

Ancient 811

Chapter 811: How Does Thunder Feel? (4)

Ji Zhou glanced at him sideways and said blandly, "Think carefully about what happened when you broke free from my restriction—the domain of the Heavenly Person loosened. Why did Skylark act at that precise moment?"

Gu Jianlin was taken aback.

"Isn't it possible that she intended to let you out?"

Ji Zhou sneered, "Someone like her can peer into fate."

Gu Jianlin hadn't thought about these things, and suddenly felt a chill down his spine.

Indeed, why did Skylark act like that before she lost her memory?

It was as if she knew he would stand at the end of the Stairway to Immortality.

Did she foresee problems with her evolution?

Could she have predicted her severe injury and amnesia?

Now, indeed, both sides are grasshoppers on the same rope, using each other.

But is it possible this was all planned?

Ji Zhou looked at him for a long time.

Her gaze grew sharper, as if she wanted to dissect him inch by inch.

And yank the bad woman from inside him.

"You must know, beings like Skylark are always enemies of the Order World. Rhein wouldn't hesitate to fight to mutual destruction to eliminate her, for this reason. For the Human World, such unstable factors aren't allowed to exist, whether it be the President, or Rhein and Lin Dong, including the Catastrophes."

Ji Zhou sneered, "They would choose to eliminate them immediately."

This was a warning, and could also be considered a threat.

It could even be seen as a death sentence.

If it weren't this woman sitting in front of him, but someone else.

Gu Jianlin believed the other party would have acted already, and he would now be a dead man.

The woman within him also couldn't be hidden.

The problem was, Ji Zhou's gaze was cold, but it hid a trace of frustration that iron couldn't become steel.

"Don't trust others so easily."

Ji Zhou surprisingly raised her hand, touching his head: "You need to know there are many bad people in this world, and kindhearted people like you will be deceived. You must learn to protect yourself, only then will adults be at ease."

For a moment, Gu Jianlin didn't know what to say; it had been a long time since someone touched his head.

The last time was probably his parents' divorce, when they touched his head and said not to cry because mom and dad were still there.

Gu Jianlin had no doubt that she knew the bad woman was hidden within his body.

Yet Ji Zhou didn't act.

"You'll be an adult soon in a few months, and as you grow up, you'll have your own views, your own set of rules for dealing with people. I won't forcibly instill my views onto you; that would only stifle your potential, and I don't need to create someone identical to me."

Ji Zhou suddenly said: "Since you chose to work with her, you must have your reasons."

Gu Jianlin had imagined the worst-case scenario, she would force him to give the woman up.

Demand he betray her while she sleeps.

Yet, he never anticipated that Senior Ji would actually approve of his choice.

"On the condition that, whatever you do, always leave yourself a way out."

Ji Zhou gazed into his eyes: "For any matter, as long as you're willing to bear the cost, right and wrong are irrelevant."

Gu Jianlin contemplated these words, lost in thought.

Unexpectedly, Senior Ji's next words struck him like a bolt from the blue.

"How does Thunder feel?"

She taunted, "Enjoying it?"

Chapter 812: The President's Secret, The Origin of Everything

Gu Jianlin was prepared to be questioned, but he didn't expect to be asked such a question.

Unconsciously, he picked up the tea set on the table, playing with it as his thoughts drifted back to the Sea of Eternal Life days ago, that enchanting dream was not an illusion, but a real occurrence on the soul level.

Since stepping into the Extraordinary World, he has been constantly walking the edge between life and death, never once ensuring his own safety, thus he wouldn't consider emotional issues, avoiding the same mistakes as his father. It's just unexpected that after experiencing so much, he still ended up laden with emotional debt.

Moon Princess was an unstoppable force, accompanying him before he stepped into the Extraordinary World.

Her ever-present companionship for so many years, saying there are no feelings is impossible.

As for Thunder, originally a close combat ally.

There was an agreement to entrust each other's lives, only to be deceived.

Meeting again now, it would be awkward.

"I know you've learned from your father's lessons, fearing that the girls you love would mourn you after your death? I think you don't need to worry about that, the future of this world is in the hands of a few young people, and if they die, humanity will undoubtedly collapse in the apocalyptic devastation."

Ji Zhou glanced at him, saying softly: "And you happen to be one of them."

Gu Jianlin's hand holding the teacup trembled, he didn't expect he was that important.

Upon reflection, it seems right, he is now one of the only two amphibians.

It's nonsense if it doesn't affect the future of the world.

"The world will perish, and your girls are no exception, so you need to have a correct mindset, life is short, enjoy it. Whoever you like, tell her; whatever you want to do, do it; if there's someone you want to kill, do it quickly, don't wait for your enemy to die of old age."

When Ji Zhou said this, a rare trace of nostalgia flashed in her cold, dignified eyes as the sunlight outside the window illuminated the depths of her pupils, as if brightening old memories buried deep.

Four hundred years have passed in her eyes, her voice is so dignified and severe, her tone still as dismissive and arrogant, yet there's a kind of loneliness of fleeting time.

It makes one involuntarily moved.

Gu Jianlin pondered these words carefully, hesitating slightly.

"You haven't considered these things because you've never lived for yourself."

Ji Zhou looked deeply at him: "You haven't answered my question yet."

Gu Jianlin held back for a long time, not knowing how to answer: "Is she... okay?"

Ji Zhou sneered: "Look at you, what's happened has happened, as a boy, it really is your gain; aside from her talent and status, at least she's still quite beautiful. But if you only look at the benefits, instead it's her who took advantage of you; without your blood, she couldn't have survived."

Gu Jianlin said quietly: "What exactly do you want to say?"

"Are you unaware that in the Extraordinary World, spiritual union often carries more significance than physical union? In ancient times, once souls intertwined, it was as if a lifetime commitment was made, at least in our era it was so. This tradition remains unchanged today."

Ji Zhou said earnestly: "That's why I ask if you enjoyed it? If your souls united smoothly, it proves that emotions for each other have long been brewing, otherwise it wouldn't have gone so smoothly."

Gu Jianlin felt his expression resembled that of a Joker.

"Seeing your expression, I know what the situation is."

Ji Zhou maintained her calm expression and delivered another blow: "No wonder Thunder came back from the Sea of Eternal Life utterly convinced by you; even thinking you're dead, she still wants to mourn you."

Qilin Venerable was killed.

Gu Jianlin now very much hoped this senior was teasing him, but as a master profiler, he could tell immediately if someone close to him was lying.

Senior Ji wasn't lying to him, the Extraordinary World probably did have such a rule.

How could it be like this, now the camaraderie is really going to change.

Seeing each other next time was already awkward.

It's doubly awkward after knowing all this.

Gu Jianlin held his head, feeling a headache.

"Even if you haven't realized it, you do have feelings for her. It's not surprising, her talent is good, she is beautiful, indifferent in nature but gives you special treatment. Anyone would like her upon meeting. You're not made of stone; you're just slow in this regard."

Ji Zhou gently asked: "Do you plan to accept her?"

Gu Jianlin felt his scalp tingle, powerless: "It's fine if you want me to fight someone, but I really don't know how to deal with love. If anyone poses a threat to her, I'll surely kill them. Whatever she wants, I'll do my best to help her get it. I hope she lives safely and happily."

Ji Zhou's lips curled into a smile: "Isn't that enough?"

Gu Jianlin was stunned.

"Safety and happiness are quite a luxury."

Ji Zhou looked at the cherry blossoms flying in the courtyard, sighing: "Being together doesn't necessarily mean being inseparable, having children every day. Walking together on the same path is also a good way of being together. For Thunder, her level might not match yours, but she is one of humanity's rare Alien Species in history."

Chapter 813: The President's Secret, Origin of Everything (Part 2)

Gu Jianlin's heart skipped a beat, thinking Senior Ji had indeed understood.

His uniqueness was indeed not something these Quasi-Supreme Level strongest could overlook.

"The current Thunder must take the President's path; she needs to wield the greatest power and authority in this world to ensure her own safety. What happens to a noble young lioness stranded outside?"

Ji Zhou glanced at him.

"Probably besieged and killed by greedy hyenas?"

Gu Jianlin softly said.

Thunder's existence is already an anomaly; if she cannot become the leader of the Order World, her existence will become a threat, and someone might even want to seize her power to cultivate the next one like her.

The next Order Ruler will also not allow her existence.

No matter where she hides, people will come to find her, never leaving her in peace.

Thinking of this, Gu Jianlin's gaze turned cold and firm.

"Thunder has no way out."

Ji Zhou said self-deprecatingly, "This also shows the incompetence of us elders. We won't live to see the day of catastrophe, so we place all our bets on you children."

Old Master Si tremblingly served the fragrant Heart-cleansing tea, respectfully turning to leave.

Ji Zhou picked up the tea and gently inhaled, softly saying, "I'm sorry."

Gu Jianlin raised his eyes and seriously asked, "What are you apologizing for?"

Ji Zhou said indifferently, "The things happening to Thunder, aren't you already aware? She's the one chosen by the President, carrying the burden of this world as the price for survival. The Ether Association conducted such inhumane experiments on a little girl, truly unworthy of their position."

Gu Jianlin silently gazed at her profile, this majestic and cold woman seemed less magnificent in the sunlight; though strikingly beautiful, there was a hint of ageing melancholy.

That is the fatigue and sorrow accumulated over the years, rich like the fragrance of tea.

"If it's about this, you needn't apologize. Instead, we should thank you all."

Gu Jianlin earnestly said, "Especially the President."

Ji Zhou glanced at him in surprise.

"Previously, I indeed didn't understand, always thinking the big figures did nothing, while you were bearing too much in the darkness. Clearly the evil deeds were done by The Order of the Hidden, yet you bore them on yourselves."

Gu Jianlin calmly said, "Frida's Schizophrenia is not a natural disease, but an artificially created aftermath of experimentation. Thunder's issues are not innate but caused by humans. The Ether Association was infiltrated; the Transplantation experiment has been secretly conducted for over a decade."

He recited the entire truth in the calmest tone, without any expression: "The Ether Association publicly denies the existence of The Order of the Hidden, because order must remain flawless to convince the world and suppress those ambitious heroes."

"If The Order of the Hidden is publicly acknowledged, then order will have weaknesses, and those wishing to counterattack it will start scheming, leading the world to unimaginable chaos."

He paused, "Inside the Order World, Thunder is not alone with such issues; you chose not to go public, but conducted investigations in secret. Thunder wasn't a chosen experimental subject, rather she couldn't survive without subsequent experiments. To conceal this, only the President coming forward could bear all the wickedness, it's a resignation of the Monarch, also a responsibility of the Monarch."

This is what he discovered at the biotechnology company.

Only then did he learn the truth about the President.

Ji Zhou's hand in mid-air slightly paused.

"I guess this matter was done extremely secretively, unlikely even the two Vice Presidents are aware."

Gu Jianlin gazed at her profile and continued, "Including Tang Zijing and Gu Ci'an, their tasks were voluntary, they were willing martyrs, not sacrifices of the President."

Ji Zhou remained silent for a long time, quietly finishing the hot tea in her cup.

She sighed deeply and laughed self-mockingly.

"Little guy, you've grown knowledgeable."

No longer concerned about how this youngster learned of these matters.

He has his methods; it's his capability.

But for the first time, someone was able to comprehend her hidden thoughts after so many years.

These years people have said she's brutal, some say she's resolved and reckless, others believe she's cold-blooded and emotionless, more think she's closed-minded, some wish to replace her.

As the King of the Order World, of course, she can ignore those rumors.

A true Monarch capable of being understood by everyone is truly incompetent.

But, does she really not care?

The desolation of the nights, the loneliness of being high up, the bittersweet aftertaste of going against the world, the struggle and sorrow when seated on the throne of power, when comrades in arms depart one-by-one.

She spent most of these years visiting the cemetery at the Central Spirit Core Institute, offering a fresh flower before a deceased friend's grave, holding an old Buddhist scripture, watching the locust blossoms fall onto the riverbank, sitting there for an entire day.

She even has no one to speak a heartfelt word.

"Everyone lives wearing a mask."

Gu Jianlin softly said, "Have you ever truly lived for yourself?"

Chapter 814: The President's Secret, The Origin of Everything (Part 3)

Some people think his way of life is tough, and he's being cruel to himself.

In reality, he doesn't think so.

Because there are people who have it tougher than him.

For four hundred years, the President probably has never lived a day for himself.

What right does he have to complain?

Perhaps this is the real reason why Senior Ji has never wanted to reveal her identity until now.

The President is the President.

Ji Zhou is Ji Zhou.

She removed her mask to get along with him.

Even if Gu Jianlin guessed her true identity, he didn't want to expose it.

"I don't know what the future holds for her and me, but I promise you."

Gu Jianlin said seriously, "I will protect her at all costs. Whoever wants to harm her, I will kill them. I will ensure she takes that position, inheriting the legacy of the President. If possible, after everything is over, I hope she can find a new successor and live her own life."

His expression was very solemn: "Just like you said, do whatever you want."

For a long moment.

Ji Zhou unexpectedly smiled for the first time ever.

It wasn't a cold smile, but a very gentle one, as if ice melting in a river, sunlight thawing snow.

"The enemies you have to face are not that simple."

A playful curve lifted the corner of her lips as she said, "The President has at most three months left. The entire Order World is restless, and some people can't hold back anymore."

Gu Jianlin was startled.

Turmoil within the Ether Association will definitely erupt after the President's death.

This is inevitable.

He just didn't expect it to be this soon!

"Didn't I bring back the Eternal Bone?"

He said in surprise.

"Silly child."

Ji Zhou held his hand and smiled, "Without your Eternal Bone, the President would already be dead."

Gu Jianlin's pupils suddenly contracted.

It seems that something else happened back in the Sea of Eternal Life.

Even someone as strong as Skylark was seriously injured and lost memory.

The President was even teetering on the brink of life and death.

"Now I'm going to tell you a secret, a secret that very few people know."

Ji Zhou actually took out a piece of candy from her pocket and offered it to his lips.

Gu Jianlin was puzzled; this piece of candy was actually the very common rock candy.

Nowadays, no one eats it anymore; it's usually used in cooking.

But in the sunlight, this piece of rock candy was so crystal-clear, exuding strands of light.

"Four hundred years ago, I grew up in a temple. At that time, there was chaos, with Natural Disasters and Man-made Calamities occurring continuously, starving many people. In the temple, an old monk took us orphans in and taught us the way of cultivation. When we were naughty, he would give each of us a piece of candy."

Ji Zhou said lightly, "Before listening to a lecture, have a piece of candy, and the children would settle down."

Gu Jianlin said suspiciously, "Is this a tradition?"

Ji Zhou made a sound of agreement, her smile tinged with a faint trace of nostalgia: "Eating this piece of candy, I will regard you as my child, and some secrets can then be quietly shared with you."

Gu Jianlin took the rock candy and put it in his mouth, the sweetness spreading, tasting quite good.

Ji Zhou watched him, only relaxing after confirming the rock candy had dissolved in his mouth.

"Now I will tell you how The Order of the Hidden was born."

She, like a grandmother ready to tell stories to the children at home, gazed softly at the sunlight outside the window and said, "Including how the Ether Association's legacy came to be, the splits and turmoil over two centuries, the real reason why Qing and Chi rebelled, it all stems from ... the Ancient God Clan, who were never invaders of Earth."

Chapter 815: The God's Secret, Supreme of the Third Power

Ji Zhou looked up at the window, the morning sunlight growing ever more intense, its dazzling rays spreading like a tide, almost making it impossible to open the eyes, as if it wanted to engulf this ancient courtyard.

Gu Jianlin instinctively raised his hand to shield his eyes. The luxurious living room he was in dissipated like a reflection in water, replaced by an ancient-style temple. Inside the temple stood towering ginkgo trees, their golden leaves resembling flames, scattered on the bluestone path, behind the Stone Tower the Ancient Bell roared, echoing with a serene Zen feeling.

No, it was more than that.

An ancient temple stood on the edge of a cliff, with clouds and mist rolling in like tides.

Deep within the fog, there stood a towering stone tablet piercing the heavens.

Old inscriptions were engraved upon the stone tablet.

"Supreme feats that make even the heavens bow!"

It was the text inherited from the Ancient God Clan, with a domineering aura that overwhelmed the senses.

If it were in the real world, this stone tablet would have definitely broken through the troposphere, something that couldn't be constructed by human hands, as for carving such arrogant inscriptions, very few could live up to it.

The President was precisely one of them.

"This is the President's little world, Tian Ding Temple."

Ji Zhou said indifferently, "Among the young generation, you are the first to enter."

"I heard that without permission, no one can enter here."

Gu Jianlin looked around, inevitably feeling a sense of awe.

All independent small worlds, the teacher's grocery store is so down-to-earth.

The President is so domineering.

"I have the authority."

Ji Zhou said calmly.

Gu Jianlin looked at her with an odd expression, thinking that this reason was rather perfunctory.

He gazed towards the stone tablet deep in the clouds, curiously asking, "Senior, who carved this inscription?"

Ji Zhou squinted her eyes, coldly replied, "Back then Qing and Chi brought it over from the Ancient God Realm, specially engraving this line of inscription as a two-hundred-year birthday gift for the President."

Gu Jianlin nodded slightly, "Seems like the President is quite fond of this stone tablet."

Thinking about it now, the President is quite endearing, though he always talks about being incompetent and deeply regrets the current situation, in reality, he secretly thinks he is quite remarkable.

Occasionally indulging in self-admiration.

Ji Zhou clearly read his thoughts, raised her hand, and poked him on the forehead.

"Follow me."

She turned and walked into the temple, asking as she walked, "How much do you know about the Ancient God Clan?"

Gu Jianlin stood under the golden ginkgo tree, thought for a moment, then said, "Undoubtedly, the Ancient God Clan is a great Divine Race, that cannot be denied. They come from the depths of the

Universe, born from planets nurtured into life, originating between endless light and dark, the five Ancient Supremes are the most powerful beings of this race."

"They are everlasting and look down upon the mortal world."

He paused for a moment, "Long before humans ever came to be, the Ancient God Clan had already descended upon Earth. As far as I know, it can be traced back to the era of dinosaurs, roughly between the Triassic and Cretaceous periods."

Ji Zhou replied with a hum: "Correct, but not entirely."

Gu Jianlin paused in surprise.

"I ask you, what are the most ancient paths in the East?"

"Ancient Martial, Divine, Sword Sect, Ghost Slayer, Heavenly Master, Overlord."

"Can you count?"

"Six paths."

Gu Jianlin suddenly recalled something, the wicked woman had once said that a certain Ancient Supreme was lost in the depths of the Universe, and back in the Ancient God Clan's history, he only saw five shattered stars.

"First, you must know that the six oldest paths correspond to six Ancient Supremes. As for why most people recognize only five, it's because that Supreme erased their own existence. Many believe that Kunlun Mountain Hell Gate is the Ancient God Realm of Xuanming Venerable, but that's a fallacy."

Ji Zhou explained, "Xuanming Venerable has been slumbering in the Returning Ruins from start to finish, as long as he doesn't want to wake up, he won't be affected by external interference. The Gate of Hell, that's another Ancient Supreme's Ancient God Realm."

Gu Jianlin was shocked, "What is his name?"

Ji Zhou glanced at him, "Qiongqi Venerable."

Upon hearing this name, Gu Jianlin instinctively felt a twinge of fear.

Because according to the origin classification of Ancient Supremes, both Qilin and Qiongqi should have been nurtured by the Third Power.

"Why did Qiongqi Venerable erase himself?"

"Because he was afraid of one person... no, it should be a Divine."

"Candle Dragon Venerable?"

"No, Qilin Venerable."

Crack.

Gu Jianlin stepped on a branch on the ground, breaking it.

He lowered his head, the golden sunlight illuminating his deep eyes.

"History is written by humans, whether they are people or gods, there's no real difference. Therefore, the history you see is not the most authentic, such as the span of time. Perhaps you once saw the five Ancient Supremes tear through to birth stars, now guess how many years apart each Supreme was born?"

Ji Zhou coldly laughed: "In fact, there was a long period during the Ancient Times when the Universe had only four Ancient Supremes, respectively, Candle Dragon, Vermilion Bird, Bai Ze, Xuanming. Qilin Venerable was the sixth Supreme."

Gu Jianlin kept silent, at this moment, he was somewhat creeped out because he vaguely felt that hidden within these secrets was a shocking revelation, enough to explain all the riddles that had emerged since the Ancient Times.

Ji Zhou's next words, however, exploded like thunder.

Chapter 816: The God's Secret, Supreme of the Third Power (Part 2)

"Qilin Venerable is a Supreme who should never have been born; their existence is an accident."

She whispered, "This is the answer Qing and Chi found in the Divine Ruins deep in the Universe, the ancient soil of the Ancient God Clan, which is their homeland. Open your eyes wide and watch carefully."

Gu Jianlin looked up in astonishment; there was also an ancient black stone tablet in front of the temple, and it was empty.

Ji Zhou casually dragged his right fingernail, and blood seeped from the palm of his left hand.

She pressed her blood-stained palm on the stone tablet, and a fresco flashing with golden luster emerged.

In the era of Primordial Chaos, towering jungles obscured the sun, prehistoric insects crawled through the bushes, and rivers stretched to the ends of the world. A figure resembling a God hung in mid-air, as if crucified like Jesus Christ, embracing the sky and the earth with open arms. Their body gradually cracked, and blood flowed out.

The blood of the God flowed into the rivers, dyeing the world's water red ever since.

The rules of the world changed, and species perished one after another.

Genes were scattered among all things, and genetic chains continuously cross-evolved.

"What is this?"

"The origin."

"Is that God the Qiongqi Venerable?"

"Qiongqi Venerable should have been the younger brother of the four Ancient Supremes, but they never appeared in the history of the Ancient God Clan. They possess special Authority, and even their brothers and sisters were unaware of their existence."

Gu Jianlin suddenly understood.

So this is the true history.

Perhaps in the Ancient Times, there were only four Ancient Supremes in the depths of the Universe, living on the old soil of alien stars, but problems arose among the races that were unsolvable.

Even with the Authority of Gods, they were powerless.

During this period, the fifth Ancient Supreme was born, named Qiongqi Venerable.

However, the existence conceived by the Third Power was born extremely secretly, not only unrecorded in the history of the Ancient God Clan but also unnoticed by the four Ancient Supremes.

It wasn't until the last Supreme, Qilin Venerable, was born that they realized everything.

What followed was the story told by Skylark.

The five Ancient Supremes lived on the old soil, but still couldn't solve that ultimate problem.

Thus, they were forced to wander in the deepest part of the Universe, while searching for something.

"Until the Supremes found Earth."

Ji Zhou said softly, "Now do you know why they chose this planet?"

Gu Jianlin replied hoarsely, "Because the Ancient Supremes discovered traces of the Qiongqi Venerable here."

Ji Zhou continued, delivering a shocking revelation with a smile, "You haven't attended classes at the Central Spirit Core Institute, but you should know that prehistoric insects were the rulers of Earth long before the dinosaur era. 300 million years ago, Earth's plates weren't fragmented as they are now, but were in a gathered state. At that time, dense tropical rainforests existed, with a warm, humid climate, and oxygen levels twice as high as they are now, very suitable for the growth of insects."

"Until a God descended, using their own bones and blood to change everything."

She softly said, "Qiongqi Venerable opened the Evolution Path of this world."

Gu Jianlin murmured, "No wonder I read in the Order of the Hidden data that the Ancient God Clan arrived on Earth long before humanity was born, and the dinosaurs worshiped their miracles, and their image..."

"How could great Gods imitate human postures?"

Ji Zhou mocked, "So you see, the mutated Ascenders always transform into insect forms, as insects have no soul. Therefore, when Qiongqi Venerable came to this world, the first thing they did was to destroy the Coal Age's insect era, granting species the ability to have souls."

Gu Jianlin pondered, "The era when the Ancient Supremes descended was between the Triassic and the Cretaceous, and the evolution of that era was already underway. They detected a familiar scent on this planet."

He forcibly maintained his composure, as everything about the Ancient God Clan surged into his mind.

"Senior, based on my investigation, the madness of Qilin Venerable seems to be a vengeance at any cost against someone, or rather, against a Divine. I initially thought Qilin Venerable wanted revenge on the Candle Dragon Venerable who killed them, but now I think it might not be entirely correct. The one Qilin Venerable truly wants to avenge is Qiongqi Venerable, right?"

He looked up, his gaze solemn.

"Perhaps... that's the case."

Ji Zhou shook his head, and with a deep tone, said, "The problem is, why did Qiongqi Venerable erase their existence, and why did they distance themselves from their clan, come to the distant Earth, and start the Evolution Path?"

Gu Jianlin was taken aback.

The story told by Skylark surfaced in his mind again.

Even the Ancient God Clan is not omniscient and omnipotent; thus, they also needed to learn and grow at birth, couldn't suddenly become what they are today, or be born with knowledge.

Unless there is some special Authority.

"The five Ancient Supremes initially coexisted peacefully; what made them turn against each other?"

Ji Zhou asked again, "This is what I want to tell you, the origin of the Order of the Hidden."

Gu Jianlin's pupils slightly contracted.

"Unified Will."

Ji Zhou repeated, "The Order of the Hidden originated from a Unified Will, which is why they have always been the rulers of Earth's dark side since ancient times. You must know, this world is meticulously designed."

Chapter 817: The God's Secret, Supreme of the Third Power (3)

Gu Jianlin was stunned because his teacher had said the same thing.

"The one who designed this world is undoubtedly that unified will. All the history throughout the ages is on the schedule of that will. The extinction and birth of species, the proliferation and destruction of civilizations, the rise and fall of empires, the wars between humans and gods—all are under its control."

Ji Zhou, with his hands behind his back, gazed at the ginkgo tree before him and said softly, "If I'm not mistaken, if it weren't for the arrival of the five Ancient Supremes, its plan might have already been completed."

She raised her hand, and once again wiped her blood-soaked palm across the stone tablet.

"I'll show you something else."

On the stone tablet, a golden mural appeared once more.

Five glorious gods stood above the Azure Sea. A massive Divine Path pierced through the sea. Two robed figures spread their arms wide, stepping onto the path to the heavens. They appeared so insignificant, yet so imposing.

Torrential rain poured from the sky, and amid the flashes of lightning and thunder, countless Ancient God Clans churned in the deep sea.

Flying creatures and beasts appeared almost god-like.

"This is the Ancient Times, the earliest two leaders in the East—one surnamed Ji, the other Jiang."

Ji Zhou said softly, "The Ether Association was born based on their legacy."

Gu Jianlin murmured, "Yellow Emperor, Emperor Yan."

"The Inheritance Path emerged in this way."

Ji Zhou gazed solemnly at this mural: "The earliest humans made a deal with the gods. By some means, they created what is known as the Inheritance Path. From then on, humans possessed the power of the gods."

It seems that humans and the Ancient God Clan were not enemies at the very beginning!

"That's because, at the earliest time, there was a tribe in the East called the Jiuli. Their leader was named Chiyou. It was the Qiongqi Venerable who bestowed power upon humanity, allowing that ancient tribe to ascend and possess unimaginably brutal power. The Jiuli Tribe was the earliest to believe in the unified will, for Earth's environment was not suitable for the survival of the Ancient God Clan, so it chose to nurture Earth's native life and bestow authority upon them."

Ji Zhou's lips curled into a smile: "The initial four Ancient Supremes also tried to imitate this, but without exception, they all failed until that black Supreme intervened and solved the problem."

Gu Jianlin felt as if his mind had been cleaved open by a knife.

He understood everything.

"Transplantation."

Ji Zhou paused: "That was the earliest transplantation, using a colossal matrix capable of covering a continent, granting people the ability to possess spirituality, awakening the chaotic and ignorant soul. What the Qiongqi Venerable could accomplish, the Qilin Venerable could also achieve, for they both wield the Third Power as Supremes."

"Zhu Zhao, You Ying, the Third Power—none is superior or inferior; they hold the same status."

She seemed to recall something, her eyes becoming profound, and said seriously, "But the key is in the hands of the Qilin and Qiongqi, which means they hold a certain level of initiative. It's they who can bestow the authority of the Ancient Gods upon humans; they would certainly be the first to adapt to the rules of the real world."

Gu Jianlin finally understood that the birth of the Inheritance Path was also a game between gods.

It was something existing to combat the unified will.

"Here, I have to mention someone."

Ji Zhou's eyes reflected a hint of nostalgia: "The Red King, Jiang Yanli."

Gu Jianlin blurted out, "The Red King said the Inheritance Path was never something humans should meddle with!"

Ji Zhou nodded: "The essence of this world is equivalent exchange. Humans possessing the Inheritance Path seems like they hold power on par with gods, but what is the price humans have to pay?"

Gu Jianlin felt a chill crawl up his spine: "Would gods truly be so benevolent?"

"Of course not. The sages of the earliest human world also pondered this question."

Ji Zhou turned and patted his head, smiling: "Do you remember the law of conservation of energy? Since ancient times, countless Ascenders have been born or died; some are as lowly as ants, while others are

as mighty as gods. Without exception, they all return to dust after a hundred years. Such immense spirituality, such powerful souls—where do they go?"

A bolt from the blue.

Gu Jianlin felt his heart turn cold.

Chapter 818: He Is Coming Back

The ancient temple was shrouded in countless threads of twilight, the statues within pinching flowers between their fingers, their eyes filled with a compassionate silence, as if praying for blessings upon the world. The sound of the bell was distant and desolate.

"Since the birth of humanity, be it religious prophecy or mythological legend, all bear testimony to the possibility of the world's end. Sigmund Zweig's 'The Queen's Head' once said that the price for all gifts of fate is marked discreetly beforehand. Early human sages also believed that gods would not willfully redeem mankind."

Ji Zhou lit a stick of incense before the statue and softly said, "Moreover, early ancestors did not truly regard the Ancient God Clan as gods... Child, there's one thing you must remember."

Gu Jianlin looked at her back, with a gaze seeking guidance.

"You were not born to behold or revere anyone,"

Ji Zhou, hands behind her back, spoke in a voice as booming as an ancient bell, resonating in this world: "If there truly are gods in this world, how could you bear it if you are not that god?"

The bell echoed relentlessly, a fierce wind arose within Tian Ding Temple, causing the hem of her trench coat to flap loudly—a seemingly thin and fragile back, yet capable of bearing the weight of the entire world.

It was the arrogance of an emperor, the majesty of an emperor, the magnanimity of an emperor.

It was hard to imagine how this woman was at the pinnacle of the world in her youth. You cannot describe her with the word 'beauty', even though she was indeed beautiful; her sharpness overshadowed her beauty.

You cannot view her as merely a woman.

There's but one word in this world that can describe her.

King.

"Were you really not an emperor more than four hundred years ago?"

Gu Jianlin murmured.

"In the present world, I am a princess."

Ji Zhou spoke indifferently, "Emperor Tianqi was my brother in name. At that time, we were busy dealing with the Ancient God Clan emerging from the Returning Ruins, seldom returning to the present world, unlike your leisure."

Gu Jianlin too had gone through some files, learning that ancient wars between humans and the Ancient God Clan were unbelievably brutal.

Wars as epic and mythological.

Nowadays, Qilin Immortal Palace is not so perilous, mainly because two thousand years ago, with the war waged between the Candle Dragon clan and Qilin clan, much of the Ancient God Clan perished, and those who survived remain in slumber.

Hence, exploring the Qilin Immortal Palace is not war but exploration.

The true threats in Qilin Immortal Palace are extremely hidden.

Quite fitting the style of the Black Supreme.

"I have no interest in becoming a god,"

Gu Jianlin said truthfully.

"You aren't interested, but others are. If you don't become a god, others will, and many may die in the process—possibly those close to you or you yourself."

Ji Zhou's voice thundered with the sound of blades and transmitted a murderous aura: "Living in this world ultimately means being driven along by it; many matters are beyond your control. People can never truly understand each other; war and conflict are inevitable aspects of nature."

"All those standing atop the world possess a uniform trait."

She paused: "We never revere."

Gu Jianlin indeed agreed with this principle—if you revere someone, you can never surpass them.

This is the reason humanity has been able to fight against the Ancient God Clan till this day.

"Even knowing of the world's end, you need not fear. Everyone dies eventually; birth, aging, sickness, and death is an eternal law. One must learn to confront death candidly and find peace with it."

Ji Zhou said dispassionately, "Why do people fear death? Because they die kneeling."

Gu Jianlin vaguely understood that the dialogue today would significantly enlighten his life, yet due to his lack of experience, could not completely comprehend its meaning.

Perhaps years later, he would recognize the profound teachings from the woman before him.

At this moment, he noticed something.

Ji Zhou was steadily gazing at a spiritual tablet in front of the statue.

It was a wordless spiritual tablet, the redwood already weathered, bearing marks of time.

"This is the President's husband,"

Ji Zhou suddenly disclosed, "Taiqing, the last President."

Gu Jianlin was taken aback.

"Each President's primary mission, apart from maintaining order in the Human World, is to seek methods to counter the Ancient God Clan, as well as research the true meaning behind the world's end."

Ji Zhou said softly, "As early as four thousand six hundred years ago, humans discovered the existence of the Heavenly Person's Wedge amid ancient ruins. The exact time and place can no longer be verified today. Early people, through studying the Heavenly Person's Wedge, recreated the power of the Candle Light Law, leading to the birth of the Heavenly Person."

"Over generations, Heavenly Persons have refined the Candle Light Law, gaining the strength to explore the Ancient God Realm and trace the secrets of the gods."

A self-deprecating smile arose on her lips: "Jiang Chunyang, have you met him?"

Unexpectedly, she inquired about this, Gu Jianlin nodded slightly.

"How is he?"

Ji Zhou suddenly asked.

Gu Jianlin thought of the crazed old man and shook his head.

"Jiang Chunyang might've mentioned the Starry Sky Plan, that step is the most vital in human history; only Ascenders can proceed to the Inner Universe, witnessing the truest aspect of this world."

Ji Zhou gazing at the wooden tablet, spoke softly: "That was Taiqing's plan. We laid out the Alchemy Matrix on the spaceship, using the power of the Heavenly Person Realm to expand the barren universe. You may not know, but the Inner Universe is filled with Ancient God's Breath, and once an ordinary person steps in, they instantly undergo Deformation."

Chapter 819: He Is Coming Back (Part 2)

"Why Qing and Chi?"

Gu Jianlin couldn't help but ask.

"At that time, we didn't know. We just followed the ancient prophecy and found these two children, but only when they returned from the depths of space did we realize something."

Ji Zhou turned around and gave him a deep look, "Time difference."

Gu Jianlin was taken aback, then understood.

"Back then, Einstein hadn't been born, and the world didn't have the theory of relativity. We discovered through observation that the physical laws of the Outer Universe and the Inner Universe were different, but we overlooked the issue of time flow. When an object moves faster and faster, the time on it slows

down. When it reaches the speed of light, time stops flowing. When it exceeds the speed of light, time reverses."

Ji Zhou calmly stated, "Theoretically, that's true. In our view, Qing and Chi spent a year in the deep space of the Universe, but in the time they perceived, a hundred years had passed."

Gu Jianlin suddenly understood, "No wonder the old ghost from the Jiang Family said Qing and Chi had become extremely unfamiliar."

"Yes, from that time, Qing and Chi had already slipped out of our control. Interestingly, upon their return to Earth, they encountered numerous assassination attempts."

Ji Zhou sneered, "At that time, they claimed to be Holy Land Level, but in reality, they had already reached the level of Demigods. It wasn't until Einstein's theory of relativity was officially published that we realized what was going on. Therefore, they survived several assassination attempts, deciphering the ultimate secret that had troubled humanity for millennia, based on clues obtained from the depths of the Universe on Earth."

Gu Jianlin softly said, "Doomsday prophecy."

Ji Zhou hummed in agreement.

"The so-called assassinations, they were orchestrated by The Order of the Hidden, weren't they?"

Gu Jianlin pondered, "The Order didn't want them to discover this secret."

"Qing and Chi discovered a crucial law: spirituality itself is a form of energy, a form of energy guided by the mind, and it also follows the law of conservation of energy. Besides, the existence of the soul is also energy, and it has an unknown characteristic that it cannot be converted."

Ji Zhou's eyes were profound, "In other words, the soul can only be created, not converted."

This discovery, seemingly inconspicuous, was enough to thunder through the entire world.

Just like humans inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide.

The soul can only be created, not converted.

That means all the souls of Ascenders throughout history still exist.

If they exist in nature, then theoretically, they can be observed.

"If they cannot be observed, it means something is... devouring these souls?"

Gu Jianlin was terrified, "Devouring for tens of thousands of years?"

Indeed, it was a horror story.

You don't even need to know what that thing is.

You just need to know what such a vast soul power can achieve.

Destroying this planet might only require a snap of the fingers.

"Is this why the Red King decided to kill all the world's Ascenders?"

Gu Jianlin suddenly said, "Something's not right. The end of the world is happening this century. If we really want to stop that thing from descending, how can we sever the Inheritance Path?"

Taihua, hands behind her back, walked to the temple's outside, gazing at the distant sea of clouds and softly said, "Of course, that child doesn't want to sever the Inheritance Path. All along, he has wanted one thing."

"To await the true God's descent."

The dim twilight fell on her face, yet she remained expressionless.

Gu Jianlin instinctively wanted to ask what benefit the descent of God would bring him.

But the words stopped abruptly at his lips.

"Hmm, you have realized."

Ji Zhou said indifferently, "After all, he is the child taught by the President. If there really is a supreme God in this world, how could he bear not to be that God?"

Gu Jianlin's blood turned cold; this was the true reason for the Red King's madness.

If that thing is guarded by The Order of the Hidden,

then what the Red King truly wanted was very likely to replace it.

To usurp the treasure conceived by the unified will planned for millennia!

"Senior."

Gu Jianlin softly said, "The Red King has not completely died."

Ji Zhou was silent for a moment, suddenly saying, "The characteristics of the You Ying Law?"

As expected of the pillar of the Human World, he reacted instantly.

Gu Jianlin nodded, "The Red King might be resurrected."

Ji Zhou turned and patted his hair, silently smiled, and said, "Before I came to Tokyo, I asked Lin Zhengchun from Laojun Mountain to divine a hexagram for me. The old fool said that when people are about to die, they always habitually walk the roads they once walked, meet the people they once met... So the so-called old acquaintance was him, huh."

In Tokyo, the sun was shining brightly, a day so pleasant and exhilarating, yet over the Whale Sea in the Western Pacific, dark clouds gathered, thick black clouds coiled together, and in the midst of it all, scorching lightning crisscrossed, accompanied by roaring thunder, as if blasting a hole in the sky.

Tang Ling stood by the coast, gazing at the black sea, quietly put down her binoculars, and softly said, "The gates of the dimension are about to open. Mom and Dad, you go back first, I'll be fine."

The wind blew her white hair, and her white skirt swayed in the wind.

A huge Floating Island vaguely appeared in the dark sky, resembling a black Qilin.

Chapter 820: He Is Coming Back (Part 3)

The massive Qilin Island could be seen from all the countries along the Pacific Coast.

This signified the further fusion of Qilin Immortal Palace with reality.

The Ascenders have already blocked off the nearby seas, forbidding any fishing or merchant vessels from approaching.

Each nation has also ordered their armies to stay away from these waters to prevent another Bermuda incident.

Even the dark web is rife with turmoil, as Ascender organizations worldwide prepare to enter the world's second layer. Those with keys are not ordinary people, vying to seize the treasure.

"You've just recovered and have to perform tasks again. As your parents, we are always worried."

Tang Zixuan lowered his voice, whispering, "Besides, now that you have successfully evolved, many people have their eyes on you and don't want to see you inherit that position. Especially when the time for that person is running out."

The person naturally refers to the President.

Tang Ling remained silent for a moment: "Dad, what are you trying to say?"

Tang Zixuan sighed, "You have a long way to go before becoming a Demigod. Once that person passes away, who can protect you? Too many have their sights set on you. The Catastrophes are unreliable, and the Silver King is too close to the Lishan Tiyan Pavilion; they prefer grooming a puppet."

"In my view, among your predecessors, the successors are either Lin Dong or Rhein. The former is a bit too old and doesn't quite match you, whereas the latter is just right."

He stated seriously, "Marriage is more reliable than alliances. Since Qing and Chi set the precedent, the internal turmoil within the Ether Association hasn't stopped for a single day. You need a pillar of support."

Tang Ling shot him a cold glance.

Tang Zijing is the Family Head of the Tang Family, naturally a formidable character in front of outsiders, but unfortunately a doting father fearing his daughter's gaze, only able to shake his head helplessly.

On the black sea, there's a research vessel with a silhouette in a white suit faintly visible.

That was Rhein.

Outside evaluations of this Vice President are poor, mainly due to the Judgement Court's conduct.

Indeed, Rhein is a person who stops at nothing to achieve his goals.

But he also has his principles.

For example, if Thunder doesn't like him, he never approaches.

"Don't worry, I have someone more reliable."

Tang Ling said softly.

"Who could be more reliable than Vice President Rhein?"

Tang Zijing frowned: "This collaboration task between the Ether Association and the You Ying Group is unprecedented, yet we don't even know what they are plotting secretly. This is very dangerous."

It truly is a rare situation.

The task is about to start, yet they do not know the specific task content.

Helicopter sounds echoed from afar; the Omega Sequence had already airdropped nearby.

Taixu's voice resonated in every Omega Sequence headphone.

"Honored Omega Sequence, task update."

Taixu spoke gravely: "Your task is to traverse the Qilin Immortal Palace's second layer, the Dragon Burial Valley, and explore a suspended pyramid named Divine Ruins. You might face obstacles from outside or inside during this mission; no one can guarantee your safety; please exercise utmost caution."

Next, only a few headphones hear the last words.

"Members of the You Ying Group are our allies, but they aren't trustworthy."

She paused: "You must remain vigilant against them and take every measure... to prevent the resurrection of the Red King!"

The sea winds came rushing; Tang Ling's forehead hair half covered her beautiful eyes, and her pupils suddenly turned profound.

The Omega communication channel fell silent.

On the distant scientific vessel at sea, Rhein silently clutched the headphones, his face solemn.

In the deepest part of Shinjuku Imperial Garden, the ancient Shrine has been dismantled. Priests lifted old Alchemy Tools and threw them into a fire, the thick smoke spreading toward the sky.

"It seems you've recovered well."

The Think Tank stood in front of the pavilion, smiling: "The thing that little guy gave was really useful."

Jiang Chunyang in a black kimono, hands behind his back, remained silent.

Now, his condition is still not good; his eyes are bloodshot with crimson anger, and his gaze frightfully ghost-like, continually afflicted by a curse, seemingly drowning in hallucinations at any moment.

Just compared to before, he had indeed recovered a lot, at least wouldn't suddenly go mad.

"Let's start."

He hissed, "Dragging further, this thing is about to come out. For the past year, I've heard his voice in dreams, his laughter becoming increasingly manic, and the Alchemy Matrix can't hold him any longer."

The Think Tank shrugged: "You are his father, and yet you use 'thing' to describe him?"

Jiang Chunyang sneered: "No one considers such a thing their son. I don't know why he chose you as his spokesperson. But I advise you to be careful; he will overturn everything and is utterly devoid of humanity. Compared to Qing, Chi is the most insane monster."

His gaze was cold, hidden with a madness.

As for People like the Think Tank, he wished to be rid of them quickly.

Mainly because the Think Tank threatened his ruling position.

If the Think Tank weren't so elusive, impossible to kill, he would've died countless times.

Of course, the Think Tank indeed has substantial skills.

Most of the Red King's legacy is in his hands, as well as the rise of the Dark World linked to him.

"Is it so?"

The Think Tank sighed: "Actually, my relationship with my father is also bad; I understand well."

He picked up the walkie-talkie, saying, "Inform Dr. Aaron, the operation begins."

Rumbling, the Barrier of time and space trembles.

Deep within the ancient Shrine, inside a coffin entwined with black chains.

Someone revealed a smile in their sleep.