

## Summit of the Old Gods

### #Chapter 11 - 006 Hotcake - Read Summit of the Old Gods

#### Chapter 11 - 006 Hotcake

##### *Chapter 11: 006 Hotcake*

"Thirty to forty people, and you couldn't stop two from fighting?" the classroom resounded with the teacher's scolding voice, "What time is it, and you still have the mind to watch the excitement?"

"Today is the second day of the sixth lunar month! By the fifth, you must form teams and go directly to Evil Dog Village to confront the Evil Demon."

"On the fifteenth of this month, you will participate in the city defense battle!"

"Don't you feel the urgency yet? You are no longer ordinary people protected by others, you need to protect others!"

"Truly the worst class I have ever taught!"

Silence engulfed the classroom, while in the corridor, Lu Ran and Kou Yingquan stood properly far apart.

After a brief silence, the classroom door was pushed open with a "bang."

Li Yanzhu stormed out, and when she saw the two being punished, her anger surged, "You two, don't stand there and be an eyesore! Go home and bring your parents!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Kou Yingquan: "..."

Li Yanzhu's stern voice echoed in the hallway, "When you were fighting just now, wasn't there no one who could stop you? Now you can't move?"

Not only for class 2-4, but the entire third floor was dead quiet.

"Kou Yingquan!"

"Present!" Kou Yingquan immediately stood at attention.

"Scram!" Li Yanzhu was brisk and to the point.

Kou Yingquan: "..."

Under the strict gaze of the class teacher, Kou Yingquan reluctantly moved his feet and went home to bring his parents.

Li Yanzhu then called out, "Lu Ran!"

Lu Ran weakly responded, "Teacher."

Li Yanzhu, unable to suppress her frustration, exclaimed, "What teacher! I don't have a student like you!"

Lu Ran stepped forward, speaking softly, "Teacher, I know I was wrong. My mom is out of town, in Beijing, and my dad is... well, it's just me at home."

Though he said out of town, Lu Ran's Wu Lie River province bordered Beijing.

From Rain Alley City, it only took a little over an hour to get to Beijing by high-speed train.

If the class teacher was set on finding his parents, Lu Ran had no solution.

Li Yanzhu, looking at Lu Ran admitting his wrongdoing, was both angry and sympathetic, "Why did you fight?"

Lu Ran grimaced, "As soon as I entered the class, Kou Yingquan choked me and called me 'little sheep.' He even asked me to beg for mercy and bleat for him."

Li Yanzhu frowned deeply; actually, she already knew the cause of their fight.

The brief silence in the class earlier was her finding someone to learn about the situation.

This morning, indeed, Kou Yingquan had been continuously provoking, perhaps due to the psychological imbalance after becoming a Third-class God-Prisoner Demon Believer.

The teachers had seen too many such cases.

Li Yanzhu spoke sternly, "If there's an issue, come to me to resolve it. The school strictly prohibits private fighting, and look at you, causing trouble the day after becoming a Believer. Aren't you afraid of being taken as an example by the school? How many students get expelled every year after Worship God? Are you trying to standout?"

"Wrong.", Lu Ran continued to admit his faults.

"Do you really know your mistakes?" Li Yanzhu asked.

Hearing the tone of his teacher, Lu Ran suddenly perked up. Was there a chance for leniency?

He immediately nodded, speaking as if a machine gun, "I guarantee, next time I will definitely come to the teacher, I won't be impulsive again. Teacher, you are clear and righteous, piercing to the smallest detail... You can certainly make a fair judgment, you are indeed a fair judge!"

Li Yanzhu's head ached from Lu Ran's rapid speech, and she immediately made a judgment, "Alright, you are suspended from school for three days, write a three-thousand-word self-reflection."

"Ah..." Lu Ran's face turned sour.

Suspended for three days?

By that time, his classmates would likely have all formed their teams, just waiting for the fifth day to come to school, and then they would head straight to Evil Dog Village.

By the time I return to school with the self-reflection, everything would have cooled off!

"Teacher, I truly know my mistake, that Kou Yingquan accused me of colluding with the Evil Demon Clan, he slandered me!"

Lu Ran's voice grew smaller and smaller, adopting a pitiful appearance, "I'm just too stubborn. But I can't help it, if I'm not stubborn, no one will stand up for me. Teacher, you know, I lost my father when I was young..."

"Nice try, Lu Ran, trying to use the Voice of Compassion on me?" Li Yanzhu was amused and infuriated.

She kicked Lu Ran's butt, "Get out to the playground, stand in the sun, and be punished!"

"Roger that." Lu Ran turned and walked away.

Not expelled, not suspended, not having to bring a parent, what's standing for a while?

If it could shove a chair leg into Kou Yingquan's damn mouth... it would be worth it!

...

In the midsummer of June, the sun was indeed fiercely hot.

But Lu Ran did not seek a shady place, knowing only a sufficient punishment might possibly soften the teacher's heart again.

Lu Ran naturally wouldn't just stand idly; soon, he entered a state of cultivation, absorbing the Divine Power between heaven and earth.

Divine Power is classified into several realms: Mist, Creek, River, River, Sea, among others.

Within each major realm, there are five stages.

At the First and Third stages of each major realm, Believers can learn a unique Divine Technique.

At this moment, Lu Ran was a novice at Mist Realm·First Rank, studying the Divine Technique·Voice of Compassion, which, after a recent trial, proved quite effective.

To add another unique skill, Lu Ran would have to reach Mist Realm·Third Rank.

But on second thought...

Lu Ran's expression became strange, suddenly realizing a problem: Lord Immortal Goat created the Divine Technique·Voice of Compassion to avoid disputes. Not for it to be used as he did just now, pleading while fighting!

Not that Lu Ran couldn't operate like that, but each time Believers execute a Divine Technique, they need to pray to their deity.

Meaning, you can't fool the eyes of your own god.

As an Immortal Sheep Believer, always acting contrary to the Immortal Sheep, and using this technique to fight, was not quite appropriate after all.

Who knows if one day, Lord Immortal Goat might place blame.

Wait!

*Chapter 12: 006 Sweet Bun\_2*

Isn't Lord Immortal Goat known for his tolerance and generosity?

So, no matter how much I mess around, he wouldn't blame me too much, right?

Good grief,

it's like hitting a bug now~

"No worries."

Suddenly, a deep voice filled Lu Ran's mind.

Lu Ran was startled. Had Lord Immortal Goat manifested?

To communicate with a deity, a believer needed to pray sincerely in front of their sculpture and kneel.

Even so, deities didn't always appear!

But the deity Lu Ran worshipped...

"Do you not blame me?" Lu Ran looked up at the sky, quietly asking.

The deep voice rose again: "A cub's cry can bring forth the care and protection of its parents and tribe."

Lu Ran was puzzled by the abrupt change of topic.

"The whimpering of a weak creature can also attract the prying eyes of hunters."

"That's the logic." Lu Ran nodded thoughtfully.

"Voice of Compassion can amplify the goodness in creatures' hearts, making them feel pity. It can also incite the desire to kill and bully the weak."

"Ah?" Lu Ran was startled.

The knowledge I learned, how is it different from what you teach?

Lu Ran was certain that Voice of Compassion had only one effect: begging for mercy.

How is it that under Lord Immortal Goat this Divine Technique could change its nature to taunt and provoke hatred?

What was even more astonishing to Lu Ran was that Lord Immortal Goat not only didn't discipline the believer or order Lu Ran to be tolerant and avoid conflict.

Instead, it seemed to encourage Lu Ran to fight?

Otherwise, there was no reason for Lord Immortal Goat to inform Lu Ran about the second effect of Divine Technique-Voice of Compassion.

Something's fishy!

Extremely fishy, alarmingly fishy!

Since Lu Ran had joined the Immortal Goat Sect, this deity's image, actions, and words were completely different from how the common people perceived Lord Immortal Goat.

And yet Lu Ran confirmed through the practice of unique Divine Techniques that this deity was undoubtedly Immortal Sheep, this...

"Do you want to learn?"

After hesitating for a moment, Lu Ran nodded vigorously, "Yes!"

"Fog Realm·Second Rank."

"Okay, I will definitely practice diligently." Lu Ran nodded again, "But Lord Immortal Goat, this technique, haven't you taught it to other believers?"

Otherwise, Lu Ran wouldn't have been clueless about it.

However, as Lu Ran waited anxiously, he heard no more from Immortal Goat.

"Not this again." Lu Ran was somewhat helpless, yet he dared not ask more, fearing he might upset the deity and invite punishment.

He could only bury his doubts.

Regardless, the rebirth, blessings, and teachings from Lord Immortal Goat to him were all genuine.

With this thought, Lu Ran felt much comforted, and he continued practicing Divine Power.

Until the dismissal bell rang, the school premises became noisy again.

"Lu Ran." Just after the bell, a voice called from afar.

Lu Ran looked up and saw a young man walking briskly into the playground—Deng Yutang.

"Class is over." Lu Ran slightly lifted his head and greeted.

"You smashed my stool to pieces, I had to stand the whole class," Deng Yutang said with a smile.

Embarrassed, Lu Ran replied, "Earlier, thanks."

Deng Yutang came over to Lu Ran: "After this, shall we hang out together?"

"Ah?" Lu Ran looked startled at the imposing young man in front of him.

Deng Yutang, with his handsome appearance and majestic demeanor, had bright, piercing eyes that were now staring straight into Lu Ran's.

"Thank you for coming to my aid earlier." Lu Ran showed a sheepish expression, "But I... I still like girls."

Deng Yutang: ???

Lu Ran earnestly said, "Don't feel bad, you are really great, it's just that we are not suited."

"What nonsense are you talking about, I also like girls!" Deng Yutang said angrily, "I'm talking about forming a team!"

"This?" Lu Ran was even more confused.

He would rather believe Deng Yutang liked guys than guess that he was proposing to form a team.

Lu Ran had many reasons to suspect something was off with his own deity, but outsiders wouldn't know!

He was very puzzled: "I'm an Immortal Sheep Believer, are you sure about this?"

"What's wrong with Immortal Sheep Believers?" Deng Yutang snorted disdainfully, "Kou Yingquan is a Prisoner Demon believer, so what?"

Wasn't he the one you thrashed until he spat rice porridge?"

Hearing this, Lu Ran could barely hold back a laugh.

Spit rice porridge? Really?

"I'm a Divine-Red Cloth believer." Deng Yutang reached out his hand toward Lu Ran, "Brother Lu, think about it?"

Divine-Red Cloth, ranked fifth.

Its sculpture depicts a man with a red cloth around his head, bare-chested.

Its believers are mostly combat enthusiasts, naturally brave and fierce.

"I'll think about it seriously." Lu Ran felt honored and immediately shook hands with him.

As they spoke, more people had arrived at the playground.

Among them was Chang Ying, who had once told Lu Ran's fortune.

The girl came over to both of them and said with a smile, "Heard you got into a fight?"

Lu Ran looked at Chang Ying speechlessly, while Deng Yutang urged Lu Ran again to give it careful thought before saying goodbye.

"I've already told your fortune, and it was a bad one; how could you still be so careless?" Chang Ying propped her elbow on Lu Ran's shoulder, leaning against him.

Before she became a Believer, she could swing a large axe with a flourish, naturally possessing a robust physique.

A girl like her leaning against him was almost too much for Lu Ran to handle.

Lu Ran, not wanting to admit he couldn't bear her weight, said,

"Move aside, it's hot." He gave her a look of disdain and shook his shoulders.

"100 bucks, I'll tell your fortune again with a guaranteed result! How about it?" Chang Ying didn't get upset but smiled at Lu Ran.

"Just leave me alone."

"Don't do the reading if you don't want to, no need to get angry." Chang Ying looked down at Lu Ran, then suddenly shifted the conversation, "I'm saying, we seem to be quite fated, why don't we team up?"

"Ah?" Lu Ran looked bewildered at the beautiful and wild girl.

"Really, I've calculated it." Chang Ying nodded seriously, "It's a top-tier result!"

Top-tier result?

"You must have calculated wrong?" Lu Ran looked skeptical, "I'm an Immortal Sheep Believer."

"Eh~" Chang Ying waved her hand grandly, "I won't call you a little lamb, and you better not call me a gambling hound!"

How's that deal?"



Lu Ran: "..."

Teacher Li, I misunderstood you.

I thought I was being punished to stand, but you're actually setting me on display to draw attention!

"Lu Ran."

"Lu Ran!" Several classmates came over to self-recommend.

Lu Ran was polite, feeling a surge of accomplishment.

Until the class bell rang and everyone gathered in the Martial Arts Arena, as the crowd dispersed, Lu Ran also caught a familiar figure.

"You're quite popular, huh?" Jiang Ruyi said with a smile.

Lu Ran shrugged: "It's like gaining fame from one battle."

Jiang Ruyi gave Lu Ran a light scold: "All the students probably think the same, that you can summon Evil Demons, a rare talent, and now showing such strong combat abilities.

Teaming up with you, like the defense on the fifteenth or going to the Demon Cave and such, might achieved good results."

"That's quite magical." Lu Ran sighed, "To be devoted to Lord Immortal Goat and still be this popular."

Jiang Ruyi: "Most students are still worried and didn't come over.

If you were devoted to another deity, the playground would probably be crowded by now."

"People really don't understand anything." Lu Ran muttered, "I's just devoted to a little piece of paper; you are the real goddess... uh.

You are the real big shot!"

"Slick talker." Jiang Ruyi blushed, turned, and left.

Seeing that Lu Ran was fine, she didn't linger.

"Wait!" Lu Ran hurriedly said, "How about we team up?"

Jiang Ruyi stopped, turned around with a smile looking at Lu Ran, "What, the big star wants to be with me?"

"I want to cling to the big shot... no no, don't go yet!"

Lu Ran saw the girl was about to leave and quickly said, "I want!

Jiang Ruyi, I want to be with you!"

That voice was very loud, making Jiang Ruyi widen her eyes.

Even the students who had not yet left the playground, and perhaps even the faraway classroom buildings, could hear this bold confession.

"Oh~~~"

"Lu Ran is really something, he's supposed to be suspended and he dares to confess? Isn't he afraid of being expelled by the school?"

"You don't understand! A real man has to face the wind and hold firm!"

"Right! Lu Ran, I support you! This B school, we don't need it!"

"Jiang beauty is mine, I will kill this lamb brat..."

"Bro, he just dealt with Prisoner Demon believers, you're just a small fry, better back off a bit?"

Jiang Ruyi, listening to the discussions, blushed as if her face was on fire.

She lowered her head and quickly walked away.

"Are you going to answer or what?" Lu Ran muttered, watching the girl's departing graceful figure.

Those long legs,

who wouldn't want to cling?

I, Lu Ran, am also a man... uh, also a student wanting excellent results!

*Chapter 13: 007 Climbing Points Group?*

Lu Ran had been practicing under the blazing sun on the playground all morning and had received quite a few visitors during that time.

In this sweltering heat, students who came to team up with Lu Ran usually brought a bottle of water or something similar.

As the beverages accumulated, the eager students became more inventive, bringing treats like crispy noodles, spicy sticks, cookie rolls, sausages, and more...

In the end, Lu Ran had become a vendor at school!

He stood alone on the southern side of the playground, surrounded by a pile of drinks and snacks.

When school let out at noon, many students saw this scene and couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Li Yanzhu was both amused and frustrated, and she ordered Lu Ran to pack up his stall and go to the cafeteria for lunch.

Lu Ran grabbed a convenience bag and stuffed it full, running off with "peanuts, sunflower seeds, roast fish slices, milk drinks, and mineral water" and so on.

This was a bit too embarrassing...

He suspected that some students didn't come to team up, but just to join in the fun and make a ruckus by bringing him food.

After all, who would give a 17-year-old boy hard liquor as a gift?

Ridiculous, right?

Moreover, why on earth did the school store even sell this stuff?

Report! Definitely must report!

Hmm...

That very afternoon, Lu Ran tried to rejoin his class group. Li Yanzhu saw him, but she didn't say anything.

Lu Ran was overjoyed, it was as if the teacher had raised the big stick high in the air, only to let it fall gently.

Of course, the inspection still had to be handed in.

After school that evening, with the help of the internet, Lu Ran wrote a self-criticism report of a full five thousand words.

It was so earnest and proper that the homeroom teacher was quite satisfied.

And with that, the matter was considered resolved.

From the second to the fourth day of the lunar month, it was time for outdoor training courses, aimed at letting students choose their teammates and coordinate their teams.

Over those three days, Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi tried out many classmates.

In the end, the two of them still chose the valiant Red Cloth Divine Technique Believer, Deng Yutang!

To form a team, you need not only mutual consent but also to follow the school's guidance.

Since Jiang Ruyi was a key student the school intended to cultivate, when she agreed to team up with Lu Ran, the school assigned another person to fill the last spot in their little squad.

And this individual was no small fry!

As mentioned before, Jiang Ruyi has long occupied the top three ranks of their year, with the first-place boy leading by a landslide.

The truth is, Jiang Ruyi was always competing with another girl for second place.

The person the school arranged to join the team was Jiang Ruyi's longtime rival, the class president of Senior Year (12)—Wu Shanshan.

This girl was quite something!

She was also in the top three of her year, but the god she revered was the mighty Second-class God·Ash!

Divine·Ash was a female Divine Sculpture holding a longbow, situated on the southern island of Da Xia—Sanda Island.

On the streets, this god was also called "South Sea Bow".

Along with her were North Wind Knife, West Desolate Axe, and East Thunder Spear.

These four Divine Sculptures located on the borders of the four directions of Da Xia were all second-tier gods and were collectively known as "Four Directions Martial Heroes".

At this point, Lu Ran's team was complete!

They had the believer of Second-class God·Ash, Wu Shanshan, the believer of Third-class God·Jade Talisman, Jiang Ruyi, the believer of Fifth-class God·Red Cloth Order, Deng Yutang, and...

The believer of Nine-class God·Immortal Sheep, Lu Ran.

It seemed like something strange had been mixed in?

Hmm... that's not important, what's important is the coordination!

The four-person team trained strenuously, constantly rehearsing formations under the guidance of the teacher and finding everyone's position.

Unfortunately, the team's coordination wasn't great.

By the afternoon of the fourth day, they still weren't feeling confident.

"I'm tired, don't want to play anymore." Wu Shanshan plopped down on the concrete ground of the Martial Arts Arena, and she didn't bother maintaining her ladylike image despite being drenched in sweat.

The fellow classmates who had come to practice with them all stopped and looked helplessly at the temperamental "Heaven's Chosen".

Jiang Ruyi frowned slightly, not liking Wu Shanshan's dictatorial behavior.

Both of their comprehensive scores were at the top, and they were both class presidents, accustomed to being the center of attention and giving orders.

The command authority within the team had always been a big problem.

Wu Shanshan rubbed her head, looking troubled at the scene ahead: "With you two, one roaring and the other bleating, it's giving me a headache."

Deng Yutang, with his red headband and his spear decorated with a red tassel, had just easily driven back a practice opponent and was quite dashing.

Without looking back, he said, "If I don't inspire you with battle spirit, wouldn't you be captivated by Brother Lu's charm?"

Red Cloth Divine Technique·Red Cloth Order: A Battle Roar type skill that enhances the target's will to fight.

"What nonsense are you spouting?" Wu Shanshan retorted.

"Nonsense?" Deng Yutang turned his head to look at her, "Just now, I could almost see the shine of maternal love on your face."

Lu Ran, who had been enjoying the spectacle, suddenly froze with an awkward smile.

Maternal love?

Maternal love???

"Lu Ran's cries were so pitiful, who could stand it!" Wu Shanshan huffed, "You guys are truly heartless."

As she was speaking, Wu Shanshan spotted Lu Ran standing there like a statue.

Immediately, she called out, "Ran darling, why don't you speak up for me!"

Lu Ran: ???

Who is your Ran darling?

"Ran darling?" Wu Shanshan blinked her eyes, tilting her head as she looked at Lu Ran.

"Scram." Lu Ran replied bluntly.

"Hehe~" Wu Shanshan giggled with a hand over her mouth, her laughter blooming.

Jiang Ruyi's gaze was deep as she watched the two bicker and play around, feeling somewhat out of sorts.

It was you who yelled so loudly that you wanted to team up with me...

Cursing Kou Yingquan, understanding Kou Yingquan, becoming Kou Yingquan!

The whole world,

is just a huge pot of jealousy.

"Let's call it a day, the class has been dismissed for a while now, and the teachers have all left. There's no one to guide us," Jiang Ruyi interjected at the right time, addressing the fellow students of the same grade.

"Alright."

"Goodbye, good luck tomorrow!"

"Best wishes to us all..."

Both sides said their polite farewells, and only Lu Ran's group remained on the field.

"Tomorrow we're off to Evil Dog Village, huh." Wu Shanshan said casually.

Deng Yutang chimed in nonchalantly, "I heard that the prize for first place is a high-quality Divine Power Pearl?"

Divine Power Pearls could absorb and store Divine Power, a great asset for worshippers' combat endurance and aid in cultivation.

"I'd be satisfied if we make the top three," Wu Shanshan sighed lightly. "We haven't had enough time to coordinate, and we're still lacking understanding with each other."

Lu Ran, however, didn't quite agree with what the class president said.

We're short on time,

but so is everyone else!

Moreover, Lu Ran really believed that the configuration of their team was quite good.

Deng Yutang was brave and fierce, charging ahead, his scarlet spear sweeping through enemies like a solo carry top laner!

Jiang Ruyi controlled the center, a pillar of strength in the midfield.

And the believers of the Divine Jade Talisman were all late-game players!

Once Jiang goddess grew stronger, she wouldn't only be a controller but could use the Jade Talisman as a medium to cast Heavenly Thunder and Earthly Fire.

The output would be astoundingly powerful!

As the "South Sea Bow"'s believer, Wu Shanshan had been strong from the start to the finish and was currently the team's main force in terms of output.

Lu Ran considered himself quite swift, wielding a horizontal blade, zipping between positions to support them, feeling very much like a jungler.

Just wait until he reached Mist Realm Third Rank and learned the Divine Technique·Immortal Hoof—Lu Ran's speed would climb to a new level!

By then, he'd be even better suited for the jungler role~

As for the support dad...

With a team full of carries, who needed a dad anyway?

This sort of lineup would make any other students cry with envy.

Wasn't this a guaranteed win-comp?

"Women!" Deng Yutang scoffed, "Why sell ourselves short? I'm aiming for the top spot!"

Wu Shanshan glanced sideways at the overconfident Deng Yutang, "You act as though you've been at the top of the whole school before.

Neither Jiang Beauty nor I have spoken out, and yet you're the one all fired up?"

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

At the start of team formation, Wu Shanshan had looked at Deng Yutang with starry eyes.

But as they spent more time together, she began to despise this self-proclaimed 'young master'.

He had no modesty at all!

Lu Ran was better... well, just a nicer person, that's all.

The deity Lu Ran worshipped really left a lot to be desired!

The reason Wu Shanshan lacked confidence partly had to do with Lu Ran.

After all, the nature of Lord Immortal Goat was clear, benevolent and non-confrontational.

In such a case, how could Lu Ran possibly be a reliable teammate?

At the current stage, he was managing to maintain his personality.

But in the future?

Lu Ran might be influenced by the deity and be disciplined into a "good person" by Immortal Sheep.

Always preferring peace to conflict, willing to suffer in silence rather than compete.

Perhaps one day on the battlefield, Lu Ran would abandon his teammates and flee.

Because Divine-Immortal Goat did not seek conflict!



The Divine Techniques of the Immortal Sheep sect were also mostly about avoidance of combat.

Some students' opinions on Lu Ran and their desire to rely on him didn't concern Wu Shanshan.

She was one of the many who were filled with doubt about Lu Ran.

In her mind, Lu Ran, sooner or later, would drop the ball; he was only suitable as an early-stage teammate.

Due to the pressing timeline, with the assessment on the fifth day, and not being in a position to refuse the school's arrangement outright, she was only temporarily part of this team.

"Young master isn't good at written tests!" Deng Yutang stubbornly declared, "And as for sparring, I can't bear to hurt my fellow students."

But tomorrow's assessment will be different, we're going to kill dogs!

Ma Tianchuan should step down from his first-place throne as well."

Wu Shanshan snapped back to attention, displeased, "Stick to the topic, will you? There's no need for insults."

Deng Yutang: "..."

Finally, the silent Jiang Ruyi spoke up, her expression somewhat worried:

"Ma Tianchuan's team is also very strong and he's a believer of the Third-class God·Nuosha, in addition to several powerful teammates."

"It's not a First-class God." Wu Shanshan snorted with a touch of relief.

For two long years, she'd been overshadowed by Ma Tianchuan.

And after this year's Worship God ceremony, she finally surpassed him in terms of deity ranks!

"The rank of the deity doesn't matter, it's our own strength that counts," Deng Yutang shifted the conversation. "How's your practice going?"

Interestingly, Deng Yutang's eyes weren't on either of the prodigies, but on Lu Ran.

Lu Ran shrugged: "I'm almost at Mist Realm·Second Rank."

Wu Shanshan: "Ah?"

Deng Yutang's eyes shone brightly, internally affirming his expectations.

Jiang Ruyi raised her eyebrows slightly, asking, "When exactly?"

Lu Ran sensed within himself, "Tonight maybe, or tomorrow? Pretty close."

"So soon!" Wu Shanshan was surprised, skeptical, "I need at least three or four more days. How can you... oh, right!"

Wu Shanshan had an epiphany.

Indeed, Lu Ran worshipped the Nine-level God-Immortal Sheep, but before that, he had revered the Evil Demon-Yan Zhi!

In terms of innate talent, Lu Ran was indisputably the best in the whole school.

Remembering this made Wu Shanshan look at Lu Ran with a mixture of envy and pity.

It was such a waste.

To have such great potential and yet to venerate a sheep.

If he had revered any other deity, wouldn't Lu Ran be striding across the school?

Alas...

What a poor fellow.

"Let's go home early," Jiang Ruyi said, walking towards Lu Ran. "Advance to the next level as soon as possible, so we can have a better chance."

In normal society, worshippers could cultivate Divine Power too, like these few, surrounded by wisps of mist, none slacking off.

But in front of a Shrine or Divine Sculpture, the Divine Power would be even denser.

"Okay, let's go home!"

*Chapter 14: 008 In life, one must act cool.*

The fifth day of the lunar month, the sky overcast.

Amidst bursts of alarm bells, Lu Ran opened his sleepy eyes and quickly turned off that life-hastening ringtone.

"Thump,"

Lu Ran did an unconventional carp flip, not bending his knees at all, standing up straight like a zombie rising from a coffin.

Youth, it's all about having a good back~

He strode out of bed and came before the altar, bowing respectfully, "Lord Immortal Goat, good morning! Today I am heading to Evil Dog Village for my training, please bless me..."

Lu Ran paused in his words, his body shivering.

From within the altar, the White Sheep Jade Carving released wisps of mist, continuously streaming towards Lu Ran.

Lu Ran immediately reacted, repeatedly compressing and solidifying the Divine Power within his body, to make space for Lord Immortal Goat's gift.

"Ergh," Lu Ran leaned against the cabinet and slowly slid to sit on the floor.

His body trembled even more violently, feeling as if he was about to be inflated to the point of bursting!

"Hoo!"

A sudden gust rose, Divine Power overflowing.

Mist Realm·Second Rank!

"Heh...hee..."

Lu Ran gasped for air, overjoyed in his heart!

Last night, he had sat meditating in front of the altar, practicing hard into the night, yet that final step just seemed impossible to take.

And this morning, such good news arrives.

Awesome~!

Lu Ran basked in the feeling of full strength for a good while, then looked up at the altar:

"Thank you, Lord Immortal Goat, for your help! Today, your disciple will strive to achieve good results, to add glory to our Immortal Sheep sect."

The White Sheep Jade Carving just quietly released the mist, nourishing Lu Ran's human body, with no response.

"You said before that when I reach the second rank of the Mist Realm, I can practice the special version of the Divine Technique-Voice of Compassion?"

Lu Ran pressed his hands together, his eyes full of anticipation as he asked.

"Evil Dog Village." These three words imprinted themselves into Lu Ran's mind.

After a moment of thought, he understood the divine intent.

So, does Lord Immortal Goat want to teach through actual combat?

"Okay!" Lu Ran nodded firmly, then ran off, excited, to the bathroom to brush his teeth and wash his face.

After washing up, he headed straight for the master bedroom.

Ever since his father's death, Lu Ran seldom visited this room, but now he marched directly to a Tang horizontal saber hanging on the wall.

This saber was no wooden replica, but a genuine blade, forged from black ice.

Black ice, a mysterious material produced within the Demon Cave.

The material felt cool and light as ice and was semi-transparent in its dark luster, with a very strong texture.

The blade was thin and long, a full 77 cm, about two fingers wide, with a handle 33 cm long.

"Phew!" Lu Ran blew gently, and dust billowed, somewhat obscuring his vision.

This saber was named Dawn Blade.

It had been the personal weapon of his father, Lu Xing, and its blade had been inscribed with countless runes.

Unfortunately, Lu Ran was not a believer of the Divine-Jade Talisman.

In his hands, the Tang saber would find it difficult to display its myriad colors, to ignite flames, to wrap in electricity, or to spread frost again.

But Jiang, the squad leader, was indeed a Jade Talisman Believer.

Once she grew more powerful, could Lu Ran have her enchant the saber before each battle?

"Come with me, Dawn Blade."

Lu Ran invoked his Divine Power to infuse the blade, with strands of white mist spreading over the slender length, dusting it off.

"Buzz!"

Dawn Blade trembled gently, with a pleasant sound.

Since Lu Xing's passing, it had lain undisturbed for four years.

Today, it might be happy to once again accompany the offspring of its former master.

...

The overcast sky drizzled with light rain.

Rain Alley City, true to its name.

Rainy days were indeed plentiful, even more so than London.

Amidst the persistent drizzle, Lu Ran carried his saber and held an umbrella as he arrived at the school gate of Number One Middle School.

The playground was already filled with students, gathered in small groups.

Lu Ran looked around and soon spotted his three teammates, because Deng Yutang's attire was strikingly conspicuous!

Since becoming a follower of Divine-Red Cloth, Deng Yutang had bought a red headscarf, which he wrapped around his head.

It was a unique personal trademark.

And they just happened to be standing where Lu Ran used to set up his stall.

Lu Ran thought they did it on purpose...

Jiang Ruyi spotted Lu Ran from a distance, and seeing his wry expression, the girl couldn't help but smile.

Just as she was about to wave, Wu Shanshan took the lead and waved, "Lu Ran, over here!"

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

With a curious expression, Wu Shanshan stepped forward, "Let me see, what kind of Divine Weapon did you bring?"

Lu Ran's Dawn Blade was wrapped in cloth to avoid drawing attention.

Black ice was a rare and precious material, and weapons made from it were exceedingly valuable—not something ordinary families could afford.

Lu Ran's family wasn't particularly wealthy; it was because Lu Ran's father had served in the military, and this saber was a special award for Lu Ran's exceptional contribution from the army.

"Wow, it's made of black ice!"

Wu Shanshan squatted beside Lu Ran, lightly lifting the cloth with her finger, her eyes lighting up.

"Hush." Lu Ran gestured for the girl to keep her voice down.

"You come from a wealthy family too?" Wu Shanshan asked with a smile, teasing.

Too?

Lu Ran caught the hint in her words, looking down at the squad leader, "I wish I were a wealthy second-generation."

"Just being humble, that's a saber you're carrying, right?" Wu Shanshan flicked the blade, "That's an A6 you've got there!"

"Not at all, not at all." Lu Ran replied with false modesty, waving his hands, "At most, it's a Cullinan."

Wu Shanshan: ???

Do you even know how much these cost... wait a minute!

A thought struck Wu Shanshan, and she asked incredulously, "Have you already raised an Artifact Spirit for it?"

That wouldn't be right either!

If he truly had nurtured an Artifact Spirit, the saber would be beyond monetary value.

A blade with its own Artifact Spirit was a real Divine Weapon, something every Believer dreamt of!

*Chapter 15: 008 In life, the act of pretending - 2*

Lu Ran shook his head and said, "Squad leader Wu thinks too highly of me. I'm not that capable."

Wu Shanshan was even more confused.

There was no Artifact Spirit, just a normal Black Ice Blade.

Wu Shanshan complained, "So, do you not understand cars, or do you not understand knives?"

Lu Ran lifted the blade and gently tapped the girl's head, "It's you who doesn't understand me."

Wu Shanshan: "Tch."

Not knowing about cars is one thing, but why so stubborn?

Lu Ran smiled and asked, "What did you mean by 'also' just now?"

Wu Shanshan pursed her lips toward one side, "There's a Paramela over there too."

Lu Ran turned his head to look at Deng Yutang, closely examining the Red Tassel Spear in his hands.

The spear seemed ordinary, nothing special, but considering the guide price given by squad leader Wu...

Lu Ran's heart stirred, "Tianchen Steel?"

Like Black Ice, Tianchen Steel was also a mysterious material produced in the Demon Cave, and far more precious and rare!

Deng Yutang freely admitted it and casually handed over the Heavenly Star Red Tassel Spear, "Brother Lu, why not give it a try?"

"Wow!" Lu Ran took the heavy spear and weighed it in his hands.

This kid really kept it well hidden!

You'd say Deng Yutang is low-key, but he calls himself 'young master' every day, very ostentatiously.

You'd say he's flashy, but after being classmates for two years, Lu Ran never knew Deng Yutang's family was so wealthy.

Now that we're entering the Demon Cave, this kid finally shows his wealth.

For the sake of grades and life, he even brought out a million-level Tianchen Spear... Wait a second!

Lu Ran suddenly looked up, staring at the red scarf wrapped around Deng Yutang's head.

What he once thought was a 9.9 yuan street stall item, instantly turned into a 999 brand-name item.

A few days ago, Deng Yutang had given Lu Ran a headscarf, suggesting they wear them together to look imposing.

Lu Ran declined, after all, he wasn't a red scarf believer and wasn't used to wrapping his head, but now...

Lu Ran spoke up, "Brother Deng, that red scarf of yours is also quite valuable, isn't it?"

"A scarf worth just a few dollars," Deng Yutang shook his head.

"Oh," Lu Ran nodded and felt much better.

Who would have thought, Deng Yutang casually said, "Just a few thousand."

Lu Ran: ???

I guessed high, daring only to guess 999, and you casually say it's a few thousand?

Man, that's a loss!

Lu Ran whispered, "Brother Deng, you gave me one before."

Seeing Lu Ran's embarrassed look, Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but laugh and cast him a glance, "Didn't you say you're not used to wearing it?"

"What are you talking about!" Lu Ran waved his hand, "Wearing it a bit, and you get used to it! A gift from a friend, how could I refuse?"

Thinking about it now, I feel like I wronged Brother Deng's sincerity.

It's all because I was too young and foolish."



Wu Shanshan was already smiling brightly, "Okay, okay, enough proving yourself. Is believing that your house is poor not enough?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Deng Yutang: "..."

Jiang Ruyi also couldn't help but chuckle, then changed the subject, "By the way, Lu Ran, have you advanced yet?"

Lu Ran casually handed back the Red Tassel Spear, "What do you think?"

Deng Yutang suddenly perked up, "Seeing Brother Lu's confident demeanor, you must have succeeded."

Lu Ran nodded as if it was only natural, "I told you guys yesterday."

Sorry guys,

While you pick up your chopsticks at the feast, I'm taking out a plastic bag!

Enough said,

I'm going to start packing~

Wu Shanshan immediately widened her eyes, "You really advanced?"

Deng Yutang laughed heartily, "Haha, good!"

Jiang Ruyi looked at Lu Ran smugly and couldn't help but give him a sideways glance.

Speaking of which,

The usually gentle and quiet her, known among classmates as "Beauty Jiang,"

But in front of Lu Ran, she always broke character, losing her composure.

"You guys should also work hard," Lu Ran casually said, feeling a sense of lonely mastery.

Truth be told,

Lu Ran seemed as steady as an old dog, but was actually hanging by a thread!

After all, he had advanced just this morning during worship.

Pretending to be round,

But couldn't have done it without the overpowering help of Lord Immortal Goat...

"Everyone, according to your team number, line up properly!" on the stage, a male teacher holding a microphone shouted.

The group stopped joking and immediately went to line up.

The sophomore year had 399 believers, divided into 100 teams.

Due to the number of people, one team had only three members, unlucky for them.

"Everyone, get spirited up!"

"Once you enter Evil Dog Village, make sure to follow the command of the instructor with the team."

"Don't think your teams are set in stone. Those who break the rules, or have a bad attitude, will all be filtered out!"

"Also, show your worth! The school will adjust the team configurations based on the final rankings and individual traits."

Lu Ran listened to the teacher's sermon unperturbed.

Today was July 17th of the solar calendar, until early September, just before the start of senior year, none of the teams are fixed.

With nearly a hundred gods in Da Xia, each Divine Technique unique, building a team with good chemistry naturally requires trials.

If one day, Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi were to be separated, then that was inevitable.

He wanted Jiang Ruyi to enchant his weapon, didn't others want the same?

If you don't strive for it, you won't even qualify to cling to powerful coattails.

"Hmm?" Jiang Ruyi subtly sensed something and turned to look at Lu Ran.

Only to see Lu Ran staring blankly at her legs.

Jiang Ruyi's cheeks blushed slightly, and she lightly coughed.

Lu Ran snapped back, lifting his gaze, his expression inquisitive.

"Hmph." Jiang Ruyi's cheeks burned like fire, giving Lu Ran a light glare, then turned away.

"Brother Lu, needed to be that deep in thought?" Deng Yutang came over.

Lu Ran: "Eh?"

Deng Yutang with a face of disdain: "If the squad leader was wearing a skirt, maybe, but what's there to see in those lousy uniform trousers?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Was I looking at her legs?

I was looking at her thighs... huh?

Can't really explain this.

"Don't shame the god you worship, got it clear?" the teacher's voice boomed, giving someone a way out.

"Understood."

"Understood!"

"Very good." The teacher on the main stage nodded in satisfaction, "Follow your team numbers, line up for the school buses, heading to Evil Dog Village!"

This so-called Evil Dog Village was actually a Demon Cave.

Demon Caves were widespread within Da Xia, each with different scenes and types of Evil Demons.

Wherever a Demon Cave opened, there must be a Divine Sculpture suppressing it.

Although Da Xia had nearly a hundred gods, the number of demon caves was greater and still increasing.

Thus, various gods continuously created "Divine Sculpture Avatars" to suppress the Demon Cave Gates.

The Rain Alley City where Lu Ran lived had a Seven-class God-Witch Crow's Divine Sculpture Avatar, and its original statue was located in a prefecture-level city over a hundred kilometers away.

Whether it was the original sculpture or an avatar, as long as there was a statue of a god in someplace, it would attract corresponding believers to make a pilgrimage.

In recent days, Lu Ran also researched and learned that his deity, Immortal Goat's original statue, was located to the south of Caiyun.

That was okay,

The Immortal Goat was located in the southwest of Da Xia, not the northwest.

Otherwise, it'd be easy to get "poured over to"...

Actually, whether believers made pilgrimages or not didn't matter much, as every believer had a small Divine Sculpture at home.

Worshipping a small Divine Sculpture was tantamount to meeting the deity face-to-face.

But Lu Ran still planned to find an opportunity to personally visit the original Divine Sculpture of Immortal Goat.

He really wanted to see if Lord Immortal Goat's face could turn black...