

## Old Gods 1031

Chapter 1031: Summit of the Mountain

"Oh?" Lu Ran blinked his eyes.

He had just finished communicating with the Immortal Sheep, and within a few dozen seconds, he noticed that the Fog Dragon Roll connecting to the "Typhoon Eye" was dissipating rapidly.

Did the Night-slaying Great Saber succeed in advancing to the Fourth Rank?

That's so fast!

Fairy Jiang takes two to three minutes to imprint the Phoenix Soul Mark on Wang Hanchuan, but this Big Nightmare... could it be as quick as five minutes in total?

The time required for a Divine Weapon upgrade ranges from a few minutes to half an hour.

Lu Ran had reason to believe that Deng Yuxiang and the Night-slaying Great Saber had a clear goal, and knew precisely what insights their side was gaining, hence the swiftness.

After all, the first two Divine Weapon Domains of the Night-cutting Blade were nearly identical, both completing the broken blade.

Moreover, the blade's body, pieced together from energy, had strong armor-piercing effects.

The only difference was the size specification.

Following this trend, the third Divine Weapon Domain should also deeply focus on "completing the blade body."

To put it simply, with the efficacy of the first domain, the blade body could extend to 28 meters; under the second domain, the blade body reached 280 meters.

Then the third Divine Weapon Domain...

Two thousand eight hundred meters?

"Good heavens~" Lu Ran chuckled.

He was previously pondering how ancient fierce beasts could obscure the sky and reach tens of thousands of meters, making it burdensome for the Ran Sect to fight.

The only option was to strike first and silence them.

Any mistake would mean relying on Bai Rao... hmm, now also add Yin Yan, letting both expend enormous energy to combat the enemy's fierce beasts with the presence of ancient beasts.

Now it's all good!

The Big Nightmare can directly wield the blade~

Eh, something seems off.

Lu Ran suddenly realized that his estimation of the blade specifications was based on the Night-cutting Blade's original form.

When it follows its master, transforming into a giant stone blade and then activates the Divine Weapon Domain, the blade isn't as long as imagined.

In the recent battle, Lu Ran had witnessed this with his own eyes.

Hmm... once the Big Nightmare reaches Becoming a God, he should directly ask her.

While thinking, Lu Ran began gathering the Ran Sect soldiers into the Sculpture Garden, with Evil Shadow Guardian and Huangfu Tianjiang following the plan, using Magic Artifacts to reclaim the Stone Sculptures.

Before the mist completely faded, both divine beings had already converged.

"Evil Shadow, go into the gourd and see Lord Wangfeng; once he submits, he becomes Shadow Five." Lu Ran held the Treasure Gourd in one hand to retrieve Yan Shuangzi and in the other held a delicate money pouch, collecting Huangfu Zhao inside.

[Master, isn't it inappropriate to have Wang Hanchuan worship me?] Yan Shuangzi expressed a hint of concern.

The Divine and Evil Techniques she possessed were too formidable.

Giving them to four loyal Shadow Guards was comforting, but to someone like Wang Hanchuan?

Lu Ran transmitted his voice: [The first four Shadow Guards are all natives of the River Realm, able to flawlessly complete tasks within the Holy Spirit Mountain, but in the Heavenly Realm, it's not the same.

Under your command, there must always be someone useful.]

Yan Shuangzi slightly frowned, and as she entered the gourd, she immediately heard wailing.

In sight, Wang Hanchuan was suspended mid-air, trembling violently in pain, his facial expression already distorted, enduring some unspecified torment.

She recalled Lu Ran's words: [Don't worry, Ruyi has already imprinted a Phoenix Soul Mark deep in Wang Hanchuan's soul, ensuring no possibility of betrayal in his future.]

You can become the god he worships and discipline him from another angle; it's all good.]

[Alright, sure.] Yan Shuangzi looked at Lord Wangfeng, who was suffering.

Their encounters were rare; after joining Sword Ridge Peak, Wang Hanchuan soon went into seclusion, and she quickly was imprisoned.

Before facing punishment, she even contemplated finding the Peak Master to seek justice.

Thinking back now, she realized how naive she was back then.

The culture is always top-down! If she had indeed met Lord Wangfeng and conveyed her judgments on Divine Demons or the disrespectful words toward Lord Beifeng...

Her fate would have been far more tragic.

Yan Shuangzi sighed lightly.

Once wielding power over life and death as the Peak Master, now falls into her hands.

Well, then.

Since you loved worshiping the gods, blindfolded and deafened, executing Beifeng's will.

From now on, execute my will.

On this side, Yan Shuangzi silently planned Wang Hanchuan's future, while outside, Lu Ran stared at the Hundred Treasures Bag in his hand.

The Human Clan within the Hundred Treasures Bag appeared smaller than ants.

Last time, when He Qifeng was caught inside, Lu Ran experienced a fleeting illusion, thinking he could crush the Wind Emperor with a single finger.

Now, the massive Stone Sculptures entered the small money pouch, becoming toy soldier-sized.

"Yo?" Lu Ran's playful side emerged.

He reached two fingers into the money pouch, grabbing a Divine Sculpture, gently pinching its head.

Huangfu Zhao: "..."

Huangfu Tianjiang had lived half his life and never imagined he'd be treated as a toy figurine one day.

His Young Master was excellent in every way, just a bit childlike at heart.

Inside the pouch were several former Cloud Sea colleagues, who retreated upon witnessing the scene, evidently fearing to be pinched by the mischievous child.

Yet Master Lu's fingers continued reaching over, poking one Stone Sculpture's head after another.

Ran Sect's Heavenly Generals: "..."

"Each has its unique charm." Lu Ran muttered inwardly, tightening the bag's opening as his figure vanished.

The Ran Sect soldiers, situated within the Sculpture Garden, must transform into Pure Energy Bodies, emanate from Lu Ran's Pupil of the Dead World, and upon descending, go through a process of assembling a Stone Sculpture body.

While the Stone Body assembly for the Ran Sect's Gods was brief and nearly negligible, the process objectively exists.

When soldiers emerged from the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, they lacked the Stone Body assembly process.

However, Lu Ran had to communicate in advance with Little Blazing Phoenix whenever he intended to use someone.

Of course, this can't be considered a flaw. It is precisely because of the existence of the little Blazing Phoenix that the Ran Sect can perform some maneuvers in commanding armies.

And the soldiers inside the Hundred Treasures Bag are like stone figurines to be used as needed.

Their faces clearly visible!

Lu Ran held the small purse in his hand, intending to use someone by simply picking them up and tossing them out?

However, he had to pay attention to the technique.

Once the toy soldiers leave the mouth of the purse, they will transform into normal size. In other words, Lu Ran's hand needs to perform the action of "grabbing the toy and popping it out of the purse" inside the purse.

Lu Ran continued his journey south, ignoring the distance; in terms of location, the North Wind Divine Mountain is near Sword One Divine Mountain.

On this journey to the Southwest Front's Blood Dust Divine Mountain, he planned to stop by along the way.

"Did you tell her about the situation here?" Lu Ran reached into his waist again, holding the Cloud Sea Dust Clear Sword.

"I already did, but the master did not pay attention to me." The energy of the Sword Spirit soaked into Lu Ran's palm.

Lu Ran's heart sank as he urged the little Blazing Phoenix to provide more Divine Power to continue his way south.

When he saw the mist-covered Sword One Divine Mountain, he couldn't help but be a bit stunned.

Here, too, there were mist dragon rolls descending from the sky, connecting with the Divine Mountain. The majestic Sword One Divine Mountain stood proudly, letting the mist dragon rolls infuse its stone body and indulging in the rich nourishment of energy.

Lu Ran circled slowly in flight, soon seeing a familiar figure.

Was that... Chen Jingjing?

Lu Ran blinked, knowing full well this woman was his mother's maid, though he wasn't sure of her exact strength.

Coming to the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, could it be somewhat dangerous?

Suddenly, Lu Ran's figure halted.

He finally saw that unique someone he would occasionally think of.

In the grand backdrop of a world ruled by gods and demons, in this cruel and chaotic era, familial bond is truly a luxury.

Lu Ran gazed through the pair of Simurgh's Eyes, looking through the pervasive frost mist at the long-dressed woman meditating quietly beneath the Sword One Divine Sculpture.

Unfortunately, her face was veiled, prohibiting others from witnessing her true appearance.

Lu Ran could only see her closed eyes, with cold indifference between her brows, her hands resting on her knees with a Heavenly Steel Sword lying flat on them.

"Mother," Lu Ran murmured in his heart.

He immediately thought of Little Yuanxi; however, his sister had no invisibility ability, nor could she see through the frosty mist.

Hmm... let's forget about it.

Lu Ran watched silently from afar, observing the small but unignorable human woman beneath the Divine Sculpture.

These descending mist dragon rolls should have been summoned by her.

He wondered which Divine Sword rested on her knees and at what rank it was advancing.

"Ranran."

"Hmm?"

"After all these years, this is the closest I've been to her," murmured the Cloud Sea Sword Spirit.

Upon hearing this, an impulse arose in Lu Ran's heart.

He wanted to hand the Cloud Sea Dust Clear Sword to his mother.

He wanted to place the small purse hanging at his waist into her hands, opening the mouth to show her the many stone figurines inside.

They are all her disciples.

Those who once followed her to conquer territories, later persecuted by gods and demons, scattered across the Heavenly Realm.

Though few, Lu Ran had painstakingly searched for them, offering each found member of the Cloud Sea forces to the Divine Altar one by one.

Only Yan Chou hasn't obtained a Divine Position yet.

After all, his prestige is too high and challenging, inheriting the dual stone sculpture of First-class God Demon Qiang Xiu—the Evil Spear Emperor.

As for Huangfu Zhao, Wuya, Leng Tianxing, and Leng Tianyue, not only have they become gods, but they also possess complete divinity with Double Divine Positions!

Wait, one more member of the Cloud Sea might have survived.

Spiritual Image Disciple, Xiang Wang!

Thinking of this, Lu Ran pressed his lips together.

He naturally hoped that by the time he truly met his mother, he could hand over all the surviving Cloud Sea forces to her.

Time does not permit any delay, after taking down Blood Dust Divine Mountain, he would visit Fengxiang God Mountain.

Previously, Lu Ran was like a rat in the sewer, not daring to see the light of day, and had no ability to demand people from gods and demons.

Now that the Ran Sect has revealed itself, Lu Ran can naturally engage in talks with Lord Spiritual Image on this level.

To visit,

and directly ask for the person!

Spiritual Image, one of the only four gods and demons in the Da Xia divine demon system capable of transforming into an ancient fierce beast.

Lord Spiritual Image... you had better not have executed Xiang Wang!

Otherwise, death will not be your most painful experience.

Lu Ran took a deep look at the meditating woman beneath Sword One, turned, and teleported away.

"Since you're here, why not speak?" the Cloud Sea Sword Spirit suddenly said.

Lu Ran paused high in the air, holding the Cloud Sea Dust Clear Sword, "Mother, I have a task to complete. While you are advancing with the Divine Weapon, I did not wish to disturb you."

"The Heavenly Blade has advanced to the Third Rank."

"Oh? Congratulations," Lu Ran said, turning around in the sky several kilometers south of the Divine Mountain, gazing towards Sword One Divine Mountain.

Qiao Wanju seemed to understand her son's abilities and wasn't concerned about being in the vast frost mist.

She stood up, her ancient-styled platinum gown gracefully dancing in the wind, her long hair fluttering like a waterfall, creating a beautiful melody.

Lu Ran's eyes widened slightly.

He saw the human woman standing at the peak of the Divine Mountain lift her hand and gently remove the veil covering her true visage.

She faced south, her face adorned with a gentle smile.

This vast world of frost and snow, under her gentle gaze, seemed no longer so cold.

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Chapter 1032: Eat Carefully

"Both she and I underestimated your strength."

"She?"

"Lord Jian Yi." The Cloud Sea Sword Spirit conveyed its master's words in Qiao Wanjun's tone.

"Hehe~" Even the thick-skinned Lu Ran couldn't help but scratch his head sheepishly at this moment.

Receiving maternal approval is, of course, something to be proud of.

"Hehe~" The Cloud Sea Sword Spirit let out a gentle laugh.

It's uncertain whether the Sword Spirit was amused by Lu Ran's expression or was repeating Qiao Wanjun's laughter.

It's most likely the former.

Lu Ran didn't think that the Cloud Sea Sword Spirit would imitate his laughter for Qiao Wanju to hear.

After all, from a certain perspective, the Sword Spirit is also like a mother, equally reserved, so how could it possibly do such a thing...

"The stone sculptures of North Wind Divine Mountain stand tall, specifically recruiting strong allies to resist the Ran Sect, yet you still easily took this mountain." Qiao Wanju said softly.

"Hmm, the Ran Sect indeed has some power now." Lu Ran mumbled quietly, almost unable to hide his smile.

Don't stop, keep praising!

I love hearing it~

"Lord Jian Yi looks forward to your future performance."

"Alright! I'm going to conquer Blood Dust Divine Mountain this time. Once I behead the Evil Demon Leader, our bargaining power with the God Demon Camp will be even stronger. Then I'll come to get you!" Lu Ran said solemnly.

On the divine mountain, Qiao Wanju, wearing a veil, couldn't help but furrow her brow upon hearing this: [You're going to confront Blood Skull?]

Cloud Sea Sword Spirit: [Don't worry, Mom! I have Immortal Sheep backing me up, don't forget the trump card of the Immortal Sheep Sect!]

If truly cornered, the domineering Sheep General can exchange hits with anyone.]

Qiao Wanju's fingers paused slightly while pinching her veil.

Domineering... Sheep General?

This title?

Even in such a grave challenge, hearing it from her son's mouth is truly amusing.

Ranran must have done it on purpose.

Qiao Wanju resumed her normal demeanor, putting on the veil, and speculated that he intended to use this way to lighten the atmosphere.

Or perhaps he simply wanted to make her smile?

[Do you have any disciples who can teleport?] Qiao Wanju steadied her mind and transmitted another message.

[Yes, both the Dust Shadow Flower sect and the Evil Mirror Demon clan do.]

Qiao Wanju nodded silently: [The situation has changed now, and I've explained it to Lord Jian Yi. Your battle at North Wind Divine Mountain demonstrated a lot.

From now on, I'll stay at Sword One Divine Mountain to continue understanding the Divine Weapon Domain.

Keep a teleport-capable disciple by my side, and remember to have them leave a spatial imprint on you.]

[What about those gods and demons monitoring you?]

[They dare not disturb Lord Jian Yi. Besides, you've accomplished so much, everything is about to be resolved.]

"That's right!" Lu Ran nodded heavily, far in the sky.

Lord Jian Yi is very aloof and has not mentioned the issue of allying with the Ran Sect.

But the reality is right here: during the recent overthrow of North Wind Divine Mountain, Lord Jian Yi did not lift a finger!

Moreover, Lu Ran is very sure that his mother is not one to exaggerate, so if she said Lord Jian Yi expects the Ran Sect's performance, then it indicates a certain attitude.

Support is mutual!

By leaving a soldier of the Ran Sect here, they can also keep an eye on the situation at the Sword One Divine Mountain.

Lu Ran suddenly realized that he was quite an inadequate son.

He knows that his mother is at the third level of the Heavenly Realm, not a God, but subconsciously, he always thought of her as an unparalleled being.

So he never had the concept of "protection."

If he replaced his mother with Little Yuanxi, Lu Ran would have deployed heavy guards long ago.

[Evil Shadow, come out for a moment, remember to stay invisible.] Lu Ran immediately transmitted and ordered.

[Yes.]

Yan Shuangzi flew out from the mouth of the gourd, took over the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, brought the little one along, turned invisible, and then Lu Ran entered again.

Lu Ran, through some maneuver, had Elder Lu create a Heavenly Realm body, and then flew out of the Treasure Gourd alone.

[Elder Lu, you are currently in the service of the Evil Shadow Guardian, still possessing invisibility and instant teleportation. If our venture to Blood Dust Divine Mountain goes smoothly, you and Yanzi will both attain a Divine Position.]

Inside the gourd, Lu Yuan remained silent, listening intently.

Lu Ran continued to instruct: [After becoming a God, your master-servant contract with the Evil Shadow Guardian will automatically dissolve, and then you will reveal your true form.

So once you enter Sword One Divine Mountain, communicate with my mother promptly and quickly find a hiding place in the mountain.]

[Rest assured, Sect Leader.] Elder Lu responded in a deep voice.

[Hm, wait for my command.] Lu Ran blinked away, heading straight for the misty Sword One Divine Mountain.

It wasn't long before he was standing slightly behind Qiao Wanjun, gazing at that unrivaled figure.

The Cloud Sea Dust Clearing Sword naturally conveyed a heart thought to inform its master that their side has arrived.

Lu Ran was supposed to directly summon Elder Lu, but he couldn't hold back and quietly flew forward.

He carefully held her fingers, which were icy to the touch, slender jade fingers cold to the bone, as if there was no blood flowing within.

Qiao Wanjun's naturally drooping left hand trembled slightly.

Immediately, her palm was held but not lifted sideways.

Of course, Lu Ran couldn't lift her hand, so he crouched by her leg, closing his eyes, attempting to press her hand against his cheek...

But he didn't succeed.

An inconsiderate fellow intercepted him.

Blood Crystal Mask: "..."

Lu Ran: "..."

You're really getting in the way!

Didn't I already tell you to be more perceptive?

Lu Ran rolled his eyes, stopped being wanton, and had the little Blazing Phoenix spit out the stealthy Elder Lu, then blinked away.

This endeavor undoubtedly bolstered his confidence.

His mother could arrive by his side at any moment, and she might even be able to summon Lord Jian Yi!

Although Lu Ran was reluctant to see this scenario, as it would mean the Ran Sect was in dire straits, having an extra trump card was ultimately beneficial.

Clearly, his mother was also using this approach to support him in seizing the Blood Skull.

Lu Ran was a very determined person, secretly setting a goal for himself: to successfully take Blood Dust Divine Mountain without needing her support.

The future would be the same!

"Next time we meet, I promise to appear before you openly and honorably," Lu Ran gripped the hilt of his sword.

[Mm.] At the summit of the Divine Mountain, Qiao Wanjun glanced down with a soft smile.

She naturally knew that Lu Ran could reveal himself now, but there were other invisible presences around the Divine Mountain constantly monitoring the place.

If Lu Ran appeared, it would only bring some unnecessary trouble for her.

At this juncture, there was no need to make things more complicated.

Lu Ran had the Cloud Sea Sword Spirit convey information about Elder Lu to his mother, while he withdrew the Evil Shadow Guardian and hurriedly headed to the Southwest Front.

There was a small episode along the way.

Lu Ran lightly slapped himself.

"Pa~"

Just now, her hand could barely touch his face.

At this moment, his own slap naturally didn't reach his face but hit the exquisite mask instead.

"Got off easy again!" Lu Ran muttered discontentedly.

Blood Crystal Mask: "..."

"Just now, the one who touched you with the back of their hand was the foremost person in the Three Realms, a presence standing at the pinnacle of the Human Clan! It's an unsurpassed honor, with such a great opportunity, shouldn't you advance?"

Unexpectedly, the eternally silent Blood Crystal Mask transmitted a heart thought: [Desire to advance.]

Lu Ran adjusted the beautiful blood-colored mask, speaking in a muffled tone, "You've accompanied me in so many God-Demon Wars now, often nourished by the dense energy, and should have sufficient requirements for advancement.

Your starting height is also one that other Divine Weapons cannot match.

Experiment more, strive for insight on the path you deem right, and let me know your thoughts. We'll look for the breakthrough together."

[Okay.] A solitary worded heart thought imprinted itself in Lu Ran's mind.

The Blood Crystal Mask fell silent again.

Inside the Third Heaven, the sky was gloomy and dark.

Lu Ran pressed forward, noticing that the further southwest he went, the more tranquil the world became.

After all, it had only been two or three days since Thunder God Mountain was breached; it would naturally take time for the Faceless Jade Venerable army to spread across the Third Heaven.

Relying on the Evil Shadow Technique, Lu Ran reached his destination safely.

Concealing his presence, he stopped tens of kilometers outside Blood Dust Divine Mountain, standing aloft in the air.

Amazingly, there was a change in the situation on the Southwest Front!

It must be known that the Evil Mirror Demon can copy the Faceless Jade Venerable and summon puppet Jade Venerables to fight through the Evil Technique · Mirror Puppet Shadow.

The Immortal Sheep lackeys also donned white jade robes to battle against external enemies.

In Lu Ran's impression, the Southwest Front was a vast whiteness, no matter friend or foe, all were exceedingly crystalline and smooth.

But now, this part of the world was burning intensely red!

The sea of flames swayed, exploding fireballs rose everywhere, and the barking of wolves formed a continuous chorus.

Lu Ran saw huge, black-furred wolf dogs brazenly unleashing flames.

Their pupils were blood-red, and their inky fur bore lines of blood-red patterns, eerie and horrifying.

Level eight Evil Demon · Blood Disaster Dog?

The Blood Disaster Dogs alone couldn't cause massive destruction; crucially, this race was paired with a special propellant—Straw Demon!

As level nine Evil Demons, the scarecrows' power was also limited, but when they fought alongside the Blood Disaster Dogs, the two created a peculiar chemical reaction.

One after another, tightly-bound Straw Demons ignited in the fierce flames, suddenly puffed up, and exploded spectacularly!

Waves of explosive light continued to hit external enemies as tumultuous waves of air surged forth.

Under such a high frequency of impact, the Faceless Jade Venerables accrued fracture lines one after another.

"I'm called Magnetic Stick~"

In Lu Ran's mind, a classic line from an old game suddenly popped up.

The Straw Demon lackeys charged ahead fearlessly, flinging themselves at the Faceless Jade Venerables.

The Blood Disaster Dogs' means were terrifyingly varied—spraying fire pillars at the Straw Demons, spitting fireballs, creating fiery whirlwinds, flinging fire whips, and then...

BOOM!

Back then, when Lu Ran guarded Rain Alley, he endured the Straw Demon tribe's Night of Ghosts; that night, he was as busy as a flying arrow!

He feared that a Blood Disaster Dog might descend and ignite the Straw Demons prematurely, causing massive destruction to the city.

Today, the suffering tasted by the mortals was tasted by the Faceless Jade Venerables as well.

"Oh?" Lu Ran's eyes suddenly trembled, recognizing a familiar deity... Ah, a familiar god.

Wasn't this the esteemed Jade Talisman I respect?

The deity was clad in a mantle, surrounded by densely packed White Jade Stones, looking formidable!

He soared to the west of the Divine Mountain, occasionally flinging out a Jade Token glinting with sparks, targeting the front line, igniting numerous Straw Demon lackeys, causing earth-shattering explosions.

[Immortal Sheep Lord, I've arrived.]

[Mm, have you seen the gift I prepared for you?]

[Are you referring to... the Jade Talisman?] Lu Ran speculated.

[You won't accept his surrender.]

[Of course!] Lu Ran's response was crisp and decisive.

[I specially invited the Jade Talisman you always care about to come over, to help guard the Divine Mountain and resist you, the little human villain, hehe...]

In the laugh of the Immortal Sheep, there was a hint of playfulness: [You should enjoy it thoroughly, savor it carefully.]

Lu Ran's eyes turned icy, focusing on the Jade Talisman, and he couldn't help licking his lips.

...

### Chapter 1033: The Name of the Demon

[White Marked Wolf - Blood Calamity Canine, Golden Spike Elder - Straw Demon and the like, you don't need to bother with.]

[Huh?] Lu Ran struggled to tear his gaze away from the Jade Talisman, looking towards the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture halfway up the mountain.

The eighth-level Evil God-Blood Calamity Canine has two sides, known as the White Marked Wolf.

The two look quite similar, both being large wolf dogs; the difference is that the Blood Calamity Canine has black fur with blood-colored markings, while the White Marked Wolf has white fur with golden markings.

This pair of Deity and Demon has not merged.

On the battlefield, one could occasionally see a white wolf phantom on the minions of the Blood Calamity Canine, which were the Divine Minions-White Marked Wolves.

Similarly, the ninth-level God Demon Golden Spike Elder - Straw Demon also has not merged.

Lu Ran was very familiar with the Straw Demon clan, as these weak Evil Demons often visited the small town rain alley.

They wear coats made of dried yellow grass-leaves and hats made of the same.

Their eyes, hidden under the brim, were particularly striking, composed of grains of rice, giving off a bizarre withered yellow hue.

The two sides of the Straw Demon-Golden Spike Elder are in complete contrast to its dark style.

The Golden Spike Elder is also a type of scarecrow.

His body is tightly woven from plump, golden grains of rice, resembling a tall and thin rustic old man.

In his hand, he holds a flail, which is both a weapon and a farming tool.

It consists of a long handle connected to a row of wooden boards, traditionally used to thresh grain and make the seeds fall out.

The Golden Spike Elder's appearance gives off a very simple feeling, and his smile is quite honest; he is also one of the few in the God Demon Camp who gives the Human Clan a sense of familiarity.

That's really rare!

After all, no matter how weak he is, even if ranked ninth, he is a genuine god.

And what the ninth-level God-Golden Spike Elder is most known for is the pleasant grain fragrance emanating from his entire body.

Especially good smelling.

Lu Ran, far from the Divine Mountain, has yet to discern the grain scent.

Later, he can get close to this "Scarecrow Elder" and have a good sniff~

[The life and death of the two wolf dogs and two scarecrows can be decided after you settle the Divine Mountain. When you take action later, just focus on slaying the Blood Skull, Dust Shadow Flower - Wicked Mirror Demon, and the Jade Talisman.]

Listening to the Immortal Sheep Elder's voice transmission, Lu Ran also reached a conclusion in his heart.

It seems that the Sheep General has already dealt with the White Marked Wolf - Blood Calamity Canine, and Golden Spike Elder - Straw Demon in secret?

Truth be told, the Immortal Sheep Elder and these four Deity and Demon are all at the same midway point on the mountain.

On Blood Dust Divine Mountain, they apparently aren't qualified to stand atop the Divine Mountain Peak, where the head of Da Xia's Evil Demons·Blood Skull should be.

Lu Ran looked up and saw the Dust Shadow Flower - Wicked Mirror Demon two stone sculptures standing near the top of the peak, which remained vacant.

Is Blood Skull not home?

Lu Ran slowly flew around, finally spotting the figure of the Evil Demon Leader on the eastern battle line, dozens of kilometers away from the mountain.

"Hiss..." Just a glance made Lu Ran draw a sharp breath.

So fierce, huh?

The style is completely different!

In the Ran Sect, if you pull out Jiang Ruyi, Leng Xushuang, Yu Changsheng, the three of them seem like they're not even on the same layer as the three thousand disciples.

There's a distinct sense of "my pixel level is above yours."

And on Blood Dust Divine Mountain, the Blood Skull is that most unique one.

Around him floated blood mist, wielding a pair of long, blood-red straight blades; as each wrist turned, it conjured round after round of blood-colored moons.

Blood droplets flung off the blade, evidently scalding hot, indiscriminately scorching large swathes!

Honestly, Blood Skull's action speed was somewhat excessively fast!

The more Lu Ran watched, the more alarmed he became.

Is there really anyone in the Ran Sect who can keep up with Blood Skull's battle pace?

Even Huangfu Zhao, known for T0 level speed, had high displacement speed but not high action rate.

The only option would be to open Dong Ting Divine Technique-Thunderstruck Phase, having lightning strike himself to comprehensively enhance attributes, and then give it a try.

Compared to that, Yan Shuangzi's reaction ability, action speed, and the ability to gather and process information must be better than Huangfu Zhao's.

Because Yan Shuangzi has already integrated the Greedy Wolf Evil Dog dual techniques: Wolf Sense - Evil Sense, Wolf Sensitivity - Evil Sensitivity.

Can she wrest the Blood Skull hand-to-hand?

Lu Ran closely watched, feeling increasingly unsettled.

This is freaking...

Keep in mind, Blood Skull hasn't even initiated Evil Technique·Burning Blood Body yet!

That technique burns blood and divine power as the cost, boiling the blood within, causing a comprehensive surge in self-attributes!

As a Stone Sculpture, Blood Skull naturally has no blood, but it possesses divine power, with seething blood droplets formed by divine power manifesting around it.

Even the Greedy Wolf and Evil Dog dual techniques combined may truly not match up to Blood Skull's technique.

It's not easy...

[Why so silent, are you scared?] A low voice, laced with a hint of mockery, imprinted itself into Lu Ran's mind.

[No, I'm just pondering how to take action.] Lu Ran hurriedly responded, [By the way, Immortal Sheep Elder, what Divine Weapon Domain do those two blades of Blood Skull hold?]

[You don't recognize those two blades?]

[Huh?] Lu Ran was momentarily stunned, then observed carefully for a while, [That's Blood Skull's Evil Technique·Burning Blood Blade, not a Divine Weapon?]

[Heh.] The Immortal Sheep Elder let out a cold chuckle, [The Divine Weapons you all covet are beneath Blood Skull's notice.]

Lu Ran: "..."

The Blood Skull Elder is so noble, huh?

Even the most top-notch divine weapons in the world would stain your hands, wouldn't they?

[You might want to pay attention to that necklace.] The Immortal Sheep seemed convinced that Lu Ran had turned into a little coward, too afraid to observe closely, so he directly reminded him.

[Necklace?] Lu Ran squinted his eyes, looking at the necklace made of small skulls.

Each of those blood-red skulls, with hollow black eye sockets, was truly terrifying.

[It's a fourth-tier magical artifact that can spray blood outward, turning the battlefield into a blood pool.]

[Blood pool... What exactly is its effect?] Lu Ran hurriedly asked.

[If you are drenched by the sprayed blood, hit by the splashing blood pearls, or accidentally fall into the blood pool, the viscous blood will solidify your body, rendering you immobile.]

The Immortal Sheep sighed lightly and continued: [The intensity of this artifact's effect is very high; even the Blood Skull himself, if falling into the pool, cannot move.]

"Gulp." Lu Ran's throat moved slightly.

If the Blood Skull would be immobilized, then someone like him, a mere human, wouldn't even need to fall into the blood pool.

Randomly hit by just a drop of blood pearl, he would instantly be turned into a "amber"!

Just like those small insects encased in resin for millions of years...

No way!

The Blood Skull must not be allowed to cast spells, nor must the necklace be allowed to cast spells.

The Immortal Sheep said lazily: [Although your body can't move, you can still cast spells. So even if the Blood Skull is completely covered by blood and his limbs are stiff, he can still teleport to kill enemies.]

So that's it!

Lu Ran nodded secretly, suddenly thought of something, and asked: [The effects of this artifact are probably classified as a technique for changing the terrain environment, rather than an attack type.]

If that's the case, Divine Technique·Mist Rain in Human World should be able to break it?]

[Huh, a bit of cleverness.] The Immortal Sheep snorted.

Such words from the coldhearted Sheep would already be considered a compliment.

Lu Ran accepted it calmly; after all, he had come up with a counter-strategy in just a few seconds, which showed a bit of quick wit.

Hmm... didn't embarrass himself too much in front of the bossy Sheep General~

[Immortal Sheep, please wait a moment, I plan to communicate well with the warriors of the Ran Sect to draft a battle plan.]

[Hmm.]

Lu Ran moved away from the Divine Mountain and spiritually linked with the warriors, launching into intense discussions.

[Too fast, you haven't seen it, but the Blood Skull's speed is insanely fast, and he hasn't even activated Burning Blood Body yet...]

[Can the same old tactics work? Last time Evil Shadow led the team to control the Martial Monk, they almost let him escape.]

[Indeed, I must keep the Domain of Silence on at all times. Dust Shadow Flower-Evil Mirror Demon also needs someone to deal with, and additionally, the Jade Talisman is present...]

During these exchanges, Jiang Ruyi heard this sentence and was quite surprised: [The Jade Talisman is here as well?]

[The Immortal Sheep specially invited him for me, and combined with your two Ghost Talismans, it can form a set with four other types of Stone Talismans... By the way, Ruyi, once the Jade Talisman is killed off, first enclose its divine soul in the Rebirth Money.]

In the Sculpture Garden, Jiang Ruyi nodded gently.

It seems Lu Ran has some accounts to settle with the Jade Talisman Master.

Huangfu Zhao stepped forward, knelt towards Jiang Ruyi and saluted, asking the Lady of Ran Sect, also conveying to the Master of Ran Sect: [The Blood Skull's combat capability is extremely strong, even under the constraint of Domain of Silence, he's difficult to deal with.]

Currently, in Ran Sect, two great generals are advancing; Nightmare Guardian and Heavenly General Yin.

The Young Master had previously performed the Domain of Silence on North Wind Divine Mountain, his body is now drained, maybe we...]

The words need not be said, Lu Jiang both understood Huangfu Zhao's meaning.

Fame precedes people, while shadows follow trees.

Fighting against this Evil Demon Leader of Da Xia brings significant pressure for the warriors of Ran Sect.

Huangfu Zhao wished for Ran Sect to face the strong enemy in its prime, understandable indeed.

Both Nightmare and Heavenly General Yin are second-class God Demons, with formidable power, and if they could hold position at the edge of the Domain of Silence, they would greatly increase Ran Sect's margin for error.

The only issue is, time waits for no one!

Lu Ran's words imprinted in the minds of the generals: [Heavenly General Yin requires two days minimum to devour divine souls. Nightmare Guardian devours double divine souls which would take longer.

If delayed, change will arise. This battle must be fought today!

I have just communicated with Yan Zhi, she will assist me in fully activating the Domain of Silence, which can at least last three minutes.]

Huangfu Zhao remained silent.

Upon hearing the Young Master's resolute determination, those few old Cloud Sea members who wanted to echo did not step forward.

Far off on the southeastern battle front, Yu Changsheng transmitted his voice: [What the Master had just stated, Dust Shadow Flower-Evil Mirror Demon is near the mountaintop region.

Blood Skull and Jade Talisman are positioned on east and west sides of the Divine Mountain front line, currently killing enemies and plundering resources.]

[Mr. Cong Long, any insights?]

[With the Master's decision made, I believe we can await an opportune moment.]

[Speak.] Lu Ran said deeply.

[When Blood Skull and Jade Talisman both return to the mountain top for rest, the Master can initiate the Domain of Silence, simultaneously binding four God Demons.]

[Hmm...] Lu Ran was thoughtful.

[The enemy God Demons can both teleport and instantaneously relocate, it would be advantageous for us to consolidate the combat zone to avoid unexpected mishaps.]

Lu Ran nodded secretly.

That's indeed logical, a thorough sweep is needed!

Yu Changsheng furthered: [With our numbers and strength, on the mountain peak, we can look out for each other. Even if Blood Skull possesses sky-reaching abilities, he might find it difficult, with fists alone, to triumph over numerous hands!]

[Hmm!]

...

Chapter 1034: Trying to Set Me Up?

Wait.

A long wait.

Lu Ran stood in the sky two kilometers north of the Divine Mountain, ready to activate the Domain of Silence at any moment. The Evil Shadow Guardian, Elder Lu Yuan, and others were positioned in the southeast sky of the Divine Mountain, poised to strike.

The Jade Talisman had already returned to the Divine Mountain to recuperate twice, yet the Blood Skull continued to slaughter, an absolute battle demon!

Lu Ran sometimes wondered whether the resources plundered by the Blood Skull were enough to replenish the energy consumed in battle?

After an indeterminate period, Yan Shuangzi's eyes suddenly focused!

On the distant Eastern Front, a gigantic Blood Skull Evil Sculpture suddenly vanished, leaving behind a giant blood-red residue.

The Blood Skull has returned to the mountain!

He appeared at the mountain peak in a crouch, with a pair of blood blades stabbed into the Divine Mountain, his disheveled hair revealing a pair of vicious eyes overlooking the still chaotic frontline.

[Attention all units!]

The phrase embedded in her mind made Yan Shuangzi's body tense.

Her left and right hands each grasped the necks of Tu Feng and He Qifeng, both top close-combat experts within the Ran Sect.

Nearby, Lu Yuan's stone sculpture concentrated, holding a Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd in his left hand and a small purse in his right.

[3...2... Action!]

Lu Ran directly activated the Domain of Silence, Yan Shuangzi fixated on the Blood Skull and flashed away.

From within Lu Yuan's stone sculpture emerged a God and Demon Residue—Qin Yanzhi!

At the same time, the two magic artifacts in Lu Yuan's hands instantly unleashed God and Demon Sculptures en masse.

The master and disciple simultaneously activated the Teleportation Technique, as two beautiful Other Shore Flowers bloomed.

At the very moment Lu Ran activated the Domain of Silence, the crouching Blood Skull shuddered slightly.

"Hmm?"

The Blood Skull sensed his Divine Power being suppressed, but more than that, energy was surging from behind him?

The Evil Shadow Guardian, carrying the Wind Emperor and the Slaughter Heavenly General, arrived in an instant, grabbing at the target.

A dull thud, rubble splattering!

The Blood Skull reacted incredibly quickly, his movement speed astoundingly fast. Already crouching, he lunged forward fiercely.

Tu Feng's face changed abruptly!

He Qifeng also caught nothing but air, his face incomparably grim.

Damn!

Different gods and demons react differently to sudden situations.

The former Martial Monks, when ambushed, chose to fight back head-on immediately.

In sudden circumstances, the Blood Skull's first reaction was to evade.

"Whew~" Yan Shuangzi moved with equally astonishing speed, leaning forward, her hand reaching for the opponent's head.

In the Domain of Silence, neither Blood Skull nor Evil Shadow had Skills to rely on, but both were swift types of gods and demons, with such innate qualities.

Just like Si Xianxian, whose power attributes are higher than ordinary gods and demons.

However, Yan Shuangzi's outstretched hand did not catch the enemy's head but instead grabbed onto the Blood Skull's disheveled hair.

Several clear snapping sounds immediately echoed.

The disheveled hair broke instantly, unable to halt the Blood Skull's forward launch.

"Stop!" Yan Shuangzi reacted quickly, pushing off the ground nearly at a level with it, lunging forward.

"Snap!"

Yan Shuangzi grabbed the Blood Skull's ankle, and the two gods and demons tumbled off the Divine Mountain.

The heavy muffled sounds echoed from the mountain's peak, spreading downward.

The Blood Skull had already turned, lying on his back as he fell, his foot fiercely kicking at the unfamiliar female stone statue.

"Thud! Thud!" One foot after another, mercilessly stamped on Yan Shuangzi's face.

"Ugh." Yan Shuangzi's head tilted from the kick, gritting her teeth, her other hand hastily blocking.

"Rumble..." The two massive stone sculptures tumbled to the mountainside, collapsing the mountain, sending chunks of rubble rolling down, raising clouds of dust.

White Patterned Wolf, Blood Disaster Dog, Golden Spike Elder, and Straw Demon—four god and demon sculptures—all turned to look this way.

None had the poise befitting gods and demons, each and every one wide-eyed in shock!

This... this, this?

It's not that the dignity of the gods and demons was lacking, but this situation was too astonishingly extraordinary.

Is there truly a living being in this world who dares to cause trouble for Lord Blood Skull?

Really tired of living?

"Hold on!" The sharp voice spread from the peak to the mountainside, He Qifeng plummeting swiftly.

Tu Feng followed closely behind, only to see amidst the flying dust, a blue teleportation array had activated, evidently opened above the Evil Shadow Guardian's head.

Seeing this scene, the Blood Skull understood that reinforcements were about to arrive and also saw the strange female stone statue clinging to his ankle, refusing to let go; he made a decisive decision, directly abandoning the attempt to rid himself of the woman.

He stomped the ground with one foot, his immense body blasting upward, shooting straight southward.

"Whew~"

Yan Shuangzi was borne away from the Divine Mountain, beneath her, arrays unfolded from which massive stone sculptures descended, plummeting from the sky.

The range of the Fourth Rank-Domain of Silence is ten thousand meters in diameter, with a radius of five kilometers.

For stone sculptures that frequently measure two to three hundred meters, a mere five thousand meters is just a few leaps away.

The bigger issue is that Lu Ran cast the spell from two kilometers north of the Divine Mountain!

This time the Blood Skull launched with all his might, taking Yan Shuangzi with him, soaring out of the Domain of Silence's range.

At the instant her Divine Power reactivated, Yan Shuangzi acted swiftly, immediately deploying the Instant Teleportation Technique!

"Swoosh~"

Yan Shuangzi:!!!

She stood upon the mountain peak, her Divine Power once again sealed, but the ankle she had been clutching so tightly was gone.

Looking up, where she had just flickered to, there remained only a massive blood-red residue.

Yan Shuangzi had failed to bring back the Blood Skull!

She reacted swiftly, but the Blood Skull was not outdone; he too had teleported away!

All soldiers around changed color one by one, and even the entire fiercely contested battlefield paused momentarily.

The Blood Skull... just killed his way out like that?

The Immortal Sheep Sculpture's heart sank.

Indeed, the Blood Skull is the Evil Demon Leader, a strength not to be underestimated.

Only, all along, Lu Ran and his subordinates had fought in the Heavenly Realm, undefeated!

Yet, arriving at the Blood Dust Divine Mountain, a mistake occurred?

This kid... Is he deliberately making me use Divine Technique-Sheep, so that I become weak?

"Save me! Lord Blood Skull, save me!" A panicked shout broke the silence.

Near the summit area, the Jade Talisman was being pinned down by the stone sculptures of Leng Tianxing and Leng Tianyue, who both possessed complete Divine Positions, leaving him completely immobile.

His four top-level magic artifact stone tokens lost their effectiveness within the Domain of Silence, remaining only with the ability to hover, unable to cast spells.

"What the hell are you barking at?!"

Outside the domain, a furious female voice came through, accompanied by a series of blazing hammer shadows.

The Mad Immortal was anxious and angry, fiercely swinging the hammer shadows, though not at the Jade Talisman.

Because that damn guy was destined to be consumed by Qiao Yuansi's Divine Fire Demon's Refining Cauldron.

Refine!

Relentlessly refine!

The young master said he would stand atop the lantern and personally watch Lord Jade Talisman suffer and struggle.

Si Xianxian, as the main attack point for Ran Sect, was tasked to deal with those capable of teleportation as quickly as possible.

Then provide rapid support, fiercely smashing the Blood Skull!

Yet at this moment, the Blood Skull had already escaped, able to instantly reach anyone nearby and take their life!

How could the Mad Immortal not be anxious?

"How bold, to dare scheme against me."

From tens of kilometers southeast of the Divine Mountain, a sinister voice came.

Blood Skull hovered in the air, flinging both hands to grip two Blood Burning Blades dripping with blood, his eyes filled with ruthless aggression, staring menacingly at the rabble atop the mountain peak.

A few simple words carried infinite oppressive power, causing even the God and Demon with complete Divine Positions to shudder in this overwhelming might.

"Huff!!" From within Blood Skull, a dense sea of blood suddenly surged forth, spreading in all directions.

Blood Skull Clan's ultimate move-Blood Sacrifice Mountain and River!

The boiling blood was scorching hot, capable of engulfing everything as it burned all to ashes, reducing to energy to replenish itself.

"Swish~" Blood Skull flicked his blade swiftly.

At the mountain peak, He Yingcai panicked, as if already envisioning a massive arc made from sizzling blood splitting the towering Divine Mountain and shattering the God Sculptures.

Aside from teleportation, there was no other way!

Flying was obviously out of the question, for no matter how fast you flew, you couldn't be faster than the arc of blood... huh?

He Yingcai suddenly slightly opened her mouth, her fearful gaze transforming into relieved gratitude for narrowly escaping disaster.

Everything she anticipated had not occurred.

The dual blades that Blood Skull lifted failed to unleash an arc of blood that would incinerate all.

Even those Blood Burning Blades turned directly into viscous blood, flowing down between Blood Skull's fingers.

Gone?

A young man's voice rang out, equally sinister:

"Does scheming against you require great courage?"

The smiling sheep face of the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture remained unchanged, only a peculiar gleam momentarily flashed in its eyes.

Due to the distance, it couldn't hear the disciple's words, but it could clearly witness Blood Skull's unusual state.

"Hmm?" Blood Skull abruptly turned his gaze.

Four to five kilometers away, above the splashing sea of blood and higher in the sky, a tiny figure from the Human Clan hovered.

He wore a flowing feather garment, resembling an immortal in exile, yet his face was obscured by a Blood Crystal Mask, exuding a hint of wickedness.

The youth too had a head of cropped hair, slightly tousled underneath, were a pair of extraordinarily cold eyes.

There was a curious stylistic similarity between the one person and the demon.

Honestly, if Blood Skull chose to flee directly, Lu Ran would indeed be at a loss.

But the problem was, would the proud Lord Blood Skull leave?

Arriving thirty kilometers away, using the surging sea of blood to cover the world, preventing any stone sculptures from nearing, regrouping—by then he would likely unleash havoc and destruction, right?

Heh.

Lu Ran tightly pressed his lips, staring directly into Blood Skull's eyes.

Forget about wreaking havoc.

Since you're not leaving, then don't even think about it!

"Huff!"

On the Blood Dust Divine Mountain, the Dust Shadow Flower instantly bloomed into a sea of flowers, simultaneously revealing an illusory Other Shore Flower.

Blood Skull moved to thirty kilometers southeast, Lu Ran closed the domain, used invisibility and teleportation to approach, reopened the domain, controlling the opponent, thus allowing the many God and Demon of the mountain to cast spells.

The Dust Shadow Flower immediately reacted, intending to flee, but Ran Sect was prepared.

Among the Ran Sect warriors beside Dust Shadow Flower was the presence of He Yingcai!

Divine Color General had already grasped the petals with both hands, and at this moment, released ten fine red lines, adhering to the petals.

The blossoming sea of flowers beneath her feet was designed to be highly hallucinogenic, yet had no effect on her.

The Bi He Sect possessed the skill of Spirit Defense·Lotus Heart!

At the same time, in another battle formation on the Divine Mountain, Tangled Silk Shadow also summoned an Ancient Bronze Mirror.

He Yingcai was not there because the Tangled Silk Shadow Clan required summoning the basic bronze mirror·Evil Mirror before transforming it into a Landing Mirror for teleportation.

The procedure would naturally delay time.

"Zizzy~ zzzz~"

A flicker of lightning flashed by!

Huangfu Zhao pinched the neck of the Evil Mirror Demon, directly taking her away from the bronze mirror, and brought her ear close to his mouth with a battle roar:

"Hah!!"

"What's the matter, Lord Blood Skull, aren't you faster than me?" Lu Ran, relying on his Divine Weapon, continued to approach Blood Skull.

Blood Skull stood high in the air, with only a necklace around his neck, encumbering him with extremely heavy stone sculptures.

Blood Skull remained silent, only staring sinisterly at Lu Ran, then plummeting straight down.

The next instant, his eyes widened in surprise!

Behind him, more Divine Powers surged from the left and right.

"Whoosh~"

The Evil Shadow Guardian, with Wind Emperor and Tu He Tian descending from the Outer Realm, appeared directly in mid-air, once again surrounding Blood Skull.

"Snap" came a crisp sound!

Yan Shuangzi grasped Blood Skull's head, her enormous fingers locking firmly onto the top of his skull.

This time, it wasn't just the hair!

...

Chapter 1035: Live by the Blade, Die by the Blade

"Ah! Ah ah ah..."

The terror was already written on Jade Talisman's face.

The lantern light from the Lantern Sect shone on him, making him shrink along with the Leng siblings, flying towards the distance.

There, a stone sculpture maiden awaited.

Lanterns floated around her, and she held a beautiful eight-sided lantern in her hands, her beautiful big eyes staring intently at the three being drawn in.

Suddenly, dense White Jade Stones spread out from within Jade Talisman.

"Hmm!" Yuanxi softly exclaimed, and a lantern floating beside him immediately radiated a golden-red glow, specifically enveloping himself and the Leng siblings in a Golden Red Defense Shield.

"Boom!"

The Bursting Flame Talisman exploded, sending a surge of fiery waves.

Seeing the sea of fire coming, even though Yuanxi had donned a defense shield, he couldn't help but shrink back.

Just at this moment, a multitude of White Jade Stones flew from behind, encircling the maiden.

This was the Divine Technique·Jade Talisman Formation, equipped with Bursting Flame Talisman, Quicksand Talisman, Electric Shackles Talisman, and Frost Talisman, totaling 64 White Jade Stones, with all kinds included.

Under special circumstances, this technique vastly surpasses Defense Techniques!

Like right now, the sea of fire couldn't even reach the stone sculpture maiden, already absorbed by a large number of White Jade Stones.

Yuanxi's face lit with joy, turning to look: "Sister Ruyi!"

Jiang Ruyi, expressionless, manipulated the Bursting Flame Talisman, maximizing absorption of the flames from the same sect.

On the battlefield, her expression grew colder, she spoke chillingly: "Focus."

"Hmm~" Yuanxi shrank his head again and quickly looked at the target.

Despite the pervasive flames, the lantern light persisted, enveloping the trio.

Leng Tianyue, continuously shrinking in size, pressed a Jade Talisman arm while holding a crescent-shaped Silver Hook in her hand, fiercely hooked onto Jade Talisman's shoulder, coating his stone body with a layer of silver sheen.

As the silver sheen increased, Jade Talisman's body stiffened more.

On the other side, Leng Tianxing pressed Jade Talisman's other arm, his hand glimmering with starlight, pouring Dubhe Breaking Army Star fiercely onto Jade Talisman's body.

Amidst the "crack crack" sound, Jade Talisman's terror increased, naturally sensing the continuous shattering of his stone body.

"Zzz~zz~"

Electric Shackles Talisman cracked open piece by piece.

Interestingly, as Jade Talisman was enveloped by lantern light, shrinking constantly, the range of his Divine Technique also shrunk proportionally.

This time, Jiang Ruyi didn't need to absorb the sect's technique, for the maiden holding the lantern, surrounded by a floating lantern, emitted a sacred white light.

Eliminating all abnormal conditions within the lighting range.

Absolute sovereign in the support realm!

Proficient in Healing and Purification; top-notch in Defense and Control.

Under Jade Talisman's desperate gaze, the trio penetrated the lantern paper, entering the lantern's interior.

Initially, the Leng siblings were pressing Jade Talisman hard, but as the Divine Fire in the cage surged, the trio was instantly torn apart.

Yuanxi's heart thought moved, and the Leng siblings who flew backward penetrated the lantern paper again, flying out.

Only Jade Talisman was left in the cage enduring the burning of the Divine Fire.

"Ah! Please... I surrender, I, uh..."

Lord God's plea for surrender rang continuously, devoid of any grandeur.

"Success!" Yuanxi clasped the lantern with both hands, playfully blinking.

She looked up to see Aunt Leng Tianyue with a lingering fearful expression, while Uncle Leng Tianxing constantly patted the unextinguished Divine Fire on his body.

Clearly burned quite badly!

These two were evidently not good candidates for sharing joy; Yuanxi stuck out her tongue and hurriedly searched for Sister Ruyi's figure.

In the distance, Jiang Ruyi manipulated the Golden Jade Eight Talismans, receiving several huge White Jade Stones from Leng Xushuang.

The Golden Jade Eight Talismans just happened to be eight pieces, perfectly in pairs, imprisoning four Magic Artifacts.

Jiang Ruyi felt very displeased, coldly eyeing the so-called top-level magical artifacts.

When the master was in distress, these four Magic Artifacts·White Jade Stone tokens actually fled?

When the Domain of Silence enveloped the Divine Mountain, the four Jade Tokens couldn't perform any technique, and upon seeing their master captured, they quickly flew away.

Before Leng Xushuang caught them, they also attempted to resist.

However, the Frost Jade Token released frost snow, which not only failed to freeze Leng Xushuang but amplified the Xuan Shuang Guard's physical attributes comprehensively.

The currents from the Thunder Jade Token had no shackling effect, completely countered by the Xuan Shuang Guard's Purification Skill.

The Flame Jade Token was supposed to act, but Leng Xushuang, moving swiftly, was the first to grasp it in hand; it feared being crushed and dared not move an inch.

The Quicksand Jade Token realized the situation was hopeless and surrendered outright! It remained steady, without raising even a speck of dust.

Indeed, the type of master determines the type of magic artifact...

Jiang Ruyi's gaze grew colder.

It was said that these four matched two Ghost Talismans, and together they could exhibit an immensely powerful effect.

She was initially looking forward to it, but now it seems that if such magic artifacts fell into her hands, would they not flee in future times of trouble?

"Crash!!"

A piercing shattering sound was suddenly heard near the mountain top region at Blood Dust Divine Mountain.

That Dust Shadow Flower, held mid-air by red silk thread, exploded amid a series of hammer blows.

"Disciple, go!" Lu Yuan said sternly.

"Buzz!!"

As the words fell, Lu Yuan's stone sculpture vibrated violently, and the stone sculpture subtly transformed into a Pure Energy Body, with a young stone sculpture separating from Lu Yuan's stone form.

#### Chapter 1036: Live by the Blade, Die by the Blade

Lu Yuan used his power to teleport and sent his disciple Qin Yanzhi into the dense fog.

Meanwhile, in the far distance on the Divine Mountain, the battle group of the Evil Mirror Demon also achieved victory.

Huangfu Zhao, who had been promoted to a Second-class God, showed astonishing strength! With every battle roar, he controlled the Eighth-class Evil God, the Evil Mirror Demon, from start to finish.

Countless Thunderbirds, along with purple lightning striking down from the sky, shattered the Evil Mirror Demon into pieces.

Until the Evil Mirror Demon Sculpture broke and dispersed its fog, Lu Yuan unceremoniously teleported over.

"Long Fengyan, go to the north side of the mountain peak to guard, bring along the Huangfu Tianjiang, and always keep an eye on the northern situation."

"Yes!" Wang Longxiang, Xue Fengchen, and Gao Yunyan immediately obeyed the lady's command.

"Xuan Shuang, tell Wuya to go to the western peak, then you go between the two fogs and activate Perception Techniques to ensure no one disturbs Lu Yuan and his disciple. Yuanxi, bring the Divine Color General to guard the eastern peak; the rest, follow me."

Jiang Ruyi organized and issued one command after another, swiftly flying south of the mountain.

The Leng siblings, Hua Qingying, and Si Xianxian followed closely behind.

The mist at the mountain peak did not spread to the mid-mountain, since this place was the Southwest Frontline, so most Divine Sculptures stood on the southern side of the mountain.

The White-striped Wolf, Blood Disaster Dog, Golden Spike Elder, and Straw Demon naturally noticed this group of formidable and unfamiliar Stone Sculptures.

Several Gods and Demons immediately tensed up.

Fortunately, these Stone Sculptures just flew past and did not pay attention to them.

About thirty kilometers southeast of the Divine Mountain, the battlefield situation was already clear. In the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, an insignificant Human being stood quietly under the dark clouds.

He wielded the Silent Night Blade, commanding the laws of survival in this world.

The true Lord of All!

Under Lu Ran's Silent Night Blade, the Evil Shadow Guardian, Wind Emperor, and Heavenly Slayer were sealed by three Stone Sculptures, trapping the arrogant Blood Skull.

Outside the Domain of Silence, Martial Emperor, Divine General Luo, and Yandi were engulfed in flames, constantly sending out fire pillars and shooting a barrage of arrows.

"Silver Toad Nine Locks." At Jiang Ruyi's quick arrival, she directly issued the command.

Leng Tianyue immediately extended a hand forward, summoning nine enormous Silver Toad shadows. With sounds of frogs croaking, nine moonlight-conjured toad tongues lunged toward the entwined Stone Sculptures.

Inevitably, many Silver Toad shadows appeared within the Domain of Silence, but this did not interfere with Leng Tianyue's spellcasting from the Outer Realm.

"Whoosh~ Whoosh~"

The Moonlight Toad tongues were quite agile, and under Leng Tianjiang's control, the nine toad tongues each bound Blood Skull's head, elbows, wrists, knees, and ankles.

Providing great support to the Evil Shadow trio inside the Domain.

"Mad Fairy, Leng Tianjiang, aim carefully, do not harm the Blood Skull Necklace." Jiang Ruyi spoke again.

"Ha, just watch!" Si Xianxian immediately swung the Mad Hammer.

"Yes." Leng Tianxing extended a hand forward, and after a brief adjustment, a radiant star burst from his palm.

Jiang Ruyi looked down at the Domain, observing the Blood Skull, who possessed martial skills, but could not execute any of them.

She slightly lifted her eyes to the young Human floating in the air.

The rules here, it was evident that he set them.

No matter if you were human, god, or demon, even if you were on the pinnacle of Gods and Demons...

You would still be born under his blade.

Die under his blade.

Jiang Ruyi sighed softly, such a scene she was more than willing to see, but as these continuous victories unfolded, who knew how long they could last?

She did not deny the effort and capacity of the Ran Sect, but upon delving deeper, everything seemed as it should be.

Every strike by the Ran Sect was always thoroughly prepared beforehand.

Always analyzing the true nature of evil demons and carrying out targeted attacks, almost every time through ambush and surprise.

Victory was normal, failure was unacceptable.

With so many advantageous conditions, if the Ran Sect could not succeed, then they were nothing but a group of trash!

Unworthy of the Sculpture Garden bestowed by Lord Immortal Sheep.

But with Lu Ran and the Gods of the Ran Sect descending, starting to protect the Human World and guard the Divine Mountain...

The situation would completely change.

The struggle of the Ran Sect would enter the next stage, turning from dark to light, completely exposed to the sight of Da Xia's Gods and Demons and even the world's Gods and Demons...

What would the future hold?

Yet Lu Ran truly anticipated coming to the Human World, that excitement in his words made her reluctant to immediately dampen his spirits.

"Despicable! Despicable and lowly race!!"

It turned out, even the usually silent Blood Skull was capable of roaring, at least in his dying moments he was willing to give a few words to the contemptible Human race.

"Crack! Crack..."

Accompanied by the ear-piercing sound of Stone Sculptures shattering, Jiang Ruyi commanded:

"Misty Rain Over the Human World."

"Yes, My Lady." Hua Qingying held a stone umbrella, immediately enacting the Divine Technique, causing hazy drizzle to fall and a calm river surface to appear quietly.

"Crack!!"

The Blood Skull was not just blasted in half, its chest and lower part were almost entirely shattered.

"Curved Moon Hook." Jiang Ruyi coldly spoke.

Leng Tianyue quickly summoned the Magic Artifact, with the Moonlight Chain clattering, the hook ended with a crescent moon, killing into the Domain of Silence.

Though no technique could be executed, the most basic flying ability remained.

It must be said, Jiang Ruyi indeed understood Lu Ran well.

At the very first moment of the Blood Skull's death, the Human youth high in the sky immediately canceled the Domain of Silence.

"Puff!!"

The necklace Magic Artifact of Blood Skull, unlike the Jade Talisman's Magic Artifact Jade Tablet, though it had long been held by the Wind Emperor, did not submit.

In the instant when it could perform a spell, nine blood-colored skulls sprayed a dense blood sea in all directions.

Attempting to imprison all life forms.

However, Misty Rain Over the Human World already existed.

The Curved Moon Hook, capable of snaring Divine Weapons, freezing the Artifact Spirits inside, had already reached He Qifeng's hand.

Chapter 1037: Live by the Blade, Die by the Blade (Part 3)

The surging sea of blood, incompatible with the picturesque rain of Jiangnan, leaves no room for survival.

The furious and scalding Blood Skull Necklace is swiftly coated with a layer of broad cold clarity.

"Hoo~" The phoenix robe flutters.

Jiang Ruyi flies towards the distance, her gaze suddenly intense.

Because another charm shadow rushes ahead, flickering to the sky, gently cradling the small Human Clan with one hand.

"Ugh." Lu Ran's little face turns pale, his body hollow, limbs weak and powerless.

He can endure just this.

The key is after his body is hollowed out, that extreme fatigue and mental exhaustion simply feel terrible!

All along, he has been borrowing the energy of the Rou Paperman, but as a "transit station," Lu Ran's entire Divine Power has long been drained.

Not to mention the small Human Clan, even the Divine Sculpture on the Yan Paper God Mountain far away, shows a particularly stiff expression at this moment.

As Lu Ran steps onto the giant stone hand, his whole body of Divine Weapon naturally unloads power, and his legs utterly incapable of supporting his body, he directly falls sitting in Yan Shuangzi's palm.

"The spell's time is too long, I might, I... I..." Lu Ran's voice grows quieter and quieter.

With the battle ended, his strained mind slightly relaxes, and the consequences triggered by bodily exhaustion rush like a tide.

"Go, keep the Blood Skull Divine Soul safe."

A cold voice echoes.

Yan Shuangzi presses her lips tightly, obeying the command, cautiously placing the little person in her hand into the Lady's hand, swiftly flickering into the fog.

Jiang Ruyi lowers her eyes, watching the youth with unfocused gaze and limp body in her palm, she gently closes her hand.

After leaving a few soldiers to absorb energy and stand guard, she leads the main forces back to the Blood Dust Divine Mountain.

Sometime later, the Golden Jade Eight Talismans surrounding her have already dispersed.

The Magic Artifact, White Jade Stone, sandwiched between pairs of Golden Jade Stone Talisman, regained freedom, yet no Jade Token fled.

From beginning to end, they never cast spells, but tightly followed the phoenix-robed woman.

Harsh reality, the best teacher.

On the southern side of the Divine Mountain, several God Demons tense once again!

The Stone Sculptures that just flew past them have returned, and under the lead of a young goddess statue, head straight for their side.

"Loo..." Blood Disaster Dog instinctively steps back, habitually bares its teeth, hurriedly shuts its mouth.

Lest it incites the displeasure of this unfamiliar goddess sculpture.

Jin Suiweng's simple smile is gone as well, his face is extremely serious, tightly clenching the threshing tool in his hand.

Under the watchful eyes of a group of God Demons, the one goddess statue clad in a phoenix robe, an unsurpassed beauty, respectfully bows towards the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture.

Behind them, the followers, together with the Lady of the Ran Sect, bow their heads in salute to the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture.

All Gods: !!!

The Immortal Sheep God Sculpture does not quite react, remaining motionless, its sheep face constantly wearing a smiling expression.

Jiang Ruyi's gaze sweeps across the White Patterned Wolf, Blood Disaster Dog, Jin Suiweng, and Straw Demon, faintly speaks: "The Blood Skull is dead, Dust Shadow Flower, Evil Mirror Demon, and Jade Talisman are all defeated.

This Blood Dust Divine Mountain has a new owner."

The four God Demons obviously see the situation clearly, also understand why their side can survive.

The two Straw Demons bow their heads, two wolves and dogs also crouch down.

The Immortal Sheep God Sculpture looks at the promising disciple's fiancee, then at the majestic sect members of the Ran Sect behind her.

That mysterious smile on the sheep face seems even deeper.

Chapter 1038: His Name

"Uh..."

Lu Ran's unfocused gaze gradually regained some clarity.

"Brother, you're awake?" A delighted voice came from above.

Lu Ran had been lying on the lantern, the flames within glowing a fluorescent green, continuously shooting sparks outward, nourishing his body and soul.

This was the Lantern Sect's Healing System Divine Technique: Firefly Cage.

"I wasn't asleep." Lu Ran looked up at the face of the girl's Divine Sculpture, his already weak body trembling uncontrollably.

"Hehe~" Qiao Yuansi, esteemed as a God, still looked youthful and charming with a gentle smile.

But the words she spoke caused someone's cheeks to flush: "The universe is destroyed, but the mouth is still here~"

"I... I really wasn't asleep," Lu Ran whispered.

"Tsk~" Qiao Yuansi pursed her lips.

In truth, Lu Ran wasn't lying; his body was indeed severely overextended, weak and powerless, with waves of extreme fatigue making his spirit languid.

Yet, Lu Ran knew he couldn't pass out; waking up again, he would have no idea what day it would be.

He struggled to stay conscious, repeatedly battling against the limits of his body. With Little Blazing Phoenix's nourishment and Qiao Yuansi's healing, he slowly recovered.

Yes, Lu Ran was currently inside the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

Although in a daze, he vaguely recalled Jiang Ruyi ordering Little Blazing Phoenix to swallow him, quickly replenishing his depleted body.

Later, Little Yuanxi also entered the gourd and summoned a Firefly Cage for him.

Lu Ran had some recollection of everything everyone had done.

As for exactly how long he had been recovering, he had no concept of time.

"The Jade Talisman is almost refined~" His sister's voice came from above, "You woke up just in time; otherwise, I'd have to imprison the Divine Soul."

Qiao Yuansi possessed the Lantern-Black Lantern double divine position, and the notorious Black Lamp Clan could absorb dead souls into the lantern, grilling them with cage fire.

Qiao Yuansi naturally had the means to imprison dead souls and could, like the Black Lantern, torment and destroy souls.

If Lu Ran hadn't woken up, she would gladly have done the job.

"By the way, can you do it now? Can you cast a spell?" Qiao Yuansi asked skeptically, looking at the limp figure on the Firefly Cage, thinking her brother seemed like a small puddle of mud.

"Of... of course, I can." Lu Ran struggled to get up, his steps unsteady.

"The only thing hard about you is your mouth." Qiao Yuansi muttered, casually releasing the lift rod, allowing the lantern to float in the air.

With one hand supporting a divine fire training demon cage, the other down by the Firefly Cage, she said, "Then jump into my hand."

Lu Ran: "..."

Jumping was truly a challenge for his being.

I could roll down along the lantern papers.

"Whoosh~" Ribbons danced gracefully, wrapping around Lu Ran's waist.

Lu Ran almost cried!

The Smoke and Mist Silk was indeed wonderful, so gentle and considerate.

The tiny human safely flew into the hands of the girl god, who carried him over to the divine fire training demon cage.

"Are you ready?"

"Huh?"

"Awful brother, get ready for the spell casting!" Qiao Yuansi mumbled, "The Jade Talisman has been burned till it has no ability to resist, if I add more fire, I can burn out its Divine Soul."

"Wait!" Lu Ran hurriedly said.

Qiao Yuansi glanced at the small figure at the edge of her palm, paused, and her voice became much gentler: "How about I do it, and you rest a bit longer?"

"I'll do it!" Lu Ran replied decisively, "Just give me a moment."

"Okay." Qiao Yuansi replied softly.

The disciple of Jade Talisman Sect, Lu Xing, was Lu Ran's father, also her father.

Whoever among the siblings handled this, it would be the same.

However, comparatively, the father spent more time with the brother; the father and son lived in Rain Alley City, including the night the father died during the storm...

It is said that the brother bravely claimed he had grown up, was strong, and no longer feared lightning.

Thus, on that rainy night, the father did not stay by the brother's side as before but accepted an assignment, leaving for a mission.

But that departure, the father never returned.

Forever remained by the banks of Wu Lie River.

Qiao Yuansi did not know many details, but she knew one thing:

Father did not come back,

and her brother remained trapped in that thunderstorm night forever.

On this point, she had confirmed it repeatedly over thousands of days and nights.

Since their father's death, Lu Ran was brought to Beijing to live with her; he had always been quiet, seemingly burdened with some great weight.

Only when she was being playful and affectionate did he become a bit more open.

During his three years of middle school, he hadn't made a single friend.

Just after these three years, when he turned 16, he stubbornly said goodbye to their mother.

Stubbornly returned to Rain Alley City.

It is said that after returning to that small city, he finally became a bit more cheerful.

Perhaps because he gradually grew up, he truly began to hide his feelings.

Or perhaps because he returned to the familiar hometown, he could take the knife left behind by his father and walk through the alleys where his father once fought, night after night.

Sister Ruyi mentioned that the brother had a secret training base.

That was an abandoned building, a dilapidated, often waterlogged rooftop.

The brother often went there to honor their late father.

Placing offerings like milk and bread.

After the father had eaten, he ate another round.

He always took the wooden sword his father gave him as a child, training on that rooftop, as if showing someone.

Sister Ruyi also said that the brother wished to join the Jade Talisman Sect, hoping to follow in their father's footsteps and complete his unfinished endeavors...

Qiao Yuansi had naturally heard of the happenings on the God Worship Platform.

Knowing that Sister Ruyi abandoned the Second-class God·Tianluan and came under the Jade Talisman Sect.

Unfortunately, she didn't wait for that young man.

The young man didn't come to pay respects to the Jade Talisman.

Among the hundred Great Xia Gods, he didn't even pay respects to any of them.

The one appearing on the God Worship Platform was actually the Evil God·Yan Paper Man.

Now it seems that the one who eventually rescued my brother from the hands of the evil demon was not the recognized God·Immortal Goat.

Qiao Yuansi's knowledge is limited, but enough to speculate a little.

In fact, Lu Ran was only slightly better than his sister, confirming this Immortal Goat was not that Immortal Goat, knowing he was devoted to a mysterious entity with an unknown identity, disguised as the Immortal Goat.

"Alright."

"Eh?" Qiao Yuansi suddenly awoke.

"Good to go," Lu Ran said in a deep voice.

"Oh, oh!" Qiao Yuansi instantly prompted his Divine Power, the Cage Fire surged and soared high.

The mist spread out, but unlike other Divine and Evil Sculptures breaking, the energy was not so dense.

After all, Qiao Yuansi was slowly refining, continuously burning the Stone Sculpture's body, the energy of the Gods continuously overflowed outwards, a trace of Holy Spirit Energy was taken over by the little Blazing Phoenix, used to infuse into the siblings' bodies.

Even so, at the moment the Jade Talisman was thoroughly burnt, there was still quite a bit of mist.

As Qiao Yuansi canceled the God Fire Refining Demon Cage, Lu Ran opened his Simurgh Eyes, searching for the vast Divine Soul.

"Hoo~"

Lu Ran, with a gesture, deployed Soul Prison, flew forward, drawing the enormous Divine Soul into the small black mist group.

"Blazing Phoenix, disperse the mist a bit."

"Caw~" A small hollow phoenix woven from golden flame lines slowly spiraled, manipulating a large amount of dense mist to fall downward.

But there were also traces of Holy Spirit Energy shrouding Lu Ran's body, and more condensed streams of Divine Power, mixed with Holy Spirit Energy, flowed into Lu Ran's body.

"Lu...Lu Ran!" The terrified face of the Jade Talisman appeared on the black mist group.

Lu Ran was quite surprised: "You know me?"

"Later, I recognized you." The Jade Talisman's face changed repeatedly, looking up at the young girl's Divine Sculpture above, seemingly recognizing who she was too.

"Later?" Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly.

The Jade Talisman suddenly said: "You can't kill me, you can't!"

Lu Ran merely laughed: "But you are already dead."

"No, I can still...still exist, you can't kill me! Do as I say, I can trade with you..."

Lu Ran's smile gradually faded, his expression serious: "What do you mean you can still exist?"

The Jade Talisman's expression went through waves of change, seemingly contemplating something.

"Hoo~"

Inside the Soul Prison group, the faint Soul Fire ignited.

"Aah! Aah aaah aaah..." The Jade Talisman instantly screamed in agony, his face constantly twisted, every moment tarnishing the reputation a God deserves.

"Wait...wait a moment, stop! Your father! Your mother is Qiao Wanjun, you are...Lu...Lu's descendant aaah aaah aaah..."

"Brother?" Qiao Yuansi's face was astonished, his hands stacked, holding the small Human Clan, bringing it close to his eyes.

Lu Ran seemed not to hear, continuing to burn Soul Fire.

Or perhaps, he heard.

Just at this moment, his emotions were chaotic, unprepared for whatever the Jade Talisman was about to say.

Anticipating greatly, longing immensely.

Yet also fearful, scared his hopes would be in vain.

"Your father is still alive! Still alive...uh aaah aaah!!" Under the burning of faint Soul Fire, the Jade Talisman could not endure, screaming out shrilly.

The Soul Fire extinguished abruptly.

Lu Ran's face was solemn, without intense emotional fluctuations, his cold eyes staring at the Jade Talismans' dead soul: "You're not even as good as the Faceless Jade Venerable lackey."

He once burned the Faceless Jade Venerable lackey's dead soul, attempting to extract some information.

But from beginning to end, that Jade Venerable lackey remained unchanged in expression, even showed a faint smile, said a sentence that Lu Ran remembers to this day:

"You've never experienced true pain."

The Jade Talisman's face twisted in agony, watching the indifferent young man, listening to him talk about unrelated topics.

He couldn't tell if Lu Ran truly didn't care about his father, or if he was pretending.

To the Human Clan, especially to the people of Da Xia, blood relations should be highly valued.

The anxious demeanor of the young girl God was supposed to be normal.

But this young man before him...

"Speak, if you don't want to keep being burned." The deep voice emanated from the man behind the Blood Crystal Mask.

"Lu...Lu..."

"Lu Xing." Lu Ran said coldly.

The Jade Talisman didn't even know Lu Ran's father's name, only knew he was Qiao Wanju's husband.

"Lu Xing still exists, he should still exist!" The Jade Talisman hurriedly said.

Upon hearing, Qiao Yuansi's hand couldn't help but tremble slightly.

Lu Ran bounced in the palm of the young girl God, his chilling tone unchanged: "You don't even know his name, how do you know his life and death, whether he exists?"

The Jade Talisman suddenly said: "Martial Artist!"

"What?"

"Back then, it was Martial Artist who gave me the order! To force Qiao Wanju to destroy the Cloud Sea Sect, force her to commit suicide! Martial Artist had me threaten with her family's lives, you Human Clan are most concerned about this!"

The Jade Talisman spilled out ancient secrets in a torrent.

Repeatedly emphasizing Martial Artist's name.

"Qiao Wanju defied orders, Martial Artist then commanded me, had me kill Lu first..."

Qiao Yuansi's eyes widened.

Lu Ran's face grew darker, his hand with the Soul Prison reignited the faint Soul Fire once more.

...

Chapter 1039: The True Gift

"Brother, tell him to speak!"

Qiao Yuansi waved his hand, reminding the young human being interrogated in his palm.

"Hoo~" An illusion of a god and demon surged from within the girl's Divine Sculpture, swiftly creating a Heavenly Realm body, then steadily landing on the giant stone hand.

At the same time, Lu Ran also extinguished the Soul Fire.

The cries of the god gradually diminished but couldn't completely cease, always groaning in pain.

Experiencing the sensation of a soul being burned, the Jade Talisman had a clear and thorough understanding. When he looked at Lu Ran again, there was even a hint of fear in his gaze.

Lu Ran remained unmoved and said in a deep voice, "Continue."

"It was Martial Artist, Martial Artist made me do it..." Jade Talisman was still passing the blame. Seeing the unkind eyes of the young human, he quickly said, "Qiao Wanjun defied the order, and I, under Martial Artist's command, executed Lu... Lu Xing first."

"Dad died?" Qiao Yuansi exclaimed.

Did I just hear it wrong?

Didn't Jade Talisman say that dad wasn't dead?

Why change his words... hmm, the original words from Jade Talisman seemed to be "Lu Xing still exists."

"I preserved his dead soul, I properly preserved it!" Seeing the reaction of the siblings, Jade Talisman hastily said.

Qiao Yuansi tightly pursed her lips, her eyes already slightly red.

"Heh." Lu Ran lowered his head and let out a self-deprecating laugh.

He was indeed too naive, believing Jade Talisman's nonsense.

Perhaps Jade Talisman did not know that the soldiers of the Ran Sect, especially Lu Ran himself, have some knowledge about the mysterious level of dead souls.

At least Lu Ran could be very certain that souls lingering in the world cannot exist for too long.

The year his father died, Lu Ran was only 13 years old.

Now Lu Ran is already 23.

A full ten years.

No matter what kind of dead soul, it would dissipate into nothingness...

Even a divine soul of such strength as Jade Talisman's fears it cannot last for ten years, how could his father still exist?

"I preserved Lu Xing's dead soul, he must still exist! He must!" The cries of Jade Talisman, in Lu Ran's ears, resembled that of a desperate gambler.

Lu Ran's voice grew even colder: "Stored where? Stored in your Divine Sculpture body, as your nourishment?"

"No! I still need to keep him, I must keep him!" Jade Talisman was so anxious, regardless of expression or attitude, yet seemed unlike one who was lying.

He spoke rapidly, "Lu Xing's death didn't make Qiao Wanjun obediently comply; instead, it aroused her even greater resistance, she even attacked the god and demon.

Martial Artist was also thoroughly enraged!

He wants to let you two... make her watch as you two die in front of her, and then personally deal with Qiao Wanjun..."

Qiao Yuansi: !!!

Lu Ran remained silent, expressionless.

Martial Artist first sent people to act against Qiao Wanjun's husband, forced her into compliance, objectively using Qiao Wanjun's two children as a threat.

But obviously, Qiao Wanjun did not yield.

Lu Ran pondered, if he were the one being pressured by the god and demon, would he be willing to abandon the grand vision of the Ran Sect, give up everything earned through struggles, and end his own life for the family?

It seems somehow disproportionate when put this way.

After all, as splendid as Cloud Sea Sect was, it wasn't like the Ran Sect, capable of erasing gods and demons from the root.

Yet even asserting so is irresponsible.

Who could confirm with absolute certainty that the path Qiao Wanjun walked was impassable?

Such a figure standing at the pinnacle of the Human Clan, could her true intentions be small?

From Qiao Wanjun's perspective, perhaps she, like the present Lu Ran, was very close to success.

If it can't be clarified, then let's change the angle—comparison with comrades.

Would Lu Ran massacre the entire Ran Sect for the lives of his family?

Deng Yuxiang, Yu Changsheng, Si Xianxian, Yan Shuangzi.

Just these four protectors had already trapped Lu Ran completely.

Which one could he bear to harm?

Besides these four protectors, there were far too many people in the Ran Sect—eight Divine Generals, two Heavenly Emperors, two elders, and those lovely guys during his growing years, Deng Yutang, Tian Tian, Chang Ying...

"My judgment is correct! Choosing to preserve the dead soul is correct, Sword One has indeed intervened!" Jade Talisman anxiously expressed, trying hard to increase his credibility.

"Sword One."

"Yes! Lord Jian Yi!" Jade Talisman repeatedly said, "Lord Jian Yi especially valued Qiao Wanjun, perhaps having long planned for her to inherit the Divine Position."

Sword One personally intervened, stood up for Qiao Wanjun! Even at the cost of opposing the force led by Martial Artist, she protected Qiao Wanjun.

She took Qiao Wanjun back to the Human World and imprisoned her."

Lu Ran understood in his heart.

No wonder mother was respectful towards Sword One.

Also no wonder during the years in Beijing, mother always took him and his sister to Jiantianque City to worship, pleading with Lord Sword One to accept her children as believers.

That being said, although mother escaped death, she didn't personally destroy the force she created, but the ending was tragic.

After she left, Cloud Sea Sect retained its name but suffered constant oppression and persecution by the gods and demons.

The once splendid sect with hundreds of Heavenly Realm disciples, among which numerous disciples from the groundbreaking generation of the 1980s...

Now...

Only one-tenth remains.

Lu Ran, in his journey, wandered across the Heavenly Realm Battlefield but found only a mere five or six members of the old Cloud Sea Sect.

Now he recalls the words uttered by Yan Chou upon their first meeting:

"Your mother never abandoned us, nor did she give up resisting, she was invited back to the Human World."

Invited?

This word is still too mild.

If it appears in history books, it will convey the wrong message.

That was forced, a coercive departure, possibly an act of desperation in a dire situation.

The sentiments revealed in Yan Chou's words were completely consistent with those of the other remnants of the Cloud Sea sect; when Lu Ran was gathering the remnants scattered across the Heavenly Realm, almost everyone evaluated her mother in this manner.

She has never stopped resisting.

Never abandoned us.

However, such belief is founded on the fact that Qiao Wanjun truly left the Heavenly Realm, and the Cloud Sea Sect was almost destroyed.

It's hard to imagine what Qiao Wanjun managed to accomplish back then.

To have exchanged such harsh endings for such an evaluation.

To have Lu Ran encounter each old member of the Cloud Sea, receiving respectful greetings and loyal following.

"I don't know how the Martial Artist forces could allow Sword One to act like that, how they negotiated..."

Jade Talisman's voice was assertive, uncertain if it was exaggerated: "But I know, Qiao Wanju might become another face of Sword One in the future.

Might even become the new Sword One!"

"Become Sword One?" Qiao Yuansi knelt beside Lu Ran, clutching Lu Ran's arm in both hands, dazedly watching the dying god, listening to the amazing statements.

Jade Talisman hurriedly said: "Yes! Your mother hasn't become another face of Sword One yet, most likely because the Martial Artists have always been keeping an eye, waiting to strike at a critical moment!"

Your Human Clan's lifespan is too short, a hundred years, two hundred years, Qiao Wanju will naturally die of old age...

If it continues like this, Sword One will ultimately fail to achieve his desires, absorbing less and less energy, weakening gradually over time."

"Get to the point." Lu Ran said in a deep voice.

Jade Talisman paused before quickly saying: "I can't be treated as a disposable pawn! Even if there's a slight chance of your mother becoming Sword One, she will trace it back to me eventually!"

So Lu Ran, trust me!

I secretly preserved Lu Xing's dead soul, he still exists! The Martial Artists don't know, nobody knows, I hid the dead soul!"

"Where is it?" Qiao Yuansi immediately inquired.

But this time, Jade Talisman, known for being forthcoming, didn't give a clear answer.

He looked at the siblings: "I can hand over your father's dead soul to you! But you first have to do something for me aaahhh..."

Before finishing his sentence, screams echoed.

Lu Ran played with a ball of black mist in his hand, a faint soul fire burning in his palm.

"Burn me... you'll never get Lu Xing's dead soul! You ahh... hand me to Lord Evil Spear Emperor... then I'll tell you ahh..."

"Aren't you afraid of being devoured by him if we hand you over to the Evil Spear Emperor?"

"No, I won't be! Give me to the Evil Spear Emperor, hand my Divine Soul to him, I'll tell you where your father is uh ahh..."

Qiao Yuansi's eyes went red, looking up at his brother.

"The Divine Soul of Jade Talisman can only be in my possession, it can't be given to anyone." Lu Ran gently embraced his sister, softly speaking.

"Mm." Qiao Yuansi responded quietly, burying her head in her brother's embrace, not interfering with any decision he made.

Yet one of her small hands tightly gripped the hem of his clothes.

Lu Ran slightly lowered his head, softly imprinting over her hair through a layer of the Blood Crystal Mask: "Don't worry, he will speak, he will tell us everything."

"No! Way!" Jade Talisman screamed harshly, "You must hand me over to the Evil Spear Emperor... otherwise, burn me to death, just burn me to death!!"

"Heh." Lu Ran chuckled, the soul fire in his hand never ceasing, "Remember your words now, let's see how long you can hold out."

[Seems you've received the gift I sent you.] Suddenly, a deep voice rang into his mind.

"Immortal Sheep Lord?" Lu Ran raised his head instinctively.

[Do you like it?]

Lu Ran opened his mouth, then realized what the "gift" the Immortal Sheep Lord was referring to was.

People are always aware after the fact.

He suddenly remembered that before they started to kill Jade Talisman, the Immortal Sheep Lord had specifically given a reminder:

"Eat carefully."

Carefully...

That's what it meant.

"Thank you, Immortal Sheep Lord!" Lu Ran gratefully expressed.

[It's too early to be thankful.]

Lu Ran opened his mouth again, unsure of what to say.

[Where do you think your father's dead soul is hidden by Jade Talisman?]

Lu Ran frowned, watching the agonizing struggle of the Divine Soul in his hand: "Perhaps stored in a magic artifact, hidden somewhere?"

[You also have magical artifacts for imprisoning souls, do you think a dead soul can be preserved for so long? Jade Talisman is sure your father's dead soul still exists.]

"If the magic artifact's power is insufficient, then it must be..." Lu Ran's speech stopped.

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple moved as he slowly raised his head to look upward.

[Hehe...] The Immortal Sheep's laughter was slightly hoarse, [I have no involvement in this matter.]

"Understood." Lu Ran felt both awkward and guilty, lowering his head.

In this world, there are many gods and demons capable of imprisoning and tormenting dead souls.

But those simple methods are merely rudimentary applications.

Demons can only use such means to amuse themselves, extract negative emotions like fear, and derive the energy carried within the soul.

It is by no means acquiring the power of the dead soul itself!

To truly engage with the realm of dead souls, utilizing souls and even relying on such methods as a foundation for existence, aside from the Immortal Sheep Lord...

Lu Ran suddenly opened his eyes wide, standing upright:

"Wang Quan?!"

Chapter 1040: Rebirth Hall

"Wang Quan?!"

When Lu Ran suddenly stood up and uttered this name, the screams coming from the burning Jade Talisman within the Soul Prison weakened slightly.

The Immortal Sheep did not respond again.

"What Wang Quan?" Qiao Yuansi looked up at Lu Ran with reddened eyes, unable to resist clutching his pant leg and gently tugging, "Brother?"

Lu Ran leaned down, rubbed her head with one hand, and looked at the Jade Talisman's divine soul in the other, enunciating each word:

"You better have other value."

"No, your father's dead soul is not at Wang Quan, it isn't!!" Jade Talisman's voice was shrill.

"Heh." Lu Ran let out a cold laugh, "Whether it is or isn't, I'll just ask Wang Quan."

The Jade Talisman's face was extremely rigid: !!!

"Come back first, Yuanxi." Lu Ran rubbed his sister's head, "Be good."

"Mm." Qiao Yuansi ultimately said nothing more, the remnant shadow of the god withdrew from the flesh, along with the broken Divine Sculpture, both merging into Lu Ran's pupils.

The Jade Talisman stared blankly at this scene, so shocked it forgot to scream.

What is with Lu Ran's eyes?

Could they actually devour gods and demons?

They could even hold an entire Divine Sculpture!

This...?

[Ruyi.]

[You're awake?] Jiang Ruyi immediately responded.

[Where is outside, can I come out?] Lu Ran asked directly.

[Yes.]

Without another word, Lu Ran flew upwards, and as soon as he emerged from the gourd's mouth, he saw the brilliant starry sky.

The magnificent galaxy spanning the night sky was exceptionally iconic.

Is this the Demon Cave-Galaxy Bay?

The lair of the Evil Mirror Demon clan, also the Demon Cave guarded by the Immortal Sheep.

The Immortal Mo Stone Sculpture held Lu Ran with one hand, noticing his confusion, she gently explained, "We haven't yet confronted the God Demon Camp, so it's inconvenient to station at the Blood Dust Divine Mountain.

While you were recovering, I arranged for the soldiers to enter the Black Cloud Vortex above the Divine Mountain for temporary stationing."

"I see." Lu Ran nodded.

The Evil God-Evil Mirror Demon had fallen, and the peak of her Divine Mountain was shattered, and the Black Cloud Vortex indeed closed.

But the Immortal Sheep was unharmed, the stone pillar beneath her feet still extended from the Human World downwards, penetrating two whole layers of the Demon Cave, connecting to the Third Heaven's Divine Mountain Peak.

Jiang Ruyi added, "At the Black Cloud Vortex above Yan Paper God Mountain and Nu Ying God Mountain, I also have Ran Sect soldiers stationed. I'm mainly worried that the Faceless Jade Venerable will take advantage of the chaos to attack there, since there's no backup force on that side."

Rest assured, I had the Evil Shadow Guardian hide their presence, using the Hundred Treasures Bag to transport the soldiers, without exposing their whereabouts."

"Good, good..." Lu Ran murmured, nodding repeatedly.

With Little Ruyi steering affairs of the Ran Sect with comprehensive consideration and calm order, Lu Ran felt nothing but fortunate, really left with nothing more to say.

The conversation between the man and the god naturally fell into the ears of the Jade Talisman.

He naturally understood that these humans didn't just slaughter and exterminate gods but also selectively made alliances with them.

"What are you doing?" Jiang Ruyi looked at the black mist cluster in Lu Ran's hand, seeing the twisted face of the Jade Talisman.

Presumably, the Jade Talisman had suffered greatly in Lu Ran's hands.

"Let me borrow the Rebirth Money."

"Here." Jiang Ruyi took off the Rebirth Money from her wrist and placed it in her palm.

"Puff~"

The large stone coin shattered, and as the energy dispersed, the small Rebirth Money itself was revealed.

"Lu Ran, I can join your camp!" Jade Talisman hurriedly said, "I'm willing to follow you, I'm willing to submit to you!"

"Shut up." Lu Ran said coldly, with such cruelty.

Distinctly different from the gentleness he showed when talking with Jiang Ruyi.

Lu Ran dispersed the black mist cluster, conjured the Magic Artifact Fragment, and watched as the "white moonlight" in his heart was captured into the Rebirth Money.

The Jade Talisman should be austere, should tower above.

Not groveling like this.

Lu Ran was, of course, happy to see deities and demons fall from their altars, happy to see their proud and dignified faces shatter.

Except for the Jade Talisman.

Lu Ran's emotions were heavily tangled with personal feelings.

For the god whom his father venerated his entire life, for the godly lord who he once yearned for intensely...

Lu Ran hoped he was a tough one.

Hoped that the Jade Talisman would maintain the dignity of a god until his dying moment.

But unfortunately,

Lu Ran's youthful brute strength shattered the filters in young Lu Ran's heart completely.

Jiang Ruyi watched this quietly, naturally knowing Lu Ran had his reasons for not letting her consume the divine soul.

She reminded him, "In the Rebirth Money of the Evil Shadow, there is also the Divine Soul of the Blood Skull, you should summon the Blood Skull Stone Sculpture from the Sculpture Garden out..."

"Wait for my return before discussing further." She hadn't finished speaking when Lu Ran interrupted, "I have to make a trip to Duskbamboo Crossing to talk with Wang Quan."

Jiang Ruyi frowned slightly, unsure why Lu Ran was in such a hurry, and immediately asked, "Is it dangerous? Should I accompany you?"

"No need, stay here and oversee the situation, I'll be quick." Lu Ran shook his head, refusing, immediately summoning an Ancient Bronze Mirror.

The Landing Mirror tore through space, opening resolutely within the Demon Cave Bamboo Sea-Duskbamboo Crossing.

It wasn't within the courtyard nor the second-floor bamboo building of Wang Quan's disciple·Li Rouyin, but rather in front of the grand entrance of a Rebirth Hall hidden deep in the backyard.

"Sss~"

The wind blew, swaying the bamboo forest outside the hall, bringing with it the fresh fragrance of bamboo and wood.

Lu Ran didn't find it all that pleasant.

Because within the fresh scent of bamboo and wood, was mixed a chilling ghost energy, sweeping towards him.

Sending shivers down his spine!

"Huff..." Lu Ran took a deep breath and slowly exhaled, trying to calm his turbulent emotions.

In his mind were the Immortal Sheep's words about the Divine-Forget Spring: There's no need to worry about her leaking secrets; she can be classified as an ally.

All the benefits obtained from her will one day have to be repaid.

"Who is it?" A young female voice, tinged with slight anger, came from behind.

Lu Ran remained silent and turned his head to look.

In the lush backyard, along a winding path through the bamboo forest, a slender figure appeared.

Li Rouyin's "condition" seemed more severe.

Her skin had always been pale and sickly, now it was even more so.

Her excessively thin body made one worry if a gust of wind might blow her over.

"Daring to act recklessly at Duskbamboo Crossing, you..." Li Rouyin's words stopped, her vacant eyes "looking" at the gate of the hall, her voice lowered a bit, "Lu Ran?"

"Forgive me for intruding," Lu Ran said softly, "I've come to visit Lord Wang Quan, I have something to discuss with her."

"Tap, tap..."

Li Rouyin held a blind cane, tapping it on the ground ahead as she walked forward, growing more alarmed with each step.

She certainly couldn't see Lu Ran.

But she could see those eyes from another dimension.

Far more terrifying than any time she'd seen them before, making her tremble with fear.

Her approaching steps also came to a halt.

Li Rouyin sensed the young man's exceptionally high realm of power, she didn't think Lu Ran was trying to impress her.

He was simply standing there quietly, the overwhelming pressure was enough to prevent her from moving forward.

He had surpassed the Sea Realm?

That rotten brat!

Again, he stepped ahead of me!

"You... you step aside, I'll first report to Lord Wang Quan for you..." Li Rouyin's voice grew smaller, until she finally changed her tune, "Lord Wang Quan invites you in."

"Alright." Lu Ran pushed open the doors of the Rebirth Hall, greeted by the same terrifying and ghastly scene.

To outsiders, this hall should have been solemn and sacred.

If your mind was strong enough to ignore the divine sculpture deep in the hall, then even this Rebirth Hall could be seen as romantic and beautiful.

Red threads descended from the sky, like beautiful fine rain, swaying back and forth.

The Ancient Copper Coin at the bottom of the red threads occasionally collided with other coins, producing a pleasant sound.

Fantastic, magnificent.

But in the view of Lu Ran's Pupil of the Dead World, it was a sinister Ghost Hall!

Each long red thread descending from the sky wasn't ended by just one coin at the bottom; the entire thread was laden with innumerable phantom Ancient Copper Coins, stacked together.

Each coin permeated with dense ghost energy.

Listening carefully, different creatures' screams and cries could be heard.

Those were the sounds of fear, pain, breakdown, despair—all mingling together.

Named Rebirth Hall,

but in truth, there was no "rebirth" at all.

Duskbamboo Crossing also did not ferry the dead souls across.

Being devoured by Lord Wang Quan, or being used by Li Rouyin to boost her power realm, was the dead souls' way of liberation.

If neither the person nor the god wanted the dead souls to be liberated, then maybe these souls could only painfully endure in endless dark years or cruel purgatory...

Day and night, desperately seeking release.

Father... is he among them?

Lu Ran silently turned, and before closing the hall doors, suddenly said, "Li Rouyin."

"Hmm?" Li Rouyin turned her head towards the door.

"I'm sorry," Lu Ran said quietly.

At this moment, he was trying hard to restrain himself.

Lu Ran didn't know what might happen later, so it was best to say this now.

Li Rouyin grasped her blind cane tightly, her already pale fingers now devoid of any color.

Last time Lu Ran came to Duskbamboo Crossing, he was all joyful and teasing, even asking her for a "bride price," telling her he'd found Qin Yanzhi.

And she had asked Lu Ran to help find her brother Hao Tian.

This time Lu Ran returned to Duskbamboo Crossing...

Without laughter, only a heavy apology.

Did something happen to Qin Yanzhi?

Or did something happen to Hao Tian?

Whichever it was, it made Li Rouyin's heart painfully tighten, making it hard to breathe.

"Boom!"

The heavy hall doors closed together.

Lu Ran directly flashed forward, passing through the densely swaying red threads, standing before the Forgotten Spring Divine Sculpture deep within the hall.

"No wonder when we parted last, Lord Wang Quan explicitly mentioned looking forward to my next visit," Lu Ran said gravely.

The Forgotten Spring Divine Sculpture placed at the deep end of the hall was not particularly large, and its facial features were quite indistinct.

Yet, the words of the Lord God were clear to the ear: "It seems, you know everything."

Lu Ran looked up at the stone sculpture and asked back, "What do I know?"

"Lu Ran..." the Forgotten Spring Divine Sculpture sighed deeply, "I once wondered if this day ever came, in what form you would appear before me."

Forget Spring spoke softly, her tone increasingly complex: "I had not expected you to stand before me with the divine soul of the Jade Talisman."

Lu Ran slowly raised his hand, holding the Rebirth Money containing the Jade Talisman's dead soul, looking towards the Forgotten Spring Divine Sculpture through the hole in the center:

"So, my father is with you."

"Yes."