

Ancient 641

Chapter 641: Redemption in This Life

With a thunderous roar, the ice-covered volcano trembled, spewing terrifying heat that evaporated the snow lingering in the sky, transforming into a torrential downpour as it fell onto the cliffs.

Tang Ling was drenched in rain, her wet bangs clinging to her face, and she exclaimed, "Are you mad? This isn't where you should be. The association won't let you come here—are you courting death?"

She never expected to see him again in a place like the Dragon Nest, as if time had reversed to when they first entered the Sea of Eternal Life, only their roles had swapped. Back then she sought him out, now he came to find her. Every time they parted, they quickly met again, as if they had never been apart.

Or rather, walking on two parallel lines, sometimes parallel, sometimes intersecting.

But never too far apart.

Unexpectedly, Gu Jianlin's words left her stunned: "If you can come, why can't I?"

"Why hide it from me? Are you afraid of dying? If possible, don't do that again next time, because it's a bit of a hassle for me to investigate. Have I ever told you? I'm actually quite lazy."

He propped himself up with his knife, straightened his back, and said softly, "Let it end here."

Tang Ling spat out a mouthful of blood. Her strength hadn't waned, yet her long exertion had taken a serious toll on her body. After a silent moment, she said nothing and rose with her sword.

"Yes, it's time to end it all."

She misunderstood his meaning.

She knew the young man beside her might have known everything and had come specifically to send her off.

She felt moved and grateful.

But the current situation didn't allow for wasting time, she had to take swift and decisive action.

She needed to kill that man quickly!

A brilliant golden light flashed in her eyes as she raised the Extreme Thunder Great Sword and stepped forward.

However, a blood-red Tang Blade blocked her way.

Tang Ling's beautiful eyes widened incredulously as she looked at the young man standing in her path:
"What are you doing?"

"Tang Zijing isn't that kind of person."

Gu Jianlin, drenched in the storm, said while blocking with his sword, "I won't let you kill him."

"You have no idea what he's done."

Tang Ling's hand holding the sword trembled, and she gritted her teeth, "Move!"

The Pseudo Ancestors had lost their emotions and never considered matters of the heart as they drew their swords.

Sword Qi surged forth, shaking the rain curtain.

Roar!

Amidst the shrill roar, Tang Zijing stumbled and fell to his knees on the scorching stone steps, the blood mist surrounding him gradually dissipating, and the Divine Servant features on his body fading bit by bit.

His left eye remained brutal, but a trace of clarity flickered in his right eye.

He struggled to breathe, though the Ancient God's Breath within him was weakening.

Yet he actively devoured the surrounding Ancient God's Breath.

Forcibly maintaining his Divine Servant Transformation!

Moreover, his battle intent never waned; he gently moved his fingers, and amidst the storm, the sound of trembling water could be heard—countless raindrops coalesced into a myriad of transparent swords!

The extraordinary ability of the Sixth Order Sword Sect: Innate Sword Array!

The ancient Sword Cultivators resonated with all things, able to condense the world's elements into a Sword Array!

Tang Ling's breathing suddenly quickened, and the Heavenly Person's Realm unfurled, a brilliant golden domain suddenly expanded.

Although Tang Zijing's Ancient God's Breath was weak, it had not vanished.

It could be used to heavily wound him.

The destructive power of the Heavenly Person Realm indeed depended on its concentration; most of the power was used to lock onto the Kui Dragon Ancestor, hence the surrounding Ancient God Clan members were only somewhat suppressed.

But as a Heavenly Person, she could naturally unfold her domain, increasing the concentration of its power.

At that moment, with a thunderous boom!

Gu Jianlin turned around, his eyes also enveloped in brilliant gold, and the domain of the Heavenly Person Realm explosively expanded, forming an impenetrable barrier before him, even accommodating the same-source power!

"Heavenly Person's Breathing!"

Tang Ling's eyes widened, shocked beyond belief.

Her domain was actually blocked.

And was even vaguely being devoured.

What was even more surprising was that the young man before her, clearly an Evolver.

Also wielded the power of the Heavenly Person!

Impossible!

The Pseudo Ancestors were even more shocked, rushing forward without hesitation.

The Golden Phoenix Feather in Gu Jianlin's jacket pocket began to tremble, helping him use himself as an anchor to open a realm exclusively for him, blocking the absolute suppression of the Heavenly Person Realm.

This item left to him by Senior Ji seemed truly reusable.

Although it required a brief cooldown!

Next up was the Ancient God Transformation!

He raised his hand and wiped it across his face, as noble Dragon Horns emerged atop his head, and the blood-red Candle Dragon Mask coalesced, covered in ominous, fearsome bone spikes, his body spreading with molten lava-like scales.

A pair of blood-colored, demonic vertical pupils lifted, and deep within them bloomed a stunning Mandala Flower.

Eerily, a soul-penetrating Dragon Roar resounded in the depths.

Tang Ling had never seen him in such a berserk state, the vast Ancient God's Breath rose in torrents, dispelling the torrential rain like a storm, even forcing her to retreat, her long hair fluttering in the wind.

The ancient souls within the Pseudo Ancestors screamed in terror, even affecting their own thoughts.

Their swords wailed in lament.

For this was a suppression from an overwhelmingly supreme and violent authority!

"Words are the most pale thing in this world, so let me show you."

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Gu Jianlin turned around, exhaling fiery breaths, his scorching body temperature evaporating the rain as he casually swung his blade to sweep away the rain curtain: "I've always been curious, where does the Ether Association get all its intel from? Divination and soothsaying aren't all-powerful, otherwise, things wouldn't have escalated to this point. Those big shots seem to know everything, yet their actions are always a step behind. Why is that?"

"The top ten Omegas of the Returning Burial Forest encountered a strange red mist, and not a single one died because of it."

He gripped his blade with both hands, his voice hoarse and cold: "Including Tai Zhuo from the Sea of Eternal Life, he was supposed to be the guardian of this mystical land, enough to fend off Holy Land level Ascenders. Oddly enough, he was only Fifth Rank when he was resurrected."

Tang Zijing stood up expressionlessly, the sword array in the downpour enveloping all directions.

"Including how the Ether Association doesn't even need to waste any effort to know the state of the Kui Dragon Ancestor."

Gu Jianlin's eyes showed no emotion as he said coldly: "That's because the Ether Association planted a traitor next to the Kui Dragon Ancestor, and that person is you, Tang Zijing."

The wind and rain swayed.

Tang Ling was stunned, her beautiful eyes disheveled with white hair.

Those pseudo-ancestors were even more shocked and bewildered, standing like sculptures in the wind and rain.

Tang Zijing coughed up a thick, fishy blood; he was already badly injured, his combat power less than half of usual.

But after hearing these words, he was silent for a moment, then actually laughed out loud: "Young people always think this world is so beautiful, why bother? You've cast a summoning technique on me, you must have survived out of Penglai Fairy Island, right? It's not easy, truly worthy of being Gu Ci'an's son, you did a fantastic job."

"But you're really overthinking it, joining the Ancient God Clan was my own choice."

He raised his indifferent eyes and softly said: "I'm already very old, if I don't breakthrough to the Holy Land soon, I'm going to die. But I was injured in my early years and will never perceive that domain... So, I want immortality!"

With a booming sound, swords of gathered torrential rain crisscrossed and slashed forward!

Gu Jianlin's blood-red eyes surged, time seemed to sink into a quagmire of silence, an ominous domain as dark as the universe expanded, only the fissures of the Time-Space Gap flickered, the torrential rain froze, the sound of rain vanished.

Jiuyin trembled.

With Divine Speed Force enhanced to the utmost, he suddenly powered forward, stepping like a spinning leaf, slashing downward!

This time, the domain of time-space freezing targeted the sword array, not the person!

As time roared by, countless blades of light overlapped like a surging tide!

Boom!

The shattered storm rain reversed skyward, countless crisscrossing fissures filled the void!

Tang Zijing abruptly retreated, his Breathing Technique suddenly shifting, Boundary of No Distance!

His hands continuously formed seals, the torrential rain gathered into a sword array, enveloping the young man ahead!

It was a sword momentum that came roaring like a violent storm, but Gu Jianlin, with the strong physique after Ancient God Transformation, counterattacked using the simplest and crudest moves, swinging his blade, the intersecting strikes brutal as a feral dragon, crushing the incoming Sword Qi like breaking through bamboo, the sword's hum akin to a dragon's roar!

For a standard Ghost Slayer Path, facing such a grim sword array, there's only one option.

That is to flee.

If not, death is certain within ten seconds.

But Gu Jianlin is different, his Ancient God Transformation body compensates for his weak defense.

Thus, he can endure within the sword array.

Tang Zijing's Sword Qi was no longer as strong as before because at that moment, he was already weakened.

Gu Jianlin's speed was rapid as a ghost shadow flickering, ascending step by step along the stone stairs, his blood-red Tang Blade slashing like lightning, tearing through the void, severing the fierce Sword Qi coming towards him.

Jiuyin guided his actions and steps, as if dancing a beautiful dance!

Faintly, there was a hint of the Demon Soul Dance!

Raindrops fell on the scorching steps, rising as steam, the youth weaving through the mist.

"Is that so? Would someone who could leave those marks really ally with the Ancient God Clan?"

Gu Jianlin abruptly executed a space jump, briefly suspending in mid-air, decisively slashing downward!

Clang!

Tang Zijiang gripped the broken sword with both hands, actually blocking his slash!

"That was the old me."

He said: "The current me has found better options."

There was a moment where Gu Jianlin's eyes narrowed slightly.

It must be understood, this was a Dimension Slash, ignoring defense!

He quickly noticed something abnormal, as countless golden lights intertwined over the broken sword edge.

"Ancient Forbidden Curse, Immovable Ming King."

He revealed a sinister smile, said calmly: "There are many ways to block a Dimension Slash!"

Soon he paid for his composure.

Gu Jianlin twisted his waist, consecutive kicks pounded into his chest.

The body after Ancient God Transformation was as mighty as a giant, each kick burst with a metallic thud!

Even Tang Zijing's sword bone couldn't withstand it, his chest bones nearly shattered!

"You may not admit it, but I will beat you until you do."

Gu Jianlin did not turn around, the Sword Qi from all directions came at him, ripped apart his scales and flesh, but only caused superficial wounds without touching his muscles or bones.

Because in his hand he held the Golden Crow Scabbard, greatly enhancing his defense capabilities.

The dragon-like knife hum echoed once more through the rain.

Gu Jianlin vanished again, only the shattered blade shadows flitted through the rain.

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Jump up, cross cut, vertical chop, sweep cut!

He stepped onto the stone stairs, flickering like a ghostly shadow, the blade light he slashed out was lonely and cold, tearing apart the Sword Qi attacking from all directions, emitting the sound of shattering.

In the pouring rain, his figure was invisible, only a pair of bewitching vertical pupils seemed to blaze.

His steps and slashes were so resolute.

It's like being determined to do something, even if there is a mountain ahead, it must be split by him.

Faced with such a violent Sword Force, Tang Zijing was forced to retreat again and again because the strength of the boy before him was unimaginably strong, having walked so far on the Evolution Path, powerful beyond words!

He even mastered the Heavenly Person's Breathing.

That was something Tang Ling nearly sacrificed her life to obtain!

In the violent storm, Gu Jianlin launched a counterattack, at this moment, what flashed through his mind were the words left by his father, the crisscross sword marks on Penglai Fairy Island, and the scene of two men walking out side by side.

"Would the President hand over the power of a Heavenly Person to someone she doesn't trust?"

He held the knife in both hands, dashing like lightning, shuttling through the rain curtain.

The high-pitched Dragon Roar seemed like thunder!

Tang Zijing, without hesitation, burned all his spirituality, causing his domain to expand rapidly.

The fierce wind, the pouring rain, the rubble, the solid ice.

It felt as if all things in the world began to tremble, condensing into a Sword Array!

And at this moment, Gu Jianlin closed in, slashing down with his blade!

However, what appeared before Tang Zijing was not the boy.

But a peerless Goddess, standing at the end of time, slashing down with one blade!

That was the power of a God summoned by Jiuyin!

Space Jump!

The distance between them was instantly closed, time fell into a quagmire-like silence again, everything was as still as death, the rain and snow hung mid-air, reflecting a bright flash.

In an instant, it was torn apart by a fleeting cold light!

Crack!

Tang Zijing's chest was ripped open, blood splattered, and his pupils suddenly dilated.

Bang!

Gu Jianlin kicked him flying, crashing to the end of the stone stairs!

"If you must insist, then tell me."

He coldly said, "What is Frida's Schizophrenia?"

He flicked the blood off the Tang Blade, dyeing the accumulated snow on the ground red.

Tang Zijing fell heavily into the pool of blood, with a terrifying penetrating wound on his chest, deep enough to see the bone.

"You even know about that."

He said softly, "Who told you this?"

Gu Jianlin walked up to him, without a word.

For a while.

Footsteps faintly came from behind.

Tang Ling walked over step by step, listening to the previous conversation, her eyes blank.

A bit dazed.

Even the hand holding the sword hilt was no longer steady.

"Let me tell you a story then."

Gu Jianlin said softly, "Fourteen years ago, there was a man whose descendant had an extremely rare disease, almost unheard of among seven billion people, the name of the disease was Frida's Schizophrenia. Who first had it, who discovered it, and why it was named so, I do not know."

"How many have survived this disease is also unknown. But he didn't want his great-granddaughter to die from it, so he made a deal."

He paused, "He sought out the most powerful person in this world, pleading to save his great-granddaughter. And as the price, he disappeared into the shadow of the Order World, seeking the miracle created by the Qilin Venerable, arriving deep within the Qilin Immortal Palace, reaching the legendary Penglai Fairy Island, obtaining the Spirit Coffin Secret Technique."

Tang Ling's bangs fluttered, her resolute and beautiful eyes lost their focus for the first time.

"No, this can't be."

She murmured in disbelief, "How could it be like this, this is absolutely impossible..."

Gu Jianlin, however, softly asked, "When did the so-called Yihua Plan begin?"

Tang Ling froze.

Eight years ago.

The time when Tang Zijing had his accident.

"The so-called Yihua Plan was never meant to be used for humans."

Gu Jianlin said quietly, "It was created by the Qilin Venerable to adapt to the rules of the Human World. Besides the Venerable himself, the only place where such technology was stored is on Penglai Fairy Island. Before me, only two people ever intruded into Penglai Fairy Island, one was named Gu Ci'an, the other was Tang Zijing."

He turned, looking at the girl beside him, "You are the one who contracted Frida's Schizophrenia, which led to you having two wills within your body: one carrying the power of the Candle Light Law, the other bearing the power of the You Ying Law. This could be considered a miracle created with all of human resources."

"—But it's also the result of someone silently making sacrifices for you in the dark."

Tang Ling covered her vermilion lips, the drifting snow reflected in her beautiful eyes.

Candle Light Law, You Ying Law.

She didn't care what these things were.

The long-held emotions in her heart were forcibly brought out, leaving her heart empty.

Hate or anger, killing intent or determination, all vanished.

Replaced by a sense of powerlessness.

She didn't question those words.

Because she dared not.

Afraid that if she questioned, there would be loopholes.

Yet she wished that all this was false.

Because she couldn't accept that the person she hated for so many years still loved her.

Always silently protecting her in the darkness.

"Those with this disease, perhaps there is more than one, but yours is the most severe."

Gu Jianlin looked at the flying snow, sighed emotionally, "I don't know what the Tang Family went through, but I can imagine this is the truth. And as the price, Tang Zijing came to the Kui Dragon Ancestor's side and became His Divine Servant. No, perhaps there is another purpose, let me guess... investigating The Order of the Hidden?"

Like a shocking thunder in her ears, Tang Ling suddenly looked at the man lying on the ground.

After a long silence, Tang Zijing hoarsely said, "Nonsense."

He stared at the sky, motionless.

His eyes hollow yet eerie.

"Even now, you insist?"

Gu Jianlin said softly, "I'm already fed up with the arrangements of you big shots, I also don't know why they didn't want me to come here. But I just don't like to see tragedies occur, and I won't watch Thunder kill her dearest family member. Nor will I let you die as a sinner."

Tang Ling bit her lip silently, staring at the man before her, not saying a word.

She was waiting.

Waiting for an answer from the man.

But at this moment, the redness in Tang Zijing's left eye suddenly spread, half of his face turned into a gruesome ghost face, sprouting golden feather-like patterns, terrifying and frightening!

A faint phoenix cry sounded from within his body, extremely loud!

A light and shadow resembling both dragon and phoenix burst from his body, directly aiming at the girl's brow!

His body also suddenly sprang up, roaring and charging out!

Fast!

Too fast!

At this moment, it was as if the roar of an Ancient Times beast, like being suddenly plunged into the depths of Hell, only the scalding Breath came forth, seemingly to burn the entire world to ashes!

Even Gu Jianlin couldn't react in time, his blade humming in vibration.

Tang Ling watched as the creature, like a fusion of dragon and phoenix, lunged at her face!

Boom!

In the last moment, someone shielded her.

That person was struck by the searing light blaze, white hair fluttering as it dispersed, blood spraying in torrents.

Tang Ling seemed to hear the sound of the world collapsing.

"No..."

Gu Jianlin's bangs fluttered lightly, something within his heart seemed to shatter.

He suddenly understood.

Why Tang Zijing would never admit to everything he said.

Why he had to maintain the Divine Servant Transformation.

Because Tang Zijing's body had been tampered with.

Even if the Summoning Technique and secret medicine eliminated his Divine Servant Transformation, it was futile.

He was just waiting for the critical moment.

To shield his great-granddaughter from the most deadly blow.

Amid the snow and wind, a wistful sigh echoing.

"I never thought, in this life, I could still find such redemption."

Tang Zijing turned around, half of his body charred, his remaining Life Force like a candle in the wind, yet his cold eyes faintly gleamed with tears: "I'm sorry..."

Chapter 644: A Blaze That Scorches the Sky

At the moment Tang Zijing fell back, he heard a heart-wrenching cry.

The white-haired girl cried and rushed over to hold him, her tears flowing down her cheeks, fluttering in the wind and snow like withering snowflakes, as beautiful as they were heartbreaking.

"Ling'er..."

For Tang Ling, it was a call she hadn't heard in fourteen years.

In fact, when this man stood in front of her, all the resentment and hatred from these fourteen years dissipated, all the unwillingness and indignation were obliterated in the phantom of the past, it seemed as if she returned to her childhood, feeling that long-lost, loved sensation once again.

Yet love, to her, seemed too extravagant.

So much so that she had to pay such a heavy price.

So heavy that she could not bear it.

Gu Jianlin released the Ancient God Transformation, without hesitation converted to the Divine Path, and unleashed Life Perception.

Then he fell silent.

There was no saving him.

Because Tang Zijing's Life Rhythm had already disappeared.

It was unknown what force was supporting his existence now.

It might not even be his own power.

The terrifying vision from before was truly beyond ordinary comprehension.

At the very least, it originated from a Primordial!

Tang Ling held onto the man tightly, regardless of how much blood was on him, or how terrifying his charred body was, she just kept sobbing, tears streaming uncontrollably down her face.

Dripping onto the man's face.

At this moment, she was no longer the princess of the Order World, all the coldness and strength used to protect herself collapsed, simply unable to withstand the pain of losing a loved one.

Why did it hurt so much?

Even though she came with the resolve to kill him.

However, the truth was far more cruel than imagined, like a blade piercing through her heart.

Tearing her heart into fragments.

"Don't cry, I was over a hundred years old anyway, it's time for me to die."

Tang Zijing stared at the girl's profile, hoarsely said: "Sure enough, a Primordial is not easily fooled, and I paid a heavy price for my presumption."

Reluctantly, he averted his gaze from the girl's face, looked at the boy beside him, then raised his only remaining right hand, giving a thumbs-up: "Child, well done."

By now, the truth was self-evident.

Tang Zijing, lurking as a traitor beside a Primordial, was eventually discovered, and he paid the price for his actions, with some force forcibly implanted within him to kill his great-granddaughter.

Before this, he could not control his actions.

Nor could he speak to dissuade, or defend himself.

Gu Jianlin's arrival prevented this tragedy from happening.

For the first time, Gu Jianlin was at a loss; he came here to prevent the tragedy, yet in the end, he still could not save this man's life, leaving him with a ridiculous sense of defeat.

He tightened his grip on the knife, gritting his teeth.

"You've already done very well, what Old Gu and I couldn't accomplish, you finally did. I think Xu Fu should be at peace now? When I first saw you, I only caught a glimpse from afar; you were only four years old then, and in the blink of an eye, you've grown so much, and become so strong."

Tang Zijing then turned to look at the girl, softly saying: "In the blink of an eye, you've become a big girl too. Back when I saw you in the Returning Burial Forest, I wanted to say this... so beautiful."

Gu Jianlin fell into silence, even feeling a sense of guilt for his earlier actions, always believing these big figures kept him in the dark, stubbornly wanting to break free from all these constraints.

But never expected the final outcome to be so cruel.

In the snowy rain, only the girl's hoarse voice sounded: "So is this really the truth?"

Tang Zijing was not the traitor who, in pursuit of power and immortality, willingly sent his descendants for experimentation, and betrayed humanity to join the ranks of the Ancient God Clan.

All of this was forced.

"Yes, but not entirely."

Tang Zijing revealed a relieved smile, saying: "I am the Shadow."

Even with Tang Ling's identity and status, she was still stunned hearing the term 'Shadow'.

Gu Jianlin vaguely sensed something.

"The so-called Shadow is a special unit that only serves the President. We all have our positions in the real world, but our superior is only one person, and that's the President. The duty of the Shadow is to secretly protect this world, monitoring the movements and intentions of all major forces."

Tang Zijing coughed heavily, explaining: "In the Night Watcher, Judgement Court, Investigation Bureau, the Ying Family, Ji Family... even within the Divine Servants of various Ancient God Clans, there are our Shadows."

Gu Jianlin seemed to realize something, his eyes changed slightly.

Tang Ling stared blankly at the man before her, hearing the next words.

"Yes, our existence is to oppose The Order of the Hidden."

Tang Zijing revealed a smile so atrocious it was extreme: "But the difference is, The Order of the Hidden uses special means to control others' thoughts, whereas we are chosen by the President, relying on faith."

So that's how it is.

As the President of the Ether Association, that woman never let down her guard.

Chapter 645: A Blaze That Scorches the Sky (Part 2)

She is merely protecting this world in her own way, in secret.

"And my mission is to infiltrate by the side of the Kui Dragon Ancestor."

Tang Zijing said softly, "Back then, after Old Gu and I came out of the Penglai Fairy Island, we encountered a terrifying entity, something that burned with terrifying flames, causing sudden gusts of wind and unexplained torrential rain and tides wherever it appeared. Old Gu said it was his nemesis, and led it away all by himself."

"I must also go and complete my task."

He paused, "Infiltrate by the side of the Kui Dragon Ancestor."

Gu Jianlin knew that every word he said was crucial, but for some reason, he just couldn't listen.

"Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Tang Ling asked softly.

"With your temperament, if you knew I wasn't a traitor, how could you focus on your cultivation?"

Tang Zijing shook his head, eyes filled with longing, "Moreover, this matter is too dangerous. The fewer people who know, the better. Besides, after becoming a Divine Servant, I killed too many people and committed too many evils. Someone as sinful as I am, how could I ever be worthy of being your great-grandfather? My true intention was for you to kill me with your own hands, to cleanse the Tang family's disgrace."

Indeed, he was arranged as a spy within the Ancient God Clan.

But he did commit many evil deeds.

Like the corpses that appeared in the Tai Zhuo Temple.

All of them were innocents, he didn't know how many he had killed.

"My hands are stained with blood, full of sins, better to stay far away from you."

Tang Zijiang's breathing gradually grew weak, almost inaudible, "I am unworthy of your love."

Tang Ling said nothing, thinking how could he be unworthy.

Because everything this man did was for her.

The whole world could blame him.

Except her, she could not.

In comparison, she was the true source of sinfulness.

She was the one who deserved to die.

"Why do you insist on saving me?"

She bit her vermilion lips, her voice choked, "Wouldn't it be better to just let me die?"

The cruel truth stabbed her heart like a knife, she would rather have died back then.

She didn't want her loved ones to endure such pain.

"Because you're my child."

Tang Zijing gazed at her, "To me, even dying a thousand, ten thousand times, I can't bear to see you hurt even a little. Besides, you were so small back then, so adorable. How could I bear to watch you die? I took you everywhere to seek medical help, traveled the whole world. When you got sick, you cried in agony, it broke my heart. It was still Old Gu who gave you his life-saving secret medicine, prolonging your life."

"Later, it was the benevolence of the President who was willing to save you, that I saw hope."

He said softly, "It's also thanks to my fondness for doing good deeds when I was young, that so many people helped me in my later years, many people made an effort for your sake back then. Seeing such a small child, their hearts couldn't bear it. But you forgot everything, because we erased your memories, helped you forget the pain."

Tang Ling suddenly felt a splitting headache, as if past events came rushing back with the storm.

Long-forgotten memories flashed in her mind, leaving her at a loss.

Gu Jianlin remained silent for a moment, reaching out to steady her frail shoulders.

"I'm telling you all this now, hoping you'll not harbor hatred, not hate anyone."

Tang Zijing managed a faint smile, "However you treat this world, that's how the world will repay you. You see, even someone like me with blood-stained hands, eventually found redemption."

He said, "To me, in my dying dreams, I wanted to speak with you, to plead with you not to hate me, and to tell you that I love you. And that dream, has come true."

Tang Ling remembered, it was a memory forgotten deep in her mind.

When she was young, she cried in agony, the man held her tight, took her on a plane, crossed the oceans. An uncle came in haste to give her medicine, teased her with a piece of chocolate, she liked sweets. Doctors in white coats sighed repeatedly, wrapped her in gentle Holy Light, curing her illness. And that woman at the Deep Space Building entrance, so majestic and cold, yet her eyes so warm.

The words in memory didn't seem like that.

"Child, you've suffered."

The voice sighed.

The man who disappeared in the snowstorm didn't leave without looking back.

But kept gazing into her eyes, retreating step by step.

He smiled, yet tears streamed down his face, eyes full of love and reluctance.

In those eyes, reflected her image, as if to remember her face forever.

Fourteen years passed in a flash.

Long-lost relatives reunited once more.

Only to face the most bitter of realities in this world.

The parting by death.

Rumble!

From the depths of the volcano came a terrifying roar.

In the sky, a fearsome, majestic face was reflected, overlooking the land!

"Go, quickly go!"

Tang Zijing's face slightly changed, he said in a deep voice.

Gu Jianlin pulled the girl away swiftly without hesitation, as he too sensed something amiss.

The snow melted, revealing hideous, terrifying blood vessels on the ground.

These bulging veins, as if living creatures, extended toward this man!

"This mountain is the body of the Kui Dragon Ancestor, the association's strategy group landed inside the volcano to fight it not long ago, but it has changed from before. The Kui Dragon Ancestor is undergoing a transformation, changing blood to that of the Vermilion Bird Clan, transforming into the Vermilion Bird rather than the Kui Dragon... but rather, the Kui Bird!"

Chapter 646: A Blaze That Scorches the Sky

Life surged anew in Tang Zijing's body as molten lava-like feathers engulfed him, ominous runes sprawled across his face, and colossal wings burst free from his back, stirring a tempest!

Divine Servant Transformation!

Against his will, he had transformed into a Divine Servant once more!

No, his vessel had burned out, his life had reached its end.

Yet Kui refused to let him die, manipulating him for annihilation!

Nothing short of using the Summoning Technique and secret medicine again could stop him!

"How could this be..."

Tang Ling's beautiful eyes, just ignited with hope, were extinguished by the wind and snow, turning as pale as paper.

Gu Jianlin held him, raised a hand to his face, about to undergo Ancient God Transformation.

At that moment, a terrifying voice boomed from the heavens above.

"Kill them!"

It was a command from the Ancient Ancestors, an unassailable divine decree for a Divine Servant!

Tang Zijong picked up the broken sword, his terrifying momentum erupted like a volcano, roaring aloud.

Scorching winds howled as if from the depths of Hell, carrying sizzling sands and stones, and the soaring sword momentum seemed akin to divine retribution, nearing the threshold of Holy Land Level!

Tang Ling wanted to turn back, but was pulled back.

Gu Jianlin shielded her behind him, his eyes burning with resplendent gold!

Yet in the final moment, Tang Zijong's eyes reddened with furious strands, his veins surfaced as if about to burst, raising his head to roar angrily.

"I..."

He grasped the broken sword with both hands, piercing his heart abruptly: "--- refuse!"

Bang!

Sword Qi erupted, fully penetrating his heart.

In this moment, the world seemed to plunge into stillness, only the snowstorm howling over the desolate Ice Sea.

High above in the firmament, even the projection of Kui seemed to show a flicker of action.

For at the brink of death, this man resisted the spiritual manipulation of a God with his own will.

Tang Zijing, fierce like a vajra, angry and grim.

His voice pierced through the storm, seemingly echoing in the high heavens.

It couldn't help but stir one's heart.

He... transcended himself.

Even, transcended the divine.

Gu Jianlin and Tang Ling were both stunned, as immense dignity enveloped them.

The man before them aged rapidly, yet stood tall.

"The Stairway to Immortality lies at the end of the volcanic path, one must complete this journey to survive."

Tang Zijing spoke softly: "Otherwise, all would be in vain."

In the end, his gaze grew gentle again, glancing first at the young boy, then finally resting on the girl.

Gu Jianlin released the girl from his grip.

Tang Ling resolutely ran towards the terrifying, menacing old man.

"Such is life, life and death follow natural laws, no one can accompany you forever. I've lived over a century, and I am weary; it's time to depart. I'm sorry I couldn't give you a happy childhood, but I hope my actions bring you a bright future."

He spoke softly, "Since you've grown, learn to be stronger. Living is a solitary affair, but you'll encounter various people who will accompany you through life. Like me, like... him."

The final words were barely a whisper, dissolving into the wind and snow.

Tang Ling finally reached the old man, tightly embraced him.

For a fleeting moment, Tang Zijing displayed a serene and satisfied smile, then disintegrated into ashes.

"I am Tang Zijing, the Guardian of the Human World. I once saved the world, and committed irrevocable mistakes. Now I die with both sin and honor, without regrets."

Tang Ling's final embrace held only ashes blown away by the wind.

The ashes swirled in the wind, drifting towards the sky.

Scattering across the earth.

Tang Ling bowed her head, cradling a handful of ash, her consciousness a blank gray, the world silent as death.

It was as if she had fallen into Hell, looking skyward as she collapsed.

With a thud.

She collided into a somewhat cold yet firm embrace.

Gu Jianlin held her, looking up at the God in the heavens, flames blazing fiercely within his eyes.

Chapter 647: The Boy Ascending to Heaven, the Girl Falling into Ruin

Gu Jianlin felt the volcano tremble, the majestic peak forged of flesh and blood seemed like it was about to explode, the enormous spirituality filled the void, surging skyward like a sea tide.

The girl in his arms seemed like a soulless puppet, her life force was rapidly waning.

The volcano was heating up abruptly, the snow melted instantly into water, rushing down like a scorching river, those massive cocoons were scalded bright red, and the yet-to-be-born ancestors roared and broke free in grotesque monster forms, then were slain by the whistling Iron Sword, blood splattering everywhere.

The Pseudo Ancestors were also severely injured, suffering a very painful price, and were unable to stop the monsters anymore.

Especially as the peak cracked open, molten lava-like blood gushed out, making the monsters even more frenzied.

The vast divine might was even contending with the power of the Heavenly Person Realm.

The rolling black clouds reflected a hideous and terrifying face, countless strands of electric light converged, like numerous ghosts opening their eyes, it was the furious true form of the Kui Bird Ancestor, looking down aloof and indifferent.

This is a God.

Gu Jianlin recalled the Haiqing Highway six months ago, when he first saw such a terrifying face, he was scared out of his mind, feeling his soul tremble, only later knowing it was an Ancient God.

"So ugly."

He whispered, "Don't look up, what you need to do now is calm your heart."

Tang Ling's mind was blank, emotions surged within her, instinctively nestling into his arms.

On the giant stone steps beneath the cliff, the Pseudo Ancestors, in their depleted state of power, obviously couldn't hold on any longer. The surging monsters came up like a sea tide, each one an ancestor-level Ancient God, with extraordinarily strong combat power. If not stopped, they could destroy a city in the real world.

One Pseudo Ancestor was soon torn in half for not retreating in time, blood spilling out.

Even if rescued by companions, they entered a near-death state.

The monsters, bathed in blood, howled violently to the sky.

Clearly, Kui was in no mood to let them go.

Gu Jianlin was in a very bad mood now, wanting to fight these monsters, but the girl in his arms obviously couldn't last that long, and they had to reach the Stairway to Immortality to survive.

Moreover, there was a more tempting opponent for him there.

Kui!

Clearly, Tang Ling had only balanced the two diametrically opposite forces within her for the moment.

Relying on Gu Jianlin's blood.

But the problem was she was still human and couldn't bear such high-level power.

This was irreversible weakening, and no medicine could heal it.

But Gu Jianlin was different, as a Supreme Level being, he wouldn't face such a life-or-death challenge.

The Stairway to Immortality, to him, was not a matter of life and death.

But a path to the ultimate.

Tang Ling suddenly pulled out a necklace from inside her collar, yanked it off, and handed it to him:
"Go."

Gu Jianlin was stunned.

It was an ancient golden cross necklace, glowing with a golden hue, noble and exquisite.

"Mythical Weapon, Golden Cross, can create a dimensional passage to let you leave here." Tang Ling placed the necklace into his hand, staggeringly walked forward with the Iron Sword, the wind and snow tousling her hair.

Gu Jianlin pocketed the necklace, switched to the Divine Path, and sensed her life force.

Like falling snow, ready to melt away in the wind at any moment.

Tang Ling didn't intend for him to follow her to die, yet suddenly she was grabbed by four golden ghost hands and fell onto the boy's back, where she was steadily supported by his arms.

"You're wearing long pants, I won't touch you inappropriately, so don't struggle. You're in a really bad state and need to adjust it a bit. Tang Zijing was absolutely right, living is always a matter of oneself, no one can't live without another. He hasn't fully disappeared from this world because he left you behind."

Gu Jianlin carried her forward, the Skeleton Giant guarding the scorching steps behind him, his voice calm and icy like frozen ice: "You are his legacy. As long as you live, someone will remember him. Otherwise, all the suffering he endured will be in vain."

He glanced one last time at the spot where Tang Zijing vanished, a string of code-like text mysteriously left there.

He couldn't decipher the content but memorized it.

It was the last hint Tang Zijing left before he died, possibly connected to what he investigated.

Thank you.

He said in his heart.

For someone like Tang Zijing, who delved into darkness.

Gaining redemption in the end was probably a luxury he dared not dream of even in dreams.

Not dying by the sword of his closest kin.

But embraced by her, dissolving into the wind.

Tang Ling leaned on his shoulder, recalling the old man's final expression, which was a smile.

"But you don't need to accompany me on this journey."

She whispered.

"Do you think I'd leave you behind and run away? I'm sorry, despite all the effort, in the end, I couldn't save his life. Did I ever tell you, I'm someone who doesn't like to lose? Everyone has their setbacks, but life is meaningless if not fought to win." Gu Jianlin didn't like talking, but he had to say something now to help the girl focus.

Chapter 648: The Boy Ascending to Heaven, the Girl Falling into Ruin

Now is not the time to fall asleep; if you do, you might never wake up again.

He carried her forward, the scorching wind blowing against them like it came from the deepest depths of Hell.

Finally, they reached the mountain summit, and lightning illuminated the apocalyptic scene.

The volcano crater had been frozen, and from beneath the thick ice came a wave of destructive spirituality. It was the Strategy Group's members battling the massive flesh body of the Ancient Ancestor.

And this was with the Ancestor being suppressed by the Heavenly Person Realm and frozen.

Otherwise, the volcano would have continued to erupt, making it impossible for anyone to reach the summit.

Now, at an altitude above 10,000 meters, they could almost see the flowing sea tide overhead, yet the air was so thin it was nearly unbreathable, mixed with the scorching embers in the hot wind howling around them.

Through the steaming heat, one could vaguely see eight towering bronze pillars encircling the mountain peak, entwined with golden chains. Molded on the surfaces of these pillars were the grim skeletons, resembling ancient beasts.

Gu Jianlin instantly recognized what those molded skeletons were because terrifying illusions appeared before his eyes; the Qilin trapped on the bronze pillar roared in fury before being burned by golden flames.

It was the punishment from a Black Supreme!

In the Azure Sea, gigantic skeletons floated and sank indistinctly, an abyss where dragons were buried, with the rich breath of life bound by an invisible force, surging to the world's highest place.

Clearly, this was where the Stairway to Immortality was located.

But having come this far, there was no path ahead.

Where exactly was this so-called Stairway to Immortality?

Boom!

The sound of the Skeleton Giant collapsing echoed—a Cloud Lord's spiritual body, different from ordinary beings yet unable to stop the relentless onslaught of so many monsters, was finally torn to pieces, producing a resentful sound.

Gu Jianlin continued forward with the girl on his back, without looking back.

The earth trembled.

The monstrous tide rushed towards them, its fetid stench seemingly palpable.

"Let's go; if we don't move now, it'll be too late."

Tang Ling whispered.

She knew there was no path ahead, and she wasn't overly concerned about life or death; she just felt it was a pity.

Her entire life felt like a pity.

Unable to escape the cage the Order World had built for her.

In the end, she couldn't save her closest kin.

She might even fail to fulfill his last wish.

But Gu Jianlin was different.

His life could be brilliant and didn't need to end with her here.

Gu Jianlin, however, did not respond; even with the monstrous tide behind him that could tear them apart, he showed no fear. He expressionlessly crossed the frozen volcano crater, arriving at the cliff's edge.

This was a true thousand-foot cliff, the scorching wind lifting their garments and forelocks.

Below was an endless abyss.

The violent Elemental Turbulence raged, as if it could tear everything apart.

Boom!

At the Peak of the Vault of Heaven, Kui's grotesque face lurked within the stormy clouds, as if ready to spew forth world-consuming molten lava; in the volcano's core, its true form battled, this was the manifestation of its spirit and will.

Kui did not refrain from attacking them.

It was that it couldn't.

Because it was guarding something.

"It's not time to give up yet."

Gu Jianlin paused for a moment, looking up at the God above the heavens, and softly said, "You need to hold on tight, just like when we met Tai Zhuo, the tighter the better, and no matter what happens, don't let go. I will hold you tight too, no matter what happens, even in death, I won't let go."

His heartbeat grew more intense, the roaring behind them ever so close.

Tang Ling momentarily felt dazed; he remembered everything that happened back then.

But with no path forward, what use was holding on tight together?

Wait together for death?

Alright, if it was death, perhaps it did require holding tight.

She wrapped her arms around the young man's neck, hugging him tightly.

The violent heartbeat pounding from the young man's back brought her a long-lost warmth.

"Trust me."

Gu Jianlin took a step and said, "Close your eyes."

For a moment, Tang Ling gazed at his cold and indifferent profile, memories flashing through her mind like a storm, and eventually, she felt an unprecedented sense of peace, closing her beautiful eyes, her eyelashes trembling slightly.

Time seemed frozen at that very moment.

The furious, vicious eyes of the God looked down upon the young man and woman.

Below the desolate cliff, the tide of monsters lunged toward them, seeming like it would tear them to pieces.

In the abyss, the Elemental Turbulence howled like a tide of destruction.

Gu Jianlin stepped forward, like someone pushed to the brink, about to leap off the cliff.

"I will take you... to the heavens."

Boom!

With that step forward, it was as if a grand symphony echoed within the Sea of Eternal Life, as if billions of souls emerged from the deep sea, singing ancient sacred hymns, the song solemn and majestic, reverberating across the heavens and earth.

Under the youth's feet, steps formed from interwoven golden tree vines appeared!

They did not fall into the abyss.

Instead, they stood in the void.

They stood on the sky!

Tang Ling opened her beautiful eyes, the golden light illuminating her eyes.

Yet brighter than the light was the young man before her.

He shone brilliantly like a god, gazing at the enemies in the high heavens.

The immense pressure surged forward, and the violent monsters could not open their eyes against the brilliant light.

Chapter 649: The Boy Ascending to Heaven, the Girl Falling into Ruin

They all came to an abrupt halt at the edge of the cliff, some even plummeting into the abyss!

Gu Jianlin, carrying the girl on his back, stood upright on the stairs formed by the Golden Tree Vine. The scorching wind buffeted his slender, emaciated frame, yet it couldn't shake him in the slightest.

His bangs were singed by the wind, and the hems of his clothes were charred by flames.

But his eyes grew increasingly bright; wildfires burned with wild abandon.

"Come on, Kui."

His voice was like thunder, echoing across the sky: "Kill us."

A sinister black Qilin Horn sprouted from the top of his head, the noble and malevolent Ink Jade Mask spread across his face like flames, and iron-hard scales like armor covered his body, bathed in golden flame, as if he were a world-burning Demon.

Finally, a pair of fierce and majestic golden eyes shone, accompanied by the terrifying roar of a Qilin!

Clearly, this was so terrifying and dreadful, yet Tang Ling felt not an ounce of fear.

When she was very young, enduring the pain of experiments, she yearned for someone to save her.

Whether an Angel or a Demon, it didn't matter.

The truth proved that there might not be Angels in this world.

But there were definitely intimidating Demons.

Now, at this critical moment of life and death, this Demon had truly arrived.

Carrying her without hesitation, challenging the Gods.

From the sky, a furious roar resounded, and the overwhelming divine might of Ancient Times surged forth!

Yet, Gu Jianlin defied this pressure and took another step forward!

Boom!

The second stair of the Golden Tree Vine appeared.

The light grew more and more intense, as if welcoming its true master.

The third, the fourth, the fifth, up to the tenth!

The scorching wind howled, and the demonic boy ascended to the heavens step by step with the girl on his back.

With every step he took, a colossal roar echoed in the world of the Ice Sea.

It was as if a hymn was sung for his arrival!

"If you don't come to kill me, then I'll come to find you."

Gu Jianlin held the girl on his back with one hand and reached into the air with the other, as the Qilin Wedge appeared.

"——What are you afraid of?"

Rumble!

Lightning flashed and thunder roared.

The black broken sword appeared in this world for the first time, its edge sharp and fierce.

The sky echoed with an angry roar, Kui's face twisted in a horrid grimace.

It was as if he had fallen into great fury.

Indeed.

What are you afraid of?

Why did you destroy the Joker's soul back then?

From the first confrontation in the underwater palace, what did you intend to do?

To the final confrontation with the Divine Servant and the clash in the Returning Burial Forest.

Kui had always been searching for fragments of the Qilin Wedge.

"Now this thing is in my hands."

Gu Jianlin said indifferently: "Come and take it from me!"

There had never been such a daring and wanton young man in this world, wielding the legendary Qilin Wedge, bathing in golden radiance, and actually provoking the Gods above, his gaze filled with extreme mockery.

Clearly looking up, yet as if overlooking from above.

"Do you dare?"

Boom!

The Qilin Wedge vibrated intensely.

Countless Golden Vines converged to form the Stairway to Immortality, which emerged.

Towering Life Energy surged up to the sky.

Gu Jianlin felt the power within him boiling.

Not only him, but Tang Ling also felt it, as the vast Life Energy poured into her body. She gazed at the young man bathed in Holy Light before her, as if trying to imprint his appearance and demeanor deep in her heart.

Etched into her soul.

The snow and ice that had long sealed her heart melted, turning into a warm, clear spring.

"Gu Jianlin..."

She softly said: "Why does someone like you exist in this world?"

She wrapped her arms tightly around his neck, burying her face between his shoulders, breathing in his scent.

The girl's consciousness gradually blurred, and the memories of their time together inundated her like a torrential storm, tearing down every line of defense she had, releasing the emotions buried deep within.

The drop of blood within her body spread, balancing the two opposing forces within.

Guiding the overwhelming aura, nurturing her body.

In a daze, she felt as if she were naked in a hot spring, with steam rising into the night.

The demon-like boy emerged from the mist, stepped into the petal-strewn pool, lowered his head, and gazed at her with those awe-inspiring golden eyes, kissing her tender lips.

Though he appeared frightening, it didn't instill any fear in her.

Instead, she reached out to embrace him, wanting to merge him into her own being.

The pool water rippled, and the mist spread.

Tang Ling's long hair fanned out in the pool, sometimes a tempting red, sometimes an icy white, as she lightly furrowed her brows, feeling both pain and pleasure, ultimately letting her soul fall.

Spiritual fusion, never wanting to part again.

Chapter 650: Want to Hold You Inside My Body

In Gu Jianlin's mind, enchanting illusions appeared, he felt his soul seemed to invade deep into the consciousness of the young girl, soaking together in deep pools, wantonly seizing her spirituality.

Her long hair scattered, misty beautiful eyes.

And her murmuring whispers.

The souls merged together, indistinguishable from each other.

Sometimes it was hard to tell whether it was real or a fantasy, clearly defying fate at the brink of life and death, yet the flashes in his mind were so mesmerizing, an ultimate enjoyment never appeared in dreams, as if a high and mighty god plundering a Female Sacrifice only belonging to him, immersed in the abyss, reborn.

He could feel his spirituality about to break through the shackles.

Just lacking the last material to complete the advancement.

Hoo.

He let out a long breath, standing high above the sky, his forehead hair fluttering gently.

Tang Ling also awakened from the dream, raising her beautiful eyes, eyelashes trembling slightly.

She saw a massive volcano.

Also saw the surging Azure Sea, roaring snow and ice, blazing scorching wind.

The stairs condensed by the Golden Vine penetrated the Sky Dome, exuding brilliant radiance.

Also illuminating the side face of the young man.

"So beautiful."

Tang Ling suddenly said.

Unclear if she was talking about this scenery, or the person in front of her.

"Living scenery is certainly beautiful."

Gu Jianlin stopped his steps, looking up at the god above the dome of the sky: "Except for that ugly thing."

Listening to the young man's voice, Tang Ling also raised her beautiful eyes and gazed over.

Dark clouds swirling, lightning and thunder.

Furious ferocious faces roaring, seemingly wanting to scare away the ants attempting to ascend to the heavens.

Those who are usually fierce in words often hide fear within.

What should the high and mighty Primordial fear?

The answer could only be that ascending young man.

Tang Ling gazed at his side face, thinking this young man really brought her too many miracles, bringing long-delayed familial affection at the risk of life and death, and taking her alone to defy the heavens.

Of course, there were many unreasonable aspects about him.

Such as his perfect Evolutionary State.

And the broken sword in his hand, most likely the legendary Qilin Wedge.

So many mysteries, they should have been terrifying.

But she softly said: "I will keep your secrets."

Gu Jianlin smiled silently: "Not afraid? Don't want to ask who I am?"

"Don't want to. No matter who you are, you're very important to me."

Tang Ling seemed to lovingly breathe in his scent: "So it was your blood."

Gu Jianlin noticed a pair of snow-white lotus arms encircling his neck.

The girl was silent for a second, whispering lightly in his ear with breath like orchids: "If you told me earlier, I might not have minded so much when I drank it."

After waking up from that dream, although all spirituality was plundered away, the life that should have been exhausted was like a withered tree encountering spring, as if baptized by a heavy rain, releasing a fresh breath.

Everything experienced in the dream caused a subtle shift in her mindset.

Because she knew very well, that wasn't a dream.

But a fusion of souls.

It means everything was real, every detail she remembered clearly.

Just not happening in reality, but in the spiritual world.

The look in her eyes towards the young man carried an indescribable emotion.

Thousands of threads, intertwined together.

Even her voice turned soft and charming.

"I didn't know this would happen."

Gu Jianlin was silent for a while, and said: "Sorry."

Tang Ling tucked her head against his neck, her voice hoarse and coquettish, saying in a low voice: "Girls don't want to hear things like that, let alone... why say sorry? I don't dislike you."

For the Princess, experiencing this kind of thing didn't cause disgust, then for her it was undoubtedly a bold confession, the first step of seeking from this girl who lost everything.

In a sense, they were the same kind of people.

Both bearing the curse of fate, protected by dear ones, unaware.

Only until the moment of loss, did they regret.

Because of similarity, they could understand each other.

And the next step to understanding, what would it be?

Tang Ling tightly grasped the young man's hand as the answer.

Unfortunately, he didn't understand it.

Or perhaps he chose not to understand.

Because the dark clouds were pressing down, that terrifying face drawing closer, roaring with abandon.

The Heavenly Ascension Stairs' end was unseen, but the end of the sky was already visible.

Boom!

Searing light flames exploded over the Sky Dome.

The Kui Bird Ancestor finally couldn't suppress the murderous intent, letting out a resonant phoenix cry, scorching flames covered the sky, yet terrifying extreme cold spread out like a torrent of destruction.

"—Humans, you have transgressed!"

Like a great bell tolling, the terrifying voice echoed like thunder between sea and sky.

This was a death threat from a Primordial.

Gu Jianlin climbed the Heavenly Stairs against a face-cutting scorching wind, the massive divine might like an invisible sledgehammer shaking his body, iron-like scales fell inch by inch, blood pouring yet unrestrained and wild.

At this moment, he was the world's hardest shield, firmly protecting the girl behind him.

You want her dead, but I insist she lives.

You guard the Stairway to Immortality, so I must ascend to the heavens.

The Kui Bird Ancestor truly was a great Ancient God, and had almost recovered to its peak state. Its authority was extreme cold and extreme heat, easily capable of destroying a city and casually creating terrifying disasters.

However, he was by no means a weak mortal.

"Truly terrifying."

Tang Ling reached out and gently touched his scorched chest, seemingly distressed by his suffering, and softly said, "It's all your fault. I told you to go, but you wouldn't. Now even if you want to leave, it's too late."

Although it was a tone of complaint, it was more like a playful scold in a desperate situation, and she remarkably smiled.

The smile was like ice melting, streams babbling.

Sadly, Gu Jianlin could not appreciate it.

He knew that even using the Mythical Weapon at this moment might not allow escape from the Ancestor.

This was a perilous dead end.

"Gods are certainly terrifying, but no matter how powerful, what does it matter? Jumping from a building to die is death, dying of cancer is death, being killed by a god is also death. Humans must experience life and death; facing any powerful enemy is merely death, so what is there to fear? Your great-grandfather wasn't afraid, and neither was my father."

Gu Jianlin softly said, "I have nothing to fear, what about you?"

Tang Ling didn't speak; life and death were no longer so important to her. She was just too heartbroken for the boy in front of her, wishing only to be with him always.

No matter how dangerous the crisis, or how many life and death scenarios.

Yes, just being by your side is enough.

"Let's go."

Bang!

With the girl on his back, Gu Jianlin took the final step, ascending the last level of the Stairway to Immortality!

From this moment, standing shoulder to shoulder with the gods!

The shadow of the Kui Bird Ancestor flickered and vanished, its abyss-like terrifying eyes fixing on this boy.

As if unable to believe how a mere human dared to approach him.

The stairway formed by the Golden Vines pierced the Sky Dome, the golden light released gathered into intertwining roots, standing high in the sky like a huge platform, spreading endlessly as if ascending to the Immortal Realm!

The roar of the Qilin resounded through the world!

The Qilin Wedge vibrated with a thunderous roar, the eight bronze pillars standing in the Azure Sea soared into the sky, the bones cast on each pillar lighting up with scorching patterns, releasing a terrifying Spiritual Domain.

A vast aura of life nourished the boy and the girl.

As if allowing them to ascend to the ultimate!

Gu Jianlin let the Qilin Wedge tremble, unexpectedly slashing a sword on his own!

Bang!

A massive black hole appeared in the void.

As if the door to the Divine Country opened, the entire Ancient God Realm quaked ceaselessly, everyone sensing the intense dimension fluctuations, ultimately converging to the Sky Dome, amidst a sea tide-like grand mass music resounded once more.

Solemn and solemn!

The passage to the second layer of the Qilin Immortal Palace has already opened!

Yet at that moment, a sudden change occurred!

The sea surface above the Sky Dome shattered like a mirror, rolling dark clouds gathered, terrifying lightning and thunder as if the world would be destroyed, seemingly viewing an Ancient Dragon coiling across the heavens and earth diving down. It was so ancient and majestic, embodying all the dignity and beauty of the world, falling like a meteor!

The Dragon Roar echoing through time's river battered the heavens and earth, countless Mandala Flowers blooming between the sea and sky!

Candle Dragon Venerable!

He has come!

In the final moment of the path to ascension.

As Gu Jianlin used the Qilin Wedge, opening the heavenly path.

The Ancient Times' pressure was like thunder.

The boy and girl bled from their seven orifices due to the shock.

In that instant, accompanied by the sound of shattering, the Kui Bird Ancestor attacked, scorching winds and extreme cold currents swirling around him, like an apocalyptic tide about to engulf the boy and girl.

Crossing a distance of hundreds of kilometers, attacking fiercely.

Gu Jianlin raised his dim golden eyes, blood-red edges appearing in his vision, scales like armor covering his body had been burned off, a lament of unbearable burden echoed within him.

"Your great-grandfather was right, living is a personal matter, unrelated to others. But in your life, you will meet many people who will play many roles in your life, accompany you through many springs, summers, autumns, and winters. Some will leave, others will return, like him..."

He clenched the Qilin Wedge, suddenly letting out a furious roar.

Confronting such a destructive momentum, he showed no fear at all, resolutely charging towards the god!

Bang!

The golden Skeleton Giant materialized, pulling the girl into the depths of the black hole!

"Like... me."

For a moment, Tang Ling heard the boy's soft whisper by her ear.

The one ascending the sky with her on his back held the dark broken sword with both hands, crashing into the destructive tide, his back long and thin, yet dignified and noble like a god, standing tall against the sky and earth.

"No—"

At this moment, Tang Ling let out a despairing cry that didn't seem to belong to her.

And she herself fell towards the dark black hole, buried by countless ice and snow.

So peaceful.

So serene.

She suddenly remembered the prophecy she saw in the Sea of Eternal Life.

It turned out that the one who ultimately died was not her.

But the one in her eyes.

Amidst the world-destroying roar, the Kui Bird Ancestor, like a torrent of ice and fire, engulfed the boy.

The figure of Gu Jianlin wielding the sword was submerged, the roar ringing through the heavens and earth.