

Old Gods 1011

Chapter 1011: First-Class Prestige

South of the Divine Mountain, more than thirty kilometers away.

Yan Shuangzi and He Yingcai were in the mist.

This mist was the Origin Energy spread after the Divine Sculpture of Dong Ting shattered.

Just now, when the Martial Monk and Jade-faced Snake appeared, Yan Shuangzi didn't hesitate, grabbed He Yingcai next to her, and with the shattered head of the Dong Ting Divine Sculpture, instantly teleported here.

If she could, she'd want to bring Tu Feng and Si Xianxian along.

Unfortunately, Tu Feng and Si Xianxian flew retreatingly, one west and one south, dodging towards their own backgrounds, and Yan Shuangzi couldn't catch them.

"Activate the Rebirth Money, gather Dong Ting's Divine Soul!" Yan Shuangzi spoke quickly, directly stuffing the Ancient Copper Coin into He Yingcai's palm, and flashed alone into the sky.

Being in the mist, she teleported based on feeling.

This time, after teleporting, her body shivered, finding herself still in the mist!

However, this mist was no longer Holy Spirit Energy, but the corrosive Evil Technique·Immortal Breath sprayed by the Jade-faced Snake!

Yan Shuangzi felt her stone body being quickly corroded; staying a moment longer would lead to all her Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts being completely corroded.

"Swish~"

Not daring to stay another moment, she teleported once more, this time appearing beneath rolling thunderclouds, seeing the "ancient beast."

This White-Scaled Immortal Heavenly Python, just a glance at it from afar, was enough to make anyone despair.

Such a God Realm-Great Demon, is it really conquerable?

She didn't know!

But Yan Shuangzi received her master's command, gritted her teeth furiously, teleporting once again.

"Crunch" sound echoed as the invisible Yan Shuangzi landed beside the snake body of the sky-covering python, pressing her stone hands on the glimmering white scales.

In an instant, the stone sculpture of the Evil Shadow that stood two hundred seventy-eight meters tall trembled violently.

Yan Shuangzi widened her eyes in shock!

She performed the Instant Teleportation Technique as usual, attempting to take the Evil God-Jade-faced Snake away from the battlefield, but her skill didn't activate.

Or maybe, the skill did activate, only failing to take the giant python with it, leaving Yan Shuangzi stranded on location.

"Hiss!!" The sky-covering python hissed.

Despite Yan Shuangzi being small in stature, this fluctuation of Divine Power caught the Jade-faced Snake's attention.

The gigantic python head quickly turned direction, opened its blood-red maw once more.

Jade-faced Snake Evil Technique·Immortal Python Swallowing Heaven!

This time, the Jade-faced Snake wasn't spraying Immortal Qi out, but devouring everything.

"Ahhh!" Yan Shuangzi rarely roared, ferociously pressing her hands onto the snake scales, exerting all her power.

"Swish!!"

The Jade-faced Snake felt bewitched before its eyes.

Yan Shuangzi's Divine Power had been extracted by nearly half, far from a normal teleportation's energy cost.

The Jade-faced Snake hesitated for a moment, then its snake body fiercely snapped.

"Ugh," Yan Shuangzi grunted as she was struck head-on, thrown backward, and simultaneously flashed away.

Leaving a solitary God Realm Great Demon behind, wreaking havoc over the barren land.

Yan Shuangzi swiftly returned to the battlefield edge, only to be driven into a frenzy by the loud explosions rocking her mind.

On the east side of the Divine Mountain, the Purple Thunder Demon Peng zipped through like a storm.

The soldiers of the Ran Sect unleashed their skills, but the second-class Evil God wrapped in Thunderbird shells not only sprayed purple lightning outward but had terrifying defensive capabilities!

Purple Thunder Demon Peng's Clan Technique·Demon Peng of Mighty Force!

Ran Sect soldiers either dodged or were blown away as the massive purple Thunderbird plunged into the Divine Mountain.

An already collapsing Divine Mountain was pierced once more from left to right!

To the west of the Divine Mountain, countless golden dragons rose from the ground, bombarding Tu Feng clad in a red robe.

Yan Shuangzi frowned tightly.

The dragon swarm covered an extensive area, countless and dense, rising rapidly.

Anyone entering it would face certain doom.

What's more despairing was that the large golden Martial Monk could roam freely within the dragon swarm without being impacted.

When Yan Shuangzi glanced over, the battle monk clutched Tu Feng's red robe with one hand while the other wielded a stick, crashing it towards Tu Feng's side.

Tu Feng's original first-rank Divine Weapon Halberd, along with two fourth-rank Divine Weapon Stone Maces, were nowhere to be seen.

Could it be they had shattered?

"Boom!"

Golden energy exploded.

"Crash!!" The screeching sound came from Tu Feng's shattered Blood Evil Armor.

And from Tu Feng's stone sculpture's large shattered hand.

"Bald donkey, stop it!" Si Xianxian stomped in anger, frantically pushing fire columns.

Since moments before, after the Martial Monk dodged a Sea-piercing Flame, he didn't tangle with Si Xianxian further, instead turning to attack the traitorous disciple, plunging into the dense dragon swarm.

Si Xianxian dared not venture in.

She could only shoot fire columns from the outskirts, tossing Hammer Shadows.

Beside her, Qiao Yuansi could only stare, trying to surround Tu Feng with a gold-red Defense Shield, then attempted to slow the Martial Monk with the Evil Technique-Yin Fire Cage.

The problem was, the golden waves around the Martial Monk were clearly Purification Skills.

If the Martial Monk is impervious to poison, could they try the Lantern Sect's Clan Technique-Sacred Fire Demon Refinement Cage?

Qiao Yuansi... didn't dare!

With the Martial Monk being drawn in, she'd inevitably suffer relentless attacks, and Qiao Yuansi didn't believe she could survive.

Her flight speed wasn't as fast as Tu Feng's, nor could her battle prowess hold a candle.

Facing the combat golden monk, Qiao Yuansi could only do her utmost to assist Si Xianxian and Tu Feng...

How could this be fought?

The Ran Sect had always targeted objectives with highly specific deployments.

From the Ghost Talisman Doll to the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon, from the Tangled Silk Shadow to the Star Official Moon Spirit.

Ambushing and striking strategically at opportunities.

Unstoppable, sometimes even achieving a single decisive blow!

Even a second-class deity·Dong Ting was steadily captured by the Ran Sect's targeted tactics.

Facing unexpected reinforcements, from the top tier of the God Demon camp, the Ran Sect was indeed unprepared!

"Ah!" Tu Feng shrieked, slammed downwards with a stick, then assaulted upwards by a soaring golden dragon, flying straight into the sky.

The seamless sequence revealed the sheer number and speed of the golden dragons charging.

The imaginary Golden Dragon formed by golden energy pierced through Tu Feng's body, causing his already shattered stone form to further disintegrate into pieces.

Life-threatening!

"Puff!" The sudden scene stunned everyone, even the Martial Monk was somewhat bewildered.

Tu Feng is shattered?!

But not shattered by the Golden Dragon.

Tu Feng's condition is indeed unbearable to behold, with all four left arms shattered, ribs broken, and his back concaved in ruins, but he hasn't reached the point of total disintegration.

Did he shatter voluntarily?

"Master..." Yan Shuangzi's heart leaped to her throat.

Even though someone is hidden from sight, she knew clearly in her heart, that the place where Tu Feng's body shattered into mist and frantically surged, converged and disappeared, must be where the tiny Human Clan resides.

Compared to a magnificent Stone Sculpture, Lu Ran had a natural advantage—small!

Small,

means a smaller area subject to attack.

The All Gods of Ran Sect cannot set foot in such a place, while tiny ants dare venture!

Yan Shuangzi suddenly recalled something, instinctively pursing her lips, and noticed a small treasure gourd embedded in the shallow line within her lower lip.

This also meant that Lu Ran had never replenished the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

In the situation where his body energy was drained completely, within such a short time, it was impossible for him to recover!

Even with the aid of the Divine Power Pearl, the divine force within Lu Ran's body must be in a state of exhaustion.

Thinking of this, Yan Shuangzi's expression turned even darker.

In her field of vision, dragons continued to soar upward, roaring and surging, among them, the direction of a soaring Golden Dragon was precisely at the mist's swiftly converging location.

Yan Shuangzi's eyes narrowed, she couldn't care about anything else, directly flashed to block beneath Lu Ran.

She reached a hand downward, summoned an Evil Shadow Clone, to shield directly above the golden dragon's head.

"Ugh..." Yan Shuangzi gritting her teeth, twisted her body, curled up completely, using the Evil Shadow Clone as a meat shield, desperately pressing downward.

However, the Golden Dragon was imaginary!

It penetrated the Evil Shadow Clone while impacting Yan Shuangzi's body, causing her divine statue to hum and vibrate, constantly crawling with cracks.

First-class God-Monk, truly worthy of standing at the peak of God Demon existence.

Also worthy of being a high attack high defense representative!

The overlapping bodies of two Yan Shuangzi, acting as shields, allowed the imaginary dragon's head to disappear at the Evil Shadow's main Stone Sculpture.

Without affecting the further top, Lu Ran.

"Humph!" The Martial Monk coldly snorted, fiercely kicked towards Yan Shuangzi's position.

"Roar!" A golden giant dragon with physical form rushed out from his feet, roaring and killing its way forth.

Martial Monk Divine Skill-Cloud-Riding Dragon!

At the same time, the dragon swarm rose again from directly below.

This was in the Battle Golden Monk state, with every punch, every kick from the Martial Monk carrying output.

[Go! Evil Shadow, quickly go!] Lu Ran wrapped up Tu Feng, looking at the woman who blocked the gun muzzle below for him, his heart ached terribly, sending urgent sound transmissions.

"Ugh." Yan Shuangzi supported her cracked half body, her figure abruptly flashed.

[Everyone, retreat! Evil Shadow take Yuanxi and the others away! Lu Yuan, Qin Yanzhi, residue emerge!] Lu Ran simultaneously flashed away, directly arriving at the eastern side of the divine mountain, two streaks of God and Demon residue burst forth from his eyes.

The master and disciple pair had long merged with stone sculptures, both capable of wielding each other's skills.

"Whew!"

Two enormous Other Shore Flowers, spaced hundreds of meters apart, unfolded successively.

One by one, the soldiers of Ran Sect rushed towards the vibrant flowers, while simultaneously deploying defenses, shielding towards the sky.

"Keek~~~"

The Purple Thunder Demon Peng charged recklessly, swept past swiftly, scattering countless thunderbirds, bombarded frantically below.

"Wretch! Cease to leave!"

A wrathful voice echoed from high above.

The glittering Golden Martial Monk fiercely swung the Ancient Copper Stick, killing his way towards Si Xianxian nearby.

"You wait for me! We are not done yet!" Si Xianxian raised a hand unleashing a Sea-piercing Flame, penetrating layer upon layer of golden flame waves, pressing towards the Martial Monk's face.

"Swish~"

The next instant, the body of the broken Evil Shadow Guardian, one each hand, carried two swiftly instant teleportation away.

On the eastern side of the divine mountain, two raging Other Shore Flowers sequentially converged.

Within a few seconds, every soldier of Ran Sect retreated entirely.

The Martial Monk's eyes were split!]

His forward flying figure abruptly halted, standing with a stick in mid-air, surveying a mess below.

The divine mountain collapsed, the formation crumbled.

Dongting, Purple Thunder Orchid, unknown whether alive or dead, Jade-faced Snake whereabouts unknown.

Only the mindless beast·Purple Thunder Demon Peng, relying on its incomparable defensive and impact power, continued furious mischief between heaven and earth, bombarding the battlefield wildly.

"Hmm?" The Martial Monk paused his scanning gaze, seeing a mist-enshrouded area more than thirty kilometers away.

Such a large-scale mist naturally resulted from a Divine's fall, capable of shattering it.

That must be where the remains of Divine·Dongting shattered?

Dongting... still died after all.

"Aaaaah!"

The Martial Monk let out a fury-filled roar, sound shaking the heavens and echoing far and wide.

Also resounding within the Holy Spirit Energy filled area.

In the mist, He Yingcai clenched the Magic Artifact Fragment·Rebirth Money, draped in a bright red long gown, mentally strained.

Lu Ran's transmission command was sent to all Ran Sect soldiers.

He Yingcai naturally heard the retreat command.

Heard the Sect Leader instructing Evil Shadow who to take away, instructing Lu Yuan, Qin Yanzhi who to take.

Only herself, located over thirty kilometers away from the battlefield, stood alone within the dense Holy Spirit Energy ...

"God General Yingcai, disperse defense attire, I can't approach closely."

"Ah, Evil Shadow Guardian? I've already gathered the Divine Soul!"

"Hmm, go."

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Chapter 1012: Simurgh Phoenix Unity Contract

Thick clouds of gloom enveloped Yan Paper God Mountain.

An exquisitely beautiful woman, adorned with a phoenix crown and wedding dress, still stood atop the peak of the Divine Mountain.

In the past, she was expressionless, always gazing into the distance as if expecting something, or perhaps waiting for something.

But now, her brows and eyes were gentle, her lips curved in a slight arc, graceful and captivating.

Her naturally hanging hands were concealed by broad sleeves, and hidden in her palm was a tiny human.

Lu Ran made the Divine Weapon vigilant, his attention focused within the Spiritual World, entering the God Demon Sculpture Garden.

"Thank you for your life-saving grace, Sect Leader!"

The enormous stone sculpture of Tu Feng, supporting its broken frame, knelt before the Lady of Ran Sect like a collapsing golden mountain and jade pillar.

He bowed his head deeply, his heart filled not only with gratitude but also with guilt.

The pair of stone maces specially gifted by the Sect Leader shattered during the battle.

Those were Fourth Rank Divine Weapons, seized from Divine-Cloud Mace's hands; yet Tu Feng was defeated repeatedly by the Martial Monk, and besides the stone maces, even a First Rank Divine Weapon Halberd broke.

As the one controlling Divine-Dongting's right arm, Tu Feng initially should have snatched the Fourth Rank Divine Weapon Halberd held by its hand, but...

Everything happened too suddenly.

Tu Feng failed to succeed, and Yan Shuangzi only managed to take Dongting's remains and Divine General away.

That top-grade Divine Weapon was thus buried in the ruins of the Divine Mountain alongside the terrifying Golden Dragon's impact, unsure if it survived.

Too poor!

Tu Feng bowed his head deeply.

Reflecting on his performance in this battle, it was truly poor; had it not been for the Sect Leader and the Evil Shadow Guardian's desperate rescue, he should have been executed by the Martial Monk.

"We are comrades who share life and death." Lu Ran stood on the fingertip of Xian Mo's stone sculpture, speaking solemnly.

Qiao Yuansi and Yu Changsheng deployed healing techniques, mending the stone sculptures damaged and fractured on the battlefield.

At this moment, nearly all soldiers of Ran Sect had returned to the Sculpture Garden, except for Huangfu Zhao, who was still advancing in rank and devouring the Divine Soul within the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, to prevent Lu Ran's mind from buzzing.

The atmosphere in the garden was very tense.

Jiang Ruyi whispered, "Although the Martial Monk hasn't seen Lu Ran, he did see the faces of several others of us; maybe he can find something out."

"Oh, my mother!" Si Xianxian suddenly spoke.

Si's mother, Si Caiqin, is the only person Si Xianxian misses in the Human World.

Previously at Nu Ying God Mountain, the Mad Immortal Guardian had sternly warned Divine-Nine Bamboo to treat the disciples better.

Si Caiqin is, in fact, a believer under Nine Bamboo.

"My old wife and daughter also..." Elder Lu Yuan spoke up for the first time voluntarily.

"I'll return to the Human World once and bring the soldiers' families back to Holy Spirit Mountain."

"Luoxian Mountain is probably not safe anymore; Immortal Sheep might be discovered," Jiang Ruyi's fingertips trembled subtly, reminding Lu Ran, "On the human level, I am the Sect Master's wife of the Immortal Sheep Sect."

In the previous battle, the Martial Monk should have seen Jiang Ruyi's face.

As an exalted First-class God, the Martial Monk naturally wouldn't care about mundane world affairs, and on the battlefield, facing the soldiers of Ran Sect, he recognized only Tu Feng.

But as long as the Martial Monk investigates, the truth will come to light.

This time, the sudden rescue from the God Demon camp caught Ran Sect off guard and disrupted all plans.

And what Ran Sect exchanged was only the death of the Second-class God·Dongting, with Huangfu Zhao having half a Divine Position.

Was it worth it?

Discussing this now is already meaningless.

Lu Ran said worriedly, "I'll go communicate with Immortal Sheep, quickly replenish energy among yourselves and adjust the state."

The future awaiting everyone is truly unknown.

"Does anyone have any means to directly resolve the Martial Monk?" Before leaving, Lu Ran ultimately asked a question out of unwillingness.

In truth, he led the team back to Yan Paper God Mountain because he harbored a slight unrealistic fantasy deep inside.

Yan Paper God Mountain is adjacent to Thunder God Mountain; this is also the nearest safe place Lu Ran could find close to the battlefield.

If Ran Sect could quickly come up with a plan, regroup and return to the battlefield to take down the Martial Monk, the situation wouldn't be too dire!

Regrettably, facing Lu Ran's question, the garden fell silent.

The powerful combat capability of a First-class God is unmatched by other gods and demons!

The majestic Golden Monk with boundless brilliance represents high attack and high defense, equipped with purification techniques and unaffected by all illusions, poisons, curses, spiritual outputs, etc...

Only hard control!

Only the Domain of Silence that prevents even purification can come is the only solution.

For so long, the targets eliminated by Ran Sect have been Third-class gods and demons or below, up to today; everyone did meticulous homework to dare sneaking upon a mighty Second-class God.

And the Martial Monk, this First-class mighty God, truly surpassed Ran Sect's current capability range.

Perhaps when Huangfu Zhao devours the Divine Soul, transforms into a Second-class God, and cooperates with the Sect Leader's Domain of Silence, supplemented by the Ran Sect warriors, only then can an attempt be made to succeed.

"Alas..." Seeing everyone remain silent, Lu Ran's figure vanished.

In the real world, he opened his eyes and once again felt humbled and insignificant.

Unknowingly, Yan paper raised its hand, and a pair of giant eyes were looking at him gently.

Previously, the high-spirited Lu Ran wouldn't have minded, but now, retreating in defeat, trembling under the gaze of a Divine being.

The absolute disparity in realm, power, skill grade, and all other aspects deeply hurt Lu Ran's heart.

This feeling was simply awful!

If only I were stronger, the battle just now, the Ran Sect wouldn't have suffered so much.

The situation Ran Sect is facing wouldn't be...

"What's wrong?" The Rou Paperman's voice was gentle, interrupting Lu Ran's thoughts.

Lu Ran quietly shook his head, organizing his words internally, pondering how to speak to Immortal Sheep.

Perhaps, I can only ask Immortal Sheep to come out of seclusion.

Sheep General had once mentioned, it could turn the God Demon into lambs to be slaughtered, but doing so would put it in a prolonged period of weakness.

Even Immortal Sheep would become a fragile lamb, at the mercy of others.

Lu Ran actually had confidence in protecting Immortal Sheep during this time.

But the problem was, would Immortal Sheep be willing to do that?

Even if willing, leaving the Divine Mountain and coming alone would certainly attract the God Demon's attention. If it remains guarding the Divine Mountain and sends only a shadow, its Divine Sculpture would enter a vulnerable period.

No matter what, the other God Demons would notice!

At that time, the situation would move in an even more unpredictable direction.

"It's just a failure, why so disheartened?" The Rou Paperman spoke softly.

"This isn't a simple failure, my plan is all messed up, the Martial Monk will likely trace and find Immortal Sheep..." Lu Ran finally spoke, bitterness in his heart.

"Martial Monk?" The Rou Paperman was somewhat surprised.

She had always thought that Ran Sect was defeated by Dong Ting and fled here in embarrassment, but there was the involvement of the Martial Monk?

"Sadly, my Divine Power is insufficient, the Domain of Silence was only enough to take down Dong Ting," Lu Ran said with resentment.

At this moment, the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd was already hanging behind his waist, continuously infusing him with energy.

The small Blazing Phoenix really had a lot, but to fill Lu Ran's body container, it would take a long, long time.

The more brutal reality was, even if Lu Ran was at full strength now, would the mere three to four seconds of Domain of Silence be enough to take down the Martial Monk?

"You've already taken down Dong Ting?" The Rou Paperman's heart fluttered.

Lu Ran nodded, "Let's not talk about it for now, I..."

"I can give you Divine Power."

"Huh?" Lu Ran looked up, toward the female Divine Sculpture.

The Rou Paperman wore an elegant smile: "I can let you return to the battlefield in full glory."

"Really? Now?" Lu Ran suddenly stood up.

The Rou Paperman gently nodded, "Not only that, I can also extend your Domain of Silence time."

"How... what's... how do I do it?" Lu Ran was so anxious that he stammered.

Time waits for no one!

They escaped back here only a minute or two ago, if they could fight back now, it might not be too late to save the disaster!

"Make a contract with me." The Rou Paperman slightly raised her hand, presenting it to Lu Ran.

"Signing a contract?" Lu Ran's heart sank.

Is the Rou Paperman still unwilling to give up?

Still wanting him to break the contract with Immortal Sheep and instead join the Rou Paperman's group?

Lu Ran indeed wanted to solve the Martial Monk issue, after all, once the Martial Monk fell, many issues would be resolved.

But how could he betray the sect?

Putting aside personal character and human-god relationships, realistically speaking: the God Demon Sculpture Garden that exists in his mind uses the Immortal Sheep Divine Technique·Pupil of the Netherworld as the entrance and exit.

Once without the Immortal Sheep Divine Technique...

"Lu, no need to worry, it's not a sect contract." The Rou Paperman's voice was soft, "It's a contract with my Magic Artifact."

She had once called Lu Ran "Lu Jun," but Lu Ran wasn't used to that, insisting she just call him by his name.

But the Rou Paperman didn't.

In subsequent exchanges, she always used "you" as a pronoun.

At this moment, the Rou Paperman finally changed her tone, but instead of Lu Ran's wish, her address became more ancient, changing from Jun to Lang.

"A contract with the Magic Artifact?" Lu Ran could no longer care about these things, he looked up, focusing on the phoenix crown atop the Rou Paperman's head.

Even though it was a stone item, it didn't hide its elegance and beauty.

When Lu Ran first arrived here, as he approached the Rou Paperman, his Divine Weapon told him that the phoenix crown on the Rou Paperman's head was a top-tier Fourth Rank Magic Artifact!

Yet Lu Ran never asked about the effect of this phoenix crown.

The Rou Paperman softly said, "This is the Simurgh Phoenix Unity Crown, if you are willing to make a contract with it, from this point on, our destinies would be linked."

"Linked destiny... what exactly does that mean?" Lu Ran hurriedly asked.

"When you and I are in the same realm, the phoenixes sing in harmony, Divine Power is shared, and injuries are split."

Her voice was light, but her words were shocking: "After making the Simurgh Phoenix Unity Contract, everything of mine becomes yours, all Divine Power and Source Energy, at your disposal.

If Master Lu were to die, the Rou Paperman could not live alone."

As for the last sentence, Lu Ran was skeptical, as this Magic Artifact belonged to the Rou Paperman, she could perhaps unilaterally break the contract.

But he didn't voice these concerns, instead, he said solemnly:

"And the opposite?"

The Rou Paperman gave a gentle smile, her eyes tender: "Master Lu, would you be willing to make this Simurgh Phoenix Unity Contract with me?"

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Chapter 1013: Killing the First-class God!

The fall of Dong Ting dealt a heavy blow to Thunder God Mountain.

Even though countless Purple Thunder Orchids still bloomed on the eastern front, and Dong Ting's Purple Thunder Demon Peng minions continued to battle in the sky, the decline was inevitable.

Fortunately, the fifth-class Evil God, Purple Thunder Orchid, re-emerged on the battlefield from beneath the Divine Mountain; and fortunately, the second-class Evil God, Purple Thunder Demon Peng, was still bombarding wildly.

The Faceless Jade Venerable wanting to break through the defense line wasn't something that could be achieved in a short period.

The Martial Monk did not help guard the front line.

At this moment, he was about thirty kilometers south of the Divine Mountain, amidst a fog.

Solely enjoying the thick Holy Spirit Energy.

A few minutes ago, Purple Thunder Demon Peng tried to share the energy but was kicked away by the Martial Monk.

In that recent battle, he was in "Battle Golden Monk" mode the whole time, consuming a lot of his own energy, and now it was time for replenishment.

Such a reason was a good cover.

Apart from the consumption factor, the high and mighty Lord God probably wouldn't want to share resources with others either.

So what if Purple Thunder Demon Peng was a second-class Evil God?

Just a beast.

Moreover, the Origin Energy dispersed from the bones of Dong Ting, though seemingly vast and plentiful, wasn't much that could truly be absorbed for personal use after being extracted by the Martial Monk.

For this reason, the Martial Monk was very careful and meticulous when absorbing energy.

The Martial Monk did not know that the human scoundrels he had just defeated, who fled in panic, had once again snuck back.

Dare the Ran Sect come again?

Of course, they dare!

Some soldiers came for their families, some from hatred in their hearts, and quite a few simply followed the Master of Ran Sect.

As long as Lu Ran wanted to come,

They'd cross mountains of blades and seas of fire, risking their lives to accompany!

[The Martial Monk is in the fog.] Lu Ran gazed at the mist-covered area, watching the god feasting alone.

[I see it.] Yan Shuangzi responded.

She couldn't see through the fog, but by this time, the Martial Monk had absorbed a lot of energy, thinning the mist considerably.

If the Ran Sect had come any later, the Martial Monk might have absorbed all the energy and left by then.

[In a bit, I'll head to the north of the Martial Monk and initiate the Domain of Silence.] Lu Ran roughly estimated the distance and flew forward, [Stick to the original plan and listen to my countdown.]

[Yes!] Yan Shuangzi pressed her hands on the shoulders of Tu Feng and Leng Tianxing.

This time, the Evil Shadow Team had different members, no longer using the Divine General.

Once the martial arts realm reached the God Realm, the body attributes of the soldiers were greatly enhanced.

But inevitably, different gods and demons had different attributes.

Apart from any Divine or Evil Techniques, purely comparing strength attributes: Leng Tianxing, who inherited the Divine Position of Flash Star Demon from the Star Official, was stronger than He Yingcai, who inherited the Divine Position of Tangled Silk Shadow from Bi He.

An even clearer example is Si Xianxian, who stands out supreme in terms of strength!

Don't be deceived by her being a female Divine Sculpture with a relatively slender build; most male Divine Sculptures are no match for her.

Don't bother distinguishing between male and female, even beastly deities would bow before the Mad Immortal.

Because Si Xianxian possessed the Divine Position of the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon!

The reason the Mad Immortal Guardian wasn't beside the Evil Shadow Guardian was that her Divine Position was incomplete, and her body attributes hadn't reached their limits.

"Hoo~"

Lu Ran flew down slowly, carrying the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, arriving about two or three kilometers south of the Martial Monk.

The small human clan knelt on the ground, thoroughly engulfed by the thick sea of mist, quietly pressing the Treasure Gourd to the ground with one hand.

[Blazing Phoenix, the instant I flash away, release those people.]

"Buzz~" The small Blazing Phoenix gently vibrated.

[Good girl.] Lu Ran ran his thumb over the golden Phoenix Pattern, gripping the Silent Night Blade with the other hand, transmitting a message to all the soldiers of the Ran Sect, [Everyone ready, listen for my countdown!]

The Martial Monk was about to absorb all the Holy Spirit Energy, they had to act quickly.

No one knew where the Martial Monk would go next or what he would do.

[3...2...Move!] Lu Ran's figure flashed suddenly, crossing several kilometers to arrive about three or four kilometers north of the Martial Monk.

"Buzz!!"

The Silent Night Blade vibrated intensely.

The blade hummed, yet the Divine Weapon Domain it released was silent.

In an instant, the Martial Monk shivered, acutely sensing something was wrong.

"Swish~"

The Evil Shadow Guardian brought Tu Feng and Leng Tianxing into the scene.

Again appearing behind the Martial Monk, again in a semi-encircled position.

"Hmm?" The Martial Monk's eyes widened, suddenly tilting his head back to slam his head at the sneaky attackers behind him, while his body leaped up, kicking furiously to both sides.

It wasn't just kicking!

With Tu Feng and Leng Tianxing too close to the Martial Monk, the deity's first move was actually to raise and thrust his knee!

Everyone reacts differently to sudden events.

Some instinctively dodge, some defend, others attack.

Deities are no different.

The Martial Monk's own nature, combat habits, and everything else dictated his first reaction wasn't to escape the encirclement, but to fight three by himself!

For a moment, the muffled sound was incessant.

Leng Tianxing was kneed in a vulnerable spot, then seamlessly kicked in the lower abdomen, retreating several steps without even having time to react with a "thud, thud, thud."

Yan Shuangzi held the Martial Monk's head with both arms, also stepping back two steps, then hurriedly lunging forward again.

Only Tu Feng!

As a disciple from the Martial Monk Faction, his martial skills were superb!

Tu Feng decisively gave up trying to grab the Martial Monk's arm, sidestepping to dodge the knee strike, and just as the Martial Monk extended his leg, he fiercely hugged the god's calf.

"Traitor!" The Martial Monk immediately recognized who had come.

Among the three ambushers, the only one who could barely complete the plan was his former disciple!

Without hesitation, the Martial Monk firmly pressed down with his right leg that got caught, while thrusting his right elbow forward.

"Thud!!"

Tu Feng had no intention of sparring skills, completely abandoning dodging, allowing the other's elbow to slam brutally against the side of his head.

This was a Great Martial Monk!

Hit!

Hit hard!

No matter what, Tu Feng held the Martial Monk's right leg, refusing to let go.

"Shut up!" A sinister female voice echoed fiercely from behind, full of malice.

Yan Shuangzi was both shocked and furious. If it weren't for Tu Feng being present, the Martial Monk might have really knocked the three of them back in an instant.

But Tu Feng, risking his life to persist, brought about Yan Shuangzi's forward lunge. She wrapped her arms around the Martial Monk's waist, as a teleportation array opened above her head.

Two or three kilometers away, hidden within the thick sea of fog, the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd had already spewed out many figures.

Among them was Elder Lu Yuan.

Normally, two or three kilometers would truly be just a few steps away for the Divine Sculpture of a couple of hundred meters at a time.

Yet even for such a distance, Lu Yuan opted to teleport Wuya and Leng Tianyue there.

"You guys!!"

The Martial Monk, with Tu Feng clinging tightly to his right leg, was tripped forward by Yan Shuangzi lunging at him.

At the same time, Wuya and Leng Tianyue, who had teleported over, along with Leng Tianxing who stood firm, rushed towards the Martial Monk.

"Ah! Ah-ah-ah!"

The Martial Monk shouted in anger, unable to contain his fury.

"I'll make you shut up!" With the addition of comrades, Yan Shuangzi decisively changed tactics.

She straightened her body, fiercely locking the Martial Monk's neck with her arms, rapidly forming a chokehold.

The Martial Monk's Stone Sculpture naturally wouldn't faint from being choked, nor would it easily have its neck broken.

Yan Shuangzi's maneuver aimed to fix the Martial Monk's head in place!

As the saying goes: A flurry of punches can defeat a master.

Each of the five Ran Sect warriors entangled with the Martial Monk possessed a complete Divine Position, their physical attributes explosive!

No matter how powerful the Martial Monk was, he was only a "single Divine Position" existence. How could he withstand the grasping legs, arms, and necks of five Divine Sculptures?

Meanwhile, further south from the Martial Monk by two to three kilometers, there were several more warriors emerging from the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

"Thump!"

The bowstring trembled.

Luoshen, ignited with higher-level killing intent, wielded the Golden Law Bow and released a series of Water Flow Arrows.

"Whoosh~ whoosh~"

The sound of breaking through the air approached.

Big Nightmare, also engulfed in flames, flung a string of Night Charm Blades, which traversed two or three thousand meters, aiming precisely at the Martial Monk's forehead.

And yet, the Martial Monk, held by the five warriors of the Ran Sect, could not unleash his techniques nor activate his Golden Body.

Overall, the Domain of Silence lasted well beyond three or four seconds!

Because at this time,

far on the Yan Paper God Mountain, an elegantly beautified woman in a broad twilight robe was smiling faintly, head lowered.

The exquisite Simurgh Phoenix Crown on her head emitted a crisp and melodious sound.

Through the invisible Unity Contract, the boundless energy within the Goddess Sculpture was freely drawn upon by someone.

"Cry~~~"

Faintly, a bird's cry came from the distant sky.

Whether it was an illusion was unknown.

"Lady Yan Zhi." Qin Yanzhi, hidden from view, stood behind the Rou Paperman, "The Lady of Ran Sect invites you."

As a Fake God, Divine General Qin served under the Evil Shadow Guardian.

"Hmm." The Rou Paperman responded lightly.

An Other Shore Flower suddenly bloomed, and the Lady Divine Sculpture atop the Divine Mountain vanished without a trace.

At the same time, in the Thunder God Mountain area.

Yan Chou, positioned northeast of the Martial Monk's battle group, looked up at the rapidly approaching Second-class Evil God-Purple Thunder Demon Peng, as a teleportation array opened above his head.

"Whoosh!!"

The sea of fog churned as the Evil God descended.

The Rou Paperman looked up into the sky, watching the Purple Thunder Demon Peng shower countless Thunderbirds, wildly bombarding his path as he ferociously approached.

Her expression unchanged, she simply raised her hand gently toward the sky.

"Whirr-whirr~~~"

Red sleeves veiled the heavens, staining the firmament.

The Thunderbirds, crackling and roaring with unstoppable momentum, were like clay oxen entering the sea, being swept into her vast crimson sleeves.

Without a single explosion occurring, all transformed into pure energy, replenishing the Rou Paperman herself.

Vermilion Paper Evil Technique·Yan Zhi Sleeve!

"Cry! Cry~~~" The Purple Thunder Demon Peng screeched suddenly, feeling his body out of control, his stone wings slightly bending.

The Rou Paperman's other naturally hanging hand had picked up a Paper Mache Man at some unknown moment.

She glanced lightly at the Purple Thunder Demon Peng, her hand slowly clenching.

The Purple Thunder Demon Peng let out another sharp cry, abruptly plummeting downward.

Having waited for a long time, Yan Chou rapidly snapped into position, firing a Sea-piercing Flame up at him.

To prevent the Purple Thunder Demon Peng from touching the ground.

"Crack! Crack..." The Purple Thunder Demon Peng's lightning-clad exterior had no effect as his giant wings kept bending, the stone body gradually curling up.

It was as if an invisible giant hand grasped the massive Demon Peng Stone Sculpture, kneading it little by little into a ball.

"You abomination! Abomination ah ah!!"

From behind in the distance, came the Martial Monk's enraged howl.

The Rou Paperman didn't turn back, her lips only slightly curved upwards.

And the Martial Monk in the chokehold, at this moment, with his eyes wide and cracked, his stone face full of fissures, watched helplessly as another round of knives and arrows approached head-on.

"Clang! Clang..."

The Wind Blade struck again, stabbing fiercely at the stone surface.

The arrows followed, shooting precisely into the Martial Monk's brow.

"Crack! Crack..."

The Martial Monk, bound by limbs and having his head fixed by the chokehold, faced the relentless assault of knives and arrows.

The stone face was pockmarked with thousands of tiny holes, criss-crossed with fissures.

Until a sharp Wind Blade, forcibly pierced through the Martial Monk's head, whisked past Yan Shuangzi's ear...

From afar, Lu Ran witnessed this scene.

He held his blade vertically before him, floating alone in the air, watching one Wind Blade after another penetrate through the Martial Monk's shattered head, swiftly soaring across the battlefield.

A First-class God?

Ha, so remarkable indeed...

Slaying you, the First-class God!

...

Chapter 1014: Not Too Late

"Uh." Lu Ran canceled the Domain of Silence, and his figure suspended in mid-air swayed slightly.

He suddenly remembered a sentence Yuanxi once said:

"Child, this power doesn't belong to you~"

Indeed.

Lu Ran had borrowed the power of the Rou Paperman, using the Silent Night Blade to perform the Divine Weapon Domain, and as a "transit station," the Divine Power within him was inevitably drained.

The consumption of Divine Power for the Fourth Rank·Domain of Silent Night was simply astonishing!

[Evil Shadow, take a step forward and first collect the Martial Monk's Divine Soul.] Lu Ran's eyes looked through the mist at the furious Martial Monk's Divine Soul.

He could indeed summon Bai Rao to directly devour the Martial Monk's Divine Soul, seizing his Divine Position.

But by doing so, He Qifeng would be left behind.

Currently, Feng Rao is in a separated state, with Bai Rao's stone sculpture in the God Demon Sculpture Garden and the Wind Emperor's stone sculpture beneath the deep sea at Tiansha Haizhao.

Once Bai Rao devours the Divine Soul, she would naturally ascend to the God Realm.

Immortal Sheep had repeatedly stated that the prerequisite for fusion is the equal strength and realm of both parties.

So, Lu Ran wants to wait until the two are re-fused before devouring the Divine Soul together.

Speaking of which, the Martial Monk's Divine Position is originally considered 1/2. After being shared by Feng Rao, can it still be divided again?

Each person with a 1/4 Divine Position?

If the Divine Position is "diluted" to such an extent, can it still ensure that the two are in the God Realm?

Hmm... better not risk separating them.

At least before devouring the Evil God-Jade-faced Snake's Divine Soul, the stone sculpture of Feng Rao should remain in a unified state.

With the ascension of Feng Rao's stone sculpture to the God Realm, the Ran Sect can rely on it when confronting ancient ferocious beasts like the Yinli Tiger, Spiritual Image, and Melted Bear in the future.

In the Da Xia God Demon Series, there are four God Demons that can transform into colossal creatures.

To be precise, it's four beast-like God Demons.

Besides the three mentioned above, the remaining one is the Evil God-Jade-faced Snake, with whom Bai Rao has a deep-seated blood feud.

Ever since witnessing the size of the Jade-faced Snake firsthand, Lu Ran truly felt that even wielding the Silent Night Blade, he could not effectively restrict it.

What is the scope of the Divine Grade-Domain of Silence?

A radius of ten thousand meters.

What is the specification of the Divine Grade-White-Scaled Immortal Heavenly Python?

Ten thousand meters!

A perfect fit?

Based solely on the data, it seems so. But once on the battlefield, where are such ideal conditions?

The Jade-faced Snake only needs to move slightly to have parts of its body escape the Domain of Silence.

Unless he initiates the first move to ensure the Jade-faced Snake cannot transform, or as a lesser option, in the situation where it transforms into a giant python, he keeps the Silent Night Blade always positioned at the center of the snake's body.

But that's too extreme.

Even without any skill, just a slight wriggle of such a high-intensity creature, would it break him?

And once Feng Rao's stone sculpture becomes a god, it too can transform into a colossal serpent of ten thousand meters.

This stands as the bottom line, allowing the Ran Sect to still compete even in the worst-case scenario!

As for which of Feng Rao will transform and who will temporarily control the stone sculpture body, that's another matter.

Lu Ran pondered silently, also observing the thick mist where the Ran Sect soldiers were collecting the Martial Monk's various Divine Weapons.

The Martial Monk's manner of death was quite "simple."

He was controlled by the four God Demons holding his limbs, then restrained naked by the Evil Shadow Guardian until his skull was pierced, thus his Divine Weapons remained undamaged.

Several Divine Weapons indeed were top-tier in the world, yet rendered so powerless.

To activate the Divine Weapon Domain required cooperation with the Master of Arts, yet within the Domain of Silence, the Martial Monk's Divine Power was shackled, and his Divine Weapons were sufficiently constrained.

They aimed at the enemy's throats, pierced the enemy's eyes, and every strike targeted critical parts.

Unfortunately, they could not break through the defense of the Ran Sect gods.

A stick, a knife, a sword!

All are Fourth Rank Divine Weapons!

How fitting for a Martial Monk, master of the eighteen types of weapons, he feared neither the raw nor the cold and was incredibly wealthy.

After confirming that the Divine Weapons were captured, Lu Ran immediately turned to look northeast.

Rou Paperman, True God!

With the simple assistance of Ran Sect soldiers, she single-handedly compressed the Second-class Evil God·Purple Thunder Demon Peng into a ball.

"Screeee~~~"

The Purple Thunder Demon Peng screamed miserably, its wings broken, its massive body squeezed into a ball adorned with cracks.

Jiang Ruyi threw out a series of Blood Explosion Talismans, and with the sound of blood mist explosive echoes, the Holy Spirit Energy scattered by the Purple Thunder Demon Peng's shattering concealed the pungent wind and bloody rain.

Following the First-class God·Martial Monk, the Second-class God·Purple Thunder Demon Peng met its demise.

Jiang Ruyi stepped forward immediately, wearing a Magic Artifact Fragment·Rebirth Money on her wrist, ready to absorb the Divine Soul within it.

The Rou Paperman then turned around, her posture stately and elegant, looking afar at the small Human Clan.

She did not cancel the Evil Technique·Red Wedding Dress, the Big Red Robe fluttered gracefully, stunningly beautiful.

"Jingle jingle~"

The exquisite Simurgh Phoenix Crown still tinkled crisply amid the winds and waves.

In the end, he complied with her.

He chose to form a contract with the Simurgh Phoenix Unity Crown, linking his fate with the Master of Magical Artifact.

The corners of the Rou Paperman's lips curled slightly upwards.

Abandoning the Immortal Sheep, turning to the Rou Paperman?

Why bother.

Since the identity of the Immortal Sheep is so mysterious and possesses such powerful strength, even able to reverse fate for the lowly human ants and help them become gods...

It's natural to hold it firmly!

Lu Lang, I will assist you in unifying the God Demon camp.

When you govern the Three Realms with the Immortal Sheep, you will surely have a place for me behind you, won't you?

The Rou Paperman looked at Lu Ran, and he stared back at her.

Regarding the contract formation, Lu Ran naturally had a backup plan.

This contract is very special, using the Fourth Rank Magical Artifact·Simurgh Phoenix Unity Crown as a bond, linking the Master of Magical Artifact with a specific person's fate.

Since that's the case, as long as the artifact is shattered, the contract will naturally be torn.

With the ability of the Ran Sect gods to move unseen and teleport, taking away or destroying that Simurgh Phoenix Crown would naturally be no problem.

Lu Ran's idea was simple: if the Rou Paperman takes only the right path and fully assists the Ran Sect, then he will definitely not treat this meritorious minister poorly.

But if the Rou Paperman wants to play dirty tricks...

The phoenix crown won't be safe!

Her life won't be safe either.

Lu Ran didn't think the Rou Paperman would do anything irrational.

No matter her true intentions, whether she genuinely wanted him or not, at least one of the Rou Paperman's demands was real:

Extend her lifespan.

"The Lotus Sword of the Martial Monk, I find it very appealing. Would Lu Lang be willing to gift it to me?" The gentle voice of the Rou Paperman spread throughout the world.

Lu Ran: "..."

Indeed, it's a subtle infiltration.

Previously, the Rou Paperman seized the opportunity of forming a contract to change the way she addressed Lu Ran.

Now, after assisting the Ran Sect in taking down a second-class Evil God, she unconsciously altered her self-reference.

The Fourth Rank Divine Weapon·Lotus Sword is indeed extraordinary, but placed in the hands of a Martial Monk, it's somewhat wasted.

Because its Divine Weapon Domain overlaps with the Martial Monk's Purification Skill·Solemn Gold Wind.

When the Weapon Master wields the Lotus Sword and activates the Divine Weapon Domain, it will emit brilliant golden sword lights, forming a slowly rotating, enormous golden lotus phantom.

All negative statuses upon the creatures on the lotus will be dispelled.

"Hmm." Lu Ran nodded, "Without any Spirit Defense Techniques, having the Lotus Sword gives you extra protection."

After speaking, a Charm Shadow flickered to the side of the Rou Paperman, picked up the Lotus Sword, and handed it over.

The Rou Paperman cast a glance at the expressionless Evil Shadow Guardian, her beautiful eyes flickering, then swept over the other Ran Sect warriors.

There wasn't the slightest change in expression among the warriors outside the mist, nor did the warriors within express any dissent.

Lu Ran's autocratic decision seemed right and proper.

He was also exceptionally generous, without a hint of stinginess or hesitation, directly gifting her such a top-tier Magic Artifact.

"Thank you." The Rou Paperman took the Divine Sword, her eyebrows and eyes becoming even softer.

Standing in the world are numerous mighty Gods and Demons, and that tiny Human Clan member is the undisputed Lord of Gods and Demons.

Someone with whom her fate is intertwined.

Lu Lang... the more I understand, the more delighted I am.

Not too late.

Meeting again is not too late.

The Rou Paperman held the struggling Lotus Sword, her fingertips gently brushing over its pale golden blade.

This is probably the first gift he has given me.

[Evil Shadow, where did you teleport the Jade-faced Snake before?] Lu Ran regained some Divine Power, directly flickering into the mist, seizing time to enjoy the nourishment of the Holy Spirit Energy.

[Master, I can take you there.]

[Let's go!] Lu Ran, without hesitation, instantaneously teleported to Yan Shuangzi's side, [Invisible, let's take a look.]

[Yes!] The Evil Shadow gently picked up Lu Ran, the figure turned invisible, and then instantaneously left.

The next moment, the man and the god arrived at a desolate place.

While transmitting to Jiang Ruyi, to lead the team to clear Thunder God Mountain, Lu Ran surveyed far and wide, searching for the Jade-faced Snake.

[Where is this?] Lu Ran asked, puzzled.

The Evil Shadow apologetically said: [I can't say for sure, the situation was too urgent at the time, I couldn't take the big python on the first Instant Teleportation, only on the second...]

[It's alright.] Lu Ran comforted, flickering high into the sky.

From the initial battle at Thunder God Mountain to this moment, it had only been about ten minutes.

If the Jade-faced Snake still maintained the White-Scaled Immortal Heavenly Python form, naturally, it would be a huge target, easy to find.

However, maintaining that form would consume an exceptionally large amount of Divine Power by the second.

The Jade-faced Snake likely reverted to its Evil Sculpture form?

In its half-human, half-snake form, the Jade-faced Snake has no flight capability, and its movement speed is naturally greatly reduced.

[Ruyi, send Yan Chou to me, I'll have the Evil Shadow fetch him back.] Without hesitation, Lu Ran transmitted once more and called out Yin Yan from the Sculpture Garden.

[If you find the Jade-faced Snake, don't be rash.] Jiang Ruyi advised.

[Mmhmm.] Lu Ran responded quietly, feeling a bit guilty.

In those few short minutes, too much had happened.

Fairy Jiang performed excellently, directing calmly with an eye on the bigger picture.

Deserves to be called the Lady of Ran Sect!

But Lu Ran knew in his heart, beneath Fairy Xian Mo's noble and cold exterior, hides a small vinegar pot named Ruyi...

The Rou paper was also unabashedly fond of Lu Ran, and he also signed a Unity Contract with the Rou paper.

Tsk~

There will be much to discuss after going back.

In this contemplation, the Evil Shadow returned with Yan Chou, and Lu Ran immediately commanded, "Evil Shadow, Chou Nu, Heavenly General Yin, we four will search in four directions, report at once if you spot the Jade-faced Snake."

"Yes!"

"Yes." With a firm and strong response, the four set out in different directions, each capable of Instant Teleportation.

If the Jade-faced Snake truly crawled away, it should be catchable.

Just fearing that the Jade-faced Snake was teleported away.

Martial Monk-Jade-faced Snake can traverse thousands of miles, directly descend on Thunder God Mountain, naturally possibly carrying Dust Shadow Flower faction's mark, naturally could also be retrieved.

Lu Ran continued to ponder, realizing a situation:

The one who teleported the Martial Monk-Jade-faced Snake may not necessarily be the Divine Dust Shadow Flower itself, after all, that flower resides on the southwest front, sharing a Divine Mountain with Lord Immortal Sheep.

If Dust Shadow Flower leaves, Lord Immortal Sheep would proactively alert.

Thus, likely it was the Dust Shadow Flower-Evil Mirror Demon's Demon lackey who sent the Martial Monk to Thunder God Mountain?

In this view, the other First-class God Demons might not have such lackeys at their side, otherwise, it wouldn't just be the Martial Monk descending.

No, can't jump to conclusions.

Perhaps the other First-class God Demons can teleport too, only that their assistance targets are not Dong Ting, but rather other Four Directions' warlords.

Thinking about this made Lu Ran's expression grow heavier.

Fortunately, Feng Rao's Stone Sculpture was ascending to a First-class God, and Huangfu Tianjiang was becoming a Second-class God as well.

No matter how the situation evolves, strength is forever the best solution!

After that recent battle,

the power of the Ran Sect has unquestionably skyrocketed!

...

Chapter 1015: Not That Stupid

[Immortal Sheep, are you there?] Lu Ran pondered and decided to pray to the deity.

[Hmm.] A voice echoed, putting Lu Ran at ease.

At this stage, the deities were all in the Third Heaven, not the Human World.

Lu Ran was also in this realm, so he didn't need to be near the Divine Mountain to communicate with the deity.

[Disciple just slaughtered the Martial Monk.]

[Oh?] The usually composed, even cold Immortal Sheep surprisingly raised its tone.

You look like someone who's never seen the world~

Lu Ran wanted to retort, but... hmm, didn't dare.

A bit timid.

[Disciple just went to kill Dong Ting, planning to let the Faceless Jade Venerable Clan in to create chaos in the Heavenly Realm.] Lu Ran reported the situation, [Just after killing Dong Ting, the Martial Monk and the Jade-faced Snake teleported in.]

After sending the message, Lord God did not respond for a long time.

Lu Ran searched for the Jade-faced Snake's figure, waited patiently, and still sought, [Immortal Sheep?]

[You also took down Dong Ting.]

[Yes, Dong Ting and Purple Thunder Demon Peng were both taken down, and Purple Thunder Orchid was also captured into Yuanxi's Divine Fire Demon Confinement Cage.]

[Hehe...] Immortal Sheep suddenly laughed, a laugh full of emotion.

Seemed a bit gratified?

[You're happy too early.] Lu Ran suddenly interjected.

Immortal Sheep's laughter abruptly stopped.

Not sure if it was stifled.

Lu Ran continued, [Martial Monk-Jade-faced Snake suddenly descended, catching us off guard, and disciple had no choice but to have the Evil Shadow Guardian lead the Jade-faced Snake away from the battlefield.]

After we dealt with the Martial Monk and turned back to search, we couldn't find the Jade-faced Snake.]

Immortal Sheep asked, [How did you take down Dong Ting and the Martial Monk?]

[Domain of Silence!] Lu Ran immediately responded, [After leaving the Human World, disciple went to challenge Nu Ying as planned, seized her Divine Weapon Domain, and also recruited Nu Ying into Ran Sect.]

Immortal Sheep: "..."

Simple words, but the amount of information was astonishingly large, and it didn't sound quite right.

Robbed Nu Ying of the Divine Weapon Domain and even recruited Nu Ying into Ran Sect?

How would Lord Immortal Sheep know that Lu Ran wasn't good at other things, but he was quite adept at devouring everything.

The last one whose Divine Weapon he shattered, domain he seized, and was recruited into Ran Sect was a guy named Wu Xiao.

In comparison, Nu Ying had more presence.

After all, she was a deity~

At least she didn't let herself be ordered around by Lu Ran like Wu Xiao, devote herself entirely to him, even putting her life in his hands...

[Later, disciple went to Yan Paper God Mountain, and with the help of Rou Paperman, together took down Thunder God Mountain.]

[You are only in the Second Level of the Heavenly Realm, activating Domain of Chi Ji should consume a lot for you.] Immortal Sheep inquired.

[Disciple has...formed a Simurgh Phoenix Unity Contract with Rou Paperman and can use her internal energy.] Lu Ran responded softly.

[Ha.] Immortal Sheep let out a cold laugh.

The sound made Lu Ran's scalp tingle.

He expected to be scolded, but instead heard Lord God's cold voice, [Rou Paperman is quite good at assessing the situation.]

[Disciple's strength is insufficient, Divine Power is especially needed, and Ran Sect is in need of people, so disciple made a contract with her...]

Immortal Sheep responded, [Her ability is good, since she is willing to bind with you, you might as well use her.]

Lu Ran breathed a sigh of relief and speculated, [Rou Paperman's life span is coming to an end, after knowing your mystery and power, she probably wants to find a way to extend her life with us, so she has been supporting us with great effort.]

Immortal Sheep responded casually, not making much of it.

Lu Ran brought the topic back, somewhat troubled, [Immortal Sheep, if I can't find the Jade-faced Snake here and close its mouth, you might be in danger!]

Previously at Thunder God Mountain, when a First-class God Demon came to aid, Lu Ran was outside the battle and saw it very clearly.

After the two appeared from the Teleportation Array, the Martial Monk fell downward, kicking out a Golden Dragon, while the Jade-faced Snake flew upwards, transforming into a sky-shocking giant serpent.

And then the Jade-faced Snake exhaled a thick Immortal Breath downward.

The Jade-faced Snake clan didn't have eyes to see through the fog.

Presumably, the Jade-faced Snake couldn't necessarily see the Ran Sect members clearly; she just wanted to corrode all the small thieves.

Hmm...

No matter what, at least the Martial Monk's intense reaction, those cries of "treacherous disciple," the Jade-faced Snake should have heard.

Lu Ran laid out all his analysis, then said, [The traitor in the Martial Monk Faction should be easy to identify, and it also can't be ruled out that before spraying Immortal Breath, the Jade-faced Snake saw other Ran Sect warriors.]

Lord Immortal Sheep once again went silent, unclear of his thoughts.

Lu Ran was worried, [Recently, have the God Demons suspected my identity while investigating the Human Clan's forces? What did you tell the God Demon camp?]

Immortal Sheep finally spoke, saying, [You seem unaware of what the death of the Martial Monk truly means.]

Lu Ran's attitude was earnest, [I ask for your guidance, Immortal Sheep.]

Immortal Sheep slowly said, [The Martial Monk was a First-class God, a core leader of the God Demon camp, and one of the most powerful God Demons.]

Lu Ran nodded lightly.

Immortal Sheep's attitude slightly changed, expressing emotion, [By taking down Dong Ting, it means to the other God Demon leaders that you now have the qualification to converse with them.

Taking down the Martial Monk is even more significant.

God Demons will fully awaken, realizing how strong you have become, knowing all their strategies have failed.]

[Hmm!] Lu Ran continuously nodded.

The God Demon camp's attempts at seduction, ambushes, threats, etc., in the end, couldn't stop the rise of the Ran Sect.

With the death of the Martial Monk, everyone in the God Demon camp will likely be in panic.

Chapter 1016: Not Too Stupid_2

[You took the initiative to recruit Nu Ying and Rou Paperman and secured two Divine Mountains, which was indeed a wise decision.] The Immortal Sheep was evidently in good spirits and praised Lu Ran.

Lu Ran felt a bit embarrassed hearing this.

These two powerful leaders of the Divine Mountains were indeed personally approached by him, aiming at their God Demon nature, catering to their preferences, using various methods to recruit them into the alliance.

However, Lu Ran still humbly replied: [These were decisions discussed together by the disciples of the Ran Sect.]

The Immortal Sheep ignored him, directly saying: [With your current achievements, if you send out envoys, turning from dark to light, declaring that Nu Ying and Rou Paperman have already joined you.

And then have new Martial Monks and new Dong Tings descend into the world...

What do you think the outcome would be?]

Lu Ran furrowed his brows tightly; this was indeed a major decision marking the transformation in the future path of the Ran Sect.

Although the recruitment of the two Divine Mountain teams by the Ran Sect was originally meant to open a channel for allegiance for the God Demons, however...

Lu Ran contemplated: [I haven't been amidst the God Demons, so I truly don't know the extent of the influence the Martial Monks have.

But regardless of what one thinks, once the news is announced, these two Divine Mountains might face sieges by the God Demons, right?]

[This is indeed possible.] After contemplating for a moment, the Immortal Sheep suggested, [You can attack the Blood Dust Divine Mountain.]

Blood Dust Divine Mountain?

Lu Ran blinked; this was the Divine Mountain where the Immortal Sheep resided.

The Immortal Sheep slowly said: [I can exchange one for one with any God Demon. If you can conquer me, then you would have even more authority.]

Lu Ran's expression turned somewhat strange.

Haven't I already conquered you?

So should I pose as an "insignificant human adversary" to fight you till you bleat?

And then recruit this domineering sheep under my command?

The Immortal Sheep's tone turned sinister, chilling Lu Ran to the bone: [Dust Shadow and the Evil Mirror Demon are the retreat paths for the God Demons. Overcoming both of them severs their escape routes.

Forcing the God Demons to bow before you!]

Lu Ran's eyes lit up.

The retreat paths mentioned by the Immortal Sheep should refer to the background of the invasion by the Faceless Jade Venerable.

The Ran Sect started their god-slaying journey on the night of September 15th, and it's not even two and a half months yet.

Within such a short time, the notions and concepts of the God Demons may not have yet turned around.

The death of the Martial Monk this time may indeed wake the God Demons up, but anyhow, the Faceless Jade Venerable is always a sharp blade hanging over the heads of the God Demons!

If Dust Shadow Flower and the Evil Mirror Demon perish and are replaced by new ones from the Ran Sect...

The God Demons would naturally be willing to follow the Ran Sect to seek a way out for themselves!

Lu Ran pondered for a long time, his expression gradually turning serious: [Immortal Sheep Master, to my knowledge, the Blood Skull indeed guards the Blood Dust Divine Mountain.]

Dust Shadow Flower and the Evil Mirror Demon are so crucial strategically that there would certainly be powerful gods guarding them.

The head of Da Xia's Evil Demons, Blood Skull, resides at Blood Dust Divine Mountain!

[Just lure it out, and if that's not feasible, don't you have the Domain of Silence?]

[Indeed.] Lu Ran replied although he still felt uneasy deep down, [Both silencing Dust Shadow Flower and Evil Mirror Demon, and silencing Blood Skull, I indeed worry that problems will arise.]

Regarding the head of Da Xia Evil Demons, absolute respect is naturally due!

[Aren't I still here with you?]

[Eh?] Lu Ran's expression froze.

This statement sounded so domineering~

Suddenly, such a sense of security...

Is this the special feeling that Ruyi can only experience when nestled in my embrace... cough cough.

The Immortal Sheep let out a cold snort: [Since I chose to ally with you, an insignificant human adversary, naturally I should also contribute.]

Lu Ran: "..."

What insignificant human adversary, I am the dignified disciple of the Immortal Sheep, okay?

The Immortal Sheep calmly said: [If any issues arise during the siege of the Divine Mountain, I will turn it into a lamb and exchange it for Blood Skull.]

Lu Ran couldn't help pursing his lips; he always assumed he was the expert at pulling rabbits out of hats.

Now it seems there are masters still better!

What does "I will exchange it with Blood Skull"?

That's the head of the Evil Demons of Da Xia! A figure comparable to the foremost existence, Lord Jian Yi.

Could you please not say it so casually...

Lu Ran steadied his mind and asked solemnly: [Let's assume the worst-case scenario; if you indeed need to take action and activate Divine Technique-Sheep, how long would you be weakened for?]

[Uncertain, it's been too long since I last utilized it, and there are too many uncontrollable factors. Both my existence status and Blood Skull's existence status have to be considered, and the consequences are unpredictable.]

The Immortal Sheep let out a soft sigh, finally saying: [I might be weakened for a year and a half, maybe three to five years, or even longer.]

Lu Ran's once excited heart slowly sank to the bottom.

Indeed, it's the ultimate one-for-one major killer move!

Definitely cannot be used lightly.

Taking a step back, even if the Immortal Sheep Master's estimation of the duration of weakness is incorrect, at least the weakening is real, and its willingness to cover for Lu Ran equals it entrusting its own life to Lu Ran.

What kind of trust is this?

Does the Immortal Sheep Master actually intend to do this, or is it deceiving?

But thinking back on everything that has happened along the way, Lu Ran finds it hard to doubt Sheep General.

He has received so many favors.

Unreservedly speaking, even if Lu Ran now sacrifices himself, gives his life to the Immortal Sheep, he won't be able to repay the Immortal Sheep's great kindness and virtue.

Between a man and a god, there is simply no soil for doubt to sprout.

Although there's no doubt, Lu Ran has a curious heart.

He remained silent for a while, finally summoning the courage to say: [Rou Paperman said, you aren't the Immortal Sheep Master she knows.]

[I've answered this question before.]

[You are... you.] After hesitating for a moment, Lu Ran speculated, [Did you replace the original Divine-Immortal Goat, and continue to exist in this world inside its shell as another divine entity?]

[Hehe...] The Immortal Sheep laughed again, the laughter somewhat hoarse.

[Is it?] Lu Ran cautiously probed.

The god's voice faintly landed: [Not too foolish.]

Lu Ran: "..."

The Immortal Sheep spoke with a playful tone: [Once you unify the God Demon camp and make all the gods and demons bow before you, then I shall reveal my origin to you, alright?]

[Agreed!] Lu Ran nodded heavily.

The divine voice suddenly shifted: [Are you willing to accept all the God Demons?]

[Ah?] Lu Ran was a bit puzzled.

The Immortal Sheep's tone cooled slightly: [If North Wind sought to surrender to you, how would you choose?]

Lu Ran instantly understood the Immortal Sheep's meaning and simultaneously recalled a scene from long ago at Da Xia's Beifeng City.

The damage North Wind inflicted on Deng Yuxiang was Lu Ran's lifelong agony.

The Immortal Sheep had thrown all its dignity in front of the world, smiling, and paid a heavy tribute to North Wind, only to secure the lives of Deng Yuxiang and Lu Ran.

[I refuse to accept North Wind's surrender!] Lu Ran's tone was extremely resolute, every word sonorous, [I once promised the Immortal Sheep Master that the tribute you gave to North Wind that day, I would reclaim a hundredfold!]

The Immortal Sheep responded satisfactorily: [Looks like there's another place you need to go before conquering Blood Dust Divine Mountain.]

[Understood!]

[The god aiding the northern front is Sword One.] The Immortal Sheep added.

Upon hearing this, Lu Ran fell silent.

A Martial Monk had already given the Ran Sect immense suffering, if not for Rou Paperman's strong support, the consequences would be unimaginable.

If the Ran Sect members face North Wind and Sword One arrives in support...

While Lu Ran was furrowing his brows tightly, a hoarse voice suddenly rang in his head: [Your mother, and Sword One seem to have quite an ambiguous relationship.]

Lu Ran's heart stirred slightly; naturally, he had long noticed that his mother treated Sword One differently.

It's crucial to remember that the pain inflicted on her by the God Demons is unimaginable to ordinary people.

Yet, under such circumstances, his mother treats Sword One with utmost respect!

[Your prior defeats of Dong Ting and the Martial Monk serve as proofs of your strength, as well as a good invitation.] The Immortal Sheep suggested, [Perhaps you could inform your mother and discuss this with her.]

Facing the southwest direction, Lu Ran respectfully joined his hands in salute:

[Thank you, Immortal Sheep Master, for the guidance!]

...

Chapter 1017: She, the Sword Immortal

Northern Heavenly Realm Battlefield, Sword One Divine Mountain.

A thick mist shrouded the Divine Mountain, the sky that should have been covered in dark clouds was instead pierced by swirling mist vortexes, closely connecting to the peak of the Divine Mountain.

The mist vortexes, of impressive caliber, permeated the magnificent Sword One Divine Sculpture, providing nourishment.

However, it was not the foremost Da Xia deity that triggered the celestial phenomenon.

At the foot of the Divine Sculpture, a woman sat quietly in meditation.

She wore an ancient-style long dress interwoven with platinum, her exquisite hair ornaments and earrings matching particularly well with the platinum gown.

Regal yet elegant.

Her face was partially veiled with a translucent white veil, concealing the lower half of her visage.

This person was none other than the one from Lu Ran's and Qiao Yuansi's dreams — Qiao Wanjun.

Qiao Wanjun owned two divine swords, one at her waist and the other laid flat on her knees, held by both her hands on the hilt and blade.

Evidently, this sword was the true focal point.

The mist vortex came quickly and dispersed just as fast, lasting only about twenty minutes before the sky cleared completely.

"Buzz!"

Beneath Qiao Wanju's hand, the three-foot long sword emitted a radiant cold gleam, resonating with a faint dragon's roar.

This sword, made of Tianchen Steel, had a highly intricate design, with blade patterns resembling ripples of water, and a sword guard engraved with an exquisite dragon's head.

The dragon's head, with closed eyes, seemed akin to the Master of Divine Weapon.

Suddenly, Qiao Wanju opened her eyes, looking up to see an ethereal figure slowly descending.

The arrival was a woman of breathtaking beauty, her garments fluttering, long hair softly dancing, bearing a sword behind her back.

Words like "divine beauty" and "cold as ice frost" came to life in this woman.

Sword One underling?

No, this flesh and blood held an evidently unmatched strong soul.

"Lord Sword One," Qiao Wanju greeted respectfully, transitioning from sitting cross-legged to kneeling, pressing the buzzing sword into the snow.

From afar, Chen Jingjing also hurriedly knelt down.

Sword One descended in front of Qiao Wanju, her eyes cold, observing the respectful disciple, slender lips slightly parted: "Your fighting spirit has returned."

Her voice was pleasant, but it would never be considered melodious, instead making one feel as though plunged into an ice cave.

That icy tone was truly beyond any other being's mimicry, a product that harmonized with her essence, temperament, and all such factors.

In the distance, Chen Jingjing couldn't help but tremble, lowering her head even further.

Yet before Sword One, Qiao Wanjun remained composed.

"Dragon Abyss?" Sword One spoke again, reaching forth with a hand.

Qiao Wanjun picked up the long sword buried in the snow, dusting off the frost snow, presenting it with both hands:

"Dragon Abyss."

Qiao Wanjun once possessed seven swords, now only two remained by her side.

The reason these two swords survived was because they were the lowest in grade among the seven, not outstanding.

Nonetheless, Sword One accurately stated the name of the sword.

She clearly understood her disciple well, being intimately familiar with Qiao Wanjun's divine weapon swords.

The sword hilt entered her hand, which she then lightly swung.

"Hiss..." The faint rumble of dragon's roar resurfaced, stirring one's soul.

Sword One listened to the dragon's roar, examining the sword guard's "sleeping dragonshead."

Perhaps it was pretending to be asleep, always closing its eyes to rest.

Much like the kneeling disciple beneath.

Qiao Wanju not only rekindled her fighting spirit; she'd been freed and returned to the Heavenly Realm just a few days ago, yet already advanced with divine weapons, what did this imply?

Within the Three Realms, the talented abound, but atop the Human Clan, there stood only one.

The Human Clan needed a perfect blend of mental realm, technique, and luck to cultivate a divine weapon.

And advancing with a divine weapon demanded even higher expectations from its master.

Now, the Divine Weapon, Dragon Abyss Sword, had advanced to Third Rank, indicating much.

Imprisoned for years, Qiao Wanju never wore out her mind, appearing as if she'd been biding her time, scheming.

"First Domain, Dragon's Cold Abyss," Sword One spoke softly, her slender jade fingers caressing the dragon's eye.

Sword One again accurately recited the domain name of the Dragon Abyss Sword.

Dragon's Cold Abyss: forms an exceptionally frigid special region around the sword master, where mingling cold aura can freeze surrounding beings and significantly weaken incoming Divine Technique, Evil Technique.

If the enemy's realm isn't high enough, if their skill grade isn't high enough, they may be completely frozen by the special cold aura.

A flawless blend of offense and defense, truly extraordinary!

"Yes, Lord Sword One," Qiao Wanju respectfully replied.

"What is the second domain?" Sword One extended the sword downward.

Qiao Wanju instinctively understood, accepting the Dragon Abyss Sword with both hands, turning her head to the side.

"Rise," Sword One casually said.

Qiao Wanju immediately stood up, divine power surging, fiercely stabbing to the side.

"Hiss!!"

The previously faint dragon's roar now thundered across the heavens and earth.

An intensely cold aura surged as though from the depths of a ten thousand-foot cold abyss, accompanied by the deep roar of dragons within the abyss, rushing forward en masse.

Sword One Divine Mountain was already cold enough.

Where the cold tide passed, the temperature dropped rapidly further, sealing everything in ice!

It's easy to imagine the fate of living beings engulfed by the extremely cold aura.

Sword One stood with her hands behind her back, gazing toward the direction of the cold tide's surge:
"Yet you don't show yourself."

"Apologies, disciple was too dull to comprehend your meaning."

"Heard its voice, but not seen its form."

Qiao Wanju immediately understood, Lord Sword One was saying the dragon lurking within the extreme cold abyss hadn't emerged.

Sword One glanced at Qiao Wanju, her previously indifferent gaze now filled with an implicit message:

"When the Dragon Abyss Sword advances to Fourth Rank, perhaps it will finally emerge."

First Divine Weapon Domain, Dragon's Cold Abyss, one can faintly hear the dragon's roar, only the frigid aura surging from the cold abyss protects the sword master.

In the Second Divine Weapon Domain, the dragon's roar reverberates through the skies, carrying mighty heavenly power that sprays cold waves, freezing heaven and earth.

The advancement path of the Dragon Abyss Sword is clear.

Once it comprehends the Third Divine Weapon Domain, which is the Ultimate Divine Weapon Domain, the big guy in the Extreme Cold Abyss might reveal itself.

Qiao Wanju lowered her gaze, as if unaware of the deep meaning in the Lord God's eyes, respectfully said: "I humbly request Lord Sword One to bestow a name upon the Second Divine Weapon Domain."

Sword One quietly looked at Qiao Wanju.

Qiao Wanju remained motionless, only the cold wind brushing through her long hair, gently lifting her veil.

The passage of time was slow, and the two Female Sword Immortals, though of flesh and blood, seemed like two ice sculptures.

Colder and colder to the bone.

After an unknown amount of time, Sword One finally spoke: "Leave."

"Yes." Qiao Wanju bowed her head in response.

Since the Lord God was unwilling to grant a name, she no longer insisted.

A flying sword emerged from beneath her feet, lifting Qiao Wanju into the air, while Chen Jingjing behind her also complied with the order without any delay, stepping on her flying sword to leave the Divine Mountain.

The master and servant duo flew silently for a long time before Qiao Wanju transmitted her heart thought: [What's the matter?]

Meanwhile, someone on Nu Ying's Divine Mountain was about to cry.

Mom,

you finally answered the phone!

The Cloud Sea Sword Spirit tried to imitate a child's tone, but couldn't help the laughter, having to transmit with a light chuckle.

Under the veil, the corner of Qiao Wanju's mouth slightly lifted, barely noticeable.

However, the heart thought transmitted by the Cloud Sea Sword Spirit next made Qiao Wanjun's heart tremble: [Mom, I just killed the Martial Monk, Dong Ting, and the Purple Thunder Demon Peng.]

First-class God·Monk!

Second-class God Demon·Dong Ting-Purple Thunder Demon Peng!

Qiao Wanjun's eyes, as deep as cold ponds, quietly rippled with a trace of disturbance.

Yet she continued flying silently, without any excessive reaction.

[What exactly is your relationship with Lord Sword One?] The Cloud Sea Sword Spirit relayed her son's words.

Qiao Wanjun contemplated: [It's a bit complicated, hard to explain in a few words. Why, do you intend to make a move on Lord Sword One?]

In the past, she would never have uttered such words.

But her son's achievements were truly astonishing.

Qiao Wanjun naturally did not doubt Lu Ran, and was filled with emotion, marveling at his growth speed.

[Is it possible?]

Upon hearing the question, Qiao Wanjun fell silent.

[Mom?]

[Back then, when the god demons wanted to execute me, it was Lord Sword One who saved me.] Qiao Wanjun responded, the implication clear.

[Is she... at the end of her lifespan, wanting you to inherit half of the Divine Position, then merge with you to extend her life?]

To her son's theory, Qiao Wanjun did not immediately respond.

Could it be?

Perhaps.

But after being a believer for more than twenty years, Qiao Wanjun could feel Sword One's weariness with this world.

With the past, with the present, including the future.

A deep fatigue with everything.

Lord Sword One had a cold temperament, seldom communicating with anyone, and today's few words with Qiao Wanjun were considered many words indeed.

There was so little communication that Qiao Wanjun couldn't be sure what Sword One truly thought inside.

But one thing was certain:

Lord Sword One allowed certain things to happen.

Qiao Wanju had realized that over such a long period, Sword One had noticed something from subtle clues.

But Sword One had said nothing, asked nothing.

This was undoubtedly a form of indulgence.

[Lord Immortal Sheep told me that the deaths of the Martial Monk and Dong Ting would fully awaken the god demons, forcing them to acknowledge Ran Sect's existence! Likewise, this is also a fine invitation...]

The Cloud Sea Sword Spirit transmitted heart thoughts, one after another.

Qiao Wanju listened and nodded silently.

Especially upon hearing that her son intended to confront the god demons, turning the hidden into explicit, forcing them to choose sides, she was filled with deep emotions.

This world wrapped in lies was about to be pierced bit by bit under his blade.

[Before that, I still need to take a few Divine Mountains to augment my capital. The primary target is North Wind, which is the area supported by Lord Sword One.]

[Do you intend to ally with Sword One?]

[There's no need for her assistance, just as long as she remains still, do you think she will agree?]

Qiao Wanju pondered knowingly: [The deaths of the Martial Monk and Dong Ting is indeed a fine invitation, I can ask her.]

[Are you confident? If Sword One disagrees, Ran Sect will be exposed prematurely.]

Recalling various past events, Qiao Wanjun calmly thought for a moment, giving her judgment: [She must have been waiting for this day for a long time.]

[Good! Just don't say anything yet, the warriors of Ran Sect still need to devour the Divine Soul of the Martial Monk, it will probably take two days.]

If Sword One does not act, then the Mountain Lord-Yinli Tiger, stationed at the northeast frontline, can be included as a target.

Lu Ran didn't act immediately, partly because his own state was too poor and urgently needed adjustment, and partly because he wanted to rely on the promotion of the Fourth Rank Feng Rao Stone Sculpture to take down both the Mountain Lord and Yinli Tiger.

[Ranran.]

[Hmm?]

[It seems the day we meet is not far away.]

[Look forward to it! Remember, no crying when the time comes~]

"Hehe~" Qiao Wanjun laughed silently, then covered her veil with one hand.

Between heaven and earth, cold frost snow drifted.

The Female Sword Immortal who walked on the sword, ultimately, broke her composure.

...

Chapter 1018: The Shipment Is Out

After ending the call with his mother, Lu Ran turned and looked at the Divine Sculpture of Lady Nu Ying not far away.

At this moment, Lady Nu Ying was holding a large chopping knife.

The blade was thick on the back, thin on the edge, huge, heavy, and wide, with the color of a Martial Monk's exclusive pale gold.

This was the Fourth Rank Divine Weapon · Soaring Dragon Saber, originally belonging to the Martial Monk, now regarded as "compensation" by Lu Ran.

Regardless of whether Lady Nu Ying was full of martial virtue or secretly aiding him, the final result was that she voluntarily broke the Silent Blade and ceded the Domain of Silence to Lu Ran.

Thus, the Ran Sect could smoothly slay Dong Ting, Martial Monks, and other powerful gods.

In the future, armed with the top Silent Night Blade, who knows what kind of world Lu Ran will carve out!

Whether considered a compensation or a gift, Lu Ran voluntarily gave it to Lady Nu Ying.

How could such a powerful god not have a top weapon?

Lu Ran could tell that she liked the blade very much.

"Lady Nu Ying, I'm leaving now." Lu Ran spoke by the Divine Sculpture of Lady Nu Ying.

"It seems you are a man of your word," Lady Nu Ying said softly.

She was well aware this was the exclusive Divine Weapon of the Martial Monk!

More so, she understood what it meant for the sword to fall into her hands.

The core leader of the God Demon camp, an unrivaled great god of the age, was slain by Lu Ran!

"Thanks for the praise." Lu Ran's muffled voice came from beneath the Blood Crystal Mask, "I just want to end this chaotic world quickly."

Lady Nu Ying, grasping the hilt, felt the sincerity and said deeply, "Since the Martial Monk is dead, why not capitalize on this?"

Lu Ran sighed, "You're treating me like you; I'm human, made of flesh! Would you let me take a breather?"

Lady Nu Ying: "..."

In the countless eons, there has seemingly been no creature to converse with her like this.

"I'm not just going back to rest; I have very important matters to attend to," Lu Ran added.

Lady Nu Ying tightened her grip on the hilt: "The God Demon recognizes who the original owner of this sword is; should they see it, it might be hard to explain."

"Anyway, we're about to confront the God Demon camp." Lu Ran pondered but then said, "If any of the gods come here and ask about it, just say it fled here and you captured it."

"You're having me lie?"

"Uh." Lu Ran scratched his head, "Then you can say it was some Human Clan scoundrels trying to win your favor, that's not lying, right?"

Lady Nu Ying silently caressed the Soaring Dragon Saber and didn't speak further.

Lu Ran didn't pursue the matter further, changing the subject: "The Ran Sect has a Divine General who was once your disciple, named Wang Longxiang."

Lady Nu Ying paused her motion, seemingly recalling something.

Lu Ran continued, "In a few days, I'll return to the Heavenly Realm, bringing her to assist you, how about it?"

Lady Nu Ying suddenly said, "If we didn't cooperate, this person would be the one replacing me, right?"

Lu Ran chuckled, "All those things are in the past; I sincerely offer you my service, trust that Lady Nu Ying's magnanimity wouldn't harbor discontent.

The Heavenly Realm is on the brink of turmoil, the Jade Venerable Clan has been let in, and the God Demon faction is also gradually fragmenting.

With Wang Longxiang here, she can better help you defend the Divine Mountain."

Lady Nu Ying lightly acknowledged.

Lu Ran bid farewell and flickered into a crevice in the Divine Mountain, opened a Landing Mirror, and stepped back into the misty Tianya Haijiao.

He directly arrived in the hall of Tianya Residence, sat down in the Taishi Chair, mentally connecting with the Wind Emperor, Dragon God General, and Feng Yan, the two generals:

[You all, the task ends here.]

The true stone sculptures of the four great generals rested in the depths beneath Tianya Haijiao; only their physical bodies scattered across Spirit Mountain, halted there.

Lu Ran arranged a rendezvous point for the group, and not ten minutes later, he retrieved the quartet.

"A month unseen, hasn't changed much huh?" Lu Ran viewed through the thick mist, seeing the four great generals bow in respect under the hall.

The four commenced their mission on October 28, and today's the end of the eleventh lunar month.

All told, just about a month.

Time wouldn't lie, but Lu Ran's personal feeling...

Only a month passed?

Throughout November, far too many things happened, so many that Lu Ran was slightly bewildered.

"Sect Master, your subordinate apologizes!" Gao Yunyan first spoke, half-kneeling, head hanging low.

"It's fine." Lu Ran immediately gestured, "Time was already short, and you went to the Northwest Region, where, previously, the Sect Master's descent at Tianhuang Mountain shattered countless Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts."

The Sect Master's Third Rank Divine Weapon · Spirit Devourer Axe was born from consuming Artifact Spirits, hence its rapid growth.

Conversely, the Spirit Devourer Axe is now in Xue Fengchen's possession, belonging long to the Ran Sect.

Gao Yunyan moved her mouth slightly, holding back from saying anything.

The Sect Master retained his usual warmth and magnanimity, never once showing anger towards subordinates.

Yet to a proud warrior like Gao Yunyan, ineffectiveness brought a burning shame to her face.

"Feng'er?" Lu Ran turned to Xue Fengchen, who had gone to the Northeast Region, starting exploration from Sword Ridge Peak.

"Sect Master, I discovered a Divine Weapon Spear," Xue Fengchen said apologetically, presenting it with both hands.

Lu Ran stood up and took hold of the long spear, hefting it: "It's fine, many soldiers can use this."

Yan Chou, Wang Ling, Deng Yutang, and others are adept with long spears.

The only issue is, to someone like Yan Chou, an ordinary First Rank Divine Weapon spear...

Lu Ran truly was hesitant to wield!

Well, let Yan Chou use it for now, later on after defeating the likes of Qiang Xiu - the Evil Spear Emperor, and seizing a Fourth Rank Divine Weapon spear, he can then upgrade.

Lu Ran bowed slightly, patting the shoulder of the West Wilderness Great Phoenix: "Previously, while we struggled at Spirit Mountain, we obliterated countless sects and acquired many Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts.

Those were Spirit Mountain's accumulations over thirty to forty years.

We've practically scoured Spirit Mountain; if you actually produced a pile of Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts now, it wouldn't be normal."

Xue Fengchen: "..."

Lu Ran comforted the Feng Yan duo, also conveying to Wang Longxiang and He Qifeng, not wanting them to feel too pressured.

He sidled and stood before Wang Longxiang, gazing down at the Human Clan version of Lady Nu Ying.

Since her temperament was so similar, Lu Ran thought her appearance somewhat resembled his own.

"Sect Master, over to the southwest, the Valley Master of Bee Elephant Valley has a Divine Weapon hammer, the Valley Master's Lady has a pair of Divine Weapon daggers, and several Magic Artifacts cold light needles," Wang Longxiang reported solemnly, "But the atmosphere in Bee Elephant Valley is very upright, so I..."

Bee Elephant Valley.

Such a simple geographical name dragged Lu Ran back to the years of battles within the Holy Spirit Mountain.

Bee Elephant Valley is one of the few forces that haven't been sanctioned by the Ran Sect.

"It's fine." Lu Ran also patted her shoulder, "That's why I sent you on the mission. If you really took action, I couldn't explain it to you."

Wang Longxiang felt reassured but still did not raise her head.

Lu Ran looked at He Qifeng. Wind Emperor was conducting searches in the southeastern region; the Ran Sect had fought there for a long time, and thus ought not to reap much gain.

"Sect Master, there's a Qiankun Bag here."

"A Qiankun... Bag?" Lu Ran was a bit taken aback, looking at the lavish small cloth bag presented by He Qifeng.

Since He Qifeng had so many Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts, Lu Ran really hadn't realized whether she possessed many treasures or few.

"Subordinates went to Jingxian Island, now occupied by the Ashan Sect. The Island Master has an unrighteous mind and is quite ruthless in measures..."

"Goodness~" Lu Ran reached out and accepted the Qiankun Bag.

The Ashan Sect surely produces talents?

Back then, the Island Master of Jingxian Island, Feng Zihuan, was a collector, with numerous Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts, having even taken several men into her rooms.

Indeed, likes attract likes.

Consider the strong bow and armor of the God Ash, then the ragged clothes and broken fork of the Evil God Fisherman...

The Ashan Sect is not merely slayers, but they're adept at grabbing riches too!

"Rustle, rustle..."

Lu Ran hefted the small cloth bag that was palm-sized, feeling it was quite weighty.

Inside came a crisp, jingling sound, as if it contained many coins?

The Qiankun Bag bore an ancient dark golden hue, embroidered with exquisite patterns and several symbols Lu Ran couldn't understand, perhaps some kind of script.

Overall, quite magnificent!

He Qifeng continued, "Inside it stores many weapons, Tianchen Steel, Golden Brilliance Stone, and the like, and many gold, silver, and jewels..."

"Glug." Lu Ran's Adam's apple rolled slightly.

Not because of the wealth, but because of the Qiankun Bag itself!

He inserted two fingers into the bag, spread the opening, and saw treasures stacked like a mountain.

All very miniaturized!

"Can people enter?" Lu Ran inquired.

"Yes." He Qifeng answered crisply.

"Come." Lu Ran picked up the Qiankun Bag and brought it close to He Qifeng.

The Magic Artifact showed no reaction, until He Qifeng commanded firmly, "From now on, listen to him."

"Woosh~" a burst of Divine Power surged forth.

The opening of the Qiankun Bag expanded slightly more, and Lu Ran watched as He Qifeng gradually shrank and was admitted into the small moneybag.

He glanced down and found the diminutive He Qifeng, standing among the mountain of treasures, a fantastical sight.

It even gave Lu Ran an illusion:

He need only lower a finger to crush Wind Emperor.

"Can you be forcibly detained, can you get out yourself?" Lu Ran inquired.

Only to see He Qifeng rapidly soar up.

Lu Ran immediately commanded the Qiankun Bag, "Close the opening!"

The Magic Artifact obeyed the command, but still couldn't stop He Qifeng from emerging.

A mere First Rank Magic Artifact, how could it restrain a Heavenly Realm great power?

As soon as He Qifeng came out, her body quickly returned to its original appearance.

Lu Ran nodded secretly, it seems this "small moneybag" is merely for holding gold and silver treasures and lacks other functions.

Think about it, how could the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd be compared to just any Tom, Dick, or Harry?

Even among Magic Artifacts, the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd is the pinnacle of existence!

The little thing aids its master in cultivation, can imprison opponents, restrain their bodies, and even refine foes, purifying Holy Spirit Energy...

At the utmost level!

However, the Qiankun Bag falling into the hands of Ran Sect also proves very useful!

One Divine Sculpture and Evil Sculpture can be packed inside, allowing the carrier to use them at will?

God Demon Sculpture Garden, Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, Qiankun Bag.

Thus, including Lu Ran, three people can simultaneously carry three teams!

Great great great!

The more Lu Ran thought, the happier he became, and he said, "Alright, you've worked hard this time.

Quickly think about if you have any relatives in the Human World, and report to Lady after returning to the Sculpture Garden."

He Qifeng looked surprised and hurriedly asked, "Sect Master intends to?"

"We are about to confront the God Demons; the Ran Sect will soon send designated personnel back to the Human World to alleviate concerns."

"Confrontation?"

"Confront..." The crowd was in shock.

Not seen for a month, has the Ran Sect grown so strong?

"Many things have happened recently, for details, you can inquire the warriors within the Garden."

Lu Ran suddenly remembered something and added, "By the way, Qifeng, after entering the Garden quickly merge with Bai Rao, together devour the Divine Soul of the Martial Monk, become a First-class God as soon as possible, I need you urgently."

He Qifeng's eyes widened suddenly: !!!

...

Chapter 1019: Easing Worries

Bringing the families of the soldiers to the Holy Spirit Mountain is undoubtedly a prudent move.

After Lu Ran revealed to the Divine Demon camp, no one could guarantee what those bastards would do.

Having said that, with more than three thousand disciples in the Ran Sect, Lu Ran couldn't possibly bring everyone's families to the Holy Spirit Mountain. Luckily, he didn't need to do that.

After all, the ones truly at risk of being exposed to the Divine Demons are only the top fighters of the Ran Sect.

Those Ran Sect disciples hiding at Tianya Haijiao wouldn't enter the vision of the Divine Demons.

Regarding the settlement for the families, after several discussions with everyone, Lu Ran finally decided on the Cloud Sea Cliff.

Why not the safer Tianya Haijiao?

Because it felt too imprisoning.

Living on an isolated island was already painful enough.

Tianya Haijiao, often shrouded in thick fog, made soldiers advance like strings of beads.

For the Believer community, this was certainly an excellent place for cultivation, but for ordinary people, living in the fog day after day, being unable to see their own hand in front of their eyes...

It would drive people insane!

Therefore, the beautifully scenic and equally secluded Cloud Sea Cliff became the settlement for the families.

Since the soldiers' weaknesses are here, of course, there must be sufficient defensive forces.

Lu Ran naturally stationed heavy guards, with all functional teams fully equipped, and specifically assigned the Divine Seeking General to guard the place.

Xun Yifei's power is no joke!

Today, he has devoured the Divine Souls of both Yan Qing and the Sea Merfolk and is a mighty deity with a complete Divine Position!

Regarding Lu Ran's orders and expectations, Xun Yifei accepted without hesitation and even swore a military oath.

Anyone wanting to harm the families must first cross over his corpse!

Thus, Lu Ran sank Xun Yifei's stone sculpture into the Ink Bay below Cloud Sea Cliff, and the Divine Seeking General also crafted a flesh body to guard the cliff and lead the various defense forces.

After two or three days, Lu Ran witnessed many touching yet bittersweet scenes.

The touching moments were the reunions of long-separated relatives.

Incredulous expressions, the joy of recoveries, reddish eyes, and uncontrollable tears.

Lu Ran sighed deeply at the sight.

He saw the two children of the Xun Luo couple, returning to the Cloud Sea Cliff after such a long time, running into father Xun's embrace.

They cried and shouted for their mother too.

Their childish words, both amusing and heart-wrenching to hear.

He saw Hua Qingying's family, with a girl resembling her; this must be the sister whom General Hua has missed for so long.

Unexpectedly, Hua Qingying took her sister to her side and protected her under her wing before even reaching her sister's God Worship Platform.

Lu Ran also saw Lu Yuan's wife, Grandma Wen Lanxin, witnessing two white-haired elders who had been separated for decades, unable to speak, tears flowing ceaselessly.

However, he did not see the daughter in the military named Lu Yancun.

He saw the parents of Deng Yuxiang and Deng Yutang, and the babbling Deng Lingyi.

These scenes are truly beautiful.

But beyond the emotions, there is more bitterness.

Because most soldiers didn't dare to approach their families.

The overwhelmingly powerful Realm and terrifying pressure of the Ran Sect soldiers left no room for survival for ordinary people and weak Believers.

The strict hierarchy brought by the Divine Demons is extremely cruel.

And it's extremely blatant!

It gives you the most direct feeling, letting you understand your insignificance, destroying your will, trampling your dignity, making you kneel down and submit to the stronger.

Ultimately, it is to make all beings devoutly worship and venerate the deities.

Under this system, it's really hard for the Ran Sect soldiers to approach their families.

Chang Ying, who had reached the Sea Realm Peak, could only talk to her parents from outside the door; Tian Tian, in the Fourth Rank of the Sea Realm, wasn't any better.

The entire Cloud Sea Cliff only had the kind of paternal love led by father Xun that could challenge the supreme authority of the Divine Demon System.

Most others could only be bound by the system.

Even if many people can create flesh bodies and can lower their Realms to the Mist Realm and Stream Realm, the powerful soul carried by the flesh body truly exists.

Deng Yuxiang's Magic Artifact·Smoke Green Gauze became a sought-after item.

Only lining up for a long time in exchange for a brief few minutes of togetherness made people even sadder...

"Meow~"

From inside the Cloud Sea Residence, a peculiar sound came.

Inside the bedroom, there was no one but an adorable tabby cat floating in mid-air.

Floating?

Yes, floating.

An invisible person was holding the little tabby cat high.

"Meow~ Meow!" The little tabby cat reached out a paw, trying to stop the invisible person from getting closer.

But it was too weak.

It could only be forcefully pressed against the furry little head by the invisible person's face, rubbing closely.

"It's me, don't resist," Lu Ran murmured softly, burying his face in the tabby cat's back, taking a deep breath.

Funny enough, the last time Lu Ran returned to the Cloud Sea Cliff, he stood hesitantly at the doorstep, his hand resting on the wooden door, and ultimately didn't push it open.

Feeling that everything could never return.

Today, with the influx of numerous family members, Cloud Sea Cliff revitalized from dilapidation to prosperity.

Lu Ran also stepped into the residence he hadn't entered last time.

He even snuggled with the cat in the bedroom...

"Mew~ mew~~~"

The little tabby cat hummed, struggling weakly.

It seemed on the verge of tears.

"Majestic Heaven Realm, bullying a little kitty?" a soft voice drifted from afar.

Lu Ran turned his head to look and saw Fairy Jiang standing by the door, her cold and enchanting face faintly carrying a trace of sadness.

She stood properly by the door, seemingly worried about the little tabby cat getting agitated.

"Did you see Uncle and Aunt?"

"Mm, let's send the little tabby cat back to them," Jiang Ruyi said softly.

"Okay." Lu Ran's figure flickered as he moved to the backyard.

The west wing used to be Xiao Yuanxi's residence, and now the Jiang couple has temporarily moved in.

"Knock, knock, knock~" Lu Ran gently knocked on the door, holding the restless little tabby cat in one arm.

"Coming." A middle-aged man's voice came from inside the room.

The door split open, revealing a tall, slightly chubby, and scholarly man with glasses.

It was Jiang Ruyi's father, Jiang Zheng.

He immediately noticed the cat suspended in mid-air.

Although the scene was peculiar, Jiang Zheng remained calm.

Because he had already been startled before...

When the Jiang couple was first brought from Luoxian Mountain, Lu Ran had greeted them while concealing his presence.

It gave the couple quite a fright!

"Uncle Jiang, Ruyi asked me to bring the tabby cat over," Lu Ran said warmly.

"Alright." Jiang Zheng reached out to take the little cat, looking at the empty space before him, hesitating to speak.

"Uncle Jiang, if you need anything, just let me know." Lu Ran naturally sensed it.

Jiang Zheng stepped out, placed the tabby cat inside, and closed the door: "Ruyi said you're heading to the battlefield again tomorrow."

"Yes, Uncle Jiang, there are some tasks that must be completed." Lu Ran tried to make his voice gentler, "Don't worry, I'll do my best to protect Ruyi."

Jiang Zheng was silent for a long time, just about to speak, when the wooden door behind him opened again.

A middle-aged woman with reddened eyes came out: "You don't understand the kids' matters, why meddle?"

Zhuang Jingyi said this while pulling her husband back inside, looking at the empty doorway: "Xiao Lu, hurry and get busy, don't mind us."

"Uncle and Aunt, rest assured, I won't let anything happen to Ruyi," Lu Ran said softly, disappearing in a flicker.

Inside the bedroom, Jiang Ruyi sensed a faint divine power fluctuation and casually remarked: "What took you so long?"

"Just chatted with Uncle and Aunt."

"What did you say?"

"Nothing much, just... promised them I'd take good care of you."

Jiang Ruyi suddenly said, "Only take care of me?"

"Huh?" Lu Ran was a bit confused.

Jiang Ruyi slightly turned her head, glancing at someone with her peripheral vision, seemingly smiling.

Lu Ran was initially confused, now he felt a tingling on his scalp.

Sure enough, a little jealous one!

But really, that Simurgh Phoenix Unity Contract has indeed tied him and Yan Zhi together...

Jiang Ruyi gave a soft hum and looked out the window: "Go gather the remnants of the soldiers back to the Sculpture Garden."

Lu Ran hesitated for a moment, then said softly, "Ruyi is so understanding! So gentle and considerate, looking at me with the corner of her eye, afraid I'll be scared."

"Go!" Jiang Ruyi spat gently, turning to roll her eyes firmly at him.

"Uh." Lu Ran shivered involuntarily, immediately behaving, "It's still early, right? Let the soldiers spend a bit more time with their families.

Besides, we can't be sure that Feng Rao's stone sculpture will ascend to the God Realm tomorrow."

Jiang Ruyi replied, "Whether it can or not, we must treat tomorrow as the day of departure. The battle between the Ran Sect and the North Wind Divine Mountain cannot afford any slip-ups, have the soldiers return early to stabilize their emotions."

Lu Ran: "..."

Truly a cold and merciless woman.

Jiang Ruyi's voice also returned to its usual chill: "Once you bring them back, you should rest early, after so many consecutive battles, you need a good night's sleep."

"Oh." Lu Ran pouted, "Then... don't go back to the Sculpture Garden, I want to hold you to sleep, for peace of mind."

"Peace of mind?" Jiang Ruyi was amused yet annoyed.

Usually, he doesn't even dare to look at her!

Now he's spouting nonsense, boldly wanting to hold her to sleep, really...

Is this how you try to coax someone?

Lu Ran indeed made up his mind, facing the difficulty head-on: "I'll borrow the Smoke Green Gauze in a bit, and then cover your eyes."

As he spoke, Lu Ran couldn't help but mutter: "Want to hold you to sleep, and there are quite a few procedures."

Not giving her a chance to refuse, Lu Ran flickered away.

Jiang Ruyi quietly looked out the window, a long time before a coy, reproachful smile appeared on her face.

Bad guy.

Lu Ran, adhering to the lady's orders, gathered the soldiers into the garden, and sent Deng Yutang and others, needing urgent cultivation and advancement, all back to Tianshi Haijiao.

When he returned to the bedroom at Cloud Sea Residence holding a strand of Smoke Green Gauze, he found that Fairy Jiang was still standing by the window.

With a slight raising of her hand, the Smoke Green Gauze floated over sensibly.

Jiang Ruyi did not intertwine the Smoke Green Gauze in her long hair, but folded the light fabric into a strip and covered her eyes:

"Let's return to Tianshi Residence; the divine power is abundant there, more suitable for your recovery."

"Alright." Lu Ran summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror, and took her from the bedroom of Cloud Sea Residence to the bedroom of Tianshi Residence in one step.

Looking at that tall and graceful figure, Lu Ran extended his hand and embraced the Evil God in his arms.

She was greatly restricted in aura and presence, and her pair of awe-inspiring eyes were covered, which gave someone the courage to act.

Lu Ran looked at the alluring lips and mustered up the courage to press down upon them.

"Mmm..." Jiang Ruyi slightly turned her head, somewhat shy and annoyed, "I told you... to rest... rest."

"Mmm-hmm." Lu Ran obediently agreed, and carried the Evil God girlfriend towards the bed.

...

Chapter 1020: Stubborn as a Rock

The Tianshi Residence in the early morning was serene.

In the tranquil setting, a little creature quietly flew out of the study, went straight to the bedroom, bypassed the exquisite screen, and hovered at the foot of the bed.

The little Blazing Phoenix swayed left and right, sensing the soundly sleeping male and female owners on the bed.

It quietly landed, lifted a corner of the quilt, and cautiously slipped in, nestling between the two.

That way, it could enjoy the embrace of both at once~

"Hmm?" Lu Ran opened his sleepy eyes and blankly looked around.

It had been too long since he last slept.

The awakening from a great dream left him somewhat confused.

[Master's awake!] A childish voice echoed in his mind.

Lu Ran quickly regained his senses and immediately found the little Blazing Phoenix in his arms, lifted the Treasure Gourd out from under the quilt, and said helplessly, [I finally managed to get some sleep...]

[But, I've successfully advanced!] The little Blazing Phoenix seemed a bit aggrieved.

[Oh?] Lu Ran finally noticed someone praying to him and immediately responded to the pious believer, [Qifeng?]

[Sect Leader, I and the daytime general have ascended to the God Realm.]

[Good!!] Lu Ran's heart filled with joy, and he quickly asked, [How are your worldly forms, is everything smooth?]

[We're just as before, and now we can both perform Divine Technique.]

"What's the matter?" A soft, gentle voice came from beside him.

"Feng Rao's stone sculpture has advanced!" Lu Ran immediately announced the good news and added, "You rest a bit longer, I'll take them to test out some techniques first."

Jiang Ruyi sat up, lazily combed her long hair, and said, "Since we're ready, it's time to head to the battlefield."

There is a verse in Da Xia: Steal half a day's leisure.

It applies perfectly to Lu Jiang.

Whether it's a moment of peace, a fleeting indulgence, or even a night's sound sleep, Lu Ran obtains it by sheer luck.

The task is not yet complete, the fires of war have not ceased.

The human world is not yet at peace.

Jiang Ruyi's demeanor was exceptionally enchanting, carrying a unique laziness of awakening from a dream, lightly pulling down the veil from before her eyes, revealing her beautiful eyes.

In the thick mist, she could not see him, nor did she need to.

Lu Ran's heart skipped a beat!

In that instant, he was thoroughly awake.

It was like a splash of cold water from head to toe, not only removing his drowsiness but also giving him goosebumps.

"Phew~" The Evil God's remnant shadow withdrew from the flesh, merging with the Smoke Green Gauze into a Pure Energy Body, and flowed into Lu Ran's eyes.

The beautiful shell left on the bed, soulless, softened as it leaned against Lu Ran, then shattered into mist after a brief moment.

It was like a wonderful dream.

Lu Ran remained silent, pressing down his pounding heart after some time.

He bowed his head and smiled, somewhat helpless.

He fondly remembered her gentle demeanor during middle school; even in her wildest moments, she only gently poked him awake from his nap with a pen tip.

Look at her now!

A glance from her nearly killed Lu Ran on the spot...

Alright~

Since I've narrowly escaped death, it's time for the North Wind to meet its end.

Lu Ran rose from the bed, dressed in feathered clothes with the help of the Smoke and Mist Silk, donned a mask, equipped himself with Divine Weapons, and summoned the bronze mirror to depart.

He arrived at Mo Gu Peak, conducted a test of Divine and Evil Techniques with the Feng Rao stone sculpture, and then hurried to the Heavenly Realm Battlefield.

Just as he reached the Third Heaven, Lu Ran noticed someone contacting him.

He searched for a moment and immediately transmitted a message: [Mr. Cong Long?]

[Sect Leader, you've returned!] Yu Changsheng immediately reported, [The Eastern Front has been breached, and now the Third Heaven is in chaos!]

[Continue.] Lu Ran, concealing his presence, journeyed north.

[The deaths of the Martial Monk and Dong Ting should have spread throughout the God Demon camp.] Yu Changsheng said in a low voice, [Not long ago, Martial Artist sent minions to the Female Sword Immortal Mountain, saying they wanted to retract the defense line.]

Lu Ran suddenly asked: [Did the Martial Artist inquire about the Soaring Dragon Saber?]

[Sect Leader, the opposing party sent God Demon minions and didn't inquire about the Soaring Dragon Saber.]

[Hmm... You just said, the Martial Artist wants to retract the defense line?]

[Yes! Martial Artist hopes the Female Sword Immortal will abandon the God Mountain to jointly guard the Pear Garden God Mountain. It's said that the Southern Front at Mount Asha has already responded, and Asha has led a team to follow the Martial Artist.]

Lu Ran frowned: [How did the Female Sword Immortal decide?]

[Lady Nu Ying refused outright, without consulting anyone, and clearly told the God Demon minions that she would stand fast on the southeastern front...] Yu Changsheng's tone was somewhat helpless.

Lu Ran pondered: [How is the situation at the Female Sword Immortal Mountain now?]

[As we expected, it's already like the First and Second Heaven, with the God Mountain surrounded by Faceless Jade Venerable. But since they are minions after all, as long as the real Faceless Jade Venerable doesn't come, we can hold on.]

Lu Ran nodded secretly: [What about Yan Paper God Mountain?]

Yu Changsheng's stone sculpture body was at Female Sword Immortal Mountain, while his Heavenly Realm flesh was at Yan Paper God Mountain, constantly staying by the Rou Paperman's side.

[Returning to Sect Leader, no one has come to invite Lady Yan Zhi so far. It's really chaotic here, and we can't rule out the possibility that the messenger God Demon minions were intercepted by the Faceless Jade Venerable.]

The defense line in the Third Heaven was torn at Thunder God Mountain.

In terms of location, Yan Paper God Mountain is closest to Thunder God Mountain, so the number of Faceless Jade Venerable Clan members would naturally be more.

[Sect Leader, I propose that our two God Mountains combine forces.] Yu Changsheng transmitted again.

Combine forces?

Lu Ran pondered.

The Yanzhi Divine Mountain and the Yanzhi Divine Mountain do not face the threat of the Flame Gate, but if isolated, they might invite an attack by the Faceless Jade Lord personally.

As Lu Ran expected, Yu Changsheng's following words were indeed as he had thought. After a brief explanation, he continued:

[Especially Yanzhi Divine Mountain, without Thunder Divine Mountain as a strong backup, Lady Yan Zhi could very well become a primary target of the Faceless Jade Lord.]

Lu Ran's expression grew grave.

The dwindling number of divine mountains was disadvantageous both to the divine beings and the Flame Gate.

After all, these divine mountains jointly uphold the First, Second, and Third Heaven.

Moreover, the existence of the Heavenly Realm Battlefield carries significant importance as a crucial buffer zone.

The reason the Faceless Jade Lord cannot directly trespass into the human world is precisely due to these layers of heaven.

If too many divine mountains were to collapse, the Heavenly Realm Battlefield would fall, allowing the clan of the Faceless Jade Lord to strike directly, akin to when the divine demons first descended into the world!

It would shake the very foundation of the divine demons' existence in the world!

Likewise, Lu Ran and others would become infamous sinners throughout history.

Thus, the divine mountains must be defended!

Yet Lu Ran continued slaying divine demons, and on the surface, this would lead to the destruction of the divine mountains...

Yu Changsheng kept persuading: [Sect Leader, I understand your concerns, but don't forget, we'll soon have two identities!]

[Once the Flame Gate's gods descend, our forces too can stand firm in the human world, with stone pillars rising beneath them, piercing through the First, Second, and Third Heaven.]

[At that time, we can reignite, sustaining the presence of the Heavenly Realm Battlefield.]

These few words do make sense, but there is one point:

Utilizing the powers bestowed by divine positions, the Flame Gate's gods' ability to open and maintain the Demon Cave Gate, and establish stone pillars reaching the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, is no easy feat.

This time, unusually, Lu Ran didn't heed the strategist and instead said, [Not a single one of the Yanzhi or the Female Sword Immortal mountains can be lost! The teacher also mentioned the gods of the Flame Gate are descending soon.

We are strong and numerous, those mere two or three divine mountains aren't beyond our defense, and we must not lose them!

In that case, I will swiftly dispatch troops to guard the divine mountains and openly reveal our identity to the Faceless Jade Lord.]

Yu Changsheng pondered for a while and finally said: [Since the Sect Leader insists... it's fortunate Lady Yan Zhi did not heed my suggestion, otherwise, I would have trouble reporting to you.]

[You suggested it to Yan Zhi?] Lu Ran inquired.

[I made my judgment based on the evolution of the battlefield situation and changes in the Martial Artist's strategy, suggesting Lady Yan Zhi should go to the Female Sword Immortal Mountain and join forces with them.]

[How did Yan Zhi refuse you?]

[Lady Yan Zhi said, Yanzhi Divine Mountain belongs to you, Sect Leader, and whether to abandon it or not isn't her decision to make, you must decide yourself.]

[Ah??] Lu Ran slightly gaped, feeling a bit bewildered.

Yu Changsheng's words were somewhat whimsical: [Lady Yan Zhi also said that until you make a decision, her task is to fortify Yanzhi Divine Mountain... constantly defending here.]

Lu Ran paused his instant teleportation motion and finally arrived at the area of the North Wind Divine Mountain.

[That... that, let's discuss this later; I have a task to carry out.] Lu Ran was indeed feeling a bit confused.

[Understood.]

Lu Ran exhaled a long breath, temporarily setting aside all distractions, meticulously surveying the northern front.

During the journey, he hadn't noticed much difference, but upon reaching North Wind Divine Mountain, the situation indeed had drastically changed.

Where the Faceless Jade Lord had once been blocked from entering, now numerous jade sculptures had surrounded the divine mountain, leaving no gap.

Yet there were some differences.

Thanks to the Divine Demon's presence defending the divine mountain, with the strong support of its underlings, they expanded the defensive ring greatly, refusing to let the Faceless Jade Lord touch even a sliver of the divine mountain.

It was evident that the divine demons also intended to hold their ground on the divine mountain.

However, due to their differing natures, their choices were also different.

North Wind did not retreat!

But other divine demons abandoned their own divine mountains, retreating to this location — the Mountain Lord and Yinli Tiger.

This pair of second-class divine demons are now stationed here at North Wind Divine Mountain! It's unclear whether this was the choice of these two beasts or an order from higher up among the divine demons.

As expected, this area should be managed by Sword One?

Like the First-class god Martial Artist at the south being able to oversee Asha and Nu Ying.

However, Sword One is ultimately a very unique existence, and Lu Ran thought perhaps North Wind was leading this region?

"Hmm..." Lu Ran furrowed his eyebrows, gazing at the snow-covered, mist-laden divine mountain.

North Wind Divine Mountain was the first divine mountain Lu Ran encountered upon ascending to the Heavenly Realm, privately naming it Flower Sea Divine Mountain.

The name isn't important.

What matters is the divine demons stationed on the mountain.

Second-class divine demon North Wind - Night Charm, second-class divine demon Mountain Lord - Yinli Tiger, fifth-class divine demon Ice Butterfly - Ice Burial Person.

Also, fourth-class divine demon Sword Lotus - Black Lotus, and sixth-class divine demon War Horn - Netherworld Horn.

The last two groups of divine demons have already fused into one.

"A tough bone to crack," Lu Ran murmured to himself, gazing at the array of divine demon stone sculptures, perfectly blending offense and defense, forming an immensely powerful battle system!

Even with North Wind Divine Mountain's formidable strength, Lu Ran still did not believe this was the mountain's entire strength.

In the end, the Flame Gate had slain a Martial Monk!

Could North Wind Divine Mountain be without a backup plan?

Lu Ran instant teleported diagonally towards the rear, distancing himself further from North Wind Divine Mountain before grasping his Cloud Sea Dust Clearing Sword: "Help me contact her."

"Yes," the sword spirit's energy coursed across the surface of the sword hilt, soaking into Lu Ran's palm.

Simultaneously, beneath the same dim sky.

A female sword immortal engaged in battle erupted with an endless, extreme cold aura, forcibly repelling several colossal figures.