

Ancient 501

Chapter 501 Tang Ling: I Want to Save Someone_2

Tang Ling's beautiful eyes flashed with a trace of coldness as the guitar case behind her opened. With a reverse grip, she drew the Extreme Thunder Great Sword and held it against his neck. "I advise you to stay far away from me. Otherwise, I'll take off your head with one slash."

The Profound Yin Saint rebuked angrily, "Impudent! This is an extremely important clue."

The high-ranking officials in the projection also scolded, "Thunder! What are you doing?"

"You fools should be asking yourselves what you're doing. Why is it that someone has already raised the alarm, yet you refuse to retreat? In the end, you send a Third Rank rookie to stop this riot? Now, looking back, the loss isn't great, but the person who stopped this chaos and his teammates have gone missing."

Tang Ling said coldly, "If I were you, I would have taken my own life by now."

After speaking, she opened the photograph and froze in place.

A bronze pillar, the pervasive blood mist, and that familiar figure within the haze.

Tang Zijing.

After Zhou Yiming handed over the photograph, he closed his eyes and fell unconscious.

The crowd didn't know the contents of the photograph and could only shift their gaze toward Nightmare.

"Why are you all looking at me? I don't want this lady to chop me into pieces."

Nightmare performed a divination and said, "The blood on this photo is indeed all Gu Jianlin's blood..."

Tang Ling remained silent for a long time. With an expressionless face, she folded the photo. She didn't seem to find the bloodstains dirty but instead carefully placed it over her chest. Then she sheathed her Iron Sword. "Thank you, Nightmare."

After speaking, she turned and walked away.

The crowd exchanged bewildered looks.

"Did you just hear something? Was it an illusion?"

"No, I heard it too."

"Thunder actually said thank you?"

"Thunder? What are you doing?"

"Balensa City is already sealed. No one can enter now."

"Wait, you..."

The Omegas were visibly angry but dared not speak up, as the overwhelming killing intent in the air made their skin crawl.

Tang Ling passed through the temporary military camp, her face devoid of emotion, walking toward the frozen gates of Balensa City. The immense Divine Path leading up to the city was covered in frost, making the path slippery, but her stride remained steady.

"Thunder?"

The voice of the Xuan Shui Divine General boomed like thunder, "What are you trying to do?"

He was an elderly man, nearly a century old, from the water towns of Xiangxi. His ancestors had been corpse chasers for generations, and he was undeniably a formidable Eighth-rank Divine Officer who had made great contributions to humanity—truly a person of high prestige.

Chen Bojun also turned around, gazing intently at the young woman. "Why are you here?"

Tang Ling walked up to the two of them, not uttering a single word of courtesy. Instead, she asked directly, "How long will it take to gain access?"

Xuan Shui Divine General frowned.

Chen Bojun turned his head and asked, "Changsheng?"

A golden Flying Sword hovered in mid-air as Ying Changsheng's eyes emitted a fierce golden glow. He said mildly, "I can ask for my grandfather's approval and use the Star Disk to leverage the power of the artificial Sun to forcibly transform the environment here. However, if you want to cool things down, it will take at least seven days."

Mu Qingyou, standing on her Flying Sword and gazing into the distance, was also attempting to contact the Silver King.

Hearing this, Tang Ling's chest rose and fell slightly with emotion. She continued walking forward.

"Wait!"

The Xuan Shui Divine General blocked her path. "Have you lost your mind?"

Chen Bojun also advised, "Thunder, calm down. Going in now is tantamount to suicide."

For the vast majority of Ascenders, extreme cold or heat was fatal.

This was because the Inheritance Path generally didn't provide resistance against such extreme environments.

"I'm going to save them."

Tang Ling lifted her hand, and a hint of sword energy coalesced at her fingertips, pressing against her chest. "If you intend to stop me, I will kill myself right here in front of you. Do not try to persuade me, because I won't listen. Do not attempt to overpower me with force, because in the future, it will be me who supports this world, not you."

She said coldly, "And don't flaunt your laughable credentials, because deep down, you know perfectly well—if I were in your position, I would do a much better job than you."

Chen Bojun was at a loss for words.

Instead of anger, the Xuan Shui Divine General's expression stiffened, and he said gravely, "I understand that in the future, you will contribute to the Human World in ways unimaginable to the average person, and I respect you for that. But if I let you through, I won't be able to answer to the President or the Silver King. So, go back by yourself. Don't make me use force."

His eyes emitted a deep black glow as Dark Energy surged around him.

"Even if both teacher and the President were here today, they couldn't stop me. My stance remains the same: if I were their age, they wouldn't even be qualified to stand before me to speak."

Tang Ling exhaled a frosty breath and said coldly, "If not, why would they value me so much?"

Ying Changsheng lowered his gaze upon the young woman. As a descendant of the Ying Family, he understood certain secrets.

Thunder was infamous for her arrogance—not because she thought highly of herself.

It was because that figure at Lishan thought highly of her.

The Human World, for the sake of the future, had unanimously agreed to send this girl to be nurtured in that realm.

She was destined to grow powerful, yet equally destined to lose many things.

To her, this was profoundly unjust.

But no one had ever asked for her opinion.

"Thunder, what nonsense are you spouting?"

Mu Qingyou said coldly, "Such rebellious words."

Tang Ling merely stared into the dense icy fog and spoke in a clear and frosty tone, "If I go in, there's only a possibility I might die. But if you stop me, then I will certainly die."

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She raised her head and looked at her senior sister from the same sect: "I'll drag you down with me before I die."

With that, she stepped directly into the icy mist.

"A bunch of useless trash."

Before leaving, she didn't forget to mock them one last time.

No one dared to utter another word of sarcasm.

The Xuan Shui Divine General remained silent for a long time before sighing, "She really reminds me of the President back in the day. Are we really that old now?"

Chen Bojun shook his head with a bitter smile.

Just moments ago, they could have stopped that girl.

But a voice echoed in their minds.

The President's voice.

That's why they let her pass.

To say they were useless wasn't entirely fair either.

The higher-ups might have seemed ineffectual, subject to endless ridicule.

But in truth, it wasn't about them being useless.

It was that Qing and Chi were just too powerful.

The two strongest individuals in all of human history, even acknowledged as worthy rivals by the Ancient Supremes.

In reality, their threat level was indistinguishable from that of Supreme Level beings.

If the King of Qing and the Red King chose to engage in conflict, the entire world would become their chessboard.

Even that great entity in Lishan once said that humanity's chances of breaking free from the apocalyptic prophecy still hinged on the result of Qing and Chi's clash. Everyone else would be mere spectators.

"Hmph!"

Mu Qingyou turned around, riding her flying sword away.

Ying Changsheng pondered for a long time before descending on his flying sword, casually asking, "You two, I have a question. That great entity—why, after spending over two thousand years in the Emperor's Mausoleum, did they suddenly decide to assist humanity? And why take such a personal interest in fostering Thunder? My grandfather never shared the truth with me."

The Xuan Shui Divine General initially didn't intend to answer, but seeing the one who asked, he hesitated.

Chen Bojun, however, smiled and said, "You're about to reach the Sixth Rank anyway. I suppose there's no harm in telling you, provided you stand on our side. If you nod your head now, we'll agree immediately."

Ying Changsheng was a descendant of the Ying Family, the eldest grandson of the Golden King.

The most powerful Omega of this generation.

His background was formidable.

If they could gain his support, it would tilt the scales in the struggle between the Night Watchers and the Judgement Court.

"My mission is to protect humanity. I have no interest in factional disputes—but I can help you this once," Ying Changsheng said coldly. "Director Chen, go ahead and tell me."

Chen Bojun cleared his throat: "This starts with the unique nature of the Bai Ze Clan."

When Gu Jianlin regained consciousness, the first thing he felt was intense pain.

If not for maintaining his Ancient God Transformation at that moment, he might've been obliterated in a single strike.

The sky above was obscured by a blizzard, and his body was buried in the violently falling snow. His clothes were soaked through, his limbs completely frozen, incapable of even moving a single finger.

He had no idea how many of his ribs were broken.

The final strike from the Kui Dragon Ancestor was truly horrifying—like an apocalyptic avalanche.

The worst part was that there wasn't even a drop of spirituality left in his body.

In this state, although he wasn't technically dead, he might as well be.

The estimated temperature here was at least minus sixty degrees Celsius. If he stayed like this any longer, he'd soon experience heat illusions caused by complete hypothermia, followed by the collapse of his bodily functions, and ultimately, death.

No, he had to find a way to save himself.

Breathe.

The Breathing Technique could still help him restore his spirituality.

Although there didn't seem to be much life around, as long as he summoned his good sister again, he could escape this place.

He wasn't sure if it was just a hallucination.

Amid the wind and snow, faint footsteps echoed, and a graceful female silhouette flickered through the falling snowflakes.

Her face was alluring, almost otherworldly, with long, icy-blue hair cascading down her back. Her entire body was wrapped in snow-white furs, and she walked barefoot on the snow, like a spirit born of winter's domain—bewitching and surreal.

A thought sprang to Gu Jianlin's mind: the Charming Lady!

Chapter 503: The Sea of Eternal Life, Old Gu's Old Friend

When Gu Jianlin first entered the Ancient God Realm, he was already preparing for the ascension ritual and gathering materials.

To ascend and become the Cloud Lord, one needed a fierce and exhilarating battle.

Aside from that, extraordinary materials were essential.

Corrosive magma, eggs of the Calamity Ruins, hearts of mutants, roots of the Roaring Tree Monster, and strands of hair from the Charming Lady.

Among these, the hardest to find was the last material.

The so-called Charming Lady was actually a kind of human species. Since ancient times, they had inhabited the Ancient God Realm. For a long time, they were enslaved by the gods, and their minds and genetics mutated. They were born with an innate transcendent nature and preferred to inhabit cold environments. As a female-centric race, they were naturally drawn to males.

This was an instinct derived from the evolution of their species.

After all, if they were not close to human males, their population would face extinction.

The Charming Ladies were naturally stunning in appearance, gentle and kind in personality, and practiced a polygamous lifestyle.

Many Ascenders, upon encountering the Charming Ladies, found themselves unwilling to leave.

Some even refused to return to the real world.

"Oh, there's a human here."

The woman with icy blue hair called out, "Big White, Second White, Third White, come here quickly!"

Gu Jianlin was a bit surprised, as the woman spoke in impeccable Mandarin.

A single bark was heard.

Out of the wind and snow, three white Samoyed dogs darted out, ropes tethered to their bodies and a massive sled trailing behind them.

Sitting on the sled, wrapped in fur, was another beautiful woman, seemingly a sister.

This was the Charming Ladies' clan. Legends held that they were kind-hearted and known for helping humans—and this was clearly true.

For they had already placed Gu Jianlin onto the sled, covered him in heavy fur blankets, and even stuffed several hot water bags into his clothing to prevent him from freezing to death.

How considerate.

Gu Jianlin lay on the sled, thinking that his bag was still on him; perhaps they could help him retrieve a bottle of Spiritual Secret Medicine.

However, he was gravely injured and close to being frozen, rendering him nearly speechless.

From the Charming Ladies' conversation, it could be discerned that the elder sister was named Ah Lan, and the younger sister was named Ah Yue.

Logically speaking, since the gate of the Qilin Immortal Palace had only recently opened, any contact with modern civilization should have only occurred recently. Yet, from their conversations, many

contemporary terms could be heard. They even occasionally quoted Internet buzzwords, which was astonishing.

Their cultural level was significantly higher than that of some primitive tribes on Earth.

"It's been so long since we've seen a human on the Ice Field. And he's so badly wounded—what a pity."

"Boys really need to protect themselves when they're outside."

"Especially when they look this good. Sis, doesn't he look a bit familiar to you?"

As Gu Jianlin listened to the two sisters chat, he suddenly experienced a strong sense of *déjà vu*.

The sisters carried him, riding the dog-pulled sled, dashing across the blizzard-swept Ice Field.

After two or more hours, the howling wind and snow gradually subsided. In the distance appeared countless igloos, along with enormous bonfires, their flames roaring wildly with thick smoke curling into the sky.

These were the marks of civilization.

"Sorry about this."

Ah Lan lowered her head and looked at the pale-faced boy, apologizing, "Our husband has rules. Outsiders aren't allowed in unless we're sure they pose no threat. So, while I know you're from the Human World and probably have healing secret medicine on you, we can't take it for you."

Ah Yue stuffed another hot water bag against him and softly said, "Don't worry, we won't let you die. Once our husband sees you, he can heal your injuries."

Gu Jianlin thought to himself, as expected, these Charming Ladies had been educated.

They knew about the Human World and even about the secret medicine he carried.

The most critical piece of information he caught was a keyword.

Your husband!

He had a strong premonition: the sisters shared the same husband!

In this Charming Ladies' tribe, there seemed to be around thirty igloos. Once the young women realized a human male was present, they poured out of their homes to gawk. Each of them was stunningly beautiful, and naturally so—unadorned by makeup. Some were delicate and cute, while others were seductive, cool, or sweet.

With so many beautiful young women, primitive yet wild, it was dazzling to behold.

However, none of these were Gu Jianlin's type.

Compared to Old Gu, these were all ordinary and unremarkable.

They couldn't even measure up to Thunder or the Moon Princess.

Still, by human societal standards, they could easily be movie star material.

"Wow, why does he look better than our husband?"

"Be more confident—drop the 'why does it feel like' part."

"But the more I look at him, the more familiar he seems. I can't figure out why."

Gu Jianlin felt like he had stumbled into a kingdom of women and was utterly disconcerted.

After what seemed like an eternity, someone finally emerged from one of the igloos. Despite the freezing environment, a strong scent of alcohol wafted in the air. The figure staggered as though about to slip at any moment.

This person looked to be in their early twenties, with a somewhat handsome face marred by stubble.

He was tall and broad-shouldered but appeared disheveled and unkempt.

"Husband is here!"

The Charming Ladies swarmed the man, surrounding him in adoration.

Once again, Gu Jianlin was astonished.

Amazing—it wasn't just the sisters sharing a husband.

This was an entire tribe sharing one husband!

"Ah, so Ah Lan and Ah Yue brought someone back? Seems like they had good luck."

Chapter 504: Sea of Eternal Life, Old Gu's Old Friend_2

The man waved his hand, signaling for the harem to move back. He walked alone to the sled, untied the ropes securing the dogs, drove away the three foolish Samoyeds, and drew a blade from behind him.

Gu Jianlin maintained the rhythm of his breathing technique, feeling his spirituality gradually filling up. He became alert.

Although the Charming Ladies were often sweet and naive, their husbands had to be human.

After the man briefly understood the situation, he stared at the boy on the sled and asked in a deep voice, "I know you might not be able to speak right now, but you must answer my question. Are you from the Ether Association or the You Ying Group, or some other third-party faction? If you're with the Ether Association, blink once. If you're with the You Ying Group, blink twice. If you're from another faction, blink three times."

Gu Jianlin decisively blinked three times.

Only an idiot would admit to being from the Ether Association or the You Ying Group.

Those two factions were constantly battling openly and in secret.

And with the melodramatic feud between Qing and Chi, exposing your identity was asking for trouble.

"You're lying."

The man suddenly noticed his breathing and his expression changed sharply: "Breathing Technique!"

It was as if he had suddenly sobered up. His gaze revealed a terrifying killing intent. He drew a tachi from his waist, its blade flashing with a chilling light, and without hesitation, slashed down!

At the critical moment, the shadow behind Gu Jianlin quivered, and the spirituality stored within him suddenly evaporated!

The shadow condensed out of thin air, abruptly pulling a dagger from the boy's waist to block the strike!

Clang!

The clash of blades sent sparks flying.

Ripples spread through the void.

Crack!

The dagger held by the shadow was broken by the slash, leaving a pitch-black mark as the void was torn apart!

The opponent was also on the Ghost Slayer path, and his rank far surpassed Gu Jianlin's!

"Two people? No, that's not right!"

The man was stunned. Just as he was about to swing his blade again, the ripples in space spread once more.

The shadow used space jump to reach the boy, picked him up, and prepared to escape.

In an internal battle between Ghost Slayers, the stronger party typically dominates.

If their rank is higher than yours, it's almost impossible to turn the tables.

Both sides using Dimension Slash won't cancel each other out. The stronger will naturally tear through the weaker.

The shadow was at Third Rank.

The opponent was of a higher rank and certainly capable of using Space Freeze.

Once that technique was unleashed, death would be inevitable.

After just one strike, the man looked down at the broken dagger that had fallen to the ground and was shocked.

"Wait, don't run!"

Gu Jianlin ignored him. Controlling the shadow, he pulled a bottle of Blue Blood from his bag and poured it down his throat.

Spirituality immediately surged back.

Unfortunately, there were no living beings nearby, preventing him from using Divine Sacrificial Fire to heal.

"What is your relationship with Mr. Gu? Why do you have his dagger? How is he?"

The man space-jumped abruptly. In an instant, he landed in front of Gu Jianlin.

Too fast!

Both sides had used Divine Speed Force and space jump.

But the disparity between them was massive.

Gu Jianlin was startled; this rank had to be at least Fifth Rank, maybe even Sixth Rank!

Just because the man could recognize Old Gu's dagger didn't mean he was an ally.

Without hesitation, Gu Jianlin adjusted his breathing rhythm. A cold moonlight poured out like a flood: Realm of Freedom!

Boom!

Unexpectedly, the man's reaction was incredibly swift. He abruptly jumped above Gu Jianlin, avoiding the domain of the Realm of Freedom. His breathing rhythm changed as well, seemingly preparing something, shouting: "Calm down! If you're one of Old Gu's people, then I'm not your enemy. I am a member of the Night Watchers!"

As he spoke, he recited a series of cryptic codes.

What the hell!

Of course, Gu Jianlin didn't understand. The Old Gu he had imagined was just as confused.

Because the knowledge didn't match.

Gu Jianlin still didn't believe him. If not for the fear of drawing the Kui Dragon Ancestor, he would have already initiated the Ancient God Transformation.

At that moment, the man scrutinized his face and suddenly seemed to realize something. He yelled: "Night Watchers, Serial Number S25487, Codename Crimson! My name is Lin Lan!"

Lin Lan!

Gu Jianlin controlled the shadow and forcefully stopped his retreat. He looked back at the man, his expression stoic, and said: "Tell me, where did Gu Ci'an hide his stash of private money?"

Lin Lan was visibly stunned: "How the hell should I know? Old Gu actually had private money? That scoundrel always said he deposited everything in the Swiss Bank for his son's wedding and housing costs!"

This was real.

Gu Jianlin let out a relieved sigh. He retracted the shadow.

"Finally found you."

He plopped down in the icy snow and softly said: "Lin Lan, a direct descendant of the Lin Family, former Night Watchers member, teammate of Gu Ci'an and Mu Feng. Hah, you're really something. Your sister risked her life searching for you, and here you are, hiding out with your harem of Charming Ladies."

The Charming Ladies exchanged bewildered glances, frozen in place.

Lin Lan's expression changed completely when he heard his sister's name. He quickly stepped forward and grabbed the boy's shoulders, anxiously asking: "What did you just say? You said my sister? Who are you?"

Gu Jianlin smiled faintly: "My name is Gu Jianlin. Your sister is Lin Wanqiu, isn't she? She's currently my Guardian. She should be in Balensa City or on her way to the Sea of Eternal Life."

Lin Lan froze completely.

"How could she possibly find me? Damn it, before the mission, I stored secret files with her. She must have deciphered the Night Watchers' encrypted data and tracked down the symbols I left behind."

Chapter 505 The Sea of Eternal Life, an Old Acquaintance of Old Gu_3

He also plopped down on the ground. "This is bad, really bad."

Though his words were fragmented, they still revealed a great deal of information.

Gu Jianlin thought to himself, so that's how it is. Everything now makes sense.

No wonder Lin Wanqiu could become a Cheater, and even survive.

It turns out it was thanks to the markers Lin Lan left behind to avoid those risks.

"Gu Jianlin, are you Old Gu's son?"

Lin Lan's eyes lit up, and he quickly asked, "I had originally thought that the first person to find me would be Old Gu, but I didn't expect it to be his son. Where is Old Gu? Where has he gone?"

Gu Jianlin was silent for a moment before calmly replying, "He's dead."

With a crisp sound.

The tachi fell onto the ice.

Lin Lan froze. The cold wind swept his long hair, and his unshaven beard seemed to sway.

For a moment, he seemed to fall into despair again, a strong smell of alcohol swirling around him. His tone carried an unmistakable sorrow and sadness: "I see. I knew it. He was such a trustworthy person; it was impossible for him to abandon his comrades. I waited for him for so long, thinking he had left me behind. I didn't expect that he had already passed away."

He scratched his head, let out a bitter laugh, and murmured, "Looking at it this way, it would've been better if he'd just abandoned me. That way, I could resent him instead of feeling so heartbroken for him."

Gu Jianlin sized up the man, profiling his Transcendent form.

Ghost Slayer Path.

Sixth Rank.

"Welcome to the Sea of Eternal Life. Brace yourself for despair alongside me from now on."

Lin Lan let out a grim laugh. "You really shouldn't have come here. Now look at this—you've gone and gotten involved. Originally, it would've only been my death to contend with, but now I'll have to die with the guilt of dragging you down as well. What kind of mess is this, huh?"

Amid the roaring snowstorm, Tang Ling let out a cute sneeze.

She was wearing sunglasses, a fluffy fur hat, a thick beige mink coat, and fur-lined knee-high boots trudging through the soft snow, battling against the piercing wind.

A massive travel bag trailed behind her, leaving behind a long drag mark in the snow.

The trail was soon covered by falling snow.

"Which way should I go next?"

She downed a bottle of anti-cold secret medicine, then pulled out a makeup mirror from her pocket and asked softly.

The mirror reflected an enchanting young maiden, her Evolver aura evident. She chuckled lightly and said, "Head toward your five o'clock direction. You'll need to walk at least another five kilometers to

pinpoint the next node. My foreknowledge can only offer a general idea of the location; as for the specific person's whereabouts, I can't guarantee that."

Tang Ling nodded faintly. "Is the person still alive?"

The maiden in the mirror replied, "Alive."

"That's good, thank you."

Tang Ling continued trudging through the snow with great effort.

"Even someone as proud as you can say 'thank you'?"

The maiden in the mirror teased, "You sealed me away for so long, and now you've come to appreciate my usefulness? This is the foreknowledge ability of the Bai Ze Clan. Once you become that Supreme's Inheritor, you'll know what it means to comprehend all things!"

Tang Ling responded coolly, "At that point, would I still be myself?"

The maiden in the mirror let out a cold snort. "You'd better be cautious. I've foreseen immense danger; finding that boy is only the beginning. This time, there's a high possibility the two of you will perish together."

Tang Ling narrowed her striking eyes. "What's out here?"

The maiden in the mirror fell silent for a second. "The aura of Candle Dragon Venerable."

Chapter 506: The Test Field of Candle Dragon Venerable

The small wooden house was as warm as spring, with a roaring fire burning in the fireplace, sending smoke out through the chimney.

Gu Jianlin drank a bottle of Blue Blood, raised his hand to ignite the Divine Sacrificial Fire, and pressed it against a fluffy snow porcupine, forcibly extracting its life force to heal his own wounds.

"This is a snow porcupine from near the Sea of Eternal Life, a rare and extremely valuable creature."

Lin Lan inspected the tightly bound porcupine and gestured for the Charming Ladies to take it away: "Fortunately, this species, which originates from the Ancient God Realm, has an exuberant life force. Even after being drained, it hasn't died; otherwise, it would have been catastrophic for our livestock industry. This is, after all, a prized breeding boar."

Gu Jianlin, sitting on a handmade wooden chair, raised an eyebrow and said, "Breeding boar? Are you talking about yourself?"

Since arriving in this tribe, his worldview had been continuously shattering.

Because with his ability of Life Perception, he discovered one thing.

Almost all the Charming Ladies in the tribe were pregnant.

The fusion of civilization and primitivity, the overlap of modernity and antiquity, and the conflict of traditional beliefs.

It made him feel utterly bewildered.

"What do you understand, child? The Charming Lady species is like this: once they encounter human males, they must try to mate. Otherwise, their population would face a severe lack of labor, which would eventually lead to extinction."

Lin Lan said sternly, "The consequences are very serious."

Gu Jianlin gave him a sidelong glance and said, "So you volunteered for the important task?"

Lin Lan said seriously, "This is humanitarian aid. Let's not talk about this anymore. How is my sister? Has she had a better life these years? Did she achieve her dream?"

Gu Jianlin frowned and asked, "What is Lin Wanqiu's dream?"

Lin Lan froze for a moment and then said, "My sister's dream is to become a good doctor."

Gu Jianlin was slightly surprised upon hearing this. After a moment of silence, he said, "Did you know? Your sister sacrificed a lot for you. She risked being discovered by sneaking into the dimensional rift and becoming a Cheater. She's only a Priest, and it's extremely dangerous in the Qilin Immortal Palace."

Lin Lan instinctively gripped the Tachi at his waist.

"And she's also been corrupted."

Gu Jianlin said calmly.

The actions of the Sea Demon, although labeled as manipulative by many.

In truth, he bore no ill will towards her.

On the contrary, when Lin Wanqiu treated the injured in the shelter with such focus and dedication, it left a profound impression on him.

For this reason, Gu Jianlin believed that her true nature wasn't bad; she merely relied on a manipulative appearance to protect herself.

Flattery and submission were simply survival mechanisms.

Everyone has their own rules for survival.

Lin Lan stood there, frozen.

After a long pause, he gripped his hair and muttered in a daze, "How is that possible? My sister? Corrupted? She has been corrupted? How could this have happened? This is all my fault..."

Gu Jianlin paid no attention to his emotional turmoil and continued to probe: "It seems like you have a good relationship with your sister. But as far as I know, it was your sister who exposed the Lin Family's actions, leading to the extermination of the Lin Family. Don't you hate her for that?"

Lin Lan was silent for a long time before replying in a low voice, "No, I don't hate her, because I know she did it to protect me. This matter can be traced back nearly a thousand years. Peak City is an island city, and there have always been legends about the Qilin Immortal Palace. Your Old Gu Family was originally an Ascender Family guarding this place. You were the authorities."

Gu Jianlin raised an eyebrow, "And then?"

"As for our Lin Family, we were thieves."

Lin Lan pointed at himself, "Tomb robbers."

Gu Jianlin was quite surprised.

"Back then, your Old Gu Family relentlessly suppressed our Lin Family, to the point that we couldn't even breathe. But later, due to a curse, your family gradually withered, losing the status of Order Guardians."

Lin Lan sighed and said, "Meanwhile, one of the ancestors of our Lin Family took advantage of a period when the Gatekeeper disappeared to enter the Qilin Immortal Palace. From it, we gained some hidden legacies."

Wait.

Gu Jianlin caught onto a keyword: "What did you say? A period when the Gatekeeper disappeared?"

"Yes, the Gatekeeper doesn't always stay at the Underwater Palace's entrance. That place is just a massive array eye, controlling the entry points to multiple dimensions. As for Xu Fu himself, he often ventured into the depths of the Qilin Immortal Palace."

Lin Lan said gravely, "Or rather, into the Sea of Eternal Life!"

Gu Jianlin nodded and said, "When the Ether Association's vanguard reached the vicinity of the Sea of Eternal Life, they also discovered many Ancient Ruins and numerous Pill Furnaces for alchemy."

"Those are just the outer edges. They didn't reach the real Sea of Eternal Life, because once you enter, it's almost impossible to return. You'll inevitably be trapped inside."

Lin Lan suddenly pulled open his fur-lined coat, revealing markings of a Child Boy and Girl on his chest:
"Look."

Gu Jianlin squinted, "Penglai Ascension Array!"

Lin Lan was startled, "Well, well, the young man has some knowledge. No wonder you managed to find your way here."

Truly worthy of being Old Gu's son, he was not to be underestimated.

"I've already fought someone with this ability."

Gu Jianlin said calmly, "The Order of the Hidden."

On hearing that name, Lin Lan's pupils contracted sharply.

"If you've come across Old Gu in the Qilin Immortal Palace, then you must have heard of this organization. Let me tell you clearly: after the Lin Family was exterminated by the Judgement Court, the legacy of the Penglai Ascension Array was seized by the Order of the Hidden. This organization is active across the world, infiltrating various groups and manipulating the course of history."

Chapter 507: The Test Field of Candle Dragon Venerable _2

Gu Jianlin introduced in the simplest terms: "Even at the Catastrophe Level, it's impossible to find their real master. It's hard to say if this world was designed by The Order of the Hidden."

Lin Lan was stunned upon hearing this and looked at him with increasing astonishment.

A mere Third Rank rookie actually knew about such things.

Truly remarkable.

"Now, you can tell me what exactly is going on with the Lin Family and the Penglai Ascension Array."

Gu Jianlin said expressionlessly.

Lin Lan was silent for a long time, then sighed: "Alright, as you can see, I am the last descendant of the Lin Family and the most gifted in the family's history. Ever since the family's ancestor brought back the

Penglai Ascension Array, along with the bodies of those children, we've been conducting secret experiments—experiments that have lasted for centuries."

"This eerie inheritance is undoubtedly dehumanizing and insane."

He continued: "Human body refinement—many of the family's descendants died because of it. At first, we knew nothing, only that more and more of our brothers and sisters around us were dying, mostly from inexplicable illnesses. It was bizarre. Until one day, the Lin Family was investigated by the Ether Association. When the lab had to be hastily cleaned up, my sister and I could no longer contain our curiosity. We secretly entered the backyard and saw the unearthed bodies of those dead children."

Gu Jianlin felt a wave of cold horror.

"At that time, we were both newly adults, not of high rank, and knew very little. All those exhumed corpses had distorted and grotesque tattoos, and their deaths were terrifying beyond description."

Lin Lan's eyes showed a faint terror, as if the shadows of the past still loomed overhead: "My sister told me not to make a fuss and planned to seek external aid, hoping to use the association's power to deal with the family. But that very night, after I fell asleep, I had a nightmare. When I woke up, I found those tattoos on my body as well."

Gu Jianlin frowned: "Were you drugged?"

"Yes, the family used drugs to sedate us and brought us to the altar for a ritual."

Lin Lan took a deep breath: "The nightmare was excruciating, as if my whole body was in pain. But when I woke up, I could feel an overwhelming surge of power. The family told me this was a secret Forbidden Technique, a gift I received because of my talent. But I knew the truth, and I was terrified. I told my sister about it—she's the one I trust the most."

Gu Jianlin began to piece things together: "So your sister came up with a plan. She wanted you to take advantage of this power, rise step by step within the Ether Association, join the Night Watchers, and infiltrate the Qilin Immortal Palace."

"Once you were inside, she would expose the Lin Family's secret experiments and destroy the family."

He paused: "Lin Wanqiu knew that once the Lin Family was exposed, the secrets of your power would also be revealed. At that point, your fate would be grim, so you had to hide in the Immortal Palace."

Lin Lan was shocked: "How do you know?"

This young man's intelligence and perceptiveness were almost monstrous.

"I guessed."

Gu Jianlin asked with a frown: "The Lin Family trusted you just like that? They didn't doubt your loyalty?"

"Of course they doubted. That's why they kept injecting me with drugs."

Lin Lan said softly: "But my sister was truly resourceful. After she became a Priest, she devoted herself to researching ways to neutralize the drugs. Did you know? The Priest path is not just about casually dispensing Holy Light. They use Holy Light to simulate matrices and must have a comprehensive understanding of the human body."

"To pinpoint which organ and which part of the body the Holy Light should target, or which cells should be stimulated—it's all extremely meticulous work. My sister even connected with an Alchemist, an old man ranked at the Fourth Rank but the strongest Alchemist in the Extraordinary Stage, whose knowledge of pharmacology was profound."

He explained: "With this, my sister found a way to free me from the family's control. After all, the Lin Family is not some great powerhouse. They just happened to stumble upon the Penglai Ascension Array."

Gu Jianlin said softly: "A Pharmacist?"

Lin Lan was shocked again.

In just half an hour of conversation, he was astonished several times.

How does he know everything!

"Did my sister tell you?"

Lin Lan asked curiously.

Gu Jianlin shook his head: "I guessed."

Lin Wanqiu truly was an extraordinary sister.

No matter their stature, even small people have their value and brilliance.

"But the so-called Penglai Ascension Array is far from a simple tool to enhance the power of Ascenders. It is an experiment—a supreme being's experiment."

Lin Lan paused: "From the beginning, it was never meant for humans to use!"

Gu Jianlin said sternly: "Go on."

"This is the world of the Qilin Venerable, and the so-called Sea of Eternal Life is an accumulation of sinners' corpses. The Candle Dragon Venerable seized this sea and created an alchemy matrix here that defies the heavens."

Lin Lan said: "As for Xu Fu, he is merely a pawn, used to study this bizarre alchemy matrix. What I don't understand is that Xu Fu is indeed an alchemy master in the human world, but his alchemy achievements are insignificant compared to the Ancient God Clan. The true power of the Candle Dragon Venerable should far surpass him."

He scratched his head: "So why would they use a mere human?"

Gu Jianlin thought to himself, this was indeed mysterious.

However, as a sudden idea flashed through his mind, he began to understand.

Perhaps the Candle Dragon Venerable used a human because it wanted to break the rules of the real world.

And humans, precisely, are capable of defying those rules!

"Wait, you just said that once you've arrived here, you can't leave. What do you mean by that?"

Gu Jianlin asked suddenly.

Lin Lan sighed at the question: "Why do you think I've been staying here planting seeds? It's because I truly can't leave. At the end of the Sea of Eternal Life lies the entrance to the second layer. The alchemy matrix here has already been activated, probably during the period when the Gatekeeper disappeared."

"An area spanning hundreds of kilometers is already shrouded by the domain of alchemy. Even if I were to ascend to the Holy Land Level and gain the ability to teleport through space-time, I probably couldn't escape. Only Old Gu could, but I don't know how he managed it."

He said in a low voice: "Old Gu is a peculiar man. During the time I worked with him, I noticed many of his anomalies. Despite only possessing the uncanny ability of profile, countless Ancient God Clan restrictions were ineffective against him."

Old Gu was really that capable?

Gu Jianlin hesitated briefly: "Are you saying that since the domain of alchemy enveloped this place, no one can escape?"

Lin Lan said: "If I'm not mistaken, it's to herald the arrival of someone—not a human, but a... God!"

Chapter 508: Fourth Rank, Cloud Lord!

Gu Jianlin shuddered in shock. If the old monster were to descend here, it would be beyond terrifying.

With the terrifying power of the Candle Dragon Venerable, he wouldn't even need to deliberately target these ants. Just the aftermath of his supreme divine might would be enough to annihilate all living creatures within a radius of hundreds of kilometers, leaving no chance of survival.

"I've been hiding here for many years. Only Old Gu followed the marks I left to find me. Old Gu said that one of our Night Watchers' veteran officials was being framed and needed critical evidence. That Order

of the Hidden is also eying us covetously. I have to stay hidden here a bit longer until it's safe outside, and then he'll take me away."

Lin Lan sighed. "I never thought I'd be waiting for you instead. Old Gu is already gone."

Gu Jianlin's heart stirred slightly. "The veteran official you mentioned, is it Mu Feng?"

Lin Lan's eyes widened again. "You know about that? Is Uncle Mu still alive?"

"He's alive."

Gu Jianlin briefly recounted what happened at Black Cloud City.

Of course, he left out the part where he blasted his superior to death.

"So that's it. The people from the Judgement Court are just full of bullshit!"

Lin Lan said angrily, "Back then, we received a mission from Lin Dong. We entered the Qilin Immortal Palace through a dimensional rift to gather some strategies. Unexpectedly, we ran into a few stranded individuals, including two Independent Awakened. Considering the mission, we brought them back to the camp for questioning, but that very night, all of them committed suicide!"

"These people died in a strange ritual, and none of us knew what was happening."

He gritted his teeth as he continued, "Our Night Watcher candidates suddenly turned traitor. It was like they became entirely different people, indiscriminately attacking teammates, causing heavy casualties among us."

Gu Jianlin thought to himself that this scene felt eerily familiar.

Those traitorous Night Watchers were probably members of the Order of the Hidden.

"Uncle Mu's mind also faltered. To cover our retreat, he stayed behind, but during that exact moment, we were attacked by an Ancient God Seed. In the end, I was the only one who escaped alive."

As Lin Lan spoke, his expression grew noticeably gloomier.

Gu Jianlin asked urgently, "So, Uncle Mu did kill people, but they were members of the Order of the Hidden?"

Lin Lan nodded emphatically.

Gu Jianlin took a deep breath. "Was there any evidence left behind at that time?"

Lin Lan pointed at his own head.

His very existence was the evidence.

"Got it. I'll take you out."

Gu Jianlin said firmly, "Uncle Mu is still in prison awaiting trial. It's about to begin. You're a crucial witness. No matter what happens, I'll get you out."

Lin Lan was stunned by what he heard.

Even the Charming Ladies were astonished, having no idea where this young man's confidence came from.

"I appreciate the intention, but I already said, this place is covered by an Alchemy domain. If you can't break the domain here, no matter how far you try to walk, you'll never leave this Ice Field."

Lin Lan sighed. "The most critical issue is that this place is also home to an Ancient Ancestor! I just heard its roaring. I don't know which unlucky fool provoked it, but the temperature here has dropped from minus twenty degrees to below minus fifty. Even we can't step outside now!"

"Is that so? Truly unlucky."

Gu Jianlin remained expressionless, but he inwardly considered giving Lin Lan a punch.

"Any Alchemy matrix becomes invalid once destroyed, right?"

He looked toward the outside of the wooden house. "So, destroy the core, and that's it."

Lin Lan fell into silence again.

"First of all, we're not even talking about the possibility of the arrival of the Candle Dragon Venerable, who is overwhelmingly powerful and violent. If someone of that level descends, ants like us will surely perish. Meanwhile, the Ancient Ancestor lurking here hasn't even fully revealed itself yet. I don't even know its name, and its subordinate Ancestor is still hovering near the Sea of Eternal Life."

Lin Lan explained, "On top of this, this place undoubtedly hosts the Ancient Ancestor's Divine Servants. We don't know their exact ranks, but they're definitely not small-time players. Our combat capabilities are woefully inadequate. I only just recently ascended to Sixth Rank, but my body is still eroded by the Penglai Ascension Array, making my endurance a persistent issue."

"To cross the Ice Field, you need transportation. We only have three Samoyeds."

Ah Lan said softly, "Without transportation, none of us can hold out."

Ah Yue also spoke apologetically, "Surviving here itself is already a struggle. The environment keeps worsening, and the food supplies keep dwindling. No one even expects to survive this winter."

Gu Jianlin analyzed, "So, we're looking at severely lacking combat capability and resources."

"Exactly. It's not that people haven't tried breaking in here. Most of them had ulterior motives, and I killed them. Recently, I even captured a Divine but failed to train him up to become a Fourth-Order Cloud Monarch. I wanted to use Corpse Ghost Skill to drive the corpse as a replacement for dog sledding. I prepared quite a bit of advancement material, but I couldn't complete the ritual."

Lin Lan spat angrily, "That useless fool had no fighting spirit at all. He couldn't even elevate his spirit by fighting me, and he ended up dead anyway."

At this moment, he noticed the young man's gaze becoming strange.

"Do you need Corpse Ghost Skill?"

Gu Jianlin frowned. "Funny enough, I happen to be a Third-tier Fate Master."

The Charming Ladies were stunned.

Lin Lan was also taken aback. "You're a Third-tier Fate Master?"

Gu Jianlin nodded. "Moreover, I've already completed the ritual. The last materials I need are the rhizomes of the Roaring Tree Root and strands of hair from the Charming Ladies."

At this moment, he felt fortunate to have exchanged his Merit for ample supplies before setting out, all stored in the Qilin's Wedge Fragment, ready to be accessed at any time.

If the supplies in the Qilin's Wedge Fragment were depleted, he had one more card to play.

He could directly utilize the Pharmacist and Scholar stationed outside the Ancient God Realm to transfer resources remotely.

"If you all..."

Before he could finish speaking, Lin Lan had already turned around and walked off.

He pulled up a floorboard and revealed a cellar underneath.

From the cellar, Lin Lan pulled out bundles of ice-blue plant rhizomes bound with hemp rope, looking like an old farmer hauling giant leeks from the field, slamming bundle after bundle onto the table.

"Is this enough?"

With a loud crash, the wooden table wobbled.

Then he turned to his two wives, grabbed a Tachi, and swung it with a sharp chopping sound!

As Ah Lan and Ah Yue stared in despair, their lengthy waist-long hair was reduced to shoulder-length.

Lin Lan threw a hefty handful of hair onto the wooden table. "Is this enough!"

"This is enough."

Gu Jianlin looked at the two Charming Ladies. "My apologies."

Finally, the materials were complete.

The ritual was already prepared.

Next up was the advancement.

Fourth-Order Cloud Monarch!

Chapter 509: Cloud Lord, Shura

The wind and snow howled outside, shaking the wooden door, which creaked loudly.

Lin Lan looked at the alchemy scroll sprawled on the ground, rubbing his hands with anticipation, his excitement apparent as he exclaimed, "Whether we can reach the end of the Sea of Eternal Life or not, just with your Corpse Ghost Skill after ascending to Cloud Lord, we now have unlimited labor. At the very least, we can catch more prey, so my children won't go hungry!"

"Heh, children."

Gu Jianlin was decidedly unwilling to give this guy any kind of positive reaction. He knew that there were slackers and wastrels in this world.

But he absolutely would not tolerate teammates who were slackers and wastrels!

"I need to prepare for advancement."

At this moment, he stood in the center of the alchemy scroll, its array patterns already activated by spirituality.

Corrosive Magma, the Egg of Calamity Ruins, the Heart of a Mutant, the Roots of the Roaring Tree Monster, and the Hair of the Charming Lady.

Boom!

The extraordinary materials ignited, and Gu Jianlin felt the spirituality within him surging wildly!

Lin Lan watched him expectantly, and even the Charming Ladies gazed unblinkingly, their beautiful eyes shining with excitement.

"The breakthrough from Transcendent to Superdimensional as an Ascender is a qualitative leap—it's an elevation of life and soul level. In ancient times, the Transcendent Stage was referred to as the Postnatal Realm, while the Superdimensional Level was known as the Innate Realm. And at the Holy Land Level, you are at the Exiled Immortal Realm. These are very ancient terms."

He explained earnestly, "During the unification period of the Qin Dynasty, reaching the pinnacle of the Innate Realm allowed one to command armies or establish a family clan for continuity. At the pinnacle of the Exiled Immortal Realm, one could start a sect or establish a dynasty. For instance, the Sword Tomb or the ancient Ying Royal Family you see now are examples of this."

Gu Jianlin listened to these words, letting his spirituality break through its chains and flood everything.

Horrifying visions seemed to appear before his eyes.

Golden flames burned the heavens bright, a seamless transition between dusk and night. A massive bronze pillar pierced the sky and earth, and at its summit was a faint figure standing at the end of time itself.

That figure gripped a pitch-black iron sword as if it were a scepter and, with a reverse grip, plunged it into its own chest!

The Qilin Wedge!

The Qilin Wedge didn't harm the figure but rather fused with it completely.

Boom!

The entire world trembled.

It was as though the figure merged with the world itself, the raging golden flames enveloping it like a massive cocoon, consuming it entirely!

Boom!

From the depths of the golden flames, the solitary and forlorn figure disappeared, replaced by an incomparably fearsome shadow, a monstrous entity born at the dawn of the cosmos, chaotic and frenzied!

Rolling dark clouds swirled in the skies as the entity roared thunderously, deafeningly!

It was about to break through the barriers of the real world!

From the depths of Gu Jianlin's consciousness, the Black Qilin awakened from its slumber, a blazing golden eye suddenly igniting, ghostly energy pouring out in torrents like the depths of Hell, roaring with euphoric satisfaction.

At one moment, it retained the form of a Qilin.

At the next moment, it transformed into a solemn Black Dragon.

The Divine Soul flickered wildly, its shadow towering higher and higher, bathed in spirituality, flourishing!

The Ghost Slayer Soul also surged explosively, growing to match the same height!

At this moment, Gu Jianlin was left speechless and deeply shocked.

The Divine and the Ghost Slayer dual pathways advanced together!

"I see. Whether Divine or Ghost Slayer, they are merely external systems. The true component requiring elevation is the core—it's the central processor, which is my soul itself. However, the method of advancement depends on utilizing external systems to elevate the core. Once the core is improved, the systems follow suit in their advancement as well."

This revelation meant a new advantage for Gu Jianlin's dual pathways.

Whether Divine or Ghost Slayer, he needed only to choose one for advancement.

If the ritual and materials for Divine were inconvenient, he could opt for Ghost Slayer instead.

And vice versa.

Gu Jianlin allowed the surging spirituality within him to spread, attentively listening to the ancient whispers echoing in his ears, immersing himself in the transformation of his spirit, as the powers from both the Divine and Ghost Slayer pathways underwent a qualitative change!

Human and Ancient God dual-core drive.

Ghost Slayer and Divine dual pathways.

Achieved Fourth Rank!

Ghost Slayer Path: Shura!

Divine Path: Cloud Lord!

The former's ability was the renowned Space Freeze, capable of creating a domain of absolute time stoppage!

The latter's ability was the mastery over life and death, the Corpse Ghost Skill, allowing control of corpses and enslavement of the dead!

Furthermore, the strength of all abilities had significantly increased.

Even the transcendent abilities of the Third Stage had undergone a qualitative change!

"Is it done? Is it done?"

Lin Lan asked eagerly, "I'm stressed to death here—I'm the King Ji Ji!"

The Charming Ladies gathered with curiosity gleaming in their eyes.

The alchemy scroll beneath Gu Jianlin's feet had burned to ashes, including all the materials used.

As he reopened his eyes, he switched his pathway to Ghost Slayer without hesitation.

His shadow trembled as it merged abilities from the Divine pathway.

For a brief moment, Gu Jianlin underwent an earth-shattering transformation; his hair grew like a waterfall, and his previously sharp face softened, his jet-black eyes becoming long and narrow, exuding a hidden, chilling ferocity and elegance akin to a celestial being—an unsettling beauty, enchanting to the extreme!

His shadow, enveloped in mist, took on his own male visage, but its aura grew increasingly cold and stern, its facial features altering as if concealed behind an ancient and solemn mask.

"Holy crap, beauty, who are you?"

Lin Lan was struck dumb, his trembling hand pointing in disbelief.

The Charming Ladies gasped, covering their crimson lips, exclaiming in astonishment.

For it was the first time they had seen anyone more beautiful than their own race!

This was absolute beauty, absolute enchantment, absolute creation.

Gu Jianlin raised his gaze, devoid of any discernible emotion, yet his mere glance was captivating beyond measure.

"What's wrong?"

He asked in curiosity.

At that very moment, Gu Jianlin saw his own reflection in the eyes of those around him.

In an instant, he almost erupted.

Because he saw an old monster.

Well, not an old monster, but himself.

It had to be some kind of joke—how come this advancement made him resemble an old monster increasingly?

Gu Jianlin mused that if he were to meet her someday, anyone unaware of the circumstances might mistakenly think he was her child—or daughter.

That scenario—wide-eyed stares—it'd surely be interesting.

Okay, maybe such an amusing encounter wouldn't happen.

If the old monster really found him, she'd likely squash him under her finger in an instant.

"Something's off."

Gu Jianlin realized that not just his form, but even his shadow's look had changed.

That indicated his advancement to Superdimensional Level had made him increasingly resemble an Ancient God.

And not even an authentic Ancient God.

But a mixed being—a hybrid of human and Ancient God—that could adapt to the rules of the real world.

How fascinating.

Legends spoke of the Candle Dragon Clan still active within the Sea of Eternal Life.

Gu Jianlin thought if he fought with this face on, he'd scare the hell out of those aliens!

Despite this, he switched back to the Divine pathway quickly, retracting his shadow back into his body.

"Don't spread word about this—though it won't matter much if it leaks, avoid making a big deal out of it."

Gu Jianlin stated calmly.

"Is this the effect of a Forbidden Spell? Or some peculiar Mythical Weapon? Why does it feel a bit like the Death Spirit Ghost Mirror? No, that feels off. Yin Yang Twin Jade? Hmm, that doesn't fit either. Forget it, who cares."

Lin Lan rubbed his palms together and asked, "So, you succeeded, right?"

Gu Jianlin nodded, "Yes, I succeeded."

Lin Lan snapped his fingers, "Perfect! Wives! Move the corpses!"

Grinning with a hint of smugness, he seemed to say, "My wives are gentle, beautiful, and capable—and I've got so many! Envious much?"

Gu Jianlin kept his icy expression without uttering a word, walking outside.

The Charming Ladies retrieved numerous frozen blocks from a tribal warehouse, transporting them on small wooden carts. A quick count revealed thirty-two, each containing an ice-encased corpse.

"These are the people I've killed over the years while hiding here. Most were cheaters from various organizations seeking a walkthrough, while others stumbled into dimensional rifts. Initially, I aimed to gather a full set of 108 generals, but there were too few trespassers here—only thirty-two overall!" Lin Lan spread his hands in resignation.

Gu Jianlin analyzed the corpses thoughtfully. The Corpse Ghost Skill of the Cloud Lord had its limitations. First, the revived corpses required constant spirituality infusion to maintain control.

Second, the battle strength of controlled corpses maxed out at his own Rank.

For example, even a Catastrophe-level corpse could exert no more strength than Fourth Rank.

The larger the quantity of controlled corpses, the more their combat prowess diminished proportionally.

"Controlling thirty-two corpses means each holds combat strength equivalent to one thirty-second of Fourth Rank."

He muttered softly.

"A fair limitation; otherwise, you Divine pathway practitioners would've become invincible ages ago."

Lin Lan teased, "Even with these constraints, this is still a terrifying technique on the battlefield, as corpses lack vital life and can be used for risk-free probing and attritional warfare. If we're talking about beings like the Taiyi God on the level of King of Qing, legends claim they could resurrect a million corpses for an unstoppable tide of Corpse Ghosts, enough to obliterate a small country."

He added playfully, "By the way, have you heard of the strongest one? Ah, they are humanity's historical pillar! If you earn their recognition, you can soar to unimaginable heights. Back then, my talent caught their attention, but I preferred the Ghost Slayer Path!"

Gu Jianlin looked at him with a blank expression, "Is that so? You must be quite impressive then."

"Of course!"

Lin Lan vigorously patted his shoulder, "You must keep up your efforts!"

Gu Jianlin didn't bother engaging further, igniting pale Ghost Fire in his hand, touching it to each corpse in succession.

"Awaken!"

Crack!

The ice blocks shattered one by one.

Their eyes lit with pale Ghost Fire, and their bodies became covered in eerie black spell patterns, as if awakening from an eternal slumber. They let out beast-like growls as they crawled to their feet!

"Oh! The Corpse Ghost Skill!"

Lin Lan marveled, "Wait...what are they doing?"

The Charming Ladies shrieked in terror, hiding behind him.

Gu Jianlin's expression grew dark as he observed the movements of the Corpse Ghosts.

"Xiao Gu, can you explain to me..."

Lin Lan said blankly, "Why are these Corpse Ghosts... holding chairs?"

Gu Jianlin replied with a poker face, "Would you believe me if I said I wasn't controlling them?"

In the icy wilderness, the terrifying Corpse Ghosts each clutched a chair, growling as they surveyed their surroundings for enemies.

The scene was both horrifying and... absurdly bizarre.

Chapter 510: Thunder in the Night

Rumble.

Thirty-two Corpse Ghosts galloped across the icy plains on all fours, like rabid beasts dragging sleds in a frenzied dash.

"Wuhu! Lift-off!"

Lin Lan sat on a sled drawn by the Corpse Ghosts, raising the Tachi in his hand high. Wrapped tightly in a fur coat, his face was alight with excitement: "Crossing the Ice Field, reaching the Sea of Eternal Life, and uncovering the Mystery of Immortality!"

This guy had an arm around each of his Charming Ladies, laughing heartily.

Gu Jianlin looked at him expressionlessly: "Why are you dragging your family along? Don't you know how dangerous this is?"

Ah Lan replied softly, "I'm a Fourth Rank on the Ancient Martial Path; I can be of help."

"And I'm on the Heavenly Master Path; I'm useful too," Ah Yue added gently. "Though it's a pity I'm not a Priest; we could have resisted the extreme cold."

Gu Jianlin thought to himself, So that's why.

"See that? My ladies are gentle, kind, and super capable. Envious much?"

Lin Lan laughed loudly, "When you grow up, make sure to find yourself girlfriends like this!"

Gu Jianlin didn't feel like talking. A parrot poked its head out of his backpack: "Shut your trap, you loudmouth!"

Lin Lan was stunned: "Eh? Isn't this Lu Zicheng's parrot? How come it's with you?"

Gu Jianlin didn't want to explain, instead gazing at the snowstorm-swept Ice Field in the distance, and asked gravely, "You've been here for this long, and you've never gone exploring? All I know is, the Sea of Eternal Life is formed from the corpses of the Ancient God Clan, containing the mystery of life itself."

Lin Lan finally dropped his unserious demeanor and said in a low voice, "I've been there, but that sea is genuinely too strange. You might not know this, but three months ago, I ventured deeper into this place from the Ice Field's outskirts to hunt, and I ended up hearing the laughter of children. Amid the blizzard, I vaguely heard someone calling me to join their games. It was terrifying!"

"Wherever the Ancient God Clan lingers, all kinds of eerie things are bound to happen."

He scratched his head. "And only a few nights ago, I even heard someone singing."

Gu Jianlin was taken aback. That certainly sounded downright hair-raising.

The sled raced wildly across the snowy terrain, only to suddenly encounter a massive figure ahead!

The object was partially obscured by the fierce snowstorm, its outline unclear!

"Watch out!"

Lin Lan suddenly shouted, "That thing's huge—An Ancient God Seed?"

Gu Jianlin shook his head: "I don't sense any Life Rhythm."

This was where Cloud Lord's advantage shone. A Corpse Ghost unfastened the sled's rope and boldly strode into the storm, tilting its head to glimpse the full sight of the giant object.

It turned out to be the wreckage of an airplane, encased in layers of ice, buried beneath heavy snow!

An airplane? How could there possibly be an airplane here?

Gu Jianlin jumped off the sled and approached the wreckage. Judging by its design, it seemed to be from Boeing, and not even that old. It was unclear how it had gotten here; only half of the skeleton remained.

Even though it was frozen, scorched marks were still faintly visible.

"Not impossible, because of the dimensions! Have you heard of legends like the Bermuda Triangle? Actually, many planes that disappear without a trace often accidentally stumble into the Ancient God Realm," Lin Lan said in a low voice. "It's not just Ascenders who can enter the Ancient God Realm. If a dimensional rift is open, anyone or anything can venture in. But they won't evolve—they're just headed for doom."

At that moment, Gu Jianlin walked into the wreckage's interior and froze in place.

"What the hell!"

The parrot screeched.

"What's wrong? Why the big reaction?"

Lin Lan swaggered over, then gasped, "What the hell!"

Ah Lan and Ah Yue turned pale with fright at the sight.

The interior of the wrecked cabin looked eerily well-preserved. All the passengers were seated in their respective spots as if they were frozen in the moment of life—some heads were bowed, eyes locked on

phones; some were reading newspapers; others had headphones on, appearing to be resting. The corpses looked disconcertingly lifelike, not even frozen!

The flight attendants still carried trays, smiling as though they were still alive and beautiful.

In the cockpit, the captain and co-pilot maintained stiff postures.

In such a desolate and frozen world, none of it made sense!

"Something's wrong. We need to leave immediately—this isn't right!"

Lin Lan seemed to realize something, his face abruptly contorting in terror. He grabbed his two ladies and bolted.

Gu Jianlin also understood that they couldn't stay here.

But just as he was about to step out of the cabin, a wave of dread exploded in his heart.

Because he suddenly saw the smiling flight attendant move her eyes!

"Please remain seated; the plane hasn't landed yet, dear passenger," she said, offering a signature smile—one that was disturbingly eerie.

All at once, every crew member and passenger in the cabin twisted their heads around, opening empty, soulless eyes, breaking into chilling, sinister laughter as they slowly rose from their seats.

Crackling sounds of snapping bones echoed!

"Xiao Gu!"

Lin Lan shouted from outside with his two Charming Ladies, "This place isn't right—it must be controlled by the Ancient God Clan!"

Gu Jianlin ignored him, as his profile had just captured an exceedingly grotesque image.

Their faces distorted, morphing into ghastly, demonic visages as if gazing at paradise from the fiery pits of molten hell. Their features cracked and bled profusely!

Then Gu Jianlin noticed the ground. Beneath the frozen ice were countless crimson blood vessels stretching over every corpse in the cabin, pulsating faintly with Life Rhythm in his ears!

"We can't leave. We've been marked."

He spoke in a low voice.

Lin Lan, too, realized these wraith-like entities had awakened. He darted back into the cabin like a phantom, swinging his Tachi in cold, elegant arcs that ripped through the air with wailing cries like the mournful shrieks of spirits!

Blades of light crisscrossed, slicing off all the monstrous heads in mere moments!

The Sixth Rank's Divine Speed Force and Dimension Slash—his offensive capability was simply insane.

"So, how was that? Impressed?"

He raised an eyebrow, flashing a smug grin.

"What are you gloating about?"

Gu Jianlin stared emotionlessly at the headless corpses. "Why don't you take a closer look?"

From the severed necks of those headless corpses, thick, viscous blood gushed, reforming into grotesque new heads. Their smiles grew even more sinister as they lunged like feral beasts!

In that split second, Lin Lan suddenly Virtualized, letting the creatures pass through his intangible body!

Bang!

The frozen ice layer shattered beneath the impact, breaching the metal cabin floor!

The creatures shifted targets, lunging directly at the boy in the corner.

Gu Jianlin instantly deduced that these entities had been enhanced by the Authority of the Ancient God Clan. Their physical prowess matched the strength and speed of his own Ghost Transformation, making them tough to beat.

In the critical moment, four flaming golden Ghost Hands roared into existence.

And that was just the beginning.

A golden spinal column materialized behind him, growing segment by segment with loud cracks as jagged ribs extended out, forming a solid, armor-like structure. Golden flames surged fiercely.

Finally, a golden skull took shape, struggling into existence, its dark, hollow eye sockets ignited with ghastly Ghost Fire!

Gu Jianlin's Spiritual Body roared into the stormy air—this was the qualitative leap of his abilities after ascending to the Fourth Rank!

Accompanied by the parrot's enthusiastic squawk: "This is... Suzanohu!"

Like crashing waves overtaking jagged reefs, the grotesque creatures swarmed all at once!

Bang!

The golden skeletal giant bellowed furiously, its dark hollows gleaming fiercely, and exploded with deafening force!

A Dark Shock!

The cabin disintegrated into dust with a loud blast!

The monstrous entities were hurled backward, their bloody flesh shredded, only to regenerate instantly.

Gu Jianlin stood unscathed amidst the chaos. The defensive power of the skeletal giant was utterly formidable.

Boom!

Another thunderous sound.

Ah Yue's eyes shimmered with uncanny brilliance—Fourth-Order Heavenly Master Telekinesis!

Countless shards of metal vibrated in the air like a storm, furiously tearing through the creatures' bodies.

Blood splattered, flesh flew.

Ah Lan clenched her fists as furious Qi Force surged and exploded!

Boom!

The creatures were blasted apart.

Ah Yue's spirituality boiled over. Her ice-blue hair danced wildly as if an ethereal spirit, summoning a tempest of icy wind and snow that froze the creatures' remains solid.

She pressed her hands into the ground, creating a massive fissure into which the frozen fragments tumbled.

With a flick of her wrist, she sealed the ground seamlessly.

Gu Jianlin watched this spectacle with mild amazement—So this is the flexibility of the Heavenly Master Path.

The Charming Ladies working in tandem truly made for a stunning sight.

"Now do you see why I brought them along? My wives are amazing!"

Lin Lan crossed his arms triumphantly, laughing heartily, "What about you? Got anyone?"

"Can you stop laughing for a second?"

Gu Jianlin expanded his Life Perception and said expressionlessly, "I suggest you take a look around."

Lin Lan's grin stiffened as he glanced towards the depths of the snowstorm.

On the ice, countless bloodlines emerged. In the swirling blizzard, the shadowy outlines of countless forms loomed.

Gu Jianlin felt his scalp tingle as he said coldly, "This is the route you brought us on? This feels like a natural morgue. Some Ancient God Clan member must have cultivated countless corpses here!"

He had a strong sense of déjà vu.

The technique resembled the Corpse Ghost Skill he'd seen before, only much stronger!

"Route? I wasn't leading us on a route!" Lin Lan cried out in shock. "Weren't we just blindly charging towards the Sea of Eternal Life by instinct?"

Gu Jianlin was equally stunned: "You're kidding me—I thought you knew the way!"

Lin Lan shouted in disbelief, "How would I know!"

Gu Jianlin thought to himself that if this guy weren't a key witness, he'd Ghost Transform and kill him on the spot!

Ah Lan and Ah Yue's faces turned pale.

Their little makeshift team was now surrounded by an endless sea of the undead.

Just then, blazing thunder roared through the blizzard.

"Move!"

A clear, cold, and arrogant voice rang out in the storm.

Gu Jianlin recognized the familiar Life Rhythm. She wasn't supposed to be here!

Boom!

Amid rolling thunder, an arc of searing lightning illuminated the dim Ice Field.

A graceful silhouette flickered in the lightning's glow.