

Old Gods 1101

Chapter 1101: Blood Oath at Dawn

Lu Xing had so many questions in his heart.

What kind of existence is his child really?

Such a defiant act, bringing himself back to the human world from the Netherworld.

He could easily command divine and evil sculptures, directing energy to himself, with a natural ease as if his son was the leader of all gods and demons.

When Lu Ran mentioned the divine soul, if he understood correctly, was he referring to the soul of the gods?

Where did the God Demon Sculpture Garden originate from, and who exactly is Lord Immortal Sheep?

What had Lu Ran experienced in the past ten years...

The father and son talked all night long.

From the age of 13 when Lu Ran went to Beijing, to 16 when he returned to Rain Alley.

At 19, he entered Holy Spirit Mountain, ascended to the Heavenly Realm at 21, and unified the God Demon Camp at 23.

He governed all of Da Xia.

Commanding the entire host of gods and demons.

Lu Xing felt as if he was hearing a fairy tale, yet also making an unrealistic dream.

Though it's said heroes emerge young from ancient times.

But standing at such a great height, Lu Ran seemed a bit too young...

The sky gradually lit up.

The morning glow dyed the sky red, the light falling on the young man, cloaking him in a legendary aura.

Indeed, a legend.

The young man was like a force of creation, achieving feats that astounded the ages.

Lu Xing clearly realized that the achievements of his child went far beyond what could elicit paternal pride.

He could only look up.

With the utmost reverence.

Along with all the people in the world, feeling grateful for the blessings and protection of the Master of Ran Sect.

"Knowing that the gods and demons collude, weaving lies and enslaving all beings, how do you feel?"

Lu Ran sat in a corner of the rooftop, leaning against the stone railing, gazing beyond his father's large shadow at the vast morning sky in the east.

Lu Xing remained silent, as there was much information to process.

At this point in time, his focus remained solely on Lu Ran, rather than anything else.

Lu Ran chuckled: "Now, if I were to say that Ruyi ascended the divine altar over the bones of the Jade Talisman, would you still be repulsed?"

Lu Xing shook his head.

All loyalty and reverence for the Jade Talisman had long faded when the gods struck.

He always wondered why the gods would treat a devout believer this way.

Now he finally knew, he was but a pawn in their struggle.

All because of his wife who stood at the peak of the Human Clan.

Wife, child...

Each shining more brightly than the other.

His own death... it was fine.

At least he managed to shield Ranran and Little Yuanxi from one calamity.

Nothing to complain about; she tore apart the great deceit of gods and demons, giving her all to change this world of suffering.

What wrong did she do?

Lu Xing calmed his emotions, and slowly said: "Our enemies still include the Faceless Jade Venerable and gods and demons from other battle zones."

"Outer realm gods and demons are not a concern; they will submit... heh, they already started submitting." Lu Ran snorted, his tone turned serious, "But the Faceless Jade Venerable is different."

Lu Xing nodded.

Throughout this night's conversation, whenever his son mentioned the Faceless Jade Venerable, it was always with high praise!

It wasn't just importance, but a deep respect.

"The combat power of the Blood Skull is something you understand. In the coming days, focus on enhancing your cultivation, so you can transform into an Evil God and adapt to this sect's evil technique soon."

With that, Lu Ran shifted his gaze from the morning glow back to his father's shadow: "I need you, I really do."

"Alright!" Lu Xing's face was exceptionally solemn.

More than a promise, it seemed like he was making a commitment.

Seeing the earnest look in his father's eyes, Lu Ran's face broke into a radiant smile.

For most of the past night, his father remained silent.

Although he managed his expressions well, Lu Ran could sense his father's myriad emotions, confusion, shock, and helplessness.

But throughout, there was a deep sense of guilt.

The crueler Holy Spirit Mountain was, the closer the God-Demon War led to a life-or-death situation, the more suppressed he felt inside.

Now, it seemed his father finally found a chance to breathe.

The journey of the Ran Sect was not over.

Another more perilous mission awaited! And this time, he could be by his son's side.

Trying to fulfill the responsibilities of a father.

"If there's nothing else, just return to the garden." Lu Ran rose, leaning on the stone railing, "The day after tomorrow, when your Evil Sculpture Body advances to the Peak of Heaven Realm, I'll give you the divine soul."

Lu Xing nodded in silence, aware of the time urgency.

The large shadow moved towards Lu Ran, condensing in his vision.

Until only Lu Ran was left on the rooftop, looking at the red sun rising in the east, taking a deep breath.

A good omen indeed.

"Shua~"

Lu Ran's figure flashed and appeared directly at home, smelling the fragrance of food.

He walked to the kitchen entrance, seeing the tall and graceful figure at the counter, and upon seeing the fully set table, he couldn't help but laugh.

Last night, when Lu Xing mentioned wanting to chat with Lu Ran, Jiang Ruyi had taken her leave.

Now it seemed, she hadn't been idle since coming back.

"You're back." Jiang Ruyi didn't turn her head.

Lu Ran instantly teleported behind her, placing his hands on the counter to encircle her, looking at the steaming beef stew in the pot: "Eating such a hearty dish early in the morning?"

"I didn't know what your uncle likes, so I made it to your taste."

"He's advancing, probably won't have the appetite for it."

"Then we shall eat it." Jiang Ruyi said indifferently.

The lavish breakfast was because Lu Xing had been dead for over a decade, always imprisoned within the Rebirth Money.

The long dark years Jiang Ruyi couldn't fathom; she could only speculate that he might want to taste human food again.

If conditions don't permit, then so be it.

As long as Lu Ran enjoys it.

"It seems you two had a good chat." Jiang Ruyi turned around in the small circle, observing the young man's expression.

"I'm happy for you."

"Hmm?"

"It's the Blood Skull, the Great Xia Evil Demon's leader! The Empress has gained a top-notch warrior under her command, making our sect stronger..."

"Go away." Jiang Ruyi spat lightly.

Lu Ran laughed: "Emperor Lu sounds better, don't you think? Emperor Xing doesn't feel quite right?"

If it's this kind of "punishment", then it fits.

Or perhaps borrowing the name of the Blood Skull, calling him Blood Emperor?

Tsk, sounds terrifying.

"Let's eat first." Jiang Ruyi was well aware of Lu Ran's naming capabilities, and it would take a while to decide.

Soon, the two sat at the table.

Jiang Ruyi suggested: "Is your head still buzzing? Should we send your uncle to Little Chi Feng?"

Lu Ran decisively shook his head: "The Blood Skull Necklace is still in Little Chi Feng's belly; better not let it see the scene of its former master's soul being devoured."

In a few days, let my dad, as the new Blood Skull, meet the necklace and subdue it."

"Hmm... that's fine."

"Rest assured, it's just an Evil Sculpture tremor, voice transmission is not an issue." Lu Ran naturally understood Jiang Ruyi's intent.

Now that his father was successfully resurrected, it meant that Lord Immortal Sheep was now free.

Until today, he had completely controlled the Great Xia God-Demon Camp, fulfilling his previous agreement with Lord Immortal Sheep.

Sheep General,

it's time to reveal its mysterious identity, isn't it?

...

Chapter 1102: Tomb

On the sixth day of June, in the dead of night.

The rain poured relentlessly over Rain Alley City, and the claps of thunder echoed through the desolate small town.

Inside the Lu Mansion, all was pitch black, though it was not devoid of life.

In a small bedroom, a young man clad in a noble Emperor Robe knelt quietly in front of a small shrine, patiently awaiting a response from the Lord God.

Several days prior, after a long night of conversation with his father, Lu Ran returned home, finished his breakfast, and came to pay his respects at the small shrine.

Lord Immortal Sheep had said, "Wait."

And so, Lu Ran waited quietly in front of the shrine.

And in this waiting, his father, Lu Xing, advanced to the Third Level of the Heavenly Realm, and then he, himself, devoured a Divine Soul, transforming into a new Blood Skull.

Just a short while ago, Lu Ran placed his father inside the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, sending him to seize the Top-level Magical Artifact Blood Skull Necklace.

"Woo~~~" Outside, a gale blew fiercely.

Intertwining with the torrential rain, they jointly ravaged this abandoned, dilapidated small town.

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning split the night sky, and in an instant, Rain Alley City was bright as day.

Instinctively, Lu Ran looked up towards the window.

In a daze, he glimpsed the small statue of the Immortal Sheep within the shrine, its sheep head now turned pitch black.

Those dead sheep eyes seemed to be staring at him all along.

Chilling, eerie.

"Lord Immortal Sheep?" Lu Ran probed.

[Hmm.] A voice imprinted in his mind.

Lu Ran clasped his hands together, bowing his head in gratitude, "Thank you, Lord Immortal Sheep, for saving my father. Your great kindness will never be forgotten by this disciple."

"Boom!!"

After the lightning came a terrifying thunderous sound, as if the heavens were about to shatter.

In the pitch-black room, the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd flew over from the small bed.

The little creature seemed a bit scared. It used the gourd's mouth to lift the hem of the Emperor Robe, burrowing into it, clinging tightly to Lu Ran's waist.

A top-level magical artifact, what kind of formation had it not seen?

It certainly would not be frightened by mere mortal storms.

The fear was due to the chill pervading the small shrine, an ominous aura that even a Divine Weapon found eerie and terrifying.

It was a dense... presence of death energy.

[Never be forgotten.] Soft words imprinted into Lu Ran's mind, [Then you might have to remember for a very, very long time.]

Lu Ran also felt an overwhelming chill, but his eyes were bright and resolute, looking up at the small shrine, "As long as I live, I will remember each day."

[Heh.] Lord Immortal Sheep's laugh was hoarse.

Seemingly satisfied, yet also with a tint of emotion.

"Lord Immortal Sheep, on March third, this disciple defeated the Evil Spear Emperor and subsequently absorbed the remaining forces of the Northwest. Now, I have completely unified the Great Xia God-Demon Camp."

[Hmm, these days, I've witnessed it myself.]

Upon hearing this, Lu Ran understood that in the past few days, Lord Immortal Sheep had been inspecting the achievements of the Ran Sect.

[You've done very well, exceptionally well.] Lord Immortal Sheep's tone of admiration was surprisingly unrestrained, quite rare.

"Lord Immortal Sheep bestowed upon me a Sculpture Garden; if this disciple couldn't conquer the God-Demon Camp, that would indeed be worthless."

[Do not belittle yourself.]

Lu Ran raised his head, looking at the eerie little statue.

Lord Immortal Sheep's tone grew a bit stern: [Others would have long lost that inner perseverance, long been lost within the mighty power.]

With this Sculpture Garden, as Lord of Gods and Demons, you are meant to be unparalleled under the heavens;

Yet, you've carved out your own path.]

After sending this message, Lord Immortal Sheep chuckled softly and added four more words: [Just as I hoped.]

"My own path?" Lu Ran murmured.

[You were meant to be a solitary king, possessing sufficient power and eligibility to control everything independently.]

[Yet you are not stingy in sharing the Divine and Evil Sculptures, turning what should be your absolutely loyal servants into a legion of soldiers, each with their own traits and independent thoughts.]

[You possess a charisma and grandeur that ordinary people do not have; you have carved your own path.]

While speaking, Lord Immortal Sheep sighed deeply.

Along this journey, it had learned enough, with countless examples to verify it.

Soldiers of the Ran Sect successively Becoming a God and Becoming a Demon, yet remained steadfastly loyal to the Sect Leader.

On Heroine Divine Mountain, that towering Valkyrie only recognized the Faceless Jade Venerable throughout her life. Yet she willingly broke her own blade for a tiny, insignificant ant.

The once-arrogant Evil Spear Emperor would actually recognize the humble species, willing to engage in a fair fight, entrusting all his subordinates.

Lu Ran walked a road of a true king.

Such a king was now worshiping in front of the shrine, as respectful as always.

Just like the boy from a few years ago.

Even more devout now.

[Heh.] Lord Immortal Sheep suddenly laughed, understanding that Lu Ran still did not believe in gods.

The number of times he had knelt in front of the Divine Sculpture could be counted on one hand, and each time, it wasn't for a god.

But for grace.

This is good, very good.

"Lord Immortal Sheep." Lu Ran's voice carried a hint of tremble, "Don't go."

Lord Immortal Sheep was silent.

Lu Ran was no fool.

If he could, he would prefer that during this conversation, Lord Immortal Sheep remained cold and mocking, even sarcastically laughing as before.

Yet, it was precisely because Lord Immortal Sheep uttered so many words of praise.

[You've accomplished everything I entrusted to you. If I don't leave, I'd only be blocking your path forward.] After a long while, faint words once again imprinted in his mind.

"This disciple dares to offer to share the Divine Sculpted Body with you!" Lu Ran said in a deep voice.

With his fresh blood joining in, it should prolong the life span of Lord Immortal Sheep a bit, shouldn't it?

[Heh.] Lord Immortal Sheep let out a light laugh, [Doing that wouldn't mean sharing the body with me, but with another person.]

"Ah?" Lu Ran was a bit baffled.

"Someone you've been searching for all along."

Lu Ran pondered for a moment, then exclaimed in astonishment, "Grandpa Cheng Xin?"

[Indeed, the Immortal Sheep Divine Sculpture had long been under my control, and later, it was given to Cheng Xin.]

Lu Ran: !!!

"So, have I always been worshiping Grandpa Cheng Xin?"

[Others are worshiping Cheng Xin, but not you.] The Immortal Sheep said calmly, [You are my disciple, my only disciple.]

Lu Ran froze for a while, then hurriedly said, "Then... then I can take another path! There are many stone sculptures in the Sculpture Garden, and there are quite a few with divine positions."

[Haha.] The Immortal Sheep laughed again, [Those so-called Divine and Evil Sculptures are nothing but a pile of stones, how could they be worthy of my disciple?]

There was a heavy disdain in the tone, leaving Lu Ran stunned and speechless.

Many years ago, the Immortal Sheep had scorned: Gods? Nothing but a pile of stones.

Such words could be understood as disdain for gods and demons, a common sentiment.

But the context now is different!

From the perspective of Lord Immortal Sheep, the existence forms of Divine and Evil Sculptures were not worthy of its disciple?

Divine and Evil Sculptures can have extremely long lives and possess divine positions, making them the supreme beings in the Three Realms.

Yet... they still don't meet the Sheep General's standards?

[You've seen my true form.]

Lu Ran immediately reacted: "That sheep head burning with black fire?"

Yes, the Black Fire Sheep Head is not made of stone... wait!

If the Black Fire Sheep Head is Lord Immortal Sheep's true form, unique in existence, and completely uncategorized as Divine or Evil Sculpture.

Then in essence, Lord Immortal Sheep...

Lu Ran looked at the Small Divine Shrine, staring at the eerie black sheep face:

"You are neither a god nor a demon?"

"Crack!" Another thick lightning bolt split the rainy night.

Rain Alley City lit up again and again, with the lightning's glow reflecting the shocked face of the emperor-robed youth.

A hoarse voice etched into his mind:

[My name is Mu.]

Lu Ran's mind raced, then he respectfully inquired about the divine name: "Is it the 'Mu' of herding, or the 'Mu' of the grave?"

[The latter.] The Immortal Sheep's tone was quite playful, [Then you should be able to understand what the God Demon Sculpture Garden, which I gifted to you, really is.]

What is it really?

Lu Ran combined the Sheep General's real name, and the answer immediately emerged in his mind.

"Gulp." His Adam's apple moved, and he said tremulously, "The God Demon Sculpture Garden is actually... a cemetery for all gods?"

A graveyard?

[Indeed, a teachable child.] The Immortal Sheep seemed quite satisfied.

Lu Ran's heart was in turmoil.

Yes, the Sculpture Garden is just a beautiful name; inside, there's always a howling wind with death energy permeating.

The many stone sculptures standing within are all growing by devouring the souls of the dead.

[I am neither god nor demon, but something beyond gods and demons.]

"Boom!!"

The thunder following the lightning hurt Lu Ran's eardrums.

While the hoarse voice imprinted in his mind shook his very soul.

[Gods feed on faith.]

[Demons feed on emotions.]

[And I, feed on gods and demons.]

Lu Ran widened his eyes, staring blankly at the small divine sculpture in the shrine.

Suddenly, Lu Ran's vision blurred.

The small shrine and the scene shrouded in faint black mist alternated continuously before his eyes.

The next moment, he was inside the God Demon Sculpture Garden.

In the sky, a Black Fire Sheep Head burned fiercely, staring down at the insignificant human clan below with a pair of dead sheep eyes: "You wish to share my body, to extend my life in this way, right?"

"Yes." Lu Ran nodded in acknowledgment.

Upon hearing this, the dead life imbued eyes softened slightly:

"You think I, like those stones, draw less and less energy from the world over time, leaving barely anything for myself."

Lu Ran nodded again.

The Black Fire Sheep Head said hoarsely: "You think I will die."

Lu Ran was shocked, face stunned: "Are you... immortal?"

Didn't you say you would eventually dissipate?"

"Hoo~"

The Black Fire Sheep Head descended slowly, landing in front of Lu Ran: "Perishing is my choice."

Choice?!

Lu Ran's eyes widened!

The Black Fire Sheep Head slowly spoke: "I am different from that pile of stones; leaving is the destiny I wish to pursue, not an inevitable result due to powerlessness."

As long as gods and demons exist for a day, I will not perish."

Lu Ran was dumbfounded for quite a while, then immediately asked: "Why? Why must you leave?"

"Not just me, but all living things."

"All... living things?"

The Black Fire Sheep Head didn't respond further but asked: "Lu Ran, do gods and demons really age and die?"

Confused, Lu Ran answered: "Divine and Evil Sculptures will... you just said, over time they'll lose the ability to retain energy within themselves, gradually perishing."

The Black Fire Sheep Head revealed a mysterious smile: "I did say that.

But do you truly think that it is time that slowly corrupts them?"

Lu Ran stood there, stunned.

Is it not?

The Black Fire Sheep Head spoke hoarsely, enunciating every word: "I already told you...

I feed on gods and demons."

Lu Ran's mind buzzed!

...

Chapter 1103: The Old

The gale continued, and the rain poured down.

In front of the small bedroom's shrine, Lu Ran opened his eyes and bowed his head in silence for a long, long time, before speaking softly, "So, the gods and demons are truly eternal.

But your existence will continually erode both the divine and evil sculptures until they perish."

[Indeed.]

"Then why are you in such a hurry to leave?" Lu Ran asked urgently, "When you have devoured all the gods and demons, won't you perish without a food source?"

The Immortal Sheep smiled: [When one divine being falls, a new god is naturally born. Just like your Human Clan continues across generations, but since your lives last only about a hundred years, this process is more apparent.

The decay of gods and demons requires ages before a divine position is vacated, making way for the next god.]

Lu Ran fell silent.

The tomb,

is precisely this kind of undying existence.

It eternally exists amid the birth and death of gods and demons.

[The Faceless Jade Venerable is an exception.] The sudden statement made Lu Ran's expression slightly frozen.

He looked up at the small statue of the Immortal Sheep in the shrine: "An exception?"

The Immortal Sheep's voice deepened, carrying a trace of complexity:

[I cannot devour her.]

Lu Ran slightly opened his mouth.

He had already placed the Sheep General on an unprecedentedly high pedestal in his heart, confirming it as the sole existence above the gods and demons.

Yet at this moment, there was someone who could escape its "control"?

The Immortal Sheep sighed softly: [She possesses a unique divine soul, a peculiar jade-like body.]

Lu Ran pressed his lips together.

He still didn't understand the aspect of the divine soul, but the stone sculpture material was evident.

Every single god and demon in the world has a gray stone-sculpted body.

Lord Immortal Sheep merely dons a white jade robe, able to rival the Faceless Jade Venerable in their gentle translucency. But as a member of the God Demon Camp, the Immortal Sheep's true form is also a gray stone figure, indistinguishable from other gods.

The Immortal Sheep said softly: [Lu Ran, what does it mean that my rules cannot constrain the Faceless Jade Venerable?]

Lu Ran suppressed the turmoil in his heart and tentatively said, "It means... she is immortal?"

The Immortal Sheep sighed softly again, slowly saying: [It means she is truly eternal and immortal.]

[The Faceless Jade Venerable is an epoch-defining being. Her emergence signifies that I and all gods and demons have become relics of the old era.]

[And she is a new god in the truest sense.]

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple moved.

A lightning bolt sliced through the rain-soaked night, the fleeting light revealing the youth's astonished face.

Outside, the gale and rain contrasted with the deathly silence within the room.

The Faceless Jade Venerable, a being dividing eras.

Old gods, new gods.

Decay, immortality...

Lu Ran silently bowed his head, more concerned about the other terms spoken by Lord Immortal Sheep.

Rules, constraint.

It wasn't hard to hear that the tomb considered itself a set of rules, rather than a typical life form.

The tomb also viewed its ability to erode divine and evil sculptures as a constraint.

A constraint on the life and death of gods and demons.

[Lu Ran, how do you view eternity?] The hoarse words surged into his mind.

After hesitating for a moment, unwilling to deceive the Lord God, Lu Ran replied, "You just said, our Human Clan lives are short, merely a hundred years.

Since ancient times, humans have been in pursuit of immortality."

[I'm asking for your perspective on eternity.]

Lu Ran carefully organized his words before answering, "I'm still young, with limited experiences, unable to escape the essence of humanity.

There are still many things I haven't experienced, and people I want to stay with forever.

The answer in my heart might not satisfy you."

[Hehe...] The Immortal Sheep chuckled in amusement.

Lu Ran lowered his head even more.

[You are honest.] The laughter gradually subsided, and the voice fell again, [Let me ask you something.]

"Please, go ahead."

[Da Xia has a history spanning thousands of years. Have you ever considered, if the feudal emperors truly gained the way to immortality, what would the world be like?]

Lu Ran opened his mouth, slightly at a loss for words.

[Would your nation enter this era? Would the thousand-year-old system change?]

"Rumble..." Thunder sounded.

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd on his waist snuggled closer to Lu Ran's chest.

Lu Ran remained silent, pressing one hand against the Treasure Gourd, his fingertips gently tracing its exquisite golden patterns.

[Lu Ran, I will use your world as an example, listen carefully to what I say next.]

"Yes," Lu Ran replied in a solemn tone.

[Death is the only just and fair process in the world.]

Lu Ran frowned slightly, holding the Little Chi Feng tighter.

He longed for his father, mother, and sister to always be safe and sound, to grow old with his lover, yet Lord Immortal Sheep told him:

Death is the only correct thing?

[Without death, all class structures become entrenched.]

[Without death, the thoughts and consciousness of all beings become stagnant.]

[Without death, the world becomes a stagnant pool, where everything will eventually fall silent, utterly perishing.]

Lu Ran gradually lifted his gaze, looking at the small shrine.

The small jade sculpture of the Immortal Sheep within, eyes with dark horizontal pupils, met Lu Ran's eyes.

[So, gods and demons must die, life must reincarnate, there must be an alternation between the old and the new.]

The hoarse words, clear yet solemn, were etched into Lu Ran's mind, word by word:

[Without death, there is no life.]

Lightning sliced through layers of rain, illuminating the dark Rain Alley Town.

On Lu Ran's solemn face, there appeared a smile.

As if slightly bitter.

He cradled the Little Chi Feng, patting the plump little creature, and gently said, "Don't be afraid."

A top-level Magical Artifact should not fear the storms of the Human World.

Yet the Emperor-robed youth listening to teachings before the Small Divine Shrine worried over too many things.

"Rumble..."

Thunder roared as expected, deafening and reverberating.

Lu Ran understood the principles taught by Lord Immortal Sheep, but he could not accept them yet.

At just 23 years old, his Life Force was extremely vigorous, his body merely a surface layer, the key was his spirit.

He delighted in avenging justice, slaying gods and demons.

He was rising strongly, growing savagely...

Life is the foundation of all this.

[Lu Ran, you have repeatedly asked me, what is the cost of reviving your father.]

"I humbly request Lord Immortal Sheep to make it clear." Lu Ran immediately inquired.

[Hahahahaha.]

Immortal Sheep suddenly burst into laughter, aged and hoarse, [I am immortal and undying, what cost could there possibly be?]

Energy? Longevity?

Can anything before me be called a cost?]

Lu Ran: "..."

No cost, this should have been a joyful thing.

But Lu Ran simply couldn't feel happy.

Because the laughter itself carried no joy whatsoever.

[Lu Ran, now I will tell you what the cost is.]

Immortal Sheep's tone turned serious, [I broke my own adherence.]

Lu Ran's expression grew rigid.

He now understood that the grave had always guarded "death."

Thus, dragging Lu Xing back from the Netherworld to the Human World meant the grave broke its own worldly philosophy.

[You have your principles, and I have mine.]

Lu Ran lowered his head; regarding Immortal Sheep reviving his father, he was no longer filled with gratitude but full of guilt:

"I'm sorry."

Adherence was merely an abstract concept; when applied to a specific matter, it becomes easy to understand.

For instance, letting Lu Ran spare the Spiritual Fortune and Lie Tian.

Another, allowing Lu Ran to collude with the God Demon Camp, becoming a stooge to suppress the Human Clan.

Or even... to repay kindness with vengeance, raising a blade against Lord Immortal Sheep.

So at this moment, the only sentiment Lu Ran could express to Lord Immortal Sheep was deep regret.

[No worries!] Immortal Sheep suddenly changed the tone, [Given your disposition, you were bound to bring Lu Xing back to the Human World.

Since you were to replace me, consider that I merely did in advance what you intended.]

Lu Ran softly said, "Are you insisting on leaving because of this principle?

If there is no death, there can be no life."

[Yes.] Immortal Sheep replied satisfactorily, [The executor of rules should not be exempt from the constraints of the rules, right?]

Lu Ran: "..."

Immortal Sheep seemed to have set down a heavy burden, gradually transitioning to a calm tone: [The moment the Faceless Jade Venerable appeared, I knew it was my time to leave.

Her bright Jade Body, like a brilliant ray of light, cut through the eternal night.

I became an old thing.]

Lu Ran's expression was unpleasant, he hurriedly said: "But new things like the Faceless Jade Venerable are eternal and indestructible! She is immortal!"

[Indeed...] Immortal Sheep muttered softly, seeming somewhat confused, [New things are immortal.]

Lu Ran's heart throbbed violently.

Since becoming a Believer, he had never heard Lord Immortal Sheep's mutterings.

Let alone felt bewildered!

For a moment, in Lu Ran's heart, the supreme deity seemed like a defeated ordinary person.

[Lu Ran, how have I guided you all these years?]

The sudden change of topic caught Lu Ran off guard.

[What have I said to you most frequently?]

Lu Ran pondered: "Follow your own path?"

[Follow your own path.] Immortal Sheep repeated, confirming, [Is what I adhere to necessarily right?]

[Your Divine Skill--Scapegoat and Vermilion Paper Evil Technique·Paper Mache have never integrated, in the endless failures, you have already learned to doubt me.]

[I am old, destined to be replaced.]

Lu Ran was dumbfounded.

Could Scapegoat and Paper Mache Man truly not combine?

Lu Ran did indeed question this repeatedly, later blaming it all on his lack of power and insufficient spell quality.

[I will leave with my adherence and vanish like other things, will be replaced.]

Immortal Sheep's faint words continuously touched Lu Ran's soul.

[And you will tread the path that belongs to you.]

The conveyed sound gradually faded, as if the deity was receding farther away.

"Lord Immortal Sheep!" Lu Ran clasped his hands together, gazing up at the Small Jade Statue of Immortal Sheep in the shrine, "I don't care whether the Faceless Jade Venerable is new or old, or whether she's immortal."

Lu Ran paused, his expression extremely grave: "Once she invades the Human World, she will turn the entire world into jade stone, annihilating everything, so I must destroy her!"

I have no face to request you bend the rules again, I only hope you stay a little longer.

Whether she perishes or I fall, let it be that you accompany your disciple to the end of this final journey, alright?"

With the words falling, the dark little room fell silent.

"Woo~~~" The gale howled outside the window.

As if it could penetrate the window, blowing into Lu Ran's heart, stirring his spirits, leaving him unsettled.

After an unknown amount of time passed...

A deep sigh imprinted itself in Lu Ran's mind.

"Lord Immortal Sheep?" Lu Ran's expression turned tense, filled with apprehension.

The mental echo seemed somewhat helpless, yet slightly doting:

[You...]

Chapter 1104: An Anger Fire Divine Pattern

[You...]

"Lord Immortal Sheep!" Lu Ran was indeed a Reversed Celestial Spirit, daring to interrupt the words of a god.

However, the truth was he was scared. When the Immortal Sheep was about to respond, Lu Ran dared not listen, fearing a result he didn't want to accept.

What to do?

Then just put it aside for now, and through actions, let the other party know that he really needed it!

"I have a question regarding Cheng Yi and Cheng Li becoming gods."

Lu Ran directly shifted the topic, continuing: "Previously, in my haste, I used the Bi Wu - Tree Face Demon stone sculptures to sign the Inheritance Contract with the two elders.

The aim was to enhance their talents and skills, as well as use the Healing Technique to nourish their aging bodies.

Now, at a time when the Ran Sect is in urgent need of people, and with many stone sculptures possessing divine positions in the garden, I wish to retract one person to sign a new contract with another Divine Sculpture..."

The Inheritance Contract is different from a simple Master-Servant Contract.

Once signed, a person and the stone sculpture are completely bound, and the contract cannot be torn apart.

Lu Ran looked at the Small Divine Shrine with full anticipation.

However, the room was dead silent, and the silence in his mind was terrifying.

Lu Ran patiently waited for a moment, then said: "Cheng Yi and Cheng Li, being the first generation disciples of the Immortal Sheep, have made great contributions to our sect, and have faithfully followed you, serving me..."

Before his words were finished, a message finally fell into his mind: [The Inheritance Contract cannot be torn apart, but both parties can be destroyed.]

Lu Ran was taken aback.

[For instance, you can let Cheng Li merge with the Biwu Divine Statue, then have the two-faced Evil Tree-faced Demon Sculpture devour it. Cheng Yi will suffer no small trauma but will regain his freedom.]

"No small trauma?" Lu Ran furrowed his brows, "Will he drop in rank?"

[Yes, but today is not like the past. Under your command are gods and demons, with divine grade healing techniques, it should protect Cheng Yi to safely pass through this crisis.]

"Thank you, Lord Immortal Sheep, for your guidance. I understand." Lu Ran clasped his hands together and bowed deeply.

[Very well.] The Immortal Sheep sighed lightly, [Cheng Xin followed me in battles his whole life, now under your leadership, he can reunite with his two brothers.]

Lu Ran furrowed his brows even tighter, his mind racing, and quickly said: "By the way, I've also imprisoned Lie Tian's divine soul here, but among it is a very peculiar magic artifact."

He detailed the peculiarity of the flame pattern and then requested:

"Could you help me take a look at it?"

[Heh heh...] A raspy laugh echoed in his mind.

It carried a sense of wonder.

As if mocking someone's clumsy tactic.

Lu Ran pretended not to hear, speaking to himself: "Because of this magic artifact, the sculpture garden's stone sculpture, the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon, has always remained a pseudo-god and dared not seize Lie Tian's divine position."

[Bring it to the garden, let me take a look.]

Lu Ran felt a bit relieved, but then looked troubled: "The flame pattern is too unique, I don't dare to rashly bring it into my mind."

No sooner had he voiced that, he turned his head sharply.

Only to see a Black Sheep Head burning fiercely appear within the small room, its pair of eerie Dead Sheep Eyes giving an uncanny feeling.

This was its second appearance in this old house.

The last time was on a full moon night several years ago when the Demon Lord Yin Flower Dan descended on Rain Alley City.

That was the first Sea Realm Demon Lord Lu Ran saw with his own eyes.

At that time, he was extremely weak, gazing at the night sky in terror, fearing to survive the night.

Accompanied by a gust of sinister wind, the Black Fire Sheep Head appeared, telling him there was no need to fear, for one day he would be stronger than the Demon Lord.

That night, Lord Immortal Sheep comforted him, shielded him, and sent him strands of mist, a simplified version of the Divine Blessing.

When parting is near, the bits and pieces of years of growing up came unbidden into his mind.

Lu Ran's heart grew even more sour.

"Let it out."

"Excuse me, Lord Immortal Sheep, please move into the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd." Lu Ran spoke softly, extending his hand from his sleeve, and the Treasure Gourd floated gently into his hand.

Rain Alley City is indeed a ghost city, and the entire Da Xia is firmly under the control of the Ran Sect Gods.

However, Lu Ran, accustomed to caution, didn't want to release Lie Tian's divine soul above the small city.

"Phew~" One god and one man successively entered the gourd.

The Black Gold Emperor Robe surged like a tide, delivering a string of Rebirth Money to the sleeve, placing it in the owner's palm.

Then, a massive divine soul appeared.

The spirit-like Lie Tian, extremely furious, glared fiercely at the small Human Clan.

If it weren't for being unable to move, it would have undoubtedly charged over!

"The chest area." Lu Ran retreated repeatedly, fearing his Eyes of the Dual Death Realm would draw Lie Tian's divine soul into its gaze.

"Baa~~~"

The Black Fire Sheep Head bleated, rushing straight at Lie Tian's divine soul's chest, where a strange flame pattern was.

"Be careful! That flame pattern..." Lu Ran's words stopped abruptly.

The Black Fire Sheep Head had already crashed into the divine soul!

Far below, a huge Evil Sculpture flew upward, a Blood Skull Necklace hanging around its neck.

"Ranran?" Lu Xing, with the help of the Little Chi Feng, floated to the side and rear of the small Human Clan.

However, Lu Ran was solemnly gazing into the distance, not responding.

Lu Xing followed his gaze and, although he couldn't see the divine soul, he could see a Black Fire Sheep Head and the soaring black flames.

"Hmm?" Lu Xing suddenly felt his hand move.

With the guidance of the Artifact Spirit, he slowly raised his hand, placing his fingertips below Lu Ran's feet.

If not for the Artifact Spirit's guidance, Lu Xing would never have done so; after all, the child wasn't responding, evidently not wanting to be disturbed.

But in reality, his son didn't refuse and indeed stood upon it.

[The necklace has been subdued.] In his mind, his child's transmission arrived.

[Hmm, smoother than I imagined.] Lu Xing also responded through voice transmission, pressing the blood-colored skull necklace, feeling its restlessness.

[Dad, you've been away from the battlefield for a while, I'll call a sparring partner later to help you get back into shape.]

[Okay.] Lu Xing hesitated for a moment, but still asked with concern, [What happened, I feel you're a bit sad.]

Lu Ran's emotions naturally affected the surrounding atmosphere, and beneath his solemn expression was a sad heart.

Lu Ran pressed his lips together again, not responding.

Lu Xing remained silent, not pressing further.

After all, he had been away for over a decade, and the distance between the father and son, the sense of unfamiliarity, couldn't be wiped away in a single long conversation.

Most importantly, after being apart for so long and reuniting, Lu Ran had transformed from a naïve teenager into a man.

Furthermore, into the supreme Lord of Gods and Demons.

The father and son indeed need to slowly adjust and find a suitable mode of interaction.

"Summon the Flame Flood Dragon." After a long while, a hoarse voice came from a distance.

"Yes." Lu Ran immediately responded, summoning the Pseudo-God Stone Sculpture: Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon from the garden, and led it to devour Lie Tian's Divine Soul, then sent it into the Divine Power Lake below.

During the process, Lu Ran would occasionally glance at the Black Sheep Head.

The reason the Flame Flood Dragon Stone Sculpture dared to devour a divine soul was that the flame pattern had already been held in the mouth of the Black Sheep Head.

"Artifact on a soul level is indeed rare." The Black Fire Sheep Head tasted it, speaking casually.

"Lord Immortal Sheep, be careful not to let anger cloud your judgment." Lu Ran couldn't help but warn.

"Anger Fire Divine Pattern."

"Oh? Is that the name of the mysterious artifact?"

"Smelt the heart with fire, temper the soul with anger." Black Fire Sheep Head spat out eight large characters.

Lu Ran couldn't help but raise an eyebrow.

The Black Sheep Head continued to chew on the Anger Fire Divine Pattern, saying, "It will use an endless fury to burn away any incoming mental attacks.

It will also use this fury to temper the body and mind of the living, greatly enhancing the user's combat power."

"Right!" Lu Ran immediately nodded, recalling the battle on March 3rd, "After the Anger Fire Divine Pattern crawled all over the Lie Tian statue, Lie Tian's attributes soared to another level.

Strength, agility, speed, reaction... he could even fly on his own!"

The Fierce Heavenly Sect had no flying techniques, and in that battle, Lie Tian had always relied on divine weapons to fly.

But since the divine patterns covered him, his flying speed was no slower than that of the First-class God Demon: Martial Emperor!

If possible, Lu Ran really wanted to have this Anger Fire Divine Pattern!

He even had a fantasy:

With the help of the divine pattern, using a human clan's body at the peak of the heavenly realm, to stand shoulder to shoulder with gods!

The Black Sheep Head spoke in a deep voice: "The price, you must have seen it too."

"Hmm..." Lu Ran pondered, "After activating the divine pattern, Lie Tian seemed to lose most of his rationality, becoming a raging war machine."

Black Fire Sheep Head: "The Anger Fire Divine Pattern will keep burning, regardless of activation, always affecting the user's mind, injecting violent emotions into their brain."

Hearing this, Lu Ran clicked his tongue secretly.

The magic artifact was indeed absurdly powerful, but the price was too terrifying.

No wonder the believers of the Fierce Heavenly Sect were all so aggressive, each crazier than the last.

How could Lie Tian withstand the havoc of the Anger Fire Divine Pattern?

Naturally, he treated the human believers as trash bins, pouring all the violent emotions onto them...

The Black Sheep Head's voice was faint: "Once the Anger Fire Divine Pattern is fully activated, the owner will be completely ignited, body and soul, the emotional impact endured far greater than usual.

Strong as it may be, it's probably no different from seeking one's own demise."

Lu Ran: "..."

This was already beyond the realm of a "double-edged sword".

After Black Fire Sheep Head finished speaking, it simply stared at Lu Ran.

Gradually, Lu Ran seemed to realize something, also looking back at the other party, heart in his throat.

Lord Immortal Sheep had completed its task, evaluating the artifact for Lu Ran, so...

Lu Xing also sensed the unusual atmosphere, silently observing everything.

After a long while, the Black Sheep Head seemed to finally make a decision, saying in a hoarse voice: "I'll study it properly."

With that, it flew straight up.

Lu Ran immediately breathed a sigh of relief, hurriedly adding: "Lord Immortal Sheep, be careful not to be enchanted by it."

"Heh." From afar, a cold snort came.

This cold response, on the contrary, made Lu Ran feel much more at ease.

Watching the Black Sheep Head leave, Lu Ran let out a long sigh, turning to look at his own father, a rare smile on his face.

It was obviously a bitter smile, with a hint of self-mockery: "I might have a bit of a masochistic tendency."

Lu Xing remained silent, not knowing what had happened, nor how to respond.

"Dad, first create a heavenly realm body, I'll find the Big Nightmare to spar with you."

"You can send me to the Heavenly Realm Battlefield."

"Huh? Go directly to the battlefield?"

"Yeah, the body will recover its state after dying several times at the hands of the Faceless Jade Venerable."

Lu Ran laughed again: "I just said I have a masochistic tendency, turns out it runs in the family."

Lu Xing also chuckled, looking at the human youth at his fingertips, and whispered: "Be happy, no matter what you're going through."

If you want someone to talk to, I'm always here."

"I... hmm."

...

Chapter 1105: Blood Skull in Recovery...

Lu Ran wasn't that cruel.

The Faceless Jade Venerable is the top-tier combat force. Letting the recently resurrected father face such a formidable enemy directly is truly a bit cruel.

It was clearly sending him to his death.

And it didn't align with the concept of "recovery training."

Lu Ran released the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd and directly opened a Landing Mirror, stepping into Beifeng City with one step.

"Who goes there?"

"Something's happening!"

"Evil Demon invasion! There's an Evil Mirror Demon... huh?" Voices echoed.

Within the mansion in the ancient city, Deng Yuxiang naturally had inner sect disciples guarding it. The originally on-guard crowd was stupefied upon seeing Lu Ran walking out of the mirror.

Lu Ran nodded slightly to everyone, his gaze fixed momentarily on a white-haired woman, and said: "I have some matters with Lord Nightmare, you all can leave now."

Liao Wushuang knelt reverently, her eyes burning with fervor: "Ran Shen, do you require the disciples to report to, or pray to Lord Nightmare?"

Lu Ran couldn't help but chuckle and shook his head, silently sighing at the unpredictability of the world.

In retrospect, it was under the blade of this very woman that he, carrying the bloodied Deng Yuxiang, fought out of that perilous Divine Weapon Domain.

And now, she had become the most devout believer under Deng Yuxiang's feet...

That the Big Nightmare could tolerate her was somewhat unexpected.

"Whew~~~"

The sound of rustling clothing came from the night sky.

Lu Ran turned to look, and under the bright moon, a mysterious woman in green raincloak and azure hat flew swiftly, landing steadily in the courtyard's center.

Lu Ran was quite surprised: "How did you know I was here?"

Deng Yuxiang didn't respond, just waved her hand casually.

The group of believers immediately dispersed.

[Haha, you are indeed becoming more and more dignified.] Lu Ran joked through voice transmission, so the believers wouldn't hear and disrupt Lord Nightmare's authoritative image.

Though Lu Ran was considerate, Deng Yuxiang didn't mind these things.

She paid no heed to the disciples still closing the mansion door, reaching out her hand, gently wrapping it around Lu Ran.

Such an intimate gesture did not quite align with the solemn and majestic demeanor of a god and also bewildered Lu Ran.

Through the journey so far, the two of them had become the closest of relatives.

They were comrades in life-and-death battles, superiors and subordinates, and at the most fundamental level, they were even like family.

However, Deng Yuxiang wasn't someone adept at expressing herself. Her actions spoke volumes more than words.

[Nightmare?]

[Mm.] Deng Yuxiang responded softly, gently kneading his back, [I'll always be around, and many others too.]

Lu Ran was momentarily taken aback, then simply buried his face against her shoulder, humming:

[You're spying on me?]

Indeed, her magic artifact Smoke Green Gauze had always been placed on the single small bed in Lu Ran's room.

At least half of the conversation between Lu Ran and Lord Immortal Sheep could be heard through the Smoke Green Gauze.

[This is concern.]

[This is surveillance!]

[Fine, then I'll keep surveilling.] Deng Yuxiang's hand that was on his back slowly moved upwards, gently rubbing his head.

Lu Ran: ???

He stepped back a pace, looking at her with an uncomfortable expression.

Deng Yuxiang quietly gazed back at him, showing no sign of recognizing any fault.

In just a moment, Lu Ran conceded, helplessly changing the topic: [Let's take my dad to the Demon Cave beneath your feet, create some minions to spar with him, help him find a battle-ready state.]

[Let's go.]

A few minutes later, in the Demon Cave beneath the Nightmare God Sculpture.

Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang traversed through the night forest, finally stopping by a lakeside.

"This spot will do." Lu Ran took out the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, releasing the massive Blood Skull Evil Sculpture.

Deng Yuxiang raised her hand, beginning to create minions.

The so-called Evil Demon Minions naturally bore Deng Yuxiang's appearance and possessed considerable intelligence.

"Dad, this is the Nightmare Guardian, Deng Yuxiang, whom I mentioned to you before." Lu Ran and Lu Xing instantaneously teleported to the lakeside with their Heavenly Realm bodies.

Deng Yuxiang looked at the "Blood Skull Minion" full of evil qi, hesitated for a moment, but ultimately overcame the psychological difficulty:

"Uncle Lu."

"Hello." Lu Xing nodded, aware that others might find it hard to accept his current form.

But there was no choice; his original stone sculpture was a Blood Skull, and the body created was also a Blood Skull.

"Swoosh!"

Lu Xing said no more, instantly retreating a hundred meters, leaving a blood-colored afterimage where he stood.

Deng Yuxiang slightly raised an eyebrow, thinking Uncle Lu resembles the Blood Skull style.

Are they both people of few words and fierce actions?

"Go." Deng Yuxiang patted the Nightmare Minion.

"Whoosh~ Whoosh~!" The Nightmare Minion flew straight forward, raising its hand to launch a series of Wind Blades.

Deng Yuxiang crossed her arms in front of her, watching the fight unfold, casually saying, "Nice clothes."

"Aren't they?" Lu Ran raised his right hand, his left hand caressing the sleeve of the Emperor Robe.

The dark golden pattern on the sleeve, tracing his fingertip's path, emitted a faint glow.

Deng Yuxiang slightly turned her head, seeing the smile on Lu Ran's face, she felt a bit better inside.

That night, she learned many shocking secrets.

And witnessed Lu Ran's desperate pleading demeanor.

For so many years, no one had ever been able to make him so embarrassed, so helpless.

To him, Lord Immortal Sheep was truly very important.

It's just unfortunate...

"Crack!" The sound of Water Flow Armor shattering came abruptly.

"Screech!" Immediately, the sound of blade piercing flesh reached their ears.

Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang simultaneously looked over, witnessing a brutal scene.

The Nightmare Minion's posture was incredibly assertive, its lunging stance exuding aggression, its knife forcibly piercing through the gap between two Blood Blades, directly nailing into the Blood Skull's face.

"Whoosh!!"

A massive Evil God phantom unfurled within the Blood Skull body.

This time, it was Lu Xing's own image.

He frowned slightly, floating in mid-air, looking at the already brutally dead body.

Lu Ran: "..."

Deng Yuxiang: "..."

The Nightmare Minion was created using Deng Yuxiang as a base, so its combat style, skills, and everything naturally stemmed from Deng Yuxiang herself.

The first protector of the Ran Sect was excessively strong.

After all, she was a presence that had slaughtered her way from the Human World to the Holy Spirit Mountain, and from the First Heaven to the Third Heaven.

At her feet,

the stark white bones had already piled up into a mountain.

Lu Xing pondered for a while, creating another Blood Skull Minion, then used the afterimage as the soul of the body, once again opening his sinister eyes.

The Nightmare Minion stood up straight, twirled the blade in its hand, and coldly looked at the Blood Skull in front of it.

That expression, how could it be anything but fearless?

It was outright disdain!

second, 2 seconds...3 seconds!

The Nightmare Minion suddenly took a step back, and with a swift wave of its hand.

The strong wind swept past!

"Swish!" Lu Xing left a bloody afterimage in place, instantly appearing behind the Nightmare Minion.

"Buzz!" The Nightmare Minion's delicate body trembled and split into three, surrounding Lu Xing instead.

"Clang! Clang! Clang!"

A total of three blades, from the left front, right front, and behind, simultaneously stabbed towards Lu Xing's body...

"Phew~~~"

On the distant battlefield, Lu Xing's massive afterimage expanded once again.

Lu Ran turned his eyes towards Deng Yuxiang, with a faint gaze: [He's been dead for over ten years, this is the first time he's on the field.]

Honestly, Lu Ran felt a bit regretful; of all people, he had to come to this fierce and ruthless girl.

He should have sought out the former subordinates of Cloud Sea!

That group, facing Master Qiao's ex-husband, should have a bit of tact, right?

Speaking of which, the scene of Dad and Mom meeting would be highly anticipated.

It's absolutely not the time to meet now!

Dad is so incompetent at the moment~

He needs to train thoroughly before facing the woman who stands at the pinnacle of the Three Realms...

"Hmm." Deng Yuxiang actually showed a faint smile on her face.

It left Lu Ran dumbfounded!

Was that a compliment from me just now?

"Shoo~" Deng Yuxiang whistled.

The distant Nightmare Minion immediately flew back and knelt in front of Deng Yuxiang.

"Wait aside, he'll challenge you in a few days." Deng Yuxiang said while extending her hand to create an Evil Demon Minion.

This time, she made a minion of Sea Realm Peak level.

The Sea Realm against the Heavenly Realm, couldn't even shatter the opponent's Water Flow Armor.

"Go, kill him." Deng Yuxiang slightly raised her head, indicating the Blood Skull across the lake.

The Nightmare Minion immediately obeyed and left.

"Should I get Uncle a Divine Weapon Blade?" Deng Yuxiang said softly.

"I'll look for one for him in the next couple of days."

"I have a Beifeng Blade, a Blood Drinking Scimitar."

"The Beifeng Blade is your revenge trophy, the Blood Drinking Scimitar... was a gift from your best friend, and you just want to give it away?" Lu Ran watched the Sea Realm Minion battle fiercely with his father.

"He's your father." Deng Yuxiang explained everything with one sentence.

Lu Ran frowned slightly.

Lu Xing still couldn't gain the upper hand?!

The Sea Realm Nightmare Minion had a significant resemblance to Lu Ran's demeanor; its power might not be enough, but its "soft power" was astonishingly strong, with combat skills and experience that nearly overwhelmed its opponent.

"He's used to using straight blades, like the Dawn Blade; I'll find more for him." Lu Ran shook his head.

Deng Yuxiang: "Liao Wushuang has a Ring-Headed Saber, the one that once cleaved the Night-slaying Great Saber. You've seen the Divine Weapon Domain, it's quite impressive."

Lu Ran blinked: "Have her offer up the blade?"

Deng Yuxiang nonchalantly said: "To her, it's a great honor."

Lu Ran's expression was a bit strange.

The wheels of destiny began turning that year, right?

"Everything that is hers is mine, so naturally, it's yours too." Deng Yuxiang gazed at the fierce battle, her words layered with implications, "This world is yours.

You have so much, you have everything."

Lu Ran stared at the woman, lost in thought.

"Phew~" The Emperor Robe gently swayed.

"What's wrong?" Lu Ran looked down at his sleeve.

[Many people around you have the makings of an emperor.]

"Heh." Lu Ran laughed in exasperation.

You fancy the Lady of Burning Gate, admire the Nightmare Guardian, but not me, huh?

"What did it say?" Deng Yuxiang asked, her tone unpleasant, looking at the Emperor Robe.

Lu Ran said: "I was thinking of finding Tianchen, having him forge two blades for my dad, and nurturing from the start."

The enemy is the top-level existence like the Faceless Jade Venerable, the Jade Venerable Minions are endless; shouldn't the Divine Weapon grow very quickly?

The key is, it can be nurtured with specific focus!

"Hmm." Deng Yuxiang didn't continue on this topic, instead saying, "Shuangzi went to Europe to fetch the surrendered general, she should have returned by now."

"Fetching the surrendered general... the Eternal Night Rider? When did she go?" Lu Ran looked surprised.

"Last night, she said goodbye to me before she left, you've been at home these past few days... Hmm, now that you're free, you can ask her."

Lu Ran nodded silently.

It seems that in the past few days at home, Little Ruyi had taken care of everything.

Now it's about inscribing a Phoenix Soul Brand on the Eternal Night Rider.

...

Chapter 1106: The Ultimate Dutiful Daughter

Lu Ran left his father to the Nightmare Instructor and then set off for the Heavenly Realm Battlefield.

On the Immortal Mo Divine Mountain, Lu Ran sought out the Lady of the Burning Gate standing high atop the mountain peak.

On the gigantic stone hand of the Immortal Jasmine Divine Sculpture, he saw two small Human Clan figures, one was Jiang Ruyi herself, the other was quite unexpected.

Qiao Yuansi?

In recent months, the Burning Gate had absorbed the remaining forces of the Northwest, and the disciples within the sect had successively become gods, making them very powerful.

The soldiers stationed at the various divine mountains had also undergone a series of adjustments, and Lu Ran sent Little Yuanxi to the very center of the Heavenly Realm Battlefield at the Central Golden Jade Divine Mountain.

Entrusting her sister to the Wind Emperor and Heavenly General Bai Rao gave Lu Ran peace of mind.

But what's the deal with this little girl running to the Southwest with her Heavenly Realm Body?

"Whoosh~" Lu Ran's figure flashed and stood in the palm of the Immortal Jasmine Divine Sculpture.

"Hmm?"

The two girls sensed something simultaneously and turned to look.

When they saw it was a familiar figure, Qiao Yuansi couldn't help but smile, her eyes curving like two beautiful crescents, sweetly calling out:

"Brother~!"

Beautiful things can really make one's mood delightful.

Lu Ran, who was somewhat downcast, also smiled at this moment and asked, "Why are you running around?"

"Don't criticize me, Sister Ruyi allowed it!" Qiao Yuansi said while hugging Jiang Ruyi's arm as if holding onto a towering tree.

She looked fearless and even provocatively wrinkled her little nose at Lu Ran.

Very cute.

Also makes one's teeth itch.

"Haha~" Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but chuckle and explained, "She wanted to see the Eternal Night Rider."

"Oh." Lu Ran ceased to pay attention to Little Yuanxi and instead asked, "I came for this too; I heard you sent the Evil Shadow to Europe to fetch him? Hasn't he returned yet?"

Jiang Ruyi shook her head: "Fetching him is easy; the difficulty is not alerting the other god demons.

You already arranged it before, didn't you? To use the Eternal Night Rider as a breakthrough point for infiltrating the European God Camp."

"Indeed." Lu Ran nodded in agreement.

"By the way, Brother!" Qiao Yuansi asked, "I heard Sister Ruyi say, has Dad returned?"

"Yes, he's been out of the battle for a while and is now recovering through training."

"He really came back? That's great!" Qiao Yuansi looked delighted, "Where is he training?"

"Over at the Nightmare side."

"Who?"

"Deng Yuxiang." Lu Ran looked puzzled. "What's with your reaction, you don't recognize Nightmare Guardian?"

Qiao Yuansi rolled her eyes: "How could I not know Nightmare Sister! You are slow and steady; I have Ox Head, Uncle Wang Quan under me, who can be sparring partners.

My foolish brother oh~

Who starts by going for the big weapon!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Qiao Yuansi looked genuinely worried: "Nightmare Sister can kill with just a glance, let alone move; she's not someone who should be sparring!"

Dad has just revived, don't let her chop him up again!"

Lu Ran snorted: "How considerate of you!"

Qiao Yuansi pouted: "Going to Nightmare Guardian for sparring... tsk tsk, you really thought it through! You're more considerate than me."

"Haha~" Jiang Ruyi watched the siblings bicker, unable to hold back a soft laugh.

Lu Ran glared at his sister and said: "Just calm down completely! Dad uses the Heavenly Realm Body during sparring, so it doesn't involve the real body's life or death."

Qiao Yuansi pursed her lips: "That's even worse! Without involving life and death, Nightmare Sister will be even more reckless."

My poor Dad oh~

He'll be chopped into mince time and again..."

"I haven't disciplined you for years!" Lu Ran, unable to bear it, strode forward.

"Oh?" Qiao Yuansi exclaimed and shrunk her neck, quickly hiding behind Jiang Ruyi.

Jiang Ruyi suddenly stretched out her hand, not only stopping Lu Ran but also pressing a slender finger against Lu Ran's lips.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran paused in confusion.

Jiang Ruyi quietly said: "Don't use bad language."

Lu Ran: "..."

Is that considered bad language?

Such a polite tone particle...

"Pfft... Hahahaha~" Qiao Yuansi couldn't hold back, covering her mouth to stifle her laughter.

Jiang Ruyi turned her head, glanced at the girl behind: "You be quiet too."

"Alright." Qiao Yuansi instantly became obedient, bowing her head in repentance.

"Heh." Lu Ran was genuinely amused, avoiding sight, turning to look at the battlefield below the divine mountain.

The Faceless Jade Venerable remained tireless, continually attacking the divine mountain.

Since the Burning Gate Gods slayed gods and demons, the Faceless Jade Venerable seized the chance, killing numerous god demons, and since the Great Xia Battle Zone was unified, the Faceless Jade Venerable hasn't acted much.

She attacked the divine mountain as methodically as she has for decades.

Lu Ran thought there was a fundamental difference between the Burning Gate Gods leader he led and the Great Xia God-Demon Camp.

This posed a great threat to the Faceless Jade Venerable.

The opponent should adjust tactics, possibly making some targeted deployments.

Yet reality slapped Lu Ran! Faceless Jade Venerable's various actions seemed to tell him that the change of leadership in the Great Xia Battle Zone made no difference to her.

Perhaps, Faceless Jade Venerable and Lord Jian Yi shared the same views?

At this point, the Burning Gate Gods were in high spirits, exceptionally vibrant, but it might just be another cycle; as time passes, it'll ultimately fall into another round of god demons?

Thoughts gradually stagnant.

The heart continuously decays.

Until a future moment, the brave who once slew the evil dragon eventually becomes the evil dragon itself.

Perhaps no need to wait for the future!

Under the influence of the God-Demon cultivation system, many Ran General have already become evil dragons...

"Brother~" Little Yuanxi reached out and pinched a corner of Lu Ran's robe, cautiously tugging it.

She obviously misunderstood, thinking Lu Ran's silence meant he was angry.

In fact, Lu Ran had his mind full of the Faceless Jade Venerable.

"I'm sorry~ Brother." Little Yuanxi then wrapped Lu Ran's arm, "I rarely see you, just want to play with you, tease you, make you angry..."

"It's fine." Lu Ran smiled, "I was just thinking about something else."

"Hmm, as long as you're not angry." Little Yuanxi suddenly showed a smile, her cheek rubbing gently against the distinguished Black Gold Emperor Robe, "Did you tell mom about dad's revival?"

"Not yet."

"Hehe~" Little Yuanxi's eyes were bright, like little stars twinkling, "I'm so looking forward to the scene when they meet."

Lu Ran nodded, agreeing: "Not now, dad's state isn't great, let's wait until he regains his charm."

"Ah... how long do we have to wait?"

"That depends on when Sister Nightmare nods."

Little Yuanxi seemed a bit disappointed, murmuring: "Doesn't have to be when he's in top form, right? Anyway, dad and mom are divorced.

If dad's state isn't good, maybe mom will be happier to see him?"

Lu Ran: ???

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

"What a Little Yuanxi, daring to maliciously speculate on mother dear." Lu Ran lowered his voice, "I'll remember this and tell mom later."

"No, no, no! I was wrong, I was wrong!" Little Yuanxi was truly frightened, quickly shaking Lu Ran's arm, pleading repeatedly.

Before Lu Ran could say anything more, Little Yuanxi quickly changed the subject: "By the way, I heard Tianchen sent two swords, and you're struggling to name them?"

Lu Ran suddenly felt a headache!

He looked at his sister with full alertness: "What do you want to do?"

"Hey you!" Little Yuanxi pouted, dissatisfied, "I'm just trying to help, don't know a good thing when you see it... Isn't Eight Desolates Annihilation pretty good?"

Think about how much it helped you slay demons and monsters along the way?"

Lu Ran hesitated for a moment, then nodded: "That's true."

Upon hearing this, Little Yuanxi's eyes lit up: "I've already thought of names for the swords for you and Sister Ruyi!"

"Stop!" Lu Ran hurriedly stopped her, "These swords need focused cultivation, specially born for slaying the Faceless Jade Venerable."

"I see..." Little Yuanxi was thoughtful, "Having a requirement makes it easier to think of names~"

"Easy to think of names?" Lu Ran's expression turned odd.

"Yes!" Little Yuanxi stretched out her pale, tender hands, counting each slender finger like spring onions, "Breaking Jade, Slaying Jade, Burying Jade, Killing Venerable, Annihilating Venerable, Slayer of Venerable..."

Lu Ran felt numb.

Is it really this simple?

He turned his head stupidly, looking at Fairy Jiang beside him.

Jiang Ruyi seemed to think it was not bad, mumbling: "Slaying Jade Sword, Venerable Slayer Blade."

"Nice sound~" Little Yuanxi quickly turned to look over, "Sister Ruyi, do you like them?"

Jiang Ruyi nodded gently, looking at Lu Ran: "What do you think?"

What else can I say?

Lu Ran shrugged: "Empress' golden words, I dare not dissent."

"Yay~!" Little Yuanxi was extremely happy.

Lu Ran smiled as he lifted his hand to rub her head: "Your little brain really has got some goods, not bad, not bad!"

Just rightly, I'm going to find Tianchen to make two swords for dad, you also name them."

"No problem!" Little Yuanxi raised her beautiful face, like a proud black swan, "Any requirements, just let me know!"

Lu Ran thought for a while, and a sentence slipped out: "Enhance them with strength?"

"Oh?" Little Yuanxi blinked.

"I've nurtured the Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade, dad can naturally also nurture a Divine Weapon strong enough to destroy the heavens and earth!"

The more Lu Ran spoke, the more confident he became, nodding repeatedly: "Feel free to name boldly! A hero son, and a brave father!"

Little Yuanxi softly replied: "From a son, we count upwards? That's a hearty filial piety."

Lu Ran also replied softly: "The two of us, each to each."

Beside them, Jiang Ruyi watched the bickering siblings, couldn't help but smile and shake her head.

"Enhance... strength..." Little Yuanxi tilted her little head, leaning on Lu Ran's shoulder, her eyes rolling around.

Lu Ran suddenly had a premonition.

He was about to hear an apocalyptic-level name!

Little Yuanxi suddenly lifted her head to look at Lu Ran, her eyes serious: "For enhancing strength... Mirror Breaking Reunion Blade!"

For a moment, Jiang Ruyi's expression was extremely colorful!

Want to laugh, but felt it was rude.

Lu Ran widened his eyes: "Huh? Mirror breaking... huh?"

Little Yuanxi pouted, muttering: "You're the one who wanted to enhance with strength."

Lu Ran was feeling all sorts of bad.

No!

Where is the enhancement going?

...

Chapter 1107: Black Rose

The name "Mending a Broken Mirror" is obviously inappropriate.

After Lu Ran firmly refused, Qiao Yuansi began to brainstorm again, thinking long and hard.

The mischievous one quieted down for the moment, and Jiang Ruyi aptly asked, "What did you discuss with Lord Immortal Sheep?"

With just one sentence, she rendered Lu Ran silent.

Jiang Ruyi keenly noticed that, at the sound of the words "Immortal Sheep," Lu Ran seemed to grow tense.

"What's wrong?" Jiang Ruyi took a few steps forward and gently held Lu Ran's arm.

Lu Ran gazed distantly at the battlefield, and after a moment of silence, he said, "Have you noticed that the Faceless Jade Venerable has made no unusual moves?"

She is just as she was when All Gods controlled Da Xia, and remains so today."

Such a way of changing the topic is clumsy.

However, Fairy Jiang was willing to go along, softly saying, "Indeed, things are quite fine this way. The energy income of the soldiers stationed at each Divine Mountain far exceeds their expenditure."

Lu Ran spoke solemnly, "Do you think the Faceless Jade Venerable is waiting."

"Waiting?"

"Yes! The Burning Gate's soldiers are united, having just unified Da Xia, the momentum is strong," Lu Ran said seriously, "but morale has its highs and lows, and so does enthusiasm."

Jiang Ruyi retorted, "With you leading the Burning Gate, it would be very difficult for anyone to desire complacency."

"Ruyi, we always consider things from the perspective of the Human Clan, believing that ten or eight years is already a long time, and forty or fifty years is a lifetime."

Jiang Ruyi immediately understood his meaning.

Lu Ran held her in his embrace, smoothing her long, waterfall-like black hair with one hand, "The Burning Gate is now united like iron, not something easily broken.

But time will wear us down, making our hearts gradually decay.

No matter how much disdain and contempt we harbor for the God Demon, one day, we may become just as deplorable."

Beside them, Qiao Yuansi's face lost its smile, secretly listening to the heavy topic.

Jiang Ruyi rested her chin gently on Lu Ran's shoulder, speaking softly, "Nu Ying has existed for so long and is still a warrior full of spirit and vigor."

This example is indeed excellent.

It strikes directly at Lu Ran's heart!

In fact, Lord Immortal Sheep is also a good example.

The grave is also steadfastly guarded, persisting through eternal ages...

"You are that kind of existence, like Nu Ying, I'm certain of it," Jiang Ruyi's voice was gentle, "The God Demons are each fighting on their own, but the Burning Gate is entirely different, with all the gods surrounding you.

Look at the composition of the Burning Gate disciples.

Those Divine Generals recruited in the Mountain Realm, the Heavenly Generals in the Heavenly Realm, your classmates and teammates in the Human World, and family with blood ties to you."

Jiang Ruyi displayed a gentle smile, "Each one of them has different stories with you, all closely connected to you as the Lord of Gods and Demons.

The Ran Gate Gods may decay, I won't deny it.

But as long as you're here for a day, they'll exist by your will."

"Exactly!" Qiao Yuansi couldn't help but interject, "Not to mention they all recognize you and are loyal to you. Let's put it bluntly..."

If any individual or group dares to have issues or rebel against you, the other groups won't allow it!"

Lu Ran: "..."

It even reached equilibrium?

From this perspective, the elders of the Cheng Family on Luoxian Mountain, entirely belonging to the Immortal Sheep Sect and also having a direct line with Lu Ran, indeed should hold a Divine Position.

"No need to overthink," Jiang Ruyi softly advised.

Lu Ran felt rather helpless and said, "I think the battle between the Burning Gate and the Faceless Jade Venerable should happen sooner rather than later. What do you think?"

"Haha," Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but laugh.

The plot reveals itself?

Turns out that's what you wanted to say.

Lu Ran continued, "Now that the Heavenly Realm Battlefield has stabilized, we are united, with great cohesion and combat power!"

We should seize the momentum and eliminate the greatest threat in this world!"

Jiang Ruyi pondered, "Uncle is still recovering, Aunt is also waiting for Sword One to step down. The few like Yutang, Manni, and Yiren in the Holy Spirit Mountain are at the Sea Realm Peak and could ascend to the Heavenly Realm at any moment."

"Hmm," Lu Ran contemplated briefly.

The more God Demons the Burning Gate has, the greater their chances.

Jiang Ruyi advised, "You should focus on the Heavenly Realm Battlefield and train the Venerable Slayer Blade. Your good friend Deng Yutang might inherit the Divine Position next month."

Lu Ran: "..."

Qiao Yuansi chimed in repeatedly, "Right, right, brother, fight at the Heavenly Realm Battlefield first, don't explore beyond the world yet... it sounds terrifying there."

"Exploration is a must," Lu Ran's tone was unwavering.

The sudden seriousness in his words silenced Qiao Yuansi.

Perhaps realizing his tone was harsh, Lu Ran reached out to ruffle her hair and added, "Let me tell you something, could you and Ruyi help me deliberate?"

"What is it?"

"The issue of Divine Positions for Cheng Yi and Cheng Li, those two elders..." Lu Ran discussed, acknowledging the plan of temporarily training the blade in the Heavenly Realm and shifted the topic.

Before the trio could deliberate further, a sudden wave of Divine Power surged from behind.

Lu Ran turned his head, seeing a Charm Shadow appearing on the empty stone fingers of the Immortal Jasmine Divine Sculpture, "Master, Lady."

The Evil Shadow has returned!

Lu Ran immediately showed interest, "Has the Eternal Night Rider come back?"

Yan Shuangzi stepped forward, taking a Magic Artifact-Hundred Treasures Bag from her bosom.

Lu Ran took it, just about to open it, then turned to look at Jiang Ruyi.

"What?" Jiang Ruyi slightly raised her eyebrow.

"This European knight is here for you, the Empress." Lu Ran stuffed the exquisite little golden purse into her hand.

Jiang Ruyi looked at Lu Ran with a half-smile, then glanced down at the purse and resumed her expressionless demeanor.

"Open it." She said calmly.

The cold tone made Lu Ran shiver.

Being in private contact too often would always unknowingly make him forget the nature of the Lady of Burning Gate.

The purse automatically opened, revealing a dim stone sculpture inside.

Evidently another Evil Sculpture of about 270 to 280 meters, yet placed in the Magic Artifact-Hundred Treasures Bag, it looked like a tiny toy soldier.

"Wow!" Qiao Yuansi edged closer, her eyes sparkling brightly.

Even though the stone sculpture's color was dim, it didn't diminish its captivating aura!

For Lu Ran and other purebred Great Xia people, this European knight exuded an exotic vibe from head to toe.

From his build, the Eternal Night Fallen Rider was a tall and burly man.

He wore ancient and ornate knight plate armor, covered in scars, seemingly proclaiming his bygone battlegrounds.

Qiao Yuansi knew this was pure black metal plate armor.

Because she had specifically checked the appearance of Evil Demon--Eternal Night Fallen Rider's minions online and also read a lot of reviews.

European believers said that the armor of the Eternal Night Fallen Rider was forged from "solidified midnight," and at the moment you encounter the Fallen Rider, your life would also be forever solidified in the night.

It felt quite romantic~

The pure black armor, besides the scars, was also engraved with strange reliefs, perhaps some kingdom's emblem or flag?

The entire body of the Eternal Night Knight was enclosed in armor, including the head.

The same pure black helmet was fully enclosed, with a T-shaped slit as the faceplate, hiding a pair of pupil-less pure black eyeballs inside.

Of course, all of the aforementioned "black" belonged to either the Evil Demon Minion or the remnants of the Evil God.

The stone sculpture of the Eternal Night Knight itself shares the exact same material as the Great Xia Gods and Demons, with identical hues.

"Tsk, quite cool actually," Lu Ran whispered, suddenly noticing a gaze always fixed on his face.

He turned his head, immediately locking eyes with Yan Shuangzi.

And saw the deep concern in her eyes.

Lu Ran was a bit puzzled, unaware of the source of such a gaze. Just about to ask, he suddenly realized something.

Heh,

are you guys truly best friends?

Deng Yuxiang has Smoke Green Gauze, Yan Shuangzi has the Shadow Guard Team!

The shadow guards secretly protecting Lu Ran were all believers from the Evil Shadow Sect.

[Are they my personal guards, or your spies?] Lu Ran calmly watched the Evil Shadow Guardian.

Yan Shuangzi's heart tightened, lowering her head, she said: [Master, I...]

[Alright, alright, I know you're concerned about me.] Lu Ran said helplessly, [Tell the Shadow Guards to keep quiet, my mind is muddled, haven't figured some things out yet.]

[Yes.] Yan Shuangzi replied softly, swallowing all her concerned words back.

"Do you pledge allegiance to me?" An icy voice echoed, drawing Lu Ran's attention.

He heard the faint sound of "creak, creak."

Lu Ran looked toward the purse, only to see the Eternal Night Fallen Rider placing a hand on his chest, kneeling down on one knee, his plate armor making a slight creaking noise.

"You dared to come alone, I see your capability and determination." Jiang Ruyi looked down at the small knight, saying blandly, "But my subordinates are not so easy to become."

"Creak, creak~"

The Eternal Night Fallen Rider slowly raised his hand, spreading fingers covered with armored gloves, and gently held a flower.

It was a rose.

But a pure black one, with petals in a semi-withered state, seemingly in a stage of gradual decay.

"Oh?" Qiao Yuansi blinked, instinctively looking at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran: ???

ber!

What are you doing?

Do you really think this ruler doesn't exist?

[This is a Magic Artifact, a top-level one.] The Black Gold Emperor Robe suddenly transmitted a heart thought.

"Oh?" Lu Ran looked at the rose again, suddenly feeling more pleasing... Wait!

What if it's a top-level magical artifact?

It's still a rose!

"Master, Lady," Yan Shuangzi spoke up to introduce, "This is a Fourth-class Magical Artifact--Withered Rose, capable of withering all things.

Especially effective in polluting and corroding substances like Divine and Evil Sculptures, Faceless Jade Venerable.

The Eternal Night Fallen Rider is presenting it as a gift, expressing allegiance.

Also hoping this magical artifact can help the Ran Sect defeat the Faceless Jade Venerable."

The more he listened, the brighter Lu Ran's eyes became!

They say it's better to act on impulse, he directly reached into the small purse and said repeatedly: "Good! What a loyal Ran Sect Grand Knight!

This flower shall be presented to your king!"

...

Chapter 1108: Ghost General, Return to Position!

Poor September third night, dew like pearls, moon like bow.

The night envelops the Holy Spirit Mountain, silence pervades the Cloud Sea Cliff.

In the backyard of Cloud Sea Residence, a youth in a black gold emperor robe is lazily lying on a rocking chair, gazing at the new moon in the night sky.

The families of the Burning Gate warriors have been sent back to the human world after the crisis was resolved.

Living in this barren land far from modern society is no different from imprisonment for ordinary people. However, as families of all gods, they indeed find it difficult to integrate into society.

It is said that the families are mostly arranged in the ancient cities beneath the gods.

Lu Ran does not need to concern himself with the specific details.

The garden was replanted with Immortal jasmine trees, whose lush branches swayed gently in the breeze, bringing a light jasmine fragrance.

Truly intoxicating.

Lu Ran's eyelids gradually droop, and the heavy Venerable Slayer Blade in his hand accidentally slips, falling to the ground with a clatter.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran suddenly widens his eyes.

Realizing this is not a battlefield, his tense body gradually relaxes.

Lu Ran tilts his head to look at the Venerable Slayer Blade on the ground, involuntarily smirking.

Three months have passed.

From June sixth to yesterday, September second, Lu Ran has been fighting in the Heavenly Realm Battlefield.

The Venerable Slayer Blade showed no sign of activity.

Hoping to cultivate a divine weapon in just three months is indeed quite fanciful.

But specific circumstances require specific analyses!

What kind of quality weapon is the Venerable Slayer Blade?

This was personally forged by Deity Tianchen!

What level warrior is Lu Ran, and what kind of enemies does he face?

In the past three months, countless Faceless Jade Venerables have died under the Venerable Slayer Blade! If there were an experience bar, Lu Ran believes the Venerable Slayer Blade's experience would be overflowing...

Even if it doesn't become a divine weapon, at least it should give a "buzz" as a response!

Even a slight reaction would count as some achievement; however, the Venerable Slayer Blade gives no face, resembling a dead object.

It's very frustrating.

What's even more frustrating is, the Slaying Jade Sword has reacted!

Jiang Ruyi always fights alongside Lu Ran, and the weapon in her hand, also meant to slay the Faceless Jade Venerable, has shown some reaction despite not becoming a divine weapon.

That is the stage before a weapon gathers a Soldier Spirit!

Truly, comparing oneself to others leads to death; comparing goods leads to discard.

The pair of sword and blade, created by the same master craftsman, held by top warriors in the highest-level battlefield.

Yet they deliver two different answers!

Lu Ran looks at the Venerable Slayer Blade fallen on the ground, feeling even more troubled.

However, the three months of fighting cannot be said to be fruitless; at least Lu Ran has become more familiar with the Faceless Jade Venerable.

Her fighting style, her spontaneous reactions, her habitual thinking.

Every time she strikes a hand or foot, every time she swings her jade robe.

Even when she smooths her long hair, and which finger she habitually uses...

Lu Ran has never studied a creature so thoroughly and carefully for such a long time.

He is almost counting her hair strands, figuring out how many there are.

How is this different from being in a relationship?

Regrettably, since Burning Gate unified the God Demon Camp, the Faceless Jade Venerable herself has never appeared on the Heavenly Realm Battlefield again.

It seems she is temporarily avoiding confrontation.

Otherwise, Lu Ran would really like to spar with her.

Although called the Jade Venerable "herself," she only resembles a god demon in physique, her combat prowess surpasses all gods by a considerable margin.

Thus she is called such.

And there is definitely more than one of such "herself!"

Her figures appeared across the five major battle zones.

Lu Ran's withdrawal from the battlefield has to do with his mental and physical exhaustion needing rest.

On the other hand, Deng Family's young master is about to ascend!

Over there at Tianshao, dense fog has been surrounding, persisting for nearly four weeks.

Counting the days, Deng Yutang should be exiting seclusion within these two days...

My Young Master Deng,

you have kept me waiting, the Red Scarf Ghost General is ready for you.

Lu Ran thought silently, suddenly noticing the Venerable Slayer Blade on the ground slowly lifting up.

The Venerable Slayer Blade, not a divine weapon, lacks the ability to float automatically, so it must be the invisible Shadow Guard bringing up the fallen blade.

However, Lu Ran did not accept it, feeling drowsy as his eyelids droop again.

The Venerable Slayer Blade thus hovered horizontally beside the rocking chair, the invisible Shadow Guard dared not leave nor act rashly.

"Hoo~"

The emperor robe, like a black tide, slowly spreads over Lu Ran's body.

Like a blanket, it covers him.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran, surprised by the emperor robe's considerate gesture, wonders what's going on.

Did the emperor robe grow a conscience?

A dignified voice engraved in Lu Ran's mind: [Finally looking presentable.]

Lu Ran reacts, then laughs: "Your recognition of me makes me realize how aloof I have been."

Speaking as his hand, originally beside the rocking chair, finally grips the Venerable Slayer Blade's hilt.

The Shadow Guard finally can leave.

Emperor robe: ?

Lu Ran casually tosses the Venerable Slayer Blade to the ground again, closing his eyes once more.

Regarding the Shadow Guard acting as a spy, even after three months, he remains somewhat dissatisfied.

Magic Artifact recognising its master, reporting to Nightmare Guardian, is understandable.

But the Shadow Guard Team, whose unit is it?

No choice, the objective situation is here: Evil Shadow Guardian is the Shadow Guard Team captain, as well as the god revered by the Shadow Guards.

The conversation between Immortal Sheep and Sect Leader is a world-shaking secret that can stun the entire world!

Of course, the Shadow Guards would report to their captain and god.

Hmm... forget it, let's move on.

After all, Yan Shuangzi is someone I completely trust, and it's her who manages the Shadow Guard Team.

"Whew~"

The Black Wave slowly receded, no longer covering Lu Ran.

"Heh." Lu Ran didn't open his eyes, chuckling softly, "You're quite cute."

The flowing Emperor Robe paused slightly: ???

Lu Ran laughed: "Like a child, throwing a tantrum... huh?"

He stopped speaking abruptly, suddenly sat up, and the rocking chair shook back and forth.

Did Young Master Deng succeed?

Finally ascended to the Heavenly Realm!

Lu Ran's face lit up with joy and immediately summoned an Ancient Bronze Mirror.

Meanwhile, thousands of kilometers away on the vast ocean, at the forgotten end of the world, several figures stood at Heaven's Edge.

Deng Yutang, Bai Manni, Guan Yiren, Wang Ling.

Led by these few, they were the last batch of Burning Gate disciples left on the Seven Islands of Burning Gate.

Months ago, three thousand disciples of Burning Gate had already returned to the Holy Spirit Mountain Continent to take control of major sects and organizations, occupying various regions.

"Whew!" A Landing Mirror tore through space, rapidly forming.

Under the moonlight, the four of them held their breath and saw an emperor-robed youth emerging.

"Sect Leader!"

"Sect Leader." The few immediately greeted with respect.

"Haha!" Lu Ran strode forward, grabbing Deng Yutang's shoulders, and lifted him up directly.

Deng Yutang's heart trembled!

Although his brother was genuinely thrilled, the overwhelming pressure crashed down, momentarily freezing the entire sea cliff.

"Young Master Deng, you made me wait so long!" Lu Ran gave Deng Yutang a big hug, slapping his back with loud pats.

"Ugh." Deng Yutang's face turned crimson.

Whether it was from the blood rushing or due to embarrassment, it was unclear.

He indeed made Lu Ran wait too long.

When Lu Ran was thrown into the Holy Spirit Mountain, struggling at death's door, Deng Yutang was at home, getting married and having kids, living a blissful life.

Lu Ran became a Sea Realm Power, transformed into a Mountain Realm king, and Deng Yutang was brought to the mountain, continuing his peaceful life under the protection of brother, sister, and Grandpa Bai.

When Lu Ran ascended to the Heavenly Realm, slaying his way to the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, Deng Yutang became a Sea Realm king, continuing to dominate the mountain.

And now...

Deng Yutang knew he finally became a Heavenly Realm Power, but Lu Ran had already slain countless God Demons, unified Da Xia.

War, disaster, danger...

This path of struggle should have been filled with thorns.

Yet each time Deng Yutang took a step forward, the thorns ahead dissolved into thin air.

What! Call it TMD! A smooth road!

Sometimes, Deng Yutang really wondered if he'd gotten the protagonist's script...

"I've prepared the Red Scarf Ghost General Double Divine Position for you!" Lu Ran released him, stepped back, and sized up the spirited Deng Yutang.

Mentioning the Ghost General, Lu Ran couldn't help but think of another cavalryman—the Eternal Night Rider.

That European Knight was truly a shock to Lu Ran!

Three months ago, during their meeting, Jiang Ruyi branded the Phoenix Soul on Eternal Night Rider, and he only suffered half a day's torture, then completely escaped the suffering.

He became a loyal warrior under the Lady of Burning Gate.

Even those Northwest remnants who faced reality took a long time to be properly educated upon joining Burning Gate.

The situation of Eternal Night Rider must be related to his background.

From his solo arrival, it was clear he was determined.

"Thank you, Sect Leader!" Deng Yutang's face flushed, his voice firm and powerful.

As a courageous and proud warrior, he no longer had to walk the "high road."

He could now be at the forefront of the Burning Gate camp, paving the way for Ran Shen through thorns!

"Family, no need for thanks." Lu Ran, overjoyed, firmly patted Deng Yutang's shoulder again.

Little Ruyi recruited an Eternal Night Rider, and internally, Burning Gate produced an Eastern Ghost General; perhaps they could spar someday?

The battle should be exciting, right?

Lu Ran pondered quietly, then realized the few others behind him.

Turning his head, he smiled, "Congratulations, Yiren, you've also ascended to the Heavenly Realm."

Guan Yiren's eyes drooped, burying many emotions deep within: "Yes."

She didn't choose wrongly.

The one she admired deeply even in middle school had now completely overthrown Da Xia's God Demons, becoming the Lord of All Gods.

"Ruyi saved a place for you on Divine Mountain; she's been waiting for you for a long time."

"Yes." Guan Yiren replied softly.

Lu Ran turned to Bai Manni and encouraged her: "You should put in more effort too."

Bai Manni trembled slightly, nodding repeatedly.

Currently, she was still at the Sea Realm Peak, just needing a profound insight or a flash of inspiration.

As Lu Ran's gaze shifted, Wang Ling's face contorted in bitterness: "Ran Shen, I'm... I'm almost there! Almost at the Sea Realm Peak."

Upon hearing "almost," Lu Ran couldn't help but have a peculiar expression, glancing at Deng Yutang before him.

Seeing Deng Yutang's face flushed as if about to drip blood.

"Breathe, Young Master Deng, breathe!" Lu Ran hurriedly said.

Not far behind, Bai Manni said tremulously: "Ran Shen, you... you can stay away from Yutang."

"Oh!" Lu Ran immediately understood and quickly moved away.

"Hiss..." Deng Yutang took a deep breath, his chest heaving fiercely, panting nonstop.

Lu Ran, amused and irritated: "A living person can die holding urine! You might as well shout out, isn't the Red Cloth Order a decoration?"

Deng Yutang's face was embarrassed.

The Battle Roar is meant for combat, right?

In daily life, must he use the Battle Roar to confront his own people?

How embarrassing is that!!

...

Chapter 1109: The Filial Son

Lu Ran led Deng Yutang and Guan Yiren into the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, then easily summoned the divine sculpture within the garden to merge with the two of them.

When he flew out of the gourd, Wang Ling and Bai Manni were still waiting.

"What are your plans?" Lu Ran inquired from a distance. "The two of them have already advanced; there's no free ride here anymore. Do you want to go back to Cloud Sea Cliff?"

"Ran Shen, I'll continue to stay on the island for closed-door cultivation!" Wang Ling said decisively.

His teammates Qiao Yuansi, Niu Zhengzheng, and his uncle Wang Quan, who entered the mountain with him, have all become gods. Guan Yiren is also about to transform into a god.

Only Wang Ling himself remains at the Fourth Rank of Sea Realm, which made him quite embarrassed.

Lu Ran understood his emotions and advised, "You've been delayed in the human world for too long. Now you're high-ranked in the Sea Realm, which is already a great achievement."

"Thank you for your encouragement, Ran Shen!" Wang Ling's eyes were resolute. "I'll advance to the Heavenly Realm before I step out of Tianya Haijiao.

To protect Yuanxi, and fight side by side with everyone!"

"Good." Lu Ran nodded approvingly. Since Wang Ling was determined, he did not persuade him further.

Lu Ran then looked at Bai Manni.

Under the moonlight, this fair-skinned girl still appeared radiantly white.

No, wait!

Lu Ran knocked on his forehead, musing to himself that his stereotype was too strong; Manni shouldn't be called a girl anymore, she was a mother now.

"Ran Shen, I... I want to go see Lingyi, is that okay?" Bai Manni asked timidly.

"Of course!" Lu Ran immediately nodded, smiling, "Don't be like that, it makes me seem unfeeling.

Also, have you both forgotten what to call me?"

"Okay, Lu Ran." In the last two words, Bai Manni's voice was very soft and gentle.

If Lu Ran didn't have sharp ears, he might not have heard it.

"Let's go." Lu Ran summoned an Ancient Bronze Mirror.

Bai Manni, now at the Peak of the Sea Realm, just needed a profound revelation and a stroke of luck.

Going back to see her daughter might bring unexpected joy?

Unfortunately, the Caster Ghost Moon Fox had already submitted to the Ran Sect, meaning that Bai Manni and her grandfather Bai Yanhui would maintain their status as Fake Gods for a relatively long time.

Although they won't hold a Divine Position, as long as they merge with the stone sculptures in the garden, they will exist for a long time.

Eventually, a Divine Position will fall upon them.

Hmm... if the Ran Sect can succeed, that is.

"Hoo~" The Landing Mirror violently tore through the space-time continuum. Under Wang Ling's respectful farewell, a pair of young men and women entered the mirror one after the other.

With one step, they reached the Human World·Nightmare City.

Having the experience from a few months before, this time, the Inner Sect Disciples guarding the divine residence were no longer as alarmed as before.

As expected, the exact same people emerged from the Ancient Bronze Mirror, opened in the same spot.

"Hello." Lu Ran gazed up toward the sky outside the wall, where a female disciple was observing the situation and hadn't yet landed. "Come over here."

A Nightmare Believer swiftly flew into the garden.

Lu Ran looked at Bai Manni: "Let this disciple take you to the back. Uncle and Aunt Deng have been living in the rear residence with Little Lingyi."

Ever since the Deng Family couple was brought back to the human world, they've lived in the ancient city where their daughter, God's Daughter Deng Yuxiang, resides.

Now, their son is also close to becoming a god.

In no time, Deng Yutang will descend to the human world, stationed in the ancient city once occupied by Divine·Red Cloth, bringing back this school of thought to humanity.

At that time, will the couple visit their divine son's place for a few days?

As he pondered, Lu Ran couldn't help but sigh over the Deng Family couple's good fortune.

Although ordinary people, they've amassed substantial fortune in this tumultuous world. Their son possesses a Tianchen Steel level spear worth millions, and their daughter travels in a luxury car worth two to three million, a showcase of their family wealth.

Now over fifty, the Deng Family couple has children who have become gods and a cute little granddaughter too.

Lucky Old Deng Family, how much virtue did their ancestors accumulate?

Looking at his own family, though!

A son traumatized by the early death of his father,

A daughter who suffered greatly because of her mother,

Such a fragmented family.

Damn!

Lu Ran sighed inwardly and looked up at the crescent moon in the night sky.

Moonlight illuminated the human world, where some enjoyed familial happiness, and others were tormentingly alone and intense.

Better not to compare, it's suffocating.

He summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror once more. Since he was here, he might as well visit his resurrected father...

It's been three months now, and his father's condition should have improved significantly?

"Hoo~"

The Landing Mirror swiftly formed, and Lu Ran took a step into the Demon Cave beneath the Nightmare God Sculpture, arriving again at the lake district in the dense forest.

As soon as he emerged, he found himself locked onto by multiple gazes.

Looking around, he saw only Deng Yuxiang.

Counting those in the distance battling his father, there were a total of seven Nightmare Minions, some in the Sea Realm and some in the Heavenly Realm.

Lu Ran carefully examined but did not see the Nightmare goddess herself.

While he observed, the battle in the distance had already come to a halt.

"You're here." A blood shadow flickered, appearing in front of Lu Ran.

The malevolent eyes, ferocious face, a palpable bloody aura, yet with a relatively gentle voice.

"Ah, Dad." Lu Ran tried to steady himself but still felt a little uneasy, pretending to glance around, "Is the Nightmare goddess not around?"

"She's very busy, leaving a few minions to spar with me." Lu Xing replied.

Thinking his response might not have been the best, he added, "The Nightmare Guardian comes every few days, paying much attention to the task you assigned and often sparring with me personally."

Lu Ran: "..."

Is my dad poking fun at me here?

In just a few seconds, Lu Ran overcame his psychological barrier, facing his father squarely, looking at the two Tang Cross Blades in his hands:

"Do those two swords feel comfortable, Dad?"

"Very well, I like them a lot." Lu Xing held the blade with his blood-red hand, the Tianchen Steel blade's surface flowing with boiling blood.

Blood droplets fell to the ground, burning holes into it, producing a constant "sizzle."

Evidently, this was the Blood Skull Evil Technique: Blood Burning Blade.

If Lu Xing had no weapon, he could summon two slender blood blades.

When he wielded a blade, the Blood Burning Blade could envelop the original blade, adding a fairly remarkable tearing effect, as well as being extremely hot.

"Shall I spar with you, Dad?" Lu Ran raised his hand, the Black Gold Emperor Robe surged, a Venerable Slayer Blade emerging from within the sleeve.

Lu Xing smiled, "Testing the results?"

Lu Ran slightly raised an eyebrow.

His father's composed smile was something unseen before.

Confidence, indeed, comes from strength.

And strength, is... well, the best cosmetic for a man!

"Dad, just so we're clear." Lu Ran grinned, "I'm not 13 anymore! Now you might not be able to beat me."

Lu Xing casually said, "I can't even beat the protectors under your command."

"Ah, you don't need to worry about that too much. When that girl gets fierce, even I'm intimidated." Lu Ran mumbled softly.

Lu Xing: "..."

Lu Ran: "Little Yuanxi heard that I sent you to the Nightmare, and keeps murmuring that I'm too harsh... with you!"

Reaching the last word, Lu Ran suddenly made a move.

A blade straight toward his father's face!

Ferocious, ruthless!

"Swoosh!" The Venerable Slayer Blade cut through the air, piercing through a blood-red silhouette in an instant.

Lu Xing reacted swiftly and had already teleported away.

Blood Skull Evil Technique: Blood Residue Shadow!

From afar, Lu Xing's hoarse voice came, "Ranran, I always thought you followed the King's path."

Lu Ran twirled the blade in his hand, dispersing his father's afterimage, retorting:

"Actually, I'm following the path of filial piety."

"Hmm?" Lu Xing's expression turned somewhat strange.

Lu Ran shrugged his shoulders, "Dying by my hand is better than under the feet of the Faceless Jade Venerable."

"Whoosh~ Whoosh~" Two extremely sharp arcs of blood swept rapidly across the lakeside, carving deep traces on the ground, slashing directly toward the emperor-robed youth.

Yet, the searing arcs of blood quickly dissipated.

Could not even get close to Lu Ran before vanishing completely.

The Black Gold Emperor Robe's power was overwhelming!

Any acts of defiance, all kinds of tactics, would be crushed by its invisible pressure.

Lu Ran did not hinder the magnificent display of power by the Black Gold Emperor Robe.

Only in this high pressure can the authenticity of the Heavenly Emperor be tested.

"Buzz!"

Lu Xing's tall figure trembled violently, his entire body's blood boiling.

Not just within him, blood droplets oozed out from his blood-red skin, violently erupting outward but not departing too far, continuously falling back onto his body.

Blood Skull Evil Technique: Burning Blood Body!

At the cost of burning blood and divine power, causing the entire body's blood to boil, triggering a comprehensive enhancement of attributes!

Lu Ran narrowed his eyes, his pupils darting quickly from side to side.

Blood-red silhouettes flashed one after another, appearing everywhere.

"Clang!"

Lu Ran abruptly raised the Venerable Slayer Blade, blocking a pair of blades descending from an angle.

"Clack Clack" two crisp sounds!

Though Lu Xing's twin blades were intercepted, two arcs of blood flicked off the blades, directly latching onto Lu Ran.

Blood Skull Evil Technique: Blood Burning!

The distance between them was so close that even the Black Gold Emperor Robe couldn't completely crush the enemy's technique in an instant.

Fortunately, Lu Ran's reaction was very swift, slightly ducking his head.

The crossed arcs of blood, with their lower halves slashing across Lu Ran's shoulders, were firmly blocked by the top-level artifact, the Evil Emperor Robe.

Heavenly Techniques do have the power to shatter Fourth-tier Artifacts.

But they cannot shatter Fourth-tier Defensive Artifacts!

Through the three interlocked blades, Lu Xing's eyes met his son's cold, piercing gaze.

Unintentionally, a flash of red glinted in Lu Ran's eyes.

Lu Xing: !!!

In just an instant, Lu Xing fell into a deep crimson world, thousands of red lines weaving wildly.

They pierced his skin, penetrated his bones, and traversed every inch of his flesh.

"Ahhh!!" Lu Xing couldn't help but scream miserably, decisively closing his eyes and retreating backward.

Lu Ran followed closely like a shadow!

As Lu Xing's tremulous body just appeared, Lu Ran already arrived with the Venerable Slayer Blade.

"Slash!"

With a flash of the blade, blood lines soared.

The Venerable Slayer Blade swiped across Lu Xing's neck, with hot blood gushing out, splattering onto Lu Ran's face.

A blood-colored head flew high into the air.

Lu Ran's blood-stained pupils followed its ascent: "No way, Dad. How can I trust you to go to the battlefield like this?"

Just as he finished speaking, he slightly shifted his gaze, noticing a cloaked woman flying in the night sky.

"Thud~"

The blood-colored head reached its peak height and began to fall back down.

The Emperor Robe's tail flapping behind Lu Ran, like a surging black tide, fell to the ground along with the descending head.

As the dust settled.

In other battles, Deng Yuxiang might have immersed herself, savoring this domineering display by Lu Ran.

Yet now, suspended in the night sky, her lips moved:

"I... I'll make sure to train uncle more diligently."

[I did it on purpose, wanting to make my dad more nervous, to get another level of strength before heading out, so he'd be more at ease handling the Faceless Jade Venerable later.]

Lu Ran continued to transmit his thoughts, [You've trained him well, his spirit is restored, reactions quick, his attacks fierce!]

It's just that he's still unaccustomed to my myriad techniques and inadvertently looked into my eyes.]

Deng Yuxiang bit her lips, keeping silent.

[That expression... Is there a need to feel guilty?] Lu Ran was somewhat helpless, [What do you take me for? The Blood Skull lacks Spirit Defense Techniques, and so do you.

The Heavenly Realm Body limits your capabilities, you wouldn't last more than a few rounds in my hands.

Besides, that Faceless Jade Venerable can't withstand many of my strikes either!]

Deng Yuxiang gave Lu Ran a sideways glance, letting out a light "hmpf."

"Buzz~"

As the blood-red head rolled beneath the blade tip, the Venerable Slayer Blade suddenly trembled lightly.

Lu Ran's face stiffened: ???

...

Chapter 1110: The Borderlands?

The trial isn't over, and the battle continues.

Lu Ran wielded the Venerable Slayer Blade, slicing down one blood-colored head after another.

Ferocious to the extreme!

By the lakeside, Deng Yuxiang leaned against a large tree, arms crossed in front of her, silently watching the battle.

This shouldn't be called a spar, but rather a massacre.

Deng Yuxiang did not find it cruel; instead, her eyes shimmered with interest as she fixed her gaze on the youth clad in the Black Gold Emperor Robe, admiring his fierce offensive and sensing that indescribable warrior charisma.

Lu Ran was right, who could withstand a few rounds under his hands?

Below the Heavenly Realm, he was nearly invincible.

Above the Heavenly Realm, he had plenty of means to kill across levels.

"Puff!!"

In the distance, the bloody tide surged forth.

That was the Blood Skull Sect's ultimate move—Blood Sacrifice to Mountains and Rivers!

Lu Xing's entire body boiled with blood, surging out in all directions into a fierce sea of blood.

The scorching blood could burn all devouring things to ashes.

The beautiful lakeside under moonlight was thus destroyed, completely consumed by the terrifying blood sea... No! Not everyone was consumed.

The Emperor-robed youth stood silently, not a small boat tossed in the stormy waves, but a Stabilizing Needle that shook the heavens and earth.

All blood-colored tides rushing towards him were fiercely suppressed, quickly dissipating without a trace.

[I misjudged.] Deng Yuxiang sent a message, [Until today, I always thought you were soft-hearted, with even softer hands.]

Amidst the sea of blood, Lu Ran advanced step by step with the Venerable Slayer Blade:

[I can lighten my hand, but the Faceless Jade Venerable will not.]

Deng Yuxiang's expression was somewhat peculiar: [So you killed Uncle Lu six times in five minutes?]

Lu Ran twirled the blade in his hand, snorting: [You talk about me! When have you ever been gentle when facing Young Master Deng?]

Deng Yuxiang pondered for a moment, nodding as if in agreement.

This battle opened her mind.

All along, due to her younger brother's frailty, she could only use ruthless hands but not deadly ones.

Once Yutang becomes a god, it will be completely different!

Deng Yuxiang squinted her eyes.

Her brother with a Heavenly Realm body, she... could indulge in slaughter.

[Speaking of Young Master Deng, he's currently inside the gourd merging with the stone sculpture.]

[Oh?] Deng Yuxiang's eyes flickered, [Yutang has ascended to the Heavenly Realm?]

Just as she was about to get sleepy, someone sends her a pillow?

[Yes, just now... just now!] The transmission obviously paused.

Deng Yuxiang's eyes narrowed, seeing Lu Ran flit like a ghost, the turbulent sea of blood the perfect backdrop, and the blood shadow within, supposed to destroy worlds, seemed like lambs waiting for slaughter.

In a split second, who knows how many blades clashed between the two sides.

Lu Xing's expression was rigid, spinning in place, wielding dual blades wearily.

He wanted to teleport but was infiltrated by black mist lines, the Evil Cloud Entanglement from the Evil Spear Emperor Clan, hindering his spellcasting.

He wanted to exit the battle, regroup, but his son was like a haunting specter!

Lu Xing could neither advance nor retreat.

Could neither live nor die!

This isn't a battle; it's a lesson.

Just a very unique teaching method.

Lu Xing, with full awareness, felt completely controlled, when to strike, when to sidestep...

In each crisis, the response to escape was all forced out by his son!

In Lu Xing's world, his child didn't give him a second choice, only continuously grasping fleeting opportunities to survive each time with difficulty.

It really is... infuriating?!

Tangled in the black mist lines, Lu Xing's Burning Blood Body completely quieted down, Lu Ran's power naturally gaining absolute dominance.

Lu Xing's dual blades were consecutively knocked away.

Soon, Lu Xing noticed the malevolent black mist lines within him dissipate, allowing him to cast spells normally.

"Whoosh!" At the same time, the Venerable Slayer Blade swiftly stabbed forth.

What does this mean?

Once again, his son provided him an opportunity, allowing him to teleport to evade and fetch the blade.

"Screech!"

The blade pierced flesh!

The sharp blade tip punctured the blood-colored skin, directly stabbing into Lu Xing's chest, piercing through the boiling heart.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran's expression froze, raising his eyes to see that fierce blood-colored face.

Was his action too quick for his father to react?

It wasn't!

Father's expression... so fierce?

"Clap clap," two crisp sounds!

Lu Xing extended two bloody hands, one gripping the blade, the other Lu Ran's wrist, a thick blood mist exuding from the blood-colored skull necklace around his neck.

Lu Ran felt a chill in his heart, thinking indeed.

Blood Skull Evil Technique: Skull Bursting Burial!

In the Divine Demon System, all self-explosion skills often carried above-average terrifying output.

It's all about mutual destruction!

Lu Ran's figure flashed abruptly.

"Boom boom boom!!"

The skull necklace exploded, a terrifying blast mixed with thick blood mist echoed and roared.

Lu Xing's body exploded, bloody winds and rains filled the sky.

Shattered limbs and flesh splattered, the Black Gold Emperor Robe immediately raised its hem, blocking everything.

"Buzz~" The Venerable Slayer Blade in Lu Ran's hand lightly trembled once again.

Lu Ran: "..."

What are you so shocked about?

If this continues, I'm afraid I won't be able to keep you around...

"Poof~" The blood and flesh on Lu Ran's robe gradually turned into wisps of blue smoke.

All the blood in the world dissipated, and the mountains, forests, and lakes under the moonlight returned to their original colors.

A massive remnant shadow of an Evil God spread out by the lakeside.

With a flick of his heart, Lu Ran let the emperor robe draped in front of him fall gracefully, raised his head, and looked at his father with a smile:

"Going so hard on your son?"

Lu Xing: "..."

Deng Yuxiang: "..."

How could you say such a thing?

Lu Xing remained silent, watching the young human emperor, noticing that Lu Ran not only smiled but also seemed quite delighted.

This scene filled Lu Xing's heart with mixed emotions.

Once, he personally taught his son how to hold a knife and how to strike.

Now, everything had reversed.

In the battle, his son said nothing, yet with overwhelming force, guided and forced him to make the only correct reaction again and again.

He had exhausted all his skills, but ultimately could only escape his son's control with a self-destructive method.

"Hoo!!"

The massive Evil God's remnant shadow continued to compress, merging into the newly created blood skull minion.

Lu Ran flew backward: "Nightmare, let the minions go."

Deng Yuxiang leaned against a big tree, gave a look to the distant Heavenly Realm minion, and as the young man landed beside her, she teased: "Have a change of heart?"

Lu Ran looked at the woman with a dark gaze.

Deng Yuxiang acted as if she hadn't noticed, always gazing at the distant battle group: "The effect is pretty good; Uncle's attacks have become much more fierce."

Lu Ran carefully observed for a moment and couldn't help but nod.

Indeed, the effect was significant!

Deng Yuxiang casually said: "After Yutang becomes a god, I'll give him special training like this too."

Lu Ran's hand fell to his waist, touching the chubby treasure gourd.

Poor Young Master Deng~

He probably still thinks he's about to become a supreme god.

Little does he know, a nightmare is about to descend...

"Is there any news from Cong Long's side?" Deng Yuxiang suddenly asked.

"Still infiltrating." Lu Ran shook his head.

In the past three months, he had been honing his blade on the Heavenly Realm battlefield, maintaining the Great Xia Battle Zone's stability, while other Ran Sect warriors were not idle either.

Dragon Guardian · Yu Changsheng's task was quite heavy!

Since the Ran Sect had decided to transfer power peacefully as much as possible and avoid too many tragedies in the world, the so-called "infiltration" naturally became a priority.

After the Eternal Night Rider was sent back to Europe by the Evil Shadow Guardian, they conscientiously expanded their forces and developed members under the Lady of Burning Gate's orders.

The warriors led by Yu Changsheng infiltrated other battle zones in secret.

Yu Changsheng, with his Heavenly Realm body, even personally went to India.

After detailed planning and discussion, the Ran Sect targeted a remarkable goal: First-class Evil God: Fire Evil Monk.

The Fire Evil Monk is the two sides of the same coin with India's First-class God: Fire God Woman.

Much easier to lure!

After all, to this day, the Fire God Woman's divine soul is still imprisoned in the Rebirth Coin String hanging from Lu Ran's waist.

It must be said that the terrifying methods of the Lady of Burning Gate · Phoenix Soul Brand gave the Ran Sect immense support.

Regardless of the means, whether through deceit or coercion, as long as the Phoenix Soul Brand can inscribe itself into the soul of a god or demon, the Ran Sect can gain a loyal servant.

During this time, Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi led the grand strategy in the Heavenly Realm, patiently waiting.

Waiting for Mr. Cong Long to use every means to invite the Fire Evil Monk to Da Xia and into the Ran Sect.

Once this Evil God joined their ranks, the Ran Sect would undoubtedly drive a nail into the Tianzhu Battle Zone, with results far surpassing that of the Europe Battle Zone!

After all, the Fire Evil Monk is a First-class Evil God, while the Eternal Night Rider is a Second-class Evil God.

Their influence is worlds apart.

"Let's wait and see." Lu Ran said softly, "Infiltration is not straightforward combat; it can't be resolved in just a few minutes."

"Yes." Deng Yuxiang nodded gently, hesitated for a moment, and still said, "What about Lord Immortal Sheep..."

Lu Ran frowned slightly.

Deng Yuxiang saw his subtle expression and sighed deeply in her heart.

Lu Ran, in her eyes, is fearless and never yields, but in matters concerning Lord Immortal Sheep, the young man keeps avoiding again and again.

But how long can such avoidance last?

"In a couple of days, I plan to explore the border of the Heavenly Realm," Lu Ran said in a deep voice.

He indeed changed the subject.

Deng Yuxiang looked at the emperor-robed youth, as if seeing a helpless and sorrowful child. Her voice became much gentler:

"I'll go with you."

"I'll go invisible and gather intel more conveniently." Lu Ran shook his head again, "Scout Wei Yun, Jin Que'er, and others within the sect have constantly been probing, and the closer they get to the border, the more perilous it becomes.

Without the Invisibility Technique, they can't probe too far.

Having you by my side would expose my whereabouts."

Deng Yuxiang was silent for a long time, softly murmured "mm."

To this day, the Ran Sect scouts have not been able to traverse the border of the Heavenly Realm battlefield and enter the Faceless Jade Venerable's stronghold.

From the intelligence that has been gathered, the Ran Gate Gods wish to counterattack the Faceless Jade Venerable...

The outcome is hard to predict.

But one thing is foreseeable:

Casualties,

are inevitable.