

## Ancient 561

Chapter 561: Artificial Ancestor, Heavenly Destiny Pavilion

The alarm of Taixu echoed inside the cabin of the Deep Blue.

"The Deep Blue is currently in its low-altitude flight phase. We have entered the depths of the Sea of Eternal Life. It is predicted that we may experience five to ten intense shocks. Please do not panic and remain calm. As per the rules of Order, you are permitted to photograph the entirety of the Sea of Eternal Life, but dissemination to the outside is prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation."

Gu Jianlin heard this alarm after walking out of the library within the Cloud Bright Secret Treasure.

For this trip to the Sea of Eternal Life, almost all young investigators were essentially here to run errands.

Even ordinary Holy Land Level participants didn't stand a chance of getting involved.

They were merely here to assist.

The Ether Association would allocate some resources to the young participants, letting them head in later to deal with the "small monsters."

The so-called "small monsters" was, in fact, a rather understated term.

Because, in the depths of the Sea of Eternal Life, even the weakest were Ancient God Seeds from the ultra-ancient era.

Slightly stronger elite monsters were ancestors.

Though some newly emerged ancestors weren't particularly powerful, they still belonged to the Ancient God Clan, making them extremely dangerous.

Thus, it became imperative to enhance the investigators' capabilities.

This was the reason Heavenly Destiny Jade Scrolls were distributed.

However, for some reason, he wasn't given a Forbidden Spell.

The reason? The Beast King merely glanced at him, then closed its eyes, doing nothing.

For Superdimensional Level Ascenders, Forbidden Spells were critical items.

Because every path had its limitations.

For instance, the Ghost Slayer Path was excellent for one-on-one duels and fluid combat.

But it wasn't well-suited for large-scale attacks.

Similarly, the Divine Path at the Superdimensional Level lacked certain offensive methods.

While the Sword Sect Path's functionality was almost negligible.

Forbidden Spells served to complement and resolve such shortcomings.

It was said that this Three-Eyed White Tiger possessed exceptionally high intelligence and was known for its absolute fairness and impartiality, devoid of any human emotions. If it denied him a Forbidden Spell, there must have been another reason.

"Do you know what's so impressive about those so-called Ancient Forbidden Curses? They're merely the crude imitations created by weak humans attempting to control the rules of the real world by emulating the power of the Ancient God Clan. The so-called Ancient Forbidden Curse? Nothing more than a clumsy imitation. The Original Forbidden Curse, on the other hand, is somewhat interesting, but that's about it."

Jiuyin's light scoffing voice echoed in his mind. "Are you... a male pet created by the Lord? A consort?"

Gu Jianlin's face darkened.

"I don't even know how to describe you. But that's basically the gist of it. You possess the power of two Supremes and are even a hybrid of human and Ancient God. I can't even discern your position, which makes me admire the greatness of the Lord all the more. It seems the Lord's experiment is destined to succeed!"

Jiuyin snorted. "Won't it be wonderful if the Lord teaches you personally at that time? I wouldn't even want anything from those scumbags of the Bai Ze Clan; it feels dirty to me. Since you're the Lord's consort, you should at least carry the pride of the Lord!"

Gu Jianlin thought to himself that when they truly met, it would indeed be a lesson hands-on.

That would be like lightning striking fire.

But for now, it appeared that Jiuyin genuinely considered him an experimental subject created by the old monster.

After all, in Jiuyin's eyes, the old monster was invincible, incapable of ever losing.

The reason Gu Jianlin could obtain the Dragon Bone and possess a portion of her power was solely due to her personal approval.

She hadn't even considered any other possibilities.

"How much do you know about the Lord?"

Gu Jianlin suddenly directed his attention to the sword.

"Uh, in the past, I was always sealed in the sword scabbard. I was only summoned when the Lord needed me. Since the Lord was always studying human matters and had even lived in the human world, my task was to clean up any ignorant trash in the way, to avoid defiling the Lord's sight."

Jiuyin replied faintly, "All I can say is that the Lord is the most perfect being in the Universe. Unfortunately, most of my memories were lost when I was severed. Otherwise, I'd be able to recall many things."

What use are you, then!

Gu Jianlin shook his head and said, "So, you must have a grudge against the Bai Ze Clan, don't you?"

Jiuyin remained silent for a moment, then snorted, "Not particularly. Being weaker than others is nothing to complain about. What, should I roll on the ground and throw a tantrum, plotting schemes for revenge? No, I'll just reclaim my dignity in the future."

Gu Jianlin was taken aback. This stupid sword actually had a certain pride.

It seemed he would have to rely on Senior Ji to learn more about the old monster.

He lowered his head, stroking the ancient tome in his hands, its texture reflecting the centuries of history it held. Made of some mysterious material, it remained remarkably intact despite showing significant wear.

Suddenly, he noticed a yellowed, brittle sheet of paper hidden among the pages of the ancient book.

This piece of paper must have been here for countless years. It resembled a child's casual doodles, with chaotic, irregular lines crisscrossing one another, yet to him, it seemed to come alive.

With a deafening roar!

His mind was plunged into darkness. The vast firmament was cloaked in gloom, turbulent clouds of chaos surging as though forming the womb of calamity. As a blazing streak of thunder crashed down, the world trembled endlessly.

Gasping for air, Gu Jianlin snapped out of the hallucination.

Ancient Forbidden Curse, All Heavens Divine Thunder!

He had seen this Ancient Forbidden Curse before in the Soul Skywell.

Back then, it was used to execute a traitorous minister. With a single blast of Ancient Divine Thunder, not even ashes remained.

This was the President's Forbidden Spell!

"I take back what I said earlier. Human Forbidden Spells do have some merit."

Chapter 562: Artificial Ancestor, Heavenly Destiny Pavilion\_2

Jiuyin trembled slightly: "So terrifying!"

"Was this sent by Senior Ji? No wonder the Beast King didn't choose an Ancient Forbidden Curse for me."

Gu Jianlin murmured to himself: "Senior Ji is indeed thoughtful."

That senior likely noticed that the Fourth Rank Cloud Lord lacked his accustomed abilities.

He actually brought the All Heavens Divine Thunder to him.

The harvest this time is not small.

At that moment, the Deep Blue suddenly shook, and a massive structure swept past outside the porthole.

It was a Sky-reaching Tower encased in ice, standing atop a massive frozen expanse. Surrounding it were similarly ancient buildings frozen solid, with seawater surging violently beneath the ice, fracturing countless gaps.

The enormous glaciers were towering, and amidst the snowstorms stood majestic clusters of buildings.

This was the Sea of Eternal Life.

Bang!

A loud noise erupted within the cabin.

The faint sound of the Little Princess's angry shouting could be heard.

"What's going on?"

Gu Jianlin frowned: "Taixu?"

After a brief silence, Taixu's gentle voice replied: "Don't worry, nothing happened. A guest from Lishan Tiyan Pavilion, invited by the President, has joined our Strategy Group. Most of the current members of the Heavenly Destiny Pavilion were chosen from various ancient family clans, so they're acquainted with some Omegas."

"Someone from Lishan Tiyan Pavilion?"

Gu Jianlin's heart stirred slightly. Wasn't Thunder supposed to be taken away by this group?

"Where are they? I'll go take a look."

A massive aircraft, resembling a fractured crescent moon, roared through the snowstorm.

Tang Ling stood at the edge of the deck, overlooking the world of the Ice Sea. Her white hair danced in the snowstorm, scattering like snowflakes everywhere, with a few strands messily brushing across her face, partially obscuring her eyes.

Her long, curled eyelashes were frosted, and her beautiful eyes reflected the boundless sea.

A white wool coat fluttered in the wind, her silhouette tall and graceful.

"Is this the territory of the Kui Dragon Ancestor?"

She faintly heard growls echoing from deep within the snowstorm and spoke quietly.

"This doesn't count as the Kui Dragon Ancestor's territory at all. It's nothing but a case of one bird taking over another's nest. Such an immense amount of life energy hidden in the sea could only be the work of that black Supreme."

Someone spoke coldly.

It was another woman with white hair, though her appearance was rather ordinary, draped in a black cloak dusted with snowflakes.

The most striking feature was her long hair, which stretched nine feet and danced wildly in the air.

The Silver King.

"Whether you survive or not depends on this moment."

The Silver King spoke coldly: "I've been quite lenient with you during this time. You are my most accomplished student, and even though you dislike me, I regard you as my own. Regardless, Tang Zijing cannot be saved. The Kui Dragon Ancestor must be killed soon; otherwise, the whole world will suffer catastrophic assaults."

"Your great-grandfather's life, compared to this world, is utterly inconsequential."

She paused: "I believe you understand this."

Tang Ling was silent for a moment; then, she unexpectedly smiled quietly, her smile blooming like vibrant flowers in the snow.

"I understand, teacher."

Suddenly, her face turned flushed, and a trace of fresh blood spilled from her lips again.

"Hmph."

The Silver King said expressionlessly: "If you had spent this time recuperating in the Sword Tomb, you wouldn't be suffering so much now. But you couldn't let go of your emotions, and in the end, you'll pay the price for it."

She paused: "Those who walk the Sword Sect Path ultimately become heartless individuals. If you can't release your obsessions, they'll only backfire on you. Still, this is your freedom. After all, compared to the burdens you'll carry for the Human World in the future, your current recklessness is your right."

Tang Ling pulled out a damp tissue from her bag and wiped the corner of her mouth.

She then lowered her head, retrieving her phone, and gazed at the photo on the screen.

In the photo, a boy and a girl were leaning together, with a burning campfire and a dark palace in the background.

Actually, there's one thing she had never said.

She didn't truly want to give up investigating the matter of her great-grandfather.

It wasn't because of the Sword Tomb, Heavenly Destiny Pavilion, or the President's intervention.

It was simply that her body could no longer hold out.

"It's alright. This is my debt to you all, and so I'm willing to repay it willingly."

Tang Ling said softly: "I just want to spend the last bit of time doing what I wish to do."

The Silver King glanced at her: "Then, are you happy?"

Tang Ling hadn't expected her teacher to ask this and froze briefly before murmuring an affirmative.

"Although the Sword Sect emphasizes heartlessness, I am, after all, still human and cannot help but care for you."

The Silver King stood with her hands behind her back and said lightly, "I heard that before you left, you didn't go home to say goodbye?"

Tang Ling shook her head and said: "I've been away from home for too long. My parents already have another child, so even if I went back this time, there's nothing I'd want to say. If I truly couldn't make it, going back would only bring them sadness."

The Silver King snorted: "And that student of the King of Qing?"

Tang Ling froze slightly, a complex emotion flickering in her beautiful eyes. She replied blandly: "I've already said goodbye. After entering the Extraordinary World, he's the only friend I've made. It does make me happy."

A chill flickered in the Silver King's gaze: "Originally, after that person became the student of his senior brother, I did not want you getting too close. No one from that lineage is good for anything."

Tang Ling vaguely knew what had occurred with the Catastrophes, but she couldn't offer a viewpoint on it.

Chapter 563: Artificial Ancestor, Heavenly Destiny Pavilion\_3

She untied the instrument case on her back and took out a rustic sword scabbard. It was unknown what kind of wood it was made from, with eerie red patterns all over, as if engraved by ghosts and gods.

"Hmm? You converted the mysterious properties of your Golden Crow Feather Robe?"

The Silver King squinted his eyes and said casually.

Tang Ling had a Mythical Weapon called the Golden Crow Feather Robe, which was a coming-of-age gift from the President.

It originally had no side effects and was warm in winter and cool in summer when worn.

Its effect, as long as it was worn, could bestow a tremendously strong defensive effect.

For instance, her Sword Bone, when wearing the Golden Crow Feather Robe, had defenses strong to the point of astonishment.

It could directly withstand any ability of the same rank, except for the Dimension Slash.

"Yes."

Tang Ling handed over the scabbard and calmly said, "I hope the teacher will give this scabbard to him, just tell him it's a gift from me, no need to say more."

The Silver King looked deeply at the scabbard and said, "So you've been working on this all night? To think it's hand-carved by you, given how clumsy you are at household chores and cooking usually, you still have a knack for this."

Tang Ling's beautiful eyes flashed with a hint of reproach, and she silently turned her head away.

"It seems that Mr. San is truly a Sister Killer, having you charmed like this."

The Silver King took the scabbard and said, "I will help you give it to him, but if you can, it's better to give it to him yourself. You are my favorite student, cross this life-and-death threshold and come back alive."

Tang Ling lifted her clear eyes, looked towards the wind and snow deep in the Sea of Eternal Life, and acknowledged with a hum.

The central rest area of the Deep Blue welcomed a group of odd people.

They were called odd because they were all shrouded in black robes, with ancient sword boxes strapped to their backs.

Ji Xiaoyu pointed at the smallest one in the group and said in a deep voice, "Tang Yun, don't think I won't recognize you just because you've been gone for so long, come out and fight me!"

The black-robed people did not respond, merely looking at her indifferently.

Mu Qingyou, being a member of the Sword Tomb and the second in the Omega Sequence, stood between the two groups with a quite unsightly and somewhat troubled expression, not knowing what to do.

"Yu!"

Lu Qingqing said softly beside her, "Hurry back, don't offend them; they are guests!"

Nightmare was even more panicked because his divination about their origins was terrifyingly significant.

Especially Lord Meng, whose hand holding the Copper Coin was trembling, his face pale.

"Guests? I know this person. I used to fight with her often. Before she was taken away, she ambushed and beat me. Now I want to settle the score!"

Ji Xiaoyu said defiantly, "Tang Yun, come out?"

The black-robed people finally couldn't endure her noise and turned to look at the last small shadow.

That person remained silent for a moment, finally stepped out, and skeptically asked, "Who are you? I don't remember you at all. Omega nowadays is not only weak but also rude. Get out of my way."

At these words, the Omegas all raised their eyebrows.

Especially Mu Qingyou, whose eyes flashed with a cold light.

But thinking of the other's identity, she forcibly restrained herself.

"What? You say I'm weak? Let's fight if you have the guts!"

Ji Xiaoyu sneered with clenched fists, "I'm almost Fifth Rank!"

In that instant, the person appeared in front of her, the hood fell off, revealing hair as white as frost and a face sculpted like jade, appearing just like a teenager.

Her appearance, however, was extraordinarily beautiful beyond normal human standards.

In her eyes, the light of stars was reflected.

"Someone from the Ji family? Seems a bit familiar, your identity must be extraordinary."

She said indifferently, "We're here to assist in raiding the Sea of Eternal Life, not to waste time on an ant like you. You're not even an Evolver; you're simply too weak."

Suddenly, she raised her hand and quickly pointed a finger.

Bang!

It was as if something exploded out of thin air.

Ji Xiaoyu, caught off guard, was blasted away by the exploding air, flying backward into the air.

At that moment, someone reached out and grabbed her collar.

"Are you alright?"

Gu Jianlin said expressionlessly, "Causing trouble again?"

Chapter 564 Moon Princess: Qilin Should Match with Candle Dragon!

In the rest area of the Deep Blue, the Omegas watched this group of uninvited guests coldly, their gazes growing increasingly hostile. After all, they were proud geniuses who had never been mocked like this before.

No one had ever dared to say that the Omegas were weak.

Of course, some of the Omegas with deep backgrounds also knew the origins of these black-robed figures.

Lishan, Heavenly Destiny Pavilion.

Gu Jianlin held the unruly child in his hand, examining the group and analyzing their features.

Suddenly, the Black Qilin in his mind opened its blazing golden eyes, and an eerie hallucination appeared before him. The black-robed girl leading the group seemed to change her appearance.

Half of her face was tender and beautiful, while the other half was pale as jade, clearly belonging to someone else.

Her hair was black and white interwoven, her left eye inky black like ink, her right eye shining brilliantly like starlight.

It felt as if two people had been forcibly stitched together—a chilling sight.

This person undeniably carried the scent of humanity alongside the aura of the Ancient God Clan.

But the fusion wasn't quite perfect; it was jarring.

The last time Gu Jianlin had seen something this bizarre, it was Thunder.

However, Thunder was different from her.

Because Thunder's white-haired and red-haired states were both part of the same face.

And part of the same individual.

Only their demeanor and hair color underwent subtle changes, akin to split personalities.

Yet this girl before him felt unnervingly mismatched.

"Hey? Master, you've come!"

Ji Xiaoyu, still held by Gu Jianlin, had not been harmed by the previous attack but was indignant nonetheless. "Hmph, what Master! I clearly knew that person, she was from the Tang Family back then—Tang Yun! Later she was sent somewhere unknown. We've had grudges since then, and now she's pretending not to know me. Infuriating!"

The girl named Tang Yun narrowed her eyes; the black-robed figures behind her remained silent.

"Apologies, everyone. Ji Xiaoyu is the Little Princess of the Ji Family, and the President's direct granddaughter."

Mu Qingyou deliberately emphasized her last sentence.

"Ji Family, Ji Xiaoyu?"

The girl fell silent for a moment before murmuring to herself, "I seem to vaguely remember someone like that. But it doesn't matter anymore. I'm no longer who I used to be. We've come here solely to assist in capturing the Kui Dragon Ancestor. Irrelevant people, step aside immediately—we're looking for a very important individual."

She pulled a painting from the backpack slung over her shoulder and unfolded it in front of the group. The stark ink strokes depicted an eerie skeleton, one on the verge of Dragon Transformation, kneeling in the snow.

Gu Jianlin put the Little Princess down.

He couldn't help but be surprised when he saw the painting.

Because it depicted the ancestor he had killed back in the Sea of Eternal Life.

"This ancestor's name is Tai Zhuo, a member of the Candle Dragon Clan, a royal among nobles. In the divine race created by Kui, Tai Zhuo held an exceptionally high status, comparable to the High Priest. It's said that during the Shang Dynasty, someone once presented Shang Emperor Zhou with a Dragon Cauldron engraved with Kui Dragon patterns. Emperor Zhou was delighted and invited the presenter to be his guest."

The girl spoke expressionlessly, "Yet overnight, the Shang Capital was utterly destroyed, its national fortune lost, and calamities descended. According to our records, the mysterious benefactor who presented the Kui Dragon Pattern Ding was none other than Tai Zhuo."

The group was stunned.

The Alchemy Matrix surrounding the Sea of Eternal Life was guarded by twelve ancestors.

All twelve had now been slain.

But no one had imagined that one of them had such an illustrious background.

"Logically speaking, anyone below Holy Land Level could not possibly defeat Tai Zhuo unless its revival had been incomplete. We need detailed information on what transpired back then."

The girl spoke calmly, "So, who exactly killed Tai Zhuo?"

The Omegas exchanged glances, and eventually, all eyes turned toward the back.

Ji Xiaoyu also turned her head toward the boy beside her.

"I killed him."

Gu Jianlin said calmly, "What about it?"

He faintly sensed that there might have been something off about that battle.

The black-robed figures simultaneously lifted their heads, their eyes flickering with eerie starlight.

Gu Jianlin realized from their gazes that they were using their Extraordinary Ability on him.

Come on, look all you want.

If you really see something, it'll scare you to death.

"May I ask, did you kill him alone?"

The girl asked emotionlessly.

Gu Jianlin frowned, "No, I had a teammate—Thunder."

For a split second, the black-robed figures collectively became alert.

The girl furrowed her brows even deeper and questioned, "Your Name?"

Gu Jianlin detested the tone of her inquiry and initially didn't want to answer.

The Omegas, aware of his irritable temperament, began signaling toward the surrounding surveillance cameras.

Ultimately, it was Taixu who spoke up: "Omega Sequence, First Tier, Fourth-Order Cloud Monarch, Gu Jianlin."

Upon hearing the name, the black-robed figures' expressions turned icy.

"I seem to have heard that name before."

For the first time, a trace of hostility appeared in the girl's indifferent eyes. The sword box on her back began to vibrate faintly, accompanied by a childlike voice, "I need to inspect your memory—my apologies."

Without delay, she stepped forward and raised her finger.

Her fingertip aimed directly at the boy's forehead.

The Omegas watched in shock at the unfolding scene.

Especially those in the know.

One was a student of the King of Qing, a Super Newcomer King who annihilates all opposition.

The other was a creature from Lishan's Heavenly Destiny Pavilion, harboring an ancient soul within.

This was truly explosive.

Yet in the very next moment—bang!

## Chapter 565 Moon Princess: Qilin is Meant to Pair with Candle Dragon!\_2

The young girl flew backward like a cannonball, directly out of the resting area, and crashed into the dark corridor.

Boom!

A resounding crash echoed, and the metallic bulkhead was visibly deformed from the impact.

Gu Jianlin withdrew his extended right leg and rotated his ankle slightly.

At some point, a pair of majestic, pitch-black Qilin Horns had sprouted on his head, and his eyes gleamed with a startling, abyssal black.

The so-called Sea of Eternal Life was indeed a sea frozen solid. On the icy surface stood an ancient, towering city, its buildings trapped in frost. Despite the frigid cold, the scene teemed with vibrant life.

Schools of fish swam beneath the icy surface, casting turbulent shadows.

Birds soared in the raging snowstorms, and distant howls of snow wolves pierced the air.

"Shh."

Moon Princess placed a pale finger to her lips and whispered, "Be quiet. Don't make a sound."

In her current Evolutionary State, crimson Dragon Horns adorned her head. Her formerly crystalline gaze now glimmered with a sinister red, and her vertical pupils exuded an awe-inspiring menace.

With just a brief stare, two giant snow-white wolves bristling with fur had already been subdued.

"Sometimes, I really envy you Evolvers' abilities. It's ridiculously convenient. If I were to stare at them like that, I'd probably be bitten to death." Lu Zijin sat cross-legged on a block of ice nearby, bundled warmly in a puffer coat and scarf, her long hair falling freely.

"Aunt Zijin, you can give it a try too."

Moon Princess stood up and said calmly.

"How many times do I have to tell you, it's not 'Aunt'; call me 'Sister'!"

Lu Zjin rolled her eyes. "Or are you looking to explode from within?"

Moon Princess snorted softly, pulling a can of meat from her backpack and tossing it to the two wolves. "Well, now we have mounts. The last mutated mammoth we tried to tame was such a hassle—it almost dragged us straight into the Ice Sea to feed the fish. By the way, I saw a variant mosasaur earlier in the sea."

It was the ocean's apex predator during the Cretaceous period, a monster from millions of years ago that could swallow them whole for fun.

"Did you just feed our provisions to them?"

Lu Zjin raised an eyebrow.

"No worries. I feel like we still have plenty of supplies."

Moon Princess pulled a lollipop from her pack and popped it into her mouth.

Lu Zjin scrutinized her suspiciously. "Don't tell me you really have some kind of spatial Mythical Weapon. Did Old Gu give it to you?"

Moon Princess replied indifferently, "I've got my ways."

Read as "ways," but written as "cheat."

For some strange reason, ever since they entered the Sea of Eternal Life, the fragment of the Qilin Wedge had been clamoring incessantly.

Initially, due to constant ambushes, they had lost all their provisions.

Upon reaching the Sea of Eternal Life, they should have been in dire straits.

No food when hungry, no shelter when tired—like two stray kittens.

However, for reasons unknown, the fragment of the Qilin Wedge seemed to harbor intelligence.

Every time the fragment vibrated in her pocket, supplies would spill out.

Bread, milk, chocolate, fried chicken, hamburgers, sausages, beer, beverages, mineral water.

Even tents and beds.

Aside from still being hunted by the Si Family.

And occasionally running into resurrected Ancient God Seeds or Ancestors.

It really felt like a vacation.

After all, the Sea of Eternal Life was a city of the Ancient God Clan, brimming with vibrant life energy.

The frozen city had its own unique beauty.

Praise to the Qilin Venerable!

For the first time, Moon Princess felt the immense sense of security that came with leaning on an Ancient Supreme.

Speaking of which, she was close to mastering the Candle Dragon Forbidden Curse.

As long as she wasn't turned into a Female Sacrifice, it would be a decent arrangement.

Otherwise, she'd throw away that ancient token immediately and never return.

Truthfully, Moon Princess vaguely believed the Qilin Venerable wouldn't resort to such tasteless actions. After all, as a fabled Ancient Supreme, why would they fancy an ordinary human girl?

Ancient Gods should unite with Ancient Gods; compatibility is key.

If the Qilin Venerable really wanted a mate, they should seek out the Candle Dragon Venerable.

Her teacher once said that even Ancient Gods have genders, and Candle Dragon Venerable was female.

The two Supremes could go at it however they wanted.

Even transforming into their Mythical States to mate was perfectly fine.

If needed, Moon Princess could assist.

So long as she could stay with the boy she had raised, she didn't care.

Ah, too bad he's not here now.

"Too bad it's me accompanying you, rather than your precious Xiao Gu, right?"

Lu Zijin mockingly snorted. "After all I did raising you."

Moon Princess remarked calmly, "Being with Aunt Zijin is quite enjoyable as well."

Lu Zijin scoffed. "You certainly don't sound like you're enjoying it."

"That's because you're recovering too slowly!"

Moon Princess muttered, "Aunt Zijin, what Rank has your recovery reached now?"

Lu Zijin shrugged. "Still at Fifth Rank for now. That Return to the Stone Flower's effects work gradually. I need to slowly absorb the life energy here to fully regain my peak state and then take a leap into the Holy Land."

She paused. "Once that happens, the first thing I'll do is kill Old Master Si."

The icy glint of murderous intent flickered in her beautiful eyes, signaling her resolve.

Since arriving at the Sea of Eternal Life, her strength had been steadily recovering.

Spirituality was breaking past its constraints.

Moon Princess's ominous vertical pupils also radiated bloodthirst.

Just thinking of that old scoundrel enraged them both.

Zhang Xuzhi and his Judgement Court had been blocked outside the Sea of Eternal Life.

Instead, Old Master Si, that stubborn leech, kept pestering them relentlessly.

"I wonder how the others are doing right now."

Moon Princess's gaze turned distant, laced with concern.

"Don't worry. They'll be fine. Before stepping into the Sea of Eternal Life, I sensed Old Chen and the others arriving. And Han Jing, you saw her back then too, didn't you?"

Lu Zijin seemed quite confident. "With them there, Xiao Gu won't run into trouble. Plus, he has a Princess by his side. The Lin Family siblings are likely safe too."

"Xiao Gu's stepmother? Then there's really no issue."

Moon Princess's voice turned frosty. "But as for that Princess by his side..."

"What, feeling a sense of crisis now?"

Lu Zijin waved her hand dismissively. "Relax. That Princess is the least of your threats. She's destined to inherit the President's role and hails from the Sword Tomb—she's bound to grow colder and more ruthless."

Hearing this, Moon Princess nodded slightly, thinking that sounded about right.

"But now I'm branded as a traitor by the Youying Group."

She suddenly commented, "Not sure what to do once we get out."

"Who isn't? I'm also a traitor to the Ether Association now."

Lu Zijin grumbled. "The Lu Family must be in total chaos."

The two stunning women rode colossal snow wolves across the frozen sea.

"Aunt Zijin, stay alert. I feel uneasy."

Moon Princess spoke softly. "With my Candle Dragon Clan evolution abilities, the closer I get to this sea, the more restless I feel. Besides the Kui Dragon Ancestor, I'm sensing something else brewing."

Lu Zijin murmured in agreement. "I feel the same."

On their journey through the Sea of Eternal Life, they'd encountered numerous traces of Alchemy Matrices.

Even dilapidated altars, shattered Pill Furnaces, and human skeletons.

It was clear that unspeakable and horrifying experiments had taken place here.

All signs pointed toward one individual.

The missing Xu Fu.

Amid an endless frozen sea, a blizzard was torn apart by fierce winds, revealing a crumbling and icebound palace. Frozen, towering trees obscured the sky, while crystalline blooms thrived on the ground, exuding an eerie chill of extinction.

On the ascending steps of the palace rested an ancient throne.

Seated on the throne, an immense figure clad in pitch-black armor loomed.

The figure's head hung low, and their faint, labored breaths resembled the wails of ghosts. From their chest protruded a massive sword, with roaring, molten blood streaming from the wound, melting the ice below.

An Ancestor!

The sheer presence—it was unmistakably an Ancestor!

Sealed here countless years ago, even nailed to the throne by a sword.

Though their aura had weakened significantly, caution remained paramount.

Moon Princess's grip tightened around her sword scabbard, her hand hovering over the hilt. She whispered, "Aunt Zijin, prepare yourself."

Lu Zijin's sharp eyes narrowed, as elemental turbulence gathered above her.

"Wait, something feels off."

She suddenly remarked, "Do you see that sword? The matching sword mark on the ground—this Ancestor was pinned here recently. This must be the work of a human Ascender, someone from the Sword Sect!"

Moon Princess asked suspiciously, "Sword Sect? Who could it be?"

Chapter 566: A Sword Breaks the Sword!

The scent of sandalwood permeated the meeting room of the Deep Blue. From the incense burner on the Buddha altar, wisps of white mist rose, enveloping the ancient, battered statue in a haze. Within the silence, the aura of nirvana lingered melancholically.

Taihua sat at the end of the long table, elegantly sipping a cup of hot tea while scanning through a document in her hand.

"After all these years, it seems the President is still a sentimental person."

Someone said coldly, "Though you don't believe in Buddhism, traces of Buddha linger everywhere. Perhaps you still haven't forgotten that chaotic era, when it was a Buddhist temple that took in the young, orphaned you."

This person was an elderly man with hair and beard as white as snow. His features were strikingly handsome with an almost Heavenly Person-like grace. He wore a black robe embroidered with intricate golden patterns, and on his back, he carried a Sword Box, appearing as though he belonged to an ancient era.

Thud!

Lin Dong raised his hand and knocked on the table, speaking gently, "Though you are a senior, I must warn you not to show disrespect to the President again. Otherwise, I will kill you right here."

In his eyes, a blizzard seemed to swirl, faintly glimmering with a resplendent golden hue.

As one of the Vice Presidents of the Ether Association, he naturally possessed a portion of the Heavenly Person's Wedge's power.

Han Jing narrowed her eyes, sharply sensing the sudden tension in the air.

Meanwhile, Ye Dao Saint kept his head lowered, quietly polishing the long blade in his hands, maintaining a somber silence.

The Profound Yin Saint turned a deaf ear to everything, pretending not to hear a word.

The only young person present was Ying Changsheng.

Seated in the farthest corner of the meeting room, he listened in and observed the expressions of the prominent figures. He found it all very amusing.

"Bai Feng, have you forgotten who you are? If not for my late husband's agreement back then, do you think you were even qualified to step into the Heavenly Destiny Pavilion? Besides, Ancestors of the kind slumbering in your body—I've killed more of them than I can count."

After finishing the document, Taihua lifted her phoenix-shaped eyes, suffused with a murderous edge.  
"Do you wish to die?"

"I have never forgotten my brother's kindness."

Bai Feng remained silent for a moment before speaking, "I am Bai Feng, a member of the Bai family. I am human."

Taihua scoffed coldly. "Good that you remember. Don't think that joining the Bai Ze Clan erases your identity."

"I merely recall vaguely my brother's dying wish. In his lifetime, my brother spearheaded the Mirror Image Plan with the intent of preventing humanity from destroying the Order. While the Ether Association under your leadership has temporarily maintained stability, there is no doubt that it will collapse the moment you pass away."

Bai Feng spoke in a deep tone, "Are you truly certain you haven't betrayed my brother's final wishes?"

Taihua narrowed her eyes, a cold glint flashing through her pupils.

"Pooling all the resources of the Order World, we've produced only one Thunder. Yet, she herself doesn't appear to have a strong desire to protect the Order. Her resolve is shaky, and there's no guarantee that she can ultimately achieve full integration. If, in the end, she merely becomes another symbiotic vessel like us, it would essentially constitute a failure."

Without expression, Bai Feng said, "This generation of Omega is generally too weak. As it stands, only the Crown Prince and Thunder have reached the Heavenly Person Realm. But even that is far from sufficient."

Taihua said indifferently, "The incompetence of the younger generation has nothing to do with me."

The Strategy Group's senior members understood the implications of her words.

Of all human-developed Breathing Techniques, the core lies in the Heavenly Person Realm.

Those who master this power are called Heavenly Persons, wielders of a combat strength far superior to Evolvers.

After all, there exists a natural restraint between the two.

Beyond that, Heavenly Persons hold a significant advantage.

When utilizing this realm, they can tap into the power of the Heavenly Person's Wedge.

But, of course, that requires the President's approval.

The problem is there are far too few qualified to master the Heavenly Person Realm.

Currently, the numbers are so sparse as to constitute a complete break in continuity.

This generation of Omega has only two practitioners of Heavenly Person's Breathing, and the future is bleak.

Once the President passes away, the two Vice Presidents' grasp of the Heavenly Person Realm will still be woefully inadequate.

Even if the Wedge is handed down, the gap would remain insurmountable.

Should a Supreme-Level Ancient God Clan arise at that point...

Or a super Evolver like the King of Qing...

The collapse of the Order World would be inevitable.

The existence of the Lishan Tiyan Pavilion is akin to being humanity's observer and overseer.

Though they carry an air of arrogance...

They are absolutely fair and impartial.

"Are you implying I've failed to properly manage the Order World?"

Taihua spoke calmly, "I'm well aware of the current state of affairs, which is why I've lifted restrictions on the Evolvers' power."

At these words, the high-ranking members collectively tensed, recalling the scene when the King of Qing defied Heaven's Punishment and reopened the Evolution Path.

"As the President-in-waiting, Thunder is both a Heavenly Person and an Evolver. Her ascension will mark the beginning of a grand new era. At that time, the dichotomy between the Judgement Court and the Night Watchers will be reshaped. Before my death, I will rebuild two special departments. One will consist of Heavenly Persons, tasked with maintaining the balance of Order."

She paused momentarily. "The other will consist of Evolvers, preserving the traditions of the Catastrophes."

This plan would undoubtedly plunge the Ascenders' world into fierce competition.

Survival of the fittest; the weak would be eliminated.

Yet no one objected. After all, the pursuit of this path had always been about power.

Without hesitation, Bai Feng rejected, "No. We can tolerate the existence of Evolvers, but actively creating them is unacceptable. We cannot gamble with the lives of the young. Otherwise, how would we be any different from Qing?"

Suddenly, the high-ranking members seemed to realize something, their expressions subtly changing.

## Chapter 567: A Sword Breaks the Sword!\_2

"Heh, you might not know this."

Taihua said with a smirk, "We've just discovered a method to suppress deformation. Though it's not entirely complete yet, there's great hope that it can be perfected and used to create Evolvers."

The reason Evolvers are taboo lies solely in the inhumane nature of the method.

If you manage to control the Ancient God's Breath, you become an Evolver.

But if you fail to control it, you turn directly into a deformed monster—or even die from an explosive collapse.

Back when the King of Qing became obsessed with this power, he went mad and captured people for experiments.

It was utterly brutal.

The problem, however, is this: If the deformation suppression method is truly perfected, anyone would have the chance to try.

Even failure wouldn't be catastrophic.

Success would mean becoming an Evolver.

Bai Feng showed a rare trace of astonishment for the first time, his voice low: "Such a method exists?"

He was somewhat incredulous.

Because undoubtedly, this would mark a major leap for humanity's Ascension.

It might even rewrite the entire history of Ascenders!

"Something some youngsters stumbled onto by accident."

Taihua whispered, "Youth always carries boundless possibilities."

That group of youngsters thought they had merely found a way to cure diseases and save lives.

But in reality, they inadvertently unearthed a massive power source.

This explains why the Lin Family siblings are under tight protection now, even being directly sent to headquarters for treatment.

No matter what this pair of siblings did in the past, regardless of guilt or innocence, daring to touch even a hair on their heads would result in being annihilated, leaving not even debris behind. World-class Alchemists and Priests alike are lining up just to meet them.

Even Rhein and the Judgement Court are bending over backward to ensure their safety.

As for Ji Xiaoyu, there's even less need for discussion.

The President is personally overseeing them.

If these youngsters realized what they'd done, they'd probably faint from fright.

"Unbelievable."

Bai Mu squinted his eyes.

After a moment, he spoke again: "But if you aim to unseal the power of Evolvers, why didn't you push forward my elder brother's Mirror Image Plan back then? The spiritual genes of Ancient Gods lie dormant within us, stronger than any Evolver."

The conference room fell into an eerie silence.

Much to everyone's surprise, Taihua didn't refute him.

The strength of this group was indeed undeniable.

But in her eyes, the so-called Mirror Image Plan had inherent flaws.

The obliteration of humanity.

She couldn't trust the future to this kind of people.

Granted, the future of Evolvers holds far greater potential—Catastrophes stand as the best example.

But whether such individuals would appear again in the future remained uncertain.

Right then, alarm bells blared within the conference room.

The projector activated, casting a scene from the central lounge, while the sound system autonomously came alive.

BANG!

At the central lounge's bar counter, the Omegas stared slack-jawed.

"Is this the power of an Evolver?"

"I think this is my first time seeing it—so cool!"

"I'm obsessed... Can someone explain why it's so captivating?"

A flurry of murmurs broke out among the crowd. Most of them had never seen a young man carrying such a regal, sinister demeanor before.

Lu Qingqing had witnessed the power of Evolvers beforehand, during the escort mission in the Sea of Eternal Life. The Twilight Candidates back then all displayed these states of evolution, yet none seemed as formidable as this boy now.

Only the Moon Princess, in her Evolutionary State, had demonstrated a power that could rival his.

Ji Xiaoyu froze momentarily, then burst out laughing: "Hahaha, what's with the posturing? Do you really think you're all that? Didn't someone just kick you flying seconds ago? Wait till I become an Evolver, and I'll settle the score with you again!"

Mu Qingyou's gaze flickered with a mix of jealousy and admiration. In a soft murmur, she said, "So this is the power of an Evolver—it truly seems overwhelming. This person is close to my junior sister. He must know this is someone from the Lishan Heavenly Destiny Pavilion. Did he directly showcase his strongest form and initiate combat?"

The Omegas in the know also bore astonished expressions, thinking to themselves: As expected of the "Chair-Killing Demon."

Either he doesn't act.

Or he acts without giving even an ounce of chance.

Right from the start, he unleashed his most formidable form.

"Decisive and ruthless. Praise!"

Nightmare muttered, "Lord Meng, call over Dawn and the Poison Master immediately, just in case."

Lord Meng nodded slightly and left to summon reinforcements.

Phew.

Gu Jianlin exhaled a ragged breath, relieved that he had managed to control himself well, instantly revealing the weakest of his Evolutionary States. This was one drawback of being in the Ancient God Realm—every step required him to suppress the surging power within.

One slip, one failure to contain it—and he'd instantly undergo Ancient God Transformation.

The heavens would erupt with his mournful roar, and the Heavenly Person's Wedge would descend from above.

The graveyard at Tai Bei Road Funing Garden in Peak City would have one more tombstone.

"These Pseudo Ancestors... courting death!"

Jiuyin hummed faintly, "She's trying to probe your memories? What is she thinking?"

The black-robed figures gazed blankly at him, though their eyes carried a hint of pity.

An Evolver!

They had seen Evolvers before but were unimpressed.

Because the power they held was undeniably supreme.

As faint echoes of heavy footsteps reverberated along the narrow corridor...

Tang Yun emerged from the shadows, her youthful voice carrying a trace of indifference: "I thought this generation's Omegas only had my cousin as an Evolver. Turns out there's another one?"

"Cousin?"

Gu Jianlin frowned.

"What secret is it that you're so adamant about keeping me from accessing your memories?"

Tang Yun slowly approached, her short hair now dyed crimson, thin capillaries spreading across her eyes. Snow-white horns sprouted atop her head, while phantom wings seemed to beat gently behind her!

The Bai Ze Clan!

Even with great efforts to suppress it, the horrifying aura of Ancient God's Breath still permeated the room.

Gu Jianlin stared deeply at her—she no longer carried the semblance of a young girl.

Her face had transformed entirely into someone else's.

Cold, indifferent.

Faint traces of a beast's shadow writhed violently behind her, as if ready to rupture her body and break free!

She was unquestionably an Ancestor!

In the blink of an eye, Tang Yun lunged forward, raising her Iron Sword aloft as Sword Qi surged outward!

Such incredible speed!

No doubt faster and stronger than any Twilight Candidate he had faced before.

Stronger even than Jiang Hanyi!

Gu Jianlin's fringe fluttered in the rush of air, a pitch-black Ghost Fire igniting on his forehead, and his dark pupils spreading like ink.

Without hesitation, he drew Jiuyin from his back, its blade reflecting the icy resolve in his eyes.

As if standing at the gates of Hell.

"Come on—let's show her what's what!"

Jiuyin buzzed with delight, even though Gu Jianlin wasn't currently following the Ghost Slayer Path to unleash its full potential.

Still, it was a blade unparalleled in sharpness!

CLANG!

Blade met sword, sparks flying with blistering heat.

Tang Yun's eyes widened in disbelief—for her sword had been shattered!

Fragments burst alongside the dispersing Sword Qi.

In nearly the same instant, she saw a black-glimmering fingertip rushing toward her forehead.

"What's your relationship with Tang Ling?"

Gu Jianlin asked coldly.

Chapter 568 Taihua: Is This Qing's Happiness?

When Gu Jianlin asked this question, he didn't really plan to do anything drastic to the Pseudo Ancestor, as the other party could very well be the relative of an acquaintance. If he acted ruthlessly and all-out at once, the scene could become rather unpleasant.

What he hadn't anticipated was that, as Dark Energy began to gather on his fingertips, the opponent's breathing suddenly shifted rhythm.

Breathing Technique·Distanceless Realm!

Tang Yun, like an unfeeling killing machine, appeared as a blurred shadow behind him. The broken sword erupted with piercing Sword Qi and slashed down mercilessly!

The others' pupils contracted sharply. The Sword Sect Path is renowned for its devastating power—one strike could leave someone gravely injured, if not dead!

Boom!

The Sword Qi unleashed by the broken sword poured onto a sturdy skeleton structure, immediately scattering!

Unbeknownst to them, Gu Jianlin had already planted his hands on his blade. Behind him loomed a terrifying golden skeletal figure, its rock-solid bones bathed in golden flames, with echoes of hysterical laughter reverberating faintly in the void.

He turned around, and the four Ghost Hands behind him roared fiercely, swinging their fists forward!

The sheer force carried by the four Ghost Hands was overwhelming. Even as Tang Yun tried to block with the broken sword, she was blasted away like a cannonball, slamming hard into the armory wall, leaving behind a deep, human-shaped indentation.

Gu Jianlin noticed that this young girl's will seemed no longer human.

She was entirely controlled by the Ancestor within her.

Almost simultaneously, faint vibrations began resonating across the massive central lounge.

Platters, forks, table knives, fruit knives, metal table edges, and even tablet computers.

Everything with an edge trembled violently.

The sharp corners were all pointed at him.

Fifth Order Sword Soul, Sword Control Technique!

Sword Qi surged from every direction, clearly aimed at him alone, ready to erupt!

Within Tang Yun's body, metallic collision sounds rang out. She indifferently tilted her neck, the crimson veins in her eyes growing deeper. A chilling frost gathered in her palm, inch by inch solidifying.

Eventually, an Ice Sword fully formed, its cold aura swirling as wind and snow howled!

Ancient Forbidden Curse, Yishui Han!

Accompanied by another activation of the Breathing Technique, Distanceless Realm, she struck decisively, with Sword Qi enveloped in a frosty storm!

Gu Jianlin felt as though he was thrust into an icy world, a blizzard of Sword Qi bursting forth in front of him, while sharp forces from all directions prepared to strike—a true deathtrap!

Her sword strikes stood at the pinnacle within the Fifth Rank. The Dark Shock's power was insufficient to counter without prolonged charge time; it wouldn't resist but rather be torn apart.

Even the incoming omnidirectional Sword Qi posed a challenge, as the Skeleton Giant couldn't provide complete, impenetrable defense.

How troublesome.

"Do you really see yourself as unbeatable?"

For a fleeting instant, a horrifying illusion flashed before his eyes—a pitch-black sky twisted with clouds, with spiraling massive thunderbolts raining down, as if ready to incinerate the entire world into ashes.

In his mind, bizarre and complex spells faintly surfaced, seemingly engraved deep within his soul.

Boom!

The Skeleton Giant roared, the four Ghost Hands slammed hard against each other, and black flashes of lightning gathered frenetically in their palms, surging with dark sparks. Thunder streaks appeared and vanished instantaneously!

With the Ghost Hands outstretched, a slender black Thunderbolt Spear took form, emitting sharp, bird-like cries. In that moment, all the lights across the central lounge shattered instantly—darkness descended.

Only the flickering flashes of lightning charged into the depths!

Ancient Forbidden Curse, All Heavens Divine Thunder!

Furthermore, it was augmented with a combined skill approach, compounded with Dark Energy as its driving force!

"Quick, erect the Barrier!"

The Omega operatives shouted loudly!

Without hesitation, the Priests activated the Holy Protection Barrier, enveloping all directions!

Boom!

A massive black flash streaked briefly, followed by rolling thunder!

The Ice Sword was forcibly shattered, and the searing lightning surged forward unstoppably!

Once again, Tang Yun was blasted into the metal wall, now engulfed entirely by radiant lightning. Her black robe was scorched clean off, exposing jade-like skin glimmering translucently. She couldn't help letting out a pained gasp!

Almost simultaneously, Gu Jianlin's Skeleton Giant began to tremble amidst the erupting Sword Qi. Its solid bone structure revealed countless cracks, while surrounding Sword Qi suddenly converged sharply!

Countless sharp edges wrapped by Sword Qi swirled like a storm!

Gu Jianlin's breathing shifted rhythm as well, and a chill moonlight surged forward like tidal waves!

With an echoing boom, the Realm of Freedom shattered, dispersing all Extraordinary Ability.

Numerous metallic objects fell to the ground, scattered everywhere.

The Skeleton Giant dispersed into smoke, and even the Ghost Transformation state was undone.

Tang Yun, who had been trying to struggle and rise, suddenly felt an intense pain sear her shoulder!

The Jiuyin pierced through her left shoulder, eliciting a muffled groan.

"Don't resist."

Gu Jianlin's spirituality was entirely depleted. He retrieved a bottle of Blue Blood from his pocket, drank it expressionlessly, and gathered black flashes at his fingertips once more: "Answer my question."

Tang Yun couldn't tolerate such humiliation. Though her own face remained emotionless, her blood-red eyes deepened further, hinting at some terrifying creature roaring, on the brink of breaking out!

At this moment, Gu Jianlin gazed coldly into her eyes, golden light fleeting within his pupils!

Boom!

The soul within Tang Yun's consciousness seemed stunned, suddenly falling into slumber.

Her eyes regained clarity, revealing a dazed expression despite her aching body.

Chapter 569 Taihua: Is This Qing's Happiness?\_2

The Omegas were speechless with shock, not expecting that they would actually win in the end.

It's terrifying.

Anyone who knew the origins of this group understood one thing clearly.

Each black-robed figure harbored the spiritual gene of an Ancestor within their body.

In other words, they existed much like Human Pillar Powers.

Their combat power was extraordinarily terrifying.

At the same rank, it was almost impossible to have rivals.

This Tang Yun appeared to be a Fifth Rank Sword Soul, but in reality, an Ancestor still lay dormant within him.

Unexpectedly, even so, he was still defeated.

So strong!

This young man is truly remarkable.

None of the Omegas present had any confidence they could defeat him.

Even Mu Qingyou, ranked second among the Omegas, felt a chill in her heart at this moment.

"Hahaha, you were arrogant? Keep being arrogant?"

Ji Xiaoyu laughed loudly, "What's so great about this?"

The black-robed figures, upon seeing the situation, prepared to step in.

"Don't move."

Gu Jianlin said coldly, "I don't care who you are."

Whether it was because the young man's ferocity was well-known or they feared his identity,

The Pseudo Ancestors from the Lishan Tiyan Pavilion actually didn't take a step forward, instead maintaining a safe distance.

Gu Jianlin turned his head to the young girl, speaking calmly, "Let me ask you again, who is Tang Ling to you?"

Despite the severe pain in his shoulder, Tang Yun did not resist momentarily and confusedly said, "She's my cousin?"

Gu Jianlin frowned, "Why do you sound uncertain about your own cousin?"

Suddenly, a black-robed person stepped forward and spoke expressionlessly, "Because she recently underwent fusion, sometimes she can't distinguish who she is, and her memories and emotions may become disoriented."

The moment he spoke, an invisible mental wave spread out, isolating most of the people.

The expressions and movements of those Omegas seemed to freeze, completely isolated outside.

Only Gu Jianlin and the black-robed figures were unaffected.

"My human name is Ji Ye, you can call me that."

This black-robed figure took off the hood, revealing herself as a woman, quite handsome, with neatly combed hair tied into a neat ponytail, gloved hands folded across her chest.

The black-robed figures stood behind her, saying nothing.

"What did you say?"

Gu Jianlin asked, expressionless, "You mean Tang Ling will also become like this?"

Ji Ye replied, "No, she won't, because she is more advanced than us. Essentially, she is also an Evolver with unlimited potential, but she made compromises to integrate the power of the Heavenly Person. If she completes her life-and-death barrier, then she will still be herself while mastering both the Heavenly Person and the Evolution Path, as a leader in the Human World."

Gu Jianlin recalled the profile he had once done on that girl—it was indeed different.

These Pseudo Ancestors had a strong sense of dissonance.

Two different faces stitched together.

While Thunder showed no dissonance, it was like two differently dressed versions of herself.

"What if she fails?"

Gu Jianlin asked coldly.

Ji Ye replied, "Death."

The sharpness in Gu Jianlin's eyes intensified, the word "death" startling him.

He hadn't anticipated that the girl bore a curse of death.

Just like him.

"Do you care about her?"

Ji Ye asked calmly, "I didn't think someone like Thunder would have friends. So it was you who went with her into the Sea of Eternal Life. You are the one we were looking for. Currently, Thunder is preparing for the critical life-and-death barrier and must not be disturbed, so we've come to you."

"We've answered your question, and I hope you can answer ours."

She paused, "This is very important."

Gu Jianlin narrowed his eyes, remaining silent.

Ji Ye took out a blueprint from her backpack and handed it over, "If you don't understand alchemy, I can explain it to you. The alchemy matrix that blocked the retreat in the Sea of Eternal Life has a unique name: Rebirth. In the civilization of the Ancient God Clan, those who step in either gain new life or have their life forcibly taken."

"This alchemy matrix has twelve nodes, with the core node guarded by Tai Zhuo. According to our investigation, Tai Zhuo's awakening is due to the matrix continuously supplying Him with life force."

She emphasized, "Such a vast amount of life force is enough to fully restore Him to the Holy Land Level."

Gu Jianlin was taken aback.

Especially by the following sentence.

"Before Tai Zhuo fell asleep, he was just one step short of being a Demigod according to human power levels."

Ji Ye said solemnly, "With your combat power, you have no chance of defeating Him. Even a Holy Land Level Ascender might not gain the upper hand against Him, because Tai Zhuo can continuously draw life force from here."

Gu Jianlin thought that if not for the attempt by an Ancestor to forcibly invade his mind and inadvertently attracting Old Monster's attention, which eventually awakened Jiuyin, they would most likely be dead now.

Even if he underwent Ancient God Transformation, Kui's lethal strike would leave him no path to survive.

But what this Pseudo Ancestor said made him feel something was increasingly wrong.

If this Pseudo Ancestor's words were true, even without Kui Dragon Ancestor's intervention, they wouldn't have survived.

"I am Holy Land Level, but I am not confident I can defeat Tai Zhuo."

Ji Ye replied, "There are only two possibilities for your survival: either someone incredibly powerful is protecting you, or for some reason, Tai Zhuo has become extremely weakened."

Gu Jianlin contemplated these two possibilities.

The first one was clearly not the case.

As for the second, wait!

He suddenly thought of something.

Back then, Old Gu left behind a Night Watcher's coded message, which hadn't been erased.

Within the bronze palace, there were only three living beings.

Tai Zhuo.

Tang Zijing.

And one Divine.

If Tai Zhuo's revival was indeed tampered with by someone,

Then the main suspect is only one person.

"Tang Zijing."

He murmured softly.

In the silent conference room, the big shots gazed at the image on the projection screen, falling into an eerie silence.

For the members of the Ether Association, most of them were already numbed to it.

After all, he was a student of the King of Qing.

If you said he couldn't win, that would be strange.

After all, the whole world could call the King of Qing a madman, but no one could doubt his combat prowess and vision. Unless the old man had a stroke due to being in the Air Force, he would never choose a weakling as his successor.

Especially since this is the final heritage of the King of Qing.

There was a considerable likelihood that his talent was even stronger than his teacher's.

Bai Mu fell into silence, and even though he was a Pseudo Ancestor with no human emotions left, he still felt extremely surprised and shocked, with a distinct sense of discomfort deep inside.

It was as if he had been stepped on again.

He raised his head, looking at the stern and formidable woman across from him.

"Why are you so surprised?"

Taihua retracted her gaze expressionlessly and said lightly, "This is Qing's student, the youngest one, and also my grand-disciple. I currently don't have much time to train him, and he's still fledgling, as weak as a paramecium."

"Code name, Qilin."

She smiled slightly, "Quite interesting, isn't it? My intention was, once Thunder takes over the position of President, to lift the restriction of Catastrophe from assuming power and let him, as a Catastrophe, be responsible for external wars."

Bai Mu said in a low voice, "Qilin... Was that the All Heavens Divine Thunder earlier? You handed that to him? Back in the day, you couldn't step onto the Evolution Path, so it seems you're passing this heritage on to him. Although this child hasn't mastered the All Heavens Divine Thunder profoundly yet, he must not have studied long, right? Using it so skillfully, his talent is astonishing."

"Hmm."

Taihua nodded slightly, but her hand kept tapping the table.

Those familiar with the President knew this was the old lady's inner struggle.

Because Taihua knew very well when she had taught him the All Heavens Divine Thunder.

Altogether, it must not be more than five minutes.

This does not include the time he found out the tome had a hidden compartment.

Most likely, the kid just took a glance.

"Is this the joy of Qing?"

Taihua pondered for a moment, due to the uniqueness of the Ancient Forbidden Curse, each Ascender could only choose to master a few, and finally constructs their own Holy Land to break through.

Learning too many would make their Holy Land mixed and thus weak and flimsy.

She decided to keep this kid away from those junk forbidden spells.

It's best not to let him even glance at them.

Besides that, there was another extremely important matter.

"Pass down my order: if this kid comes looking for Ji Zhou later, tell him he's not there."

Taihua said lightly, "Thunder's matters are not his concern."

Chapter 570: The Night Raiding Girl, The Secret of the Tang Family

Ji Ye narrowed her eyes slightly upon hearing the name uttered by the young man.

She raised a finger, and the unknown Forbidden Spell was cast once more. Like a dream, it spread gently, ensuring that their conversation would not be overheard. Only then did she ask in a low voice, "Speak in detail—Tang Zijing?"

The black-robed figures remained unfazed.

Only Tang Yun, the young girl, showed a flicker of struggle in her eyes upon hearing that name.

She seemed deeply confused.

Gu Jianlin noticed the girl's abnormality and briefly summarized the events of the past, deliberately omitting the secret stories involving the old monster and erasing any mention of Jiuyin's existence.

"If there's anything unusual about that Alchemy Matrix, it could only have been Tang Zijing's doing," he said calmly. "No one else would have been able to."

However, after a moment of contemplation, Ji Ye shook her head and replied, "Impossible. Tang Zijing knows nothing about alchemy. He's merely a Divine Servant and hasn't even reached the Holy Land Level. He wouldn't have the ability to disrupt such an Alchemy Matrix."

Gu Jianlin's previous speculation was instantly overturned.

"Thank you for your cooperation."

Ji Ye raised her hand in signal, and the black-robed figures retrieved a delicately crafted wooden box from their backpacks and handed it over.

"This is a gift from Tang Ling to you,"

she said calmly. "We've delivered it to your hands. Farewell!"

With a snap of her fingers,

the dreamscape collapsed.

Ji Ye departed with the black-robed figures.

The girl named Tang Yun was also taken away, her wound on her left shoulder healing rapidly.

Before leaving, she turned her head to glance at him.

Gu Jianlin stared at the exquisite wooden box in his hands. When he opened it, he discovered a sword scabbard engraved with intricate patterns, radiant and dazzling as if gilded, shimmering with a bright glow. When he ran his fingers over it, it exuded a warm sensation.

With his profiling ability, it wasn't hard to deduce that this scabbard had just been refined. Moreover, it had been shaped and polished by hand, inch by inch. The margin of error likely didn't exceed a single day, indicating it had been crafted in haste overnight.

He slid Jiuyin into it; the fit was perfect, seamless to the point of precision.

"Not bad at all—is this scabbard the gift that Female Sacrifice gave you? It's just the right size to house me. Oh, wait, this isn't just any ordinary scabbard—it's a Mythical Weapon. Hold on, now I get it! That Female Sacrifice must have used the Alchemy Matrix to transfer the mystical properties of another Mythical Weapon onto this scabbard, right? That earlier Mythical Weapon must've been called the Golden Crow Feather Robe."

Jiuyin chirped gleefully, "This is a Mythical Weapon from the Vermilion Bird Clan. It can manifest the Parasol Barrier—impenetrable and indestructible."

Gu Jianlin felt his heart stir—this was the gift the young girl had given him.

Now, he possessed a fourth Mythical Weapon.

Once the dreamscape collapsed, the Omegas finally snapped back to reality.

"Haha, how gratifying! Well done, giving them a taste of their own medicine!"

Ji Xiaoyu skipped over, exclaiming, "Eh? Where did that scabbard come from? It's kinda pretty."

"It seemed like they used some kind of Forbidden Spell just now—what exactly happened?"

Nightmare, ever perceptive, looked around warily. "This group of people is no simple matter."

"Are you alright?"

Lu Qingqing approached, clutching her satchel, and asked, "You should have some idea about their identities. Their ways have always been like this. But going straight to reading minds—that was truly crossing the line."

Gu Jianlin shook his head, still lost in the memories from earlier.

If Tai Zhuo was this powerful,

then how had they managed to win?

By the time Lord Meng arrived with Dawn and the Poison Master, everything was already over.

The two support members exchanged puzzled glances, unsure of why they were even summoned in the first place.

"Thanks. I'm fine."

Gu Jianlin suddenly asked, "Xiaoyu, are you certain that you know that girl?"

Ji Xiaoyu nodded, "Of course! That girl is Tang Yun, isn't she? We used to fight each other every single day when we were kids. Then I heard she got sick and never saw her again. Oh, and the one who talked to you just now—she seems to be someone from our Ji Family. She was sick too, and I haven't seen her since then."

She scratched her head. "That auntie used to be so kind to me. Now, it's like she doesn't even recognize me."

The Little Princess looked somewhat saddened.

Gu Jianlin patted her head and, expressionless, chastised her, "You just made yourself very useful earlier. Don't mess around like this again, or your grandmother will punish you again—understand?"

Ji Xiaoyu pouted. "Got it."

The Poison Master pulled her over, saying, "Oh, it's fine. Let's study some pharmacology later! Once we perfect this formula, we'll go down in history, and your grandmother will be so proud!"

Upon hearing this, the Little Princess immediately perked up.

"The Little Princess is becoming more and more normal these days."

Lu Qingqing remarked.

"What trouble could a kid her age cause? She's just been longing for attention."

Nightmare sighed. "After all, she's just a poor child who grew up without parents."

"So, why was I even called here? Just to heal the enemy?"

Dawn scratched his head, looking utterly baffled.

"Anyway, as long as you're okay!"

Lord Meng, his face marked by unease, said cautiously, "I heard that this group was invited by the President himself. When it's time to assault the Sea of Eternal Life, we'll probably need their help. Honestly, only Mr. San dares provoke them."

People's impression of Gu Jianlin could be summed up in four words:

Lawless and untamed.

It seemed as though nothing he did would be punished.

Even after causing havoc on the Deep Blue, no one had stepped in to restrain him.