with a smile. "And you should know where our confidence originates from."

Gao Buqin gazed at the Eastern Quadrant.

'Yes, if that monster proves the Dao, they don't need to fear the Spirit Genesis Sect.'

According to many analyses and predictions, He Shiyi, the Young Master of the Spirit Genesis Sect, with his unparalleled talent, has the highest chance of proving the Dao.

Furthermore, he will most likely become an Eternal Supreme.

Because of his strength and potential, many factions wished to assassinate him. So, they did not hesitate to break the previous premises and acted like the Spirit Genesis used to by sending Insurgents to kill him.

However, none succeeded.

'He Shiyi's talent is nothing compared to Wang Wei. However, that guy is still weird.'

One event made He Shiyi famous—he survived the assassination of an Insurgent with peak First Class strength. He was nothing but a Spirit Enlightenment Realm (Tier 6) cultivator, and the factions planned that assassin perfectly, even taking into account the Immortal Sovereigns might have left protection on him.

Yet, he survived. What's worse is the assassin refused to talk about what had happened. Then, a few years later, he took his own life, creating a layer of mystery for He Shiyi.

"I can accept your fourth condition. However, can you represent the Battle Artifact Villa?"

"You don't have to worry about that. I was the next Villa Lord, and my master should still be in power. As long as I return home, I can convince him to form an alliance—especially with such a powerful faction."

"In that case, it's fine. Any more conditions?"

"No, that's it," he replied after a brief pause.

"In that case, you can live and head to the Dao Opening Sect."

Gao Buqin clasped his hand to bow, "Thank you, fellow Daoist, for freeing me."

Then, a white light enveloped him, and he disappeared.

Chapter 844 The Weakest Link (I)

Di Tian watched Gao Buqin's liberation and his conversation with Yan Liling, his emotions more than complicated. Was he furious? Yes, he was, but not out of pure anger but the lack of competence of his chosen general.

Secondly, and more importantly, he was furious at himself for making such an obvious mistake.

'I keep telling myself to be cautious or prudent when dealing with Wang Wei. Yet, I made such a blunder.'

What kind of people were Dao Overlord? Intelligent individuals who can find the flaws in their enemies and use them against them. And even knowing this, Di Tian went on a rampage during the Cleanup, searching for generals.

And when he enslaved Gao Buqin and Gluttony, he did it in the Nine Devil God Continent, right before Wang Wei's eyes. Such an act was like telling the latter he is my flaw and how to deal with it.

'After so many years, have I not learned anything? Will arrogance be my downfall again?'

Di Tian contemplated his past, thinking about how things went wrong. The creation of his generals was necessary, given how powerful and talented Wang Wei was. If he did not do the same, the current situation would have been worse.

However, he never should have been so evident with his actions. During that time, he had too much confidence in achieving the Ten Supremacy Foundation and believed Wang Wei's chances were too slim.

After all, Nine Pillar claimed to have spent his entire life, billions of Yuan Epochs, before only discovering one method. Alas, he forgot how Dao Overlords were people who could create miracles.

As such, a part of him became complacent, prideful, and condescending as victory near him.

'I made the same mistakes before she died,' contemplating Di Tian. 'Could it be that my terrible fate is now a curse from Heaven but the result of my own inadequacy?'

For many years, he believed his horrid fate was Heavenly Dao's fault. But now, he has to ask himself why it was so easy to scheme against him. Why was it so easy to make him suffer, to make him fail?

'Dao Overlord, Dao Overlord, Dao Overlord...None of this would have happened as I was one.'

His eyes blurred as he imagined what his life would have been like if he had the capabilities to pass the Supreme Outlaw Trial. Ning'er would still be by his side, probably one of humankind's most extraordinary Eternal Emperors.

Then, together, they would lead Acquired Life against the Innate Beings from the Endless Void while ensuring the supremacy of humans.

He would have watched his disciples grow and become pillars of human society. And with his protections, none of them might have died.

'There is no point in thinking of what ifs,' sighed Di Tian, who knew long ago Heaven and Earth were not fair. Some people were born with talents and abilities that others could only dream of. Some people's endpoints are others' starting points.

And in life, in the cultivation world, you can only do with the cards handed to you by fate.

'Now, I only need to think about my next step,' pondered Di Tian, who had calmed down.

'The first plan would be to attack the remaining participants.'

Di Tian simulated the result of such a tactic. Wang Wei would intervene and stop him. He will have the advantage since the latter will have to protect these weaklings of his subordinates.

'Yan Liliing and Li Jun would be fine. As long as Wang Wei buys them enough time, they can escape to the Elemental Dimensions without being affected by our battle. However, Tie Gang would probably not live long, but he is inconsequential.

'The real threat is Yan Liling and Wang Ju. If he protects them long enough, Wang Wei should create an array that blesses his strength and gives him an advantage in the battle against me.'

According to his simulation, this plan can only work if he goes all out to deal with Wang Wei and can successfully buy enough time to get rid of the others. However, this process would require him to reveal his trump cards in advance and might not even work since he did not know the fullest extent of Wang Wei's strength.

'There are too many unexpected variables and unpredictable outcomes with this tactic; it's better to be safe than sorry,' thought Di Tian before looking at the battle between Wang Ju and his shadow.

Everything seemed even so far.

'In that case, I can only rely on Plan B and use that secret technique. If he can catch Wang Ju, it would be even better.' Di Tian sent a message to his Shadow and waited.

If there were a person he could count on was his Shadow since the latter was one of the remains from the Sleepers. As such, he was talented and fiercely loyal.

Additionally, he needs to take precautionary measures to ensure Gluttony does not follow the same fate as Gao Buqin. He modified the Soul Enslavement to immediately kill him at the slightest signs of interference.

Eastern Quadrant:

Wang Wei was on the highest alert after Yan Liling's victory. He observed and waited, with no changes to the battlefield.

'He did not overthrow the board and attack the others? I guess we are closer to checkmate.'

Once things reached this stage, one of his fears for this final battle was for his opponent to destroy the board to end the game, rendering all his plans and tactics useless.

As such, his plan for such an event was divided into two, with the first being obviously protecting the board and not letting Di Tian do as he pleases.

And the second and main one was one of the fundamental flaws of dealing with intelligent people who knew how terrifying Dao Overlords were—being too cautious not to fall into a trap.

'Caution is good, but it must also be measured,' thought Wang Wei. 'If he tried to attack the others, he would have a severe advantage since defending is more demanding than attacking.

'He could use this occasion to pressure me physically and mentally. And as long as he persisted and was wise with his attack, I would have no choice but to let my team live the battle to protect them, abandoning all my plans.'

Wang Wei secretly shook his head as he had completely figured out his opponent's mindset and used it against him. Risks were significant in many things, including battles—especially calculated risks.

'Things are proceeding smoothly. However, I should also be prudent. Who knows what this old monster is hiding as a trump card.'

He would only celebrate once success was at hand. Then, he focuses on the weakest link of this team, who will also play a vital role.

A few minutes ago, the Southern Quadrant:

Tie Gang, wearing Yin Gen's zombie as armor, looked at Gluttony before him; he controlled his breath to ensure his calmness and rationality, thinking of the perfect battle tactic for this fight.

'According to the group's analysis, his strength should be 7-Leaf Peak. However, this strength is not his own but the result of swallowing Di Tian's attacks before the battle.'

There is a limit to how much strength can increase through the power of Devour. And Gluttony's limit should be the limit of all mortals.

'But even without increasing his strength, he can store a vast amount of energy in his stomach. As such, a protracted battle is not ideal.'

With such a large reserve of energy, Gluttony's stamina will be nigh infinite, and his healing capabilities scary.

'So, I need a quick and decisive victory.'

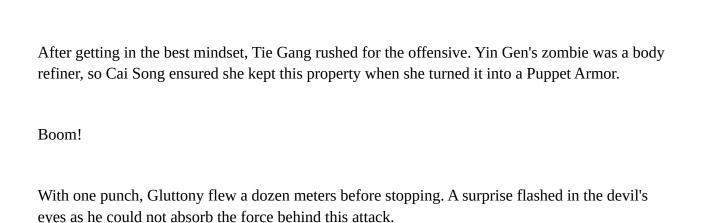
The two stared at each other, releasing their aura. However, Tie Gang noticed his opponents seemed cold and lifeless. For a devil to have such an aura should be expected, yet it looked odd on Gluttony.

'No man, or devil, should have their freedom forcefully stripped from them.'

Tie Gang sympathized with this little devil. Unlike the Myriad Emperor World's people, who had hatred for such a species embedded deep in their blood and soul, he was from the Lower Realm and had never heard of such a race.

Furthermore, the primary source of his sympathy was his lack of history with the devil race. Tie Gang knew the fate awaiting his home world—the Warring Kingdom World—if a more aggressive world discovered them.

They might have all been killed or suffered a worse fate, similar to Gao Buqin and this devil.



And inside the armor, Tie Gang sneered. Their team knew about Gluttony's Dao, so how would they not prepare?

Although the Zombie Puppet was not originally part of the plan. But, before the battle, he practiced many methods to deal with Devouring, Swallor, or Eating Dao.

Chapter 845 The Weakest Link (II)

Tie Gang rushed into his opponent, releasing a barrage of attacks. With each fist, he released a tremendous vibration capable of destroying countless galaxies.

At first, Gluttony could block some of these attacks with his enhanced physical body. However, the devil began to suffer when Tie Gang started taking advantage of the potent fleshly body of the zombie.

Tie Gang used Wang Wei's techniques he used in his early years. He released vibration from every cell, molecule, muscle fiber, tendon, bone, and even every inch of skin, before redirecting them toward his enemy.

Boom!

The space twisted with the surrounding space-time as Tie Gang's fist headed directly for Gluttony's head. And in one fell swoop, the devil's upper body exploded like a balloon overfilled with oxygen.

Swish!

Gluttony's upper body regrows itself without any problem. The problem looked horrifying; it was like countless worms fused to form a humanoid shape that resembled Gluttony.

Bang!

Tie Gang went on the offensive and continued his tactic of relentless attack. His fist contained the same strength as before. However, his effort failed this time around.

And this time around, Gluttony was not even pushed backward.

Bang! Bang!

Tie Gang continued two more attacks, even knowing it would be useless. He wanted to take this opportunity to analyze the opponent's technique.

He realized the devil used another space as a medium to transfer the force and vibration from the attacks.

'Did he transfer the attacks into his [stomach] but did not absorb them? Instead, he redirected the attacks somewhere else to prevent any problems?'

Tie Gang was trained in situational awareness and analysis like any Heaven Chosen. Ordinary people cannot easily acquire such education. If not for his status in the sect, he would need to risk his life in countless battles to gain such an ability, and it would not be compared to these genius' systematic training.

However, geniuses from Emperor Lineage will be taught countless knowledge and experience that allowed them to discover what kind of Dao their opponent was using or its application.

Crunch!

While analyzing his opponent, Tie Gang watched with surprise, and a little bit of horror, as his right arm suddenly disappeared, followed by a crunching sound.

'What just happened?' he wondered, fear almost overwhelmed his mind due to the unknown. Luckily, his mind was not that weak, so he swiftly controlled himself. Additionally, Yan Liling's pill was still in effect and kept his mind calm and soothing.

Cai Song ensured to keep the biological characteristics of the zombie as she turned it into puppet armor. So, after the arm went missing, it regrew itself, along with Tie Gang, who was bonded with it.

[Yin Qi Flame]

The zombie swiftly opened its mouth and spewed an eerie dark green flame with the power to burn the soul. However, it mysteriously disappeared like Tie Gang's arm before reaching Gluttony. The only difference was the crunching sound was replaced by subtle sounds that seemed like chewing and swallowing.

'Did he eat my attacks?' thought Tie Gang. 'Yes, he should be treating my attacks like food and eating them.'

He tested his theory by elevating his senses. And Tie Gang finally saw it. There were multiple invisible mouths surrounding Gluttony. Tie Gang tested them by sending a Yin Claw Attack; as expected, they ate, chewed, and swallowed it.

Tie Gang became more serious.

Through the process of chewing, Gluttony can remove the influence of my technique, allowing him to swallow my attacks after a process of refining; he removed the parts that made them unswallowable and kept the part he can absorb.

'Although it will reduce the energy quantity of the attacks, it is still better than nothing.'

Tie Gang began to think of countermeasures. The fastest way to deal with Gluttony would be to use the Order Talisman he has in his space ring and establish the order on this battlefield so that no one can swallow each other's technique. Or, he could limit the number of things that can be consumed.

However, the team previously warned against creating Scenario S. So, if he took out the talisman, he could not predict what Gluttony would take from his space ring.

'I need to hurry since I won't last long,' thought Tie Gang. His body and strength were naturally weak, so it was difficult for him to bear using this Immortal Tier Zombie Puppet Armor.

He was only holding because of Yan Liling's pills and sharing his vitality with his Undead Legion.

[Heaven and Earth Vibration Domain]

Tie Gang did not hesitate to use one of his most powerful techniques. His body began to release immense vibrations, followed by all the laws between Heaven and Earth.

Through Law Resonance, he can control these laws and, in turn, the vibration they created. Then, he focused everything on his opponent.

Tie Gang encased Gluttony in this world of vibration. As such, the devil was surrounded by terrifying vibrational powers from all sides. Gluttony did accept his fate and fought against this wave of attacks.

He defended himself as his invisible mouths went on overdrive, trying to eat anything that came toward him. However, there were too many coming everywhere.

Over the years, he had expanded the ability of his [stomach] to swallow things. Although it was not infinite like the Heaven-Devouring Emperor, his ability increased hundred times since the Cleanup.

Unfortunately, Tie Gang's attack still overwhelmed him—especially since most of these "foods" were unpalatable or indigestible.

Soon, Gluttony found himself with countless injuries, forcing him to use a defensive art.

[Stomach Manifestation]

Gluttony's stomach is a large dimension where all the power and energy he absorbed goes; the stomach is both real and unreal, existing on a plane of existence accessible only to Gluttony—at least, it should be.

And in this dangerous situation, he manifested his stomach into the physical world to protect himself.

Tie Gang's infinite Dao Vibrations became ineffective. As they reached Gluttony and touched the stomach, they only created spatial and temporal fluctuations with no effect.

However, Tie Gang did not stop and was stubbornly persistent. He knew this stomach was the source of Gluttony's primary techniques or Dao. So, as long as he can damage it in any way possible, it will be to his advantage.

Bang!

Heaven and Earth shook.

"Damn it," cursed Tie Gang as the laws of Heaven and Earth were annihilated by a potent strike. After a brief observation, he knew the culprit and cursed out loud for being victim to his ally's technique.

Without these laws, he cannot use Law Resonance to generate vibration from Heaven and Earth.

And as he expected, Gluttony quickly dealt with his weakened technique and went on the offensive.

[Vomiting Chaos]

A colossal mouth emanated behind Gluttony's back and opened, showing its razor-sharp fangs. However, the terrifying part about this thing was not the fact it was only a mouth or the creepy teeth, but what came out of it:

A dark purple beam.

'The power of Greater Chaos?' thought Tie Gang, his teeth clenched as he focused intently. According to the team's analysis, this outcome was likely if Gluttony could successfully mix all the different powers inside his stomach.

However, the team concluded that Gluttony's talent was unlikely to achieve such a feat. However, they did not rule out this possibility due to Di Tian's unpredictable or unknown factor.

Although the latter displayed no knowledge of Chaos Dao, who knows what he experienced or learned during his long life?

'This is not the time to be distracted,' thought Tie Gang, knowing he was in a difficult situation.

As he watched this beam containing the strength to annihilate him instantly, Tie Gang realized he might be too late to come up with the appropriate measure.

So, he allowed the instinct of the zombie to take control; as a living creature, it should have the natural instinct to survive. So, Tie Gang only allowed these instincts to activate and function by themselves.

Boom!

Sounds cannot travel in a vacuum. However, due to the intensity of the energy involved in this attack, followed by the destruction of the laws of Heaven and Earth, such common sense was thrown out of the window.

The intensity of the explosion was enough to devastate millions of galaxies if anything else remained in this grand cosmos. So, the floating debris became the victims.

After everything settled, only one thing remained at the center of the blast—an old and decrepit black coffin.

Tie Gang walked out of the coffin, and the zombie puppet was in terrible shape; it could be described as almost falling apart. And even he, who was protected inside, was not in the best condition.

Luckily for him, Yan Liling's pills remained in his body to heal his injuries. Sadly, the same could not be said for the zombie.

After surviving the initial contact with the blast using the Coffin Defense Art from the zombie, Tie Gang summoned an Energy Pill to help the puppet's regeneration.

And that's how it did not entirely fall apart.

'Gluttony's Duyi Realm is weak but still working,' thought Tie Gang as he felt the state of the zombie. 'However, it's better than me without it entirely.'

His mind worked on overdrive as he calculated how best to use the last value of the puppet.

Chapter 846 The Weakest Link (III)

[Flesh Burning]

Tie Gang did not hesitate to burn the flesh of the puppet to increase his battle strength temporarily. His aura drastically increased as a green flame manifested on the puppet.

Without hesitation, he rushed toward his opponent.

Gluttony's cold and indifferent eyes did not fluctuate. He gathered the power of Chaos he created by combining countless different powers and energy and fired them.

Tie Gang tried to evade at first, but the speed at which Gluttony fired his Chaos Breath was too fast. So, after dodging the fourth attack, he was hit head-on.

Tie Gang was swift as he created a two-prong defense. In the first layer, he controlled a massive amount of Yin Qi from the puppet to summon a world of souls.

Secondly, he condensed an unimaginable amount of vibration to create a shield capable of surviving the explosions of countless Middle Thousand Worlds.

Sadly, his efforts resulted in minimal achievements.

Bang!

Everything is born from Chaos and must one day return to Chaos. As soon as Gluttony's breath reached the World of Souls, it melted all the ghosts like ice in the summer heat.

Then, it was the turn of the Condense Vibration Shield. The Chaos Breath encountered some resistance, but it was also minimal. Regardless, these two measures bought Tie Gang enough time to evade and survive this attack.

Boom!

Gluttony predicted his survival; he even predicted where Tie Gang would appear after evading his attack. So, as soon as the latter appeared, another breath attack awaited him.

'Damn it,' cursed Tie Gang as he raised his two arms to block the attack. His battle instinct kicked in as he thought of a way to deal with the situation. And in the moment of life and death, he did not falter or let fear overwhelm him.

No, Tie Gang was the kind of talent that thrived in dangerous situations; he could push himself beyond his limit when he faced death. That's one of the reasons Wang Wei chose him as one of his generals and never abandoned him after so many years.

So, Tie Gang took action. He remembered something Wang Wei once told him as an idea to help his Vibration Dao and help him create new techniques.

"Imagine everything in the world is made of strings—matter, energy, soul, the spirit, consciousness, and even the laws of Heaven and Earth. And the world functions properly based on how these strings vibrate."

Tie Gang has always felt these words contained profound meaning and held the highest truth between Heaven and Earth. Although Wang Wei only said they were ideas and how to utilize his Dao and should not take it as absolute truth, his intuition told him these words were not simple.

When Tie Gang's hands touched the Chaos Breath, he instantly felt different vibrations; there were thousands, if not more, of them. He knew these vibrations corresponded to the various powers or abilities Gluttony fused to create the Chaos Breath.

[Break Down]

Something amazing occurred. The purple breath suddenly changed color; to be precise, it dispersed into thousands of colors, each with a different aura.

Gluttony's eyes widened, showing his emotions for the first time since the start of the battle; he did not even react when an outside force destroyed the laws of the surroundings.

Meanwhile, Tie Gang watched the destroyed arms of the puppet. Although he succeeded in stopping the attack, the short contact did a number on this puppet.

However, he couldn't care less about his current state.

'I have found my path,' he thought, unable to contain his excitement. One of the most outstanding achievements of a Dao is to affect or control all Daos. The Supreme Outlaw Daos are famous because of their power and innate ability to do this feat—as long as the user is competent enough.

However, it is not the same for other Dao. For example, how would someone who cultivates Fire Dao have any relation with Fate Dao? They must be talented enough to push their talent to that level and control Fate Fire, Creation Flame, and so on.

During this battle, Tie Gang watched many people who had already peeped into that realm—for example, Huo Fenghuang, who used the Yin-Yang Changes in the Four Seasons to control Time Dao.

Tie Gang realized his inadequacy when compared to these top Heaven Chosens. And for a while, he thought it was because his Vibration Dao was such a weak Dao.

Of course, he also understood that there is no weak Dao, only weak cultivators. However, this fact did not change his thoughts, as he was overwhelmed by a sense of inferiority.

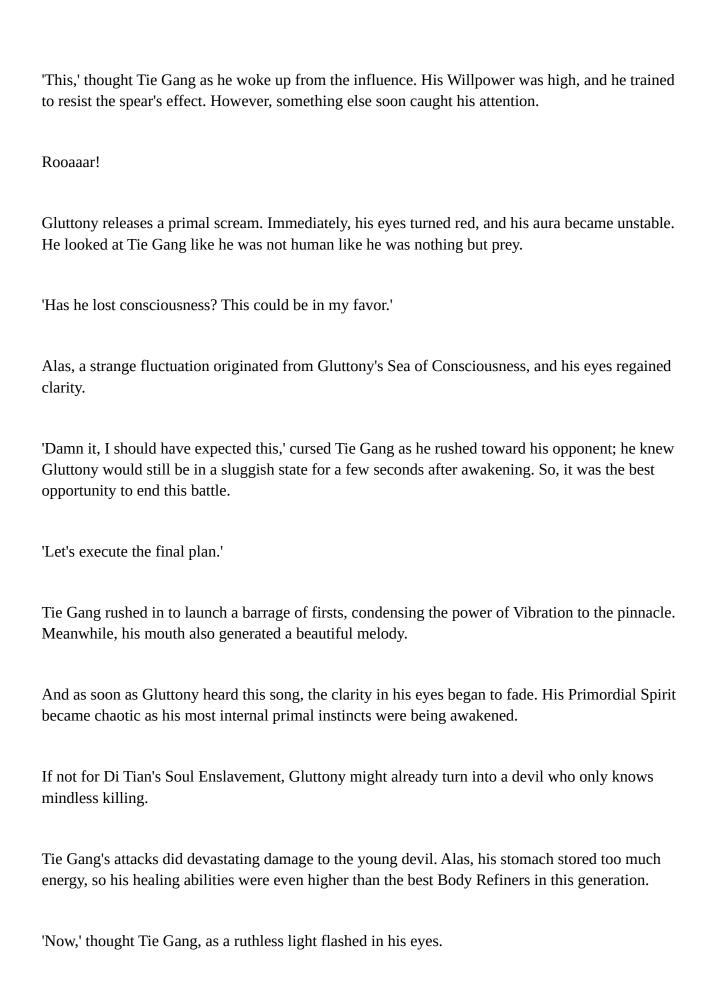
But today, he found the way forward for his Vibration Dao to affect all Daos.

"So, that's what his words were inferring to," muttered Tie Gang. "No, I still feel these words have a deeper meaning."

Tie Gang then concentrates on his opponent.

'I won't last long, so I need to end this battle as soon as possible.'

He hadn't made his move yet when the world suddenly turned blood red. Then, he saw countless visions where he committed innumerable acts of mindless slaughter.



Boom!

He did not hesitate to explode the body of the Zombie Puppet Armor and his physical body. And since he was in the middle of the explosion center and only a Primordial Spirit, he would have been affected.

With his weak soul and cultivation, such an explosion was enough to kill him thousands of times.

However, his plan worked. Gluttony acted instinctively and immediately swallowed the explosion.

'The opportunity is here.'

Tie Gang waved his hand to summon an artifact—a Sealing Emperor Artifact. The artifact contained Wang Wei's power, and he controlled it to target Gluttony's Slave Marks.

"Haaaaa," screamed the devil as a fierce reaction occurred in his soul. Di Tian had reinforced the mark to not fall for the same trick twice. So, as soon as Tie Gang acted, his power manifested and blocked the effect of the artifact and Wang Wei's power.

"Checkmate," said Tie Gang as marking suddenly appeared on Gluttony's body. They enveloped every corner of his body before rapidly turning him into a marble.

"Your parents should have warned you that you cannot put anything in your mouth," muttered Tie Gang, sighing deeply that everything was over. He held the marble in his hand, shaking his head.

The battle ended before it began since Wang Wei knew Gluttony was enslaved.

'Dealing with Dao Overlord is truly scary; they are always five to ten steps ahead of everybody.'

Di Tian took preventive measures against his Soul Mark but failed to see the other weaknesses that Wang Wei saw and prepared. According to the battle tactic Tie Gang was instructed before the battle, he had many options to deal with Gluttony.

He used his flesh as bait to seal the devil from his stomach, but he had other options. He could do it from his devil bloodline.

Wang Wei had a Devil God Body, so he knew a lot about the Devil Race's bloodline after the scientists of his Science and Technology World studied intensely for him to achieve Ten Supremacy.

Secondly, Wrath wanted him to save Gluttony, so she gave him some help.

Finally, Tie Gang had another option if these two did not work—the Quantum Arrays. He could release these things and use the same tactics as Wang Wei to pass the Supreme Outlaw Trial.

'It is improbable for me to become a Dao Overlord after my reincarnation, and the risks are too high. However, I need to prepare to deal with them.'

After living with a Dao Overlord for many years, Tie Gang knew their weakness—lack of information. If you do not give them enough information and time, you can quickly deal with a Dao Overlord.

Of course, that is if you have the strength.

Tie Gang exhaled out loud as he summoned a few pills to heal; he did not regrow his fleshly body since he wanted to take this opportunity to increase his strength and go further.

'There is only the last step remaining,' thought Tie Gang as he looked in the distance. He had his role to play, so he needed to prepare.

Chapter 847 Di Tian's Tactic

'The last step,' thought Wang Wei as he watched Tie Gang becoming the victor. His facial expression remained the same—a charming smile that hid his true intentions or hypocrisy.

His lack of movement or change was only superficial. Ever since the start of the battle of general, he had two purposes—keep watching his opponent to prevent interference and use his power to secretly prevent Di Tian's intuition or danger sense from activating.

And such an act was not easy to pull off while under his nose and when they were of similar power or level. As such, Wang Wei had to be extra careful not to be discovered.

Luckily, his attempts have been successful.

He kept observing Di Tian, ensuring the latter would not destroy the entire board. 'He appeared as calm as me,' thought Wang Wei. 'He is not someone who will give up easily, so he must be preparing something. His attention has been focused on his Shadow, so he must be the key to his plan.' 'Are you alright?" 'I'm fine.' Wang Wei thought about the information he knew from the Oracle Mirror but could not think of anything specifically. The mirror did not give him all of DI Tian's information, leaving many loopholes in his information gathering. Furthermore, there were too many possibilities based on what he knew about Di Tian. 'No need to let my mind drift. I will respond based on the situation.' After making a decision, Wang Wei used his Divine Sense to contact Li Jun: 'Are you alright?" 'I'm fine.' 'If you're not okay with the plan, it's not too late to change things,' said Wang Wei. 'No, it's definitely too late,' replied Li Jun. 'At least, to ensure success and prevent unforeseen variables, it's too late.'

'This is not the time to be soft,' cut Li Jun. 'Wait, it's not like you to hesitate at the last minute.'

'There is no need to worry about unforeseen variables. I-'

'I feel icky,' explained Wang Wei. 'What does that mean?' 'It's like my intuition wishes to warn me, but it's being blocked. So, I feel icky, I feel like something is not correct.' 'Is something bad going to happen? Maybe. But you should have expected this when dealing with such an old monster.' One of the difficult aspects of dealing with Di Tian is his long life and experience. At any point, he could devise some unknown method he learned and acquired from his long life. And unlike people like Heaven-Devouring Emperor and Feng Heng, Di Tian has the battle prowess to make these methods potent threats. 'We were prepared for the danger of this plan,' continued Li Jun. 'So, the best we can do is be extra cautious and prepare for the worst-case scenario.' 'You're right. Be prepared and contact the others–Wang Ju is almost finished.' Western Quadrant: Di Tian watched Gluttony's fate with indifferent eyes. 'It's been confirmed–Wang Wei has a connection with the devil race.' During the Cleanup, he stopped him from capturing their leader–Wrath. And according to him, it was purely to prevent his opponent from becoming more powerful. Based on their interactions, Di Tian suspected they had some sort of deal or connection, but Wang Wei denied it. He questioned his motive, but when it comes to Wang Wei, nothing is as simple as it seems.

So, Di Tian was never entirely sure. However, after seeing how he dealt with Gluttony, he confirmed the latter had some connection with Wrath, and Gluttony might play a key to everything.

'It's inconsequential. As long as I win, I can read his memories and know what he was planning with the devil race. If it's beneficial to me, I might continue it,' concluded Di Tian before focusing on the final battle; that's the only he cares for.

'Come on; you only need to have her corpse, and I can use the [Parasite Pyramid Art],' thought Di Tian with squinted eyes.

The [Parasite Pyramid Art] is an Emperor Scripture created by the Devil Ancestor during the Acquire-Innate War before the Null Era since he was the first devil cultivator to prove the Dao.

The creator—the Heavenly Demon Emperor—was a talentless human living in an era full of Heaven—Defying geniuses. And even his high understanding did not matter very much given how many genius were in that era.

Yet, he rose and became one of the most feared Pseudo Eternals of that era. The Heavenly Demon Emperor created his technique to make up for his lack of talent.

He would place parasites inside talented individuals' bodies and have them cultivated for him. Once the time was right, he would take their cultivation progress through the parasites; the entire scripture's philosophy involved the idea that I would use Heaven and Earth to make up for my deficiency.

In the early stages of this technique, it could only take things like energy. Then, the Heavenly Demon Emperor evolved the art to take anything—including bloodline, physique, body refining progress, and even law comprehension.

At its peak, the Heavenly Demon Emperor had talented people under him to cultivate for him. At the same time, these people also had people that cultivated for them, forming a hierarchical pyramid, hence the name.

And, of course, many people feared him because of the horror of this parasite. Before proving the Dao, the Heavenly Demon Emperor was one of the most wanted individuals between both the Acquired and Innate sides of the war.

After all, these parasites were not detectable under normal circumstances. And no one wanted to be the next victim. Many geniuses became crippled, made, or died after having everything taken away from them.

After proving the Dao, the Heavenly Demon Emperor became an even more significant threat since his technique could still apply to Grand Dao Source comprehension.

The Acquired Side wanted to annihilate him—no matter the price. But the humans intervened and came up with a better solution: they would unleash the Heavenly Demon Emperor on the enemy.

So, an accord was signed. This devil joined their sides and promised only to release his art to the Innate Lifeforms. And the Heavenly Demon Emperor accepted such a deal, unleashing mayhem and terror.

Unfortunately, such an unparalleled talent suddenly disappeared, and Di Tian did not know what had happened to him exactly. He acquired the [Parasite Pyramid Art] after his reincarnation since the Heavenly Demon Emperor appeared after his death.

He searched for information, and Di Tian guessed the fate of such a legendary character—death. The Acquired Sides most likely betrayed him near the end of the war due to fear of his scripture and Parasite Dao.

Di Tian theorized that Heavenly Dao might also be involved in the latter's death. In his era, that thing had some level of consciousness or emotion, making it fear the possibility of the Heavenly Demon Emperor parasitizing it.

There is a high chance the latter did succeed, so Heavenly Dao planned his downside.

Di Tian greatly believed in this theory because the scripture he received was incomplete. And when he tried to make up for the flaws and complete this scripture, he received many limits and restraints from Heaven and Earth.

The final result is barely on par with the true power of this ingenious scripture.

Di Tian watched the battle with bated breath, waiting for the final outcome.

'As long as I get my hands on Wang Ju, I can plant the Parasite Seed. And through her connection with Wang Wei, I can steal some of his powers.'

His face or eyes did not reveal his emotions or thoughts; he was like an ancient well without any ripples for thousands of years.

'Even if I steal 1% of his strength, I will have an overwhelming advantage,' thought Di Tian. 'However, I need to act swiftly to prevent him from cutting the connection between them.'

With this plan, he can increase his strength while weakening the enemy. However, Di Tian still had some worries, mainly in the form of Heavenly Dao.

The current [Parasite Pyramid Art] is a shallow version of its former self—at least, according to Di Tian's analysis. Regardless, Heavenly Dao's fear of this technique might not vanish, forcing it to interfere when using it on Wang Wei.

'Logically speaking, unless an extreme case occurred, Heavenly Dao has no right to intervene in the battle—especially in such a late stage,' contemplated Di Tian. 'However, Wang Wei is a complete Son of Era—the first in history.

'His status might even involve True Heavenly Dao, so it's not of the realm of possibility for them to cheat for him.'

Di Tian knew his thoughts were too paranoid and extreme. After all, it was a program with rules and regulations that it must follow at all costs.

However, after suffering so long from Heavenly Dao's curse, he cannot help but look at it from the worse point of view possible.

That's the only way he can ensure nothing goes wrong—especially when he is so close to success.

'There is no point in hesitating since this might be my only chance at ensuring victory. So, I only need to be careful and prepare for the worst-case scenario.'

He was no longer his weak self, completely helpless before Heavenly Dao's power. With his current strength, he can severely damage Heaven and Earth if he plans carefully.

And with that fact alone, Heavenly Dao should also consider whether to play favorite.

Chapter 848 Battle of Assassins (I)

Fire Dimension:

Wang Ju appeared and looked around. This used to be a world of flame, but after Feng Heng and Zhen Buyu's battle, this place became an empty dimension full only of void or nothingness.

Well, at least, to the naked eye. With Wang Ju's senses, she could still feel their previous battles' residual energy and power. However, these things were useless to her, so she did not care.

She waited a few seconds before her opponent appeared—a man clad in all black, not showing much of his face or body.

As soon as she laid eyes on him, she knew this man was the epitome of what a Shadow should be like—not known, not seen, and no self. His only existence was to serve his master.

His appearance reminded Wang Ju of the previous Shadow who served sect master Wang Tian.

At one point in her career, she contemplated walking the same path and becoming an actual shadow of his young master. However, Wang Wei disagreed as he did not want her to become a mindless object dedicated only to himself.

Wang Ju was grateful for this decision. After all, if she had the choice, who would want to become a walking puppet? Simultaneously, she felt it was her duty to whatever was necessary to become the young master's most excellent aid.

And if becoming like this could help, she should not have hesitated to do it.

All these thoughts rapidly flashed inside Wang Ju's mind while observing her opponent. Then, she focused on the opponent at hand.

She knew she lacked information on this Shadow's abilities and prowess. However, her team has deduced many things about the latter because he was a Shadow in the first place.

As such, she had some level of confidence. 'For this fight, there is no need for hesitation or waste of time.' Boom! She activated her Divine Ability that granted her temporary strength of Dao Ancestor 5-Root. Then, she summoned her two daggers-both False Dao Artifacts. Di Tian's shadow, whose codename as a Sleeper was Demonraise, frowned underneath his hood. As he sensed his opponent's actions, he immediately knew the latter wanted a swift fight. For a moment, he was annoyed that he had lost the opportunity to control the rhythm of the battle. However, he had great control of his emotions and calmed down almost immediately. Then, he also activated the same Divine Ability, releasing an aura almost on par with Wang Ju. Demonraise did not summon a weapon, but his nails suddenly grew into claws, and the aura they released was also on par with Wang Ju's daggers. 'Claws for weapons? If he is an assassin, then his fighting style should be more violent, primitive, and bloody,' analyzed Wang Ju. 'Let's do a few tests before getting serious.' The Fate Shadows' mode of operation has always been to be highly cautious—especially when dealing with opponents of similar strength. She instantly appeared before him and made a simple two-attack combo with her daggers. Clink! Clink! Demonraise used his claws to effortlessly block these attacks. His actions were swift, methodical, and highly efficient. With only this small interaction, Wang Ju felt he learned some significant information. Clink! Clink!

She increased the intensity of the attack, preparing to slowly draw out her opponent's abilities. Alas, she did not have to wait long.

Swish!

Demonraise suddenly disappeared from her sight and perception. Immediately afterward, Wang Ju felt great danger coming from behind. Then, a claw plunged deep from her back, piercing her heart.

Boom! She exploded, turning into a mist of black goo.

'Shadow Elemental?' thought Demonraise before turning around and seeing an intact Wang Ju appearing not far in the distance.

'What was that?' thought Wang Ju. 'Was he too fast for me to react? No, it was different.'

Without hesitation, she threw her dagger with great force, tearing the fabric of space-time in the process. Wang Ju focused intently as she watched the weapon travel to its destination.

Swish!

Demonraise again disappeared, and she felt the same sense of danger—except it was above her this time, heading for her head and soul.

A spiky black shadow popped out of Wang Ju's head, stabbing Demonraise with incredible speed. The latter had to stop his attack and parry with his fiendish claws.

'I see,' contemplated Wang Ju. 'He can disturb people's perception.' She could tell that her opponent's ability affected even her soul or Divine Sense.

Demonraise did not stay on the defensive. After parrying the attack, he flew towards her again, releasing a palpitating bloodlust that reddened the surrounding area.

"Huh," groaned Wang Ju slightly as a claw mark appeared on her back, leaving it almost maimed; this time around, she failed to escape the latter's claws. If her body did not move on instinct, her injury would have been worse than a few marks.

'I use my danger sense to evade his technique. But now, his bloodlust made me feel danger everywhere and unable to pinpoint where he would appear.'
Wang Ju knew she had to use another tactic; otherwise, she would suffer in this battle.
[Fate Perception]
Her vision suddenly changed. From now on, she can see her fate in the next few minutes. So, if Demonraise stabbed her in the left, right, on her chest, abdomen, or heart, she could see it.
Clink!
One of her daggers stopped Demonraise's claw from targeting her throat. Wang Ju sensed an intent of surprise from him, but she did not care as she took advantage of this current advantage.
Her second dagger acted swiftly and released a moon-shaped slash that sent Demonraise flying a few hundred meters away, leaving a nasty wound on his upper torso.
And this was not the end.
Wang Ju did not let this opportunity pass as she suddenly appeared from his shadow behind him. She held her daggers in the form of scissors, targeting Demonraise's head.
Swish!
Wang Ju frowned as she saw how her weapon cut only air. At the last minute, Demonraise controlled his body and shrunk his bones, thus changing his height to that of a child.
Bang!
Wang Ju blocked the kick from the toddler-size Demonraise, flying a few meters away from her opponent.

Then, she frowned as she saw her opponent's shadow slowly disperse as if it was never there in the first place.

'A technique targeting me?' Wang Ju secretly shook his head since this was not the first time. Her Assassination Dao did not only rely on Shadow Dao.

"Huh?" muttered Wang Ju as she saw Demonraise suddenly appear before her, forcing her to block the attack by sheer instinct and years of training.

'He bypassed my Fate Perception? How? Can he even twist that kind of perception?'

She was almost flustered. Luckily, she had years of experience and training so that she could calm down in such a situation.

Clink! Clink! Clink!

Wang Ju kept blocking attacks but did not stop all of them as Demonraise kept appearing and disappearing before her eyes. He was so fast and relentless that countless afterimages of himself remained around her.

'He used a technique, especially targeting my fate ability,' she analyzed. 'He's not twisting my Fate Perception but delaying it. It should be some Time-related They would teleport in different directions, perfectly coordinating their attacks to ensure maximum attack input.

Technique.'

Her mind rushed faster as she contemplated the safest and quickest way to deal with this technique and her opponent.

[Shadow Clones]

Wang Ju's shadow suddenly moved underneath her feet; it divided into six black figures who slowly turned into identical versions of herself. The seven Wang Jus glanced at Demonraise, making the latter frown.

These people had the same aura, soul fluctuation, energy mark, Dao fluctuation, and everything else that could identify her.

'There is probably not a real version of her amongst these seven,' thought Demonraise. Based on her analysis, each figure can suddenly become the real version, making it difficult to identify or kill.

'But there should be a flaw in this technique.'

The seven Wang Jus teleported to surround their opponent. Then, without giving him enough time to breathe, they ganged up on him and began to attack from all sides.

They would teleport in different directions, perfectly coordinating their attacks to ensure maximum attack input.

Blood flew from Demonraise's body as countless cutting marks appeared all over his body. However, anyone with the proper knowledge and correct observation could tell all these were minor flesh wounds, with nothing of significance given his powerful flesh body.

'He has this beast-like instinct for any of my dangerous attacks,' analyzed Wang Ju as one of her clones used a Fate Cutting Technique with her dagger.

However, Demonraise found a way to block her attack.

'I see. Only three of the seven can use strength compared to their Dao Ancestors. Meanwhile, the others were distractions,' pondered Demonraise, who was always calm in any situation.

'Let's apply more pressure to her.'

He knew the key to victory in their battle was who could push the opponent further to reveal their final trump cards. And the person who folds first will be at a disadvantage.

Chapter 849 Battle of Assassins (II)

An enormous black and white wheel manifested behind Demonraise; the wheel was grand, noble, and anyone who looked at it would believe they had seen the origin of life in this grand universe.

Demonraise's wheel did not last long as it turned into a black gate of equal proportion. The gate was as noble and grand, and it contained countless animals engraved on it.

[Six Path of Samsara: Animal Hall]

Underneath Demonraise's hood, a tattoo of a mantis shrimp appeared on his forehead. Then, he rushed toward Wang Ju and slashed her with his claw.

Her danger instinct went on overdrive as she reacted.

Slash!

Three of her seven shadow clones were bisected into two with one attack. And one of these three clones was the real one with Dao Ancestor strength.

Wang Ju acted swiftly and replaced the missing real clone by appointing one of the remaining four. Then, she ordered them to enter the Shadow Dimension and attack from the dark.

However, her attempt was futile.

A tattoo of a Star-Nosed Mole appeared on Demonraise; this creature contained more than 25,000 sensory receptors that grant super senses to detect, hunt, and navigate in the dark abyss of the ocean.

With this tattoo, Demonraise's senses were elevated to a higher state. And with a glance, he discovered Wang Ju's Shadow Dimension.

Swish!

With one movement of his claw, he cleaved through that dimension. The power of the Mantis Shrimp not only elevated the speed of his claw but drastically increased his slashing or clawing ability.

So, he tore apart the dimension without much effort.

Alas, his attack was not as successful as he wanted to be. After destroying the Shadow Dimension and killing another clone, the remaining three Wang Ju acted simultaneously to control the leaking power of the Shadow Dimension to attack him.

As such, countless shadow creatures with sinister or macabre appearances rushed toward Demonraise, trying to either kill or drag him into the remains of the Shadow Dimension.

Demonraise killed most of these shadow creatures with relative ease. However, there were too many, and they were too quick. Soon enough, he discovered myriad tentacles binding his limbs and immobilizing his movements.

During the entire ideal, Demonraise was calm as he assessed the situation and chose the best way to deal with the situation. Then, a tattoo of an anglerfish came from the Animal Gate and entered his body.

Subsequently, his eyes turned into two glowing lights—a light so intense that it evaporated the shadows faster than a solar flare could annihilate an entire civilization.

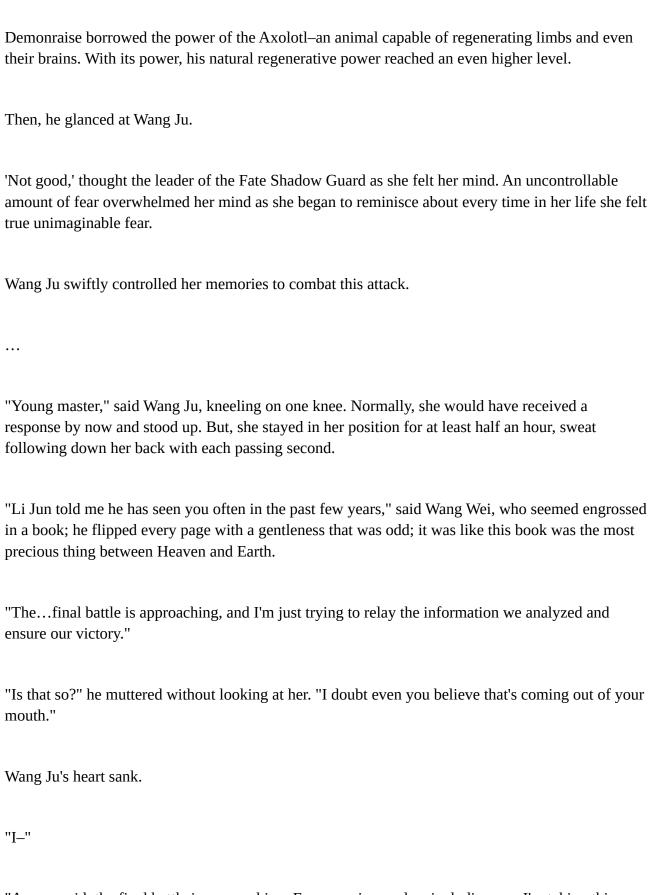
Demonraise was swift as he took on another animal—the cuttlefish. He blended into the environment and disappeared. And in a very short period, before Wang Ju could react, he appeared behind one of the three genuine clones and ripped her heart out.

The other two reacted swiftly. The moment their counter died, they instantly sealed Demonraise by creating a special dimension around him. However, they knew such a measure was not enough.

So, as soon as the dimension appeared, they instantly blew it up. And this was not the entire power of this attack. Wang Ju layered hundreds of dimensions on top of the first one and exploded them without hesitation.

However, she soon frowned as she sensed a powerful vitality amidst this chaos full of spatial energy. And as expected, Demonraise appeared at the center of the explosion.

He had lost half of his torso, his right leg was twisted at a weird angle, and his head appeared to be sliced into two. Although his mask and hood still did not reveal his face, Wang Ju could sense his calmness.



"As you said, the final battle is approaching. Everyone is on edge—including me. I'm taking this short break from cultivation, so I don't have time to waste with your nonsense. So, tell me the truth, and don't make me have to find it myself."



Most cultivators form an extreme when it comes to their family—they either treat them coldly as if they don't exist or dote on them to an abnormal point. This fact is the result of their long lifespan and low birth rate.

So, they either don't care about their children or descendants since the latter might not live as long as them. Or treat them as the most precious thing in the world since they might never conceive a second one.

So, Wang Wei believed his mother would do such a stupid thing after the people from the Wang Clan placed the idea in her head. As for why they did it?

Well, the answer is simple—politics and power. Despite the unity of the factions of the sect—especially the three families, it's still a fact that the main power of the sect is in the hands of the Wang Clan.

And a few minority of these people even believed in the supremacy of the Wang Clan, believing they should have absolute control over the sect.

So, after seeing that Wang Wei has the chance to become the fifth Emperor of the Wang Clan and the second Eternal Emperor, some people will go to extreme lengths to ensure nothing happens.

Wang Wei finally closed his book, "Why didn't you tell me as soon as she ordered you?"

"I...feared my actions would lead to contradictions between you and the Madam."

"So, you executed your order so badly, leading to today's charade?"

Wang Ju lowered her head; she knew the best action was to immediately tell the truth. However, she also knew the consequences if the relationship between the Madam and the sect master was affected because of this.

So, she chose the best method she could think of.

Wang Wei looked in the distance, "Go apologize to Li Jun and tell him the truth. Secondly, go warn these Wang Clan members—send a few to prisons and exile another as an example.

"Finally, I want you to remember-you're my Shadow and only follow my orders." "As you wish. Then, what about the Madam?" "That's not your concern," replied Wang Wei, glancing at her. "In your career, that is the second time you've disappointed me. I hope there is not a third time." Wang Ju's body trembled, "I promise there won't be." "I hope so." Wang Wei left to talk to his mother. Meanwhile, Wang Ju felt a tremendous weight lifted from her shoulder. Break! Wang Ju's memory broke apart as her mind entered a state of absolute darkness. She opened her eyes and glanced at Demonraise—her eyes red with anger and intense killing intent. Chapter 850 Battle of Assassins (III) Demonraise did not care for his opponent's dangerous gaze. He was only mildly surprised she survived his [Beastly Gaze of Fear] with such little effort. 'I should not focus on fear in general, but fear of death,' analyzed Demonraise as he realized his attack was too broad; if he had focused his gaze, the final result would have been more intense. 'Hm? Where is she?' Demonraise activated all the receptors from the Star-Nosed Mole, trying to detect his opponent's whereabouts. However, he searched everywhere, including the surrounding dimensions, with no success.

Then, his beast instinct suddenly activated as he felt great danger coming. Demonraise tried to

move his body, but it was too late.

Push!

Two daggers pierced him from his back, puncturing many of his internal organs. Demonraise groaned in pain as blood dripped from his mouth.

'How can I not sense any of her movement?'

Such a thought flashed in his mind, but he knew this was also an opportunity since Wang Ju was so close. He moved his left hand to capture her daggers.

Demonraise's plan was to hold onto them to render her immobile while he attacked swiftly with his right hand. However, as soon as his body moved, he discovered he could not control them as easily as before.

He felt something was wrong and used his Divine Sense to check inside and discover the source of the anomaly. Wang Ju's blades contained this weird poison or curse that made his cells attack each other.

His immune system suddenly became his enemy. Demonraise swiftly took control of his cells, but it was to no avail. It was like they now had a will of their own and refused to obey him.

So, he had to forcefully make them obey. Alas, trying to control billions of cells took time, and Wang Ju was not going to give him any.

She suddenly disappeared and appeared before him. Her daggers pierced his heart and brain. Luckily, Demonraise had plenty of experience and a high Battle IQ.

Before the second dagger pierced his brain, he activated the Animal Hall and acquired the power of the Bighorn Sheep, making his skull harder than the Dao Weapon on her hand.

Regardless, his eviscerated heart soon became an issue. Since he is Di Tian's Shadow, he inherited the latter's mighty fleshly body. But, his vitality was slowly leaking out of his body without a heart. The situation was exacerbated by the cells of his control.

'Her Duyi Realm is so concentrated,' Demonraise had to divide his mind into three. He had to be careful of Wang Ju's movement, fighting his out-of-control cells and trying to remove her Duyi Realm from his body so he could regenerate.

'His ability is annoying,' thought Wang Ju after he felt like stabbing the latter's head. 'Let's eliminate it.'

She activated the power of her dagger to the full extent of their abilities. Then, she appeared before him again and stabbed him. The moment Demonraise was about to react and counterattack, his demonized cells became even more overbearing as they attacked his brain and Nervous System.

As a cultivator, he can bypass control of his body by his brain as his soul takes over. However, the process takes a few nanoseconds to switch, and that's plenty of time for Wang Ju.

The leader of the Fate Shadow Guard knew her opponent had placed a lot of power to protect his brain. Although he would not die if it were destroyed, the passing of vitality will drastically be increased once these two primary organs—heart and brain—are no longer present.

The daggers took care of Demonraise's two lungs. However, this was not her main objective. The power of Samsara emanated from the dagger, and immediately, the Animal Hall was forcefully closed.

'My mind was so focused on other things that I neglected that she should also have control of Samsara Dao,' pondered Demonraise calmly as he used his ability to retain the already acquired animal powers.

'I can use that technique to deal with this situation. If that is the case, I should focus more on how she could teleport without noticing anything.'

Demonraise focused all his attention on Wang Ju, ignoring his body that was rapidly falling apart. Unfortunately, Wang Ju no longer needed to teleport since he was basically useless.

'I guess it won't be this easy,' sighed Demonraise internally as he used his own unique techniques:

[Insect Larva Vitality Technique]

An Emperor Artifact that resembled a cube appeared above his head, encasing him in a protective barrier.

Then, in an instant, all of Demonraise's vitality was gone from his body, condensed into one place. And from that one place grew another version of himself.

Push!

A baby version of Demonraise clawed out of his previous body like an insect coming out of its cocoon. The process was brutal and macabre. However, Wang Ju was finally able to see his opponent's face.

He looked bland, like any ordinary person that is not easily noticeable or can blend into a crowd. Such a face was perfect to be an assassin. However, Wang Ju had the sense that this might not be his original face but changed into that to become a Shadow.

Despite his ordinary look, there was still something special about Demonraise—his eyes. They looked like predators, always making people fearful or unnerving with their powerful gaze.

'In a few seconds, baby Demonraise grew to his former size. So, he waved his hand to put back his previous clothes.

'The process was as brutal as ever,' thought Demonraise, momentarily reminiscing about the past.

He was born during the Beginning Emperor Era in a large mortal family; to be exact, he was the ninth child and the fifth son. Alas, life in that era was full of trials and tribulations for mortals.

The Innate Lifeforms would spread diseases, curses, natural disasters and even influenced internal war amongst mortals to curb their population growth. They knew the large mortal population was one talent source for cultivators, so they relentlessly targeted them.

Unfortunately, Demonraise's family was not the lucky few tribes that got to live in small worlds created and protected by powerful cultivators. And one day, when their crops suddenly died overnight, his family could not feed all of them.

So, at eighteen months old, he was abandoned in the forests nearby. Death should have been his end, but fate had another plan for him. Instead, a pack of wolves found and raised him as their own.

Demonraise grew up and became one of their own, taking part in hunting and gathering food. Furthermore, his mother became enlightened. She awakened her spirituality and became a demon.

As a result, their pack was one of the best in that forest. Alas, things did not last long. When Demonraise was in his thirties, a group of cultivators hunted his mother and his fellow brothers and sisters.

And when he was about to die, full of hatred and grievances, he encountered a young Di Tian who was traveling the world to learn about all creations and see if he could one day recreate them, allowing humans to win this war.

Di Tian thought he was interesting since he appeared to be an animal and human. So, he saved his life. On that fateful day, Demonraise asked Di Tian to grant him vengeance, and he would swear loyalty to him all his life.

After pondering for a moment, Di Tian agreed and allowed it—especially since these cultivators broke the agreement between the human and demon race by hunting demons for no reason.

These animals turned demons were a great source of low-level troops in this war, so they were protected by a great treaty amongst the Acquired Lives.

After this event, Demonraise began a proper cultivation journey as one of Di Tian's subordinates. And when the latter failed his trial and had to be reincarnated, Demonraise did not break his oath and followed him through reincarnation.

In the second life, the Sleepers were appropriately organized or created, and he took the name Demonraise as a token to his late mother.

He dealt with the Demon Race for most of his career in the Sleepers as he gathered information from them. He had a natural affinity with the demon race, making it easier to get their friendship, and sometimes, even pass as one of them.

As such, most of his techniques are based on imitating animals, including his assassination fighting style.

In the current time, after Wang Wei eliminated more than 95% of the Sleepers, he was one of the few people who survived. And after testing the remaining people, Di Tian chose him as his Shadow since he was one of the most loyal and had a great affinity with the technique.

Demonraise clenched his hand as he manipulated every muscle, bone, organ, and cell of his body; he wanted to adapt to this new body as soon as possible.

'I'm alive, but the situation has not changed much,' he pondered. As long as he could not discover her teleportation technique, he would lose the momentum of this battle.