

Old Gods 201

Chapter 201: Candlelight Full

Mother left on her own.

She did not trouble her son, nor did she require Lu Ran to explain much.

In fact, Lu Ran didn't know how to explain.

He had always thought that before the arrival of Lord Immortal Goat, he was a Worship God.

Yes, the timeline must be clearly defined!

Lord Immortal Goat considerably disdained the Divine Clan and, since his arrival, continuously instilled thoughts into Lu Ran that "all divine beings are mere stones."

Such actions indeed caused Lu Ran's attitude towards the divine beings to change.

But what about before the arrival of Lord Immortal Goat?

Lu Ran truly believed that he was worshipping God.

He thought so and acted so, worshipping with his father the Divine-Jade Talisman from a young age.

However, what occurred on the first day of the sixth lunar month at the God Worship Platform was stark reality!

Lu Ran had no room for sophistry.

Lord Immortal Goat had once sneered and told Lu Ran bluntly,

"Have you ever truly believed in gods?"

This inevitably plunged Lu Ran into deep self-doubt.

Was his understanding out of sync with the thoughts hidden deep inside? Or was it contrary to subconscious thoughts?

This state of "unawareness" continually troubled Lu Ran.

It was utterly baffling!

As if another soul lived within his body...

And as the Immortal Sheep Believers revealed their true colors, presenting a God Demon Sculpture Garden, Lu Ran embarked on a path to "overturn the heavens."

Lu Ran's true goal, of course, was to slaughter all Evil Demons and control the Evil Sculptures.

Unfortunately, the garden was still filled with Divine Sculptures, which inevitably pulled him into another vortex.

From this point on, whether Lu Ran worshiped or believed in gods seemed no longer important... No!

Important!

At least to Lu Ran, it was very important.

He had to figure out what exactly had caused his peculiar, contradictory situation.

As for how to solve this puzzle, Lu Ran had no good plan yet.

Perhaps, once his strength was strong enough, he should make a trip to Jiantianque City and directly question the Divine Jade Talisman!

Without a doubt, Lu Ran had grown up in front of the shrine of Jade Talisman.

Day and night, month after month, year after year.

Over the long years, if anything had truly happened, perhaps Jade Talisman knew.

After all, Lu Ran had worshipped alongside his father.

Even Jiang Ruyi, a newcomer to the sect, had caught the attention of the Divine Lord, so it made no sense for his devoted father, who dedicated his life to the Jade Talisman Sect, not to be noticed.

Indeed, the word "ask" was too gentle.

One day, when Lu Ran personally visited and faced the Divine Jade Talisman...

He would certainly be there to confront!

Between a man and a god, there was much to discuss.

But if there were surprises, and if the situation was not as Lu Ran imagined;

If the exalted Divine Lord had never cared or paid attention to the humble human father and son...

That would be interesting!

Humans are complex beings.

Among the myriad gods, Lu Ran's feelings towards Jade Talisman were undoubtedly the most complex and special!

The ideas established from childhood by his father's teachings and influence were not something that could be changed overnight.

Thus, Lu Ran at the God Worship Platform, longed for the Divine Jade Talisman to appear, aspiring to follow in his father's footsteps.

But if Lu Ran were to step into Jiantianque City one day and the answer turned out to be the latter...

Then the special emotions remaining in Lu Ran's heart would truly be completely gone.

At that time, the boy whose life was once as cheap as grass would let the Divine Lord know:

Who his father was.

His own surname and name.

...

On New Year's Eve, a family of three had a rare and joyful time together.

Mother was truly very busy, and on the first day of the new month, she took Little Yuanxi out early in the morning to participate in a grand ceremony in Jiantianque City.

Even though Little Yuanxi tried repeatedly to invite him, Lu Ran still declined to go along, staying at home alone to dedicate himself to cultivation.

On the third day, Qiao Yuansi came back, excitedly sharing with Lu Ran what she had seen and experienced over the last few days.

Lupah listened with a smile, feeling the celebratory atmosphere of Jiantianque City.

Mother had not returned; she had gone to Jinghong Peak instead.

Little Yuanxi relayed what her mother had said, mentioning that on the fourteenth day of the first month, Jinghong Peak would welcome a manifestation of the Divine Lord.

Hearing this, Lu Ran was quite surprised.

After all, when he climbed Jinghong Peak on the twenty-fifth of the twelfth month, the buildings there were still half-finished.

Only half a month had passed, and they were already to be completed?

It seems the disciples of Lord Jian Yi were picking rocks quite fast...

Unfortunately on the fourteenth, the city was under lockdown, and people were not allowed to attend the ceremony.

The siblings could only stay at home, waiting for their mother to return.

Both Lu Ran and Qiao Yuansi were aware of how much their mother had sacrificed.

After all, with the completion of Jinghong Peak, she should have stayed on the mountain with her fellow disciples to fend off the invasion of Evil Demons.

But she chose to return home on the fifteenth night to be with her children.

It was unclear whether this would影响 her career.

The fifteenth arrived quickly.

As twilight fell, Qiao Wanjun arrived as expected.

"Click~"

Hearing the sound of the door opening, Little Yuanxi immediately jumped off the couch: "Mom!"

The girl joyfully called out and hurriedly ran to welcome her mother, but...

Qiao Yuansi's smile froze as she stood at the entrance.

She looked up at Qiao Wanjun, seeing her mother's expressionless face and icy gaze.

Was she somewhat unhappy?

As a Believer of Lord Jian Yi, such an attitude was normal when facing outsiders.

But when facing her children, she was usually somewhat softer.

Qiao Yuansi knew her mother well and immediately sensed that something was unusual with her.

"Hmm." Qiao Wanjun responded softly and closed the door behind her.

Realizing the situation, Qiao Yuansi didn't dare to speak and dutifully knelt down to change her mother's shoes.

"What's wrong, Mom?" Lu Ran came over, curiously asking.

Seeing Lu Ran, Qiao Wanjun's face finally softened a bit.

Because she relaxed, Lu Ran faintly sensed her sorrow.

Qiao Yuansi cautiously said, "Mom, lift your foot."

As the birthday girl, Little Yuanxi should have had some privileges today.

Yet facing her mother in such a state, Little Yuanxi behaved even more obediently than usual...

"Is the cake ready?" Qiao Wanjun asked casually.

"In the fridge." Lu Ran thought for a moment, then still asked, "What happened?"

Is the enlightenment of Spirit Mountain by Lord Jian Yi going smoothly?"

Qiao Wanjun walked silently into the house, heading towards the master bedroom.

The siblings exchanged glances, neither daring to speak.

Not only was Qiao Wanjun the parent, but she was also an unfathomably powerful individual.

If her mood was poor, the oppressive atmosphere she created could be quite terrifying.

Lu Ran watched his mother enter the room. After much thought, he whispered, "Let's eat dinner later.

Come on, I'll play a few rounds of Monopoly with you?"

Qiao Yuansi looked anxiously toward the direction of the master bedroom and quietly said, "Bro, these two days, we haven't seen any news about the completion of Spirit Mountain, have we?"

Lu Ran nodded silently; hence his earlier question.

He didn't know whether it was because the officials weren't reporting it or if there were problems with Spirit Mountain.

At 7:30 PM, Qiao Wanjun finally came out of the bedroom.

She had changed into a home sleeping gown, her cold demeanor entirely softened, becoming much gentler.

She looked at her children, who were playing Monopoly next to the couch, and spoke softly: "Hungry?"

Seeing their mother in such a mood, Qiao Yuansi immediately took advantage and pouted:

"Hungry!"

Qiao Wanjun smiled and nodded: "Let's go, let's celebrate your birthday."

"Yay~!" Qiao Yuansi jumped up and dashed to the dining room.

"What's really going on, Mom?" Lu Ran quickly gathered the Monopoly game, fearing that they might continue the game later.

After all, not many of his properties were left in the game.

"Let's eat." Qiao Wanjun said casually as she walked toward the dining room.

Lu Ran opened his mouth to speak, but in the end, he could only respond: "Okay."

"Mom, bro, hurry up!" From the dining room, Little Yuanxi's urging voice came.

Seeing Little Yuanxi's eager look, Lu Ran quickly took a few steps and turned off the dining room lights.

As their mother sat down, Lu Ran also took out the pre-ordered cake from the fridge.

"17 years old?" Lu Ran tried to set aside his mixed thoughts and focused on celebrating Little Yuanxi's birthday, continually inserting candles into the cake.

"Add one more candle!" Qiao Yuansi said cheerfully, "You're 18 now!"

Lu Ran's birthday had been a few days ago.

However, according to their family tradition, the siblings celebrated their birthdays together on the fifteenth day of the first month each year.

Because on this dangerous night, their mother would come home.

"No need, no need." Lu Ran still inserted 17 candles, "I'll just pretend I'm seventeen."

"That won't do!" Qiao Yuansi's eyes gleamed playfully as she looked at her brother, "Missing a year, and you can't get a marriage certificate~"

Lu Ran: "..."

Qiao Wanjun also showed a slight smile on her face and looked at Lu Ran: "How's it going with that girl?"

"Quick, make a wish and blow out the candles, or the wax will drip onto the cake!" Lu Ran lit the candles while frantically changing the subject.

Qiao Wanjun's mood had indeed improved quite a bit.

She leaned her elbow on the table, resting her chin on the back of her hand, smiling as she watched the flustered Lu Ran.

"Let's make a wish together!" Qiao Yuansi pulled Lu Ran down to sit, "Come on, come on!

seconds, we'll blow out the candles together, no cheating."

Saying this, she already had her hands together and closed her eyes to make a wish.

Naturally, they skipped the birthday song; neither sibling dared to ask their mother to play along...

Lu Ran also put his hands together and closed his eyes.

His action was smoother than when he worshiped the gods.

A trace of tenderness flickered in the depths of Qiao Wanjun's eyes.

Under the candlelight, her son's face still looked somewhat young, yet indeed more heroic than last year.

Her daughter was still as charming and cute as ever.

If only she could be a bit more well-behaved...

Ten seconds, neither too long nor too short.

Qiao Wanjun quietly watched the two, her eyes brimming with memories.

Lu Ran and Qiao Yuansi simultaneously opened their eyes.

The siblings cooperatively blew out the candles together.

"Hoo~"

"Hoo..." The candle flames flickered and quietly went out.

Everything was so warm.

"Hiss!!"

Qiao Yuansi hadn't even started celebrating when she suddenly heard a low roar.

The three of them abruptly turned their heads, only to see a dark figure silently appearing outside the dining room window.

Clothed in black, veiled in black, standing in mid-air.

Evil Demon Clan·Night Charm?

Lu Ran's expression was odd, as he patted Little Yuanxi's shoulder: "What did you wish for?"

"It wasn't me, it wasn't me!" Qiao Yuansi shook her head repeatedly, her head bobbing like a drum.

Suddenly, Qiao Yuansi looked at Lu Ran.

She looked suspiciously directly into Lu Ran's eyes: "The guilty party files the suit first, was it you?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Chapter 202: Create Evil Demon?

"Hehe~," Qiao Wanjun couldn't help but laugh wryly.

She looked at her calm and composed children and couldn't help but feel sentimental.

If it had been the fifteenth day of the first lunar month last year, facing such a situation, both of them would have turned pale with fear in their hearts.

Would they have been joking around like they were now?

Indeed, they had both grown up...

With a casual wave of her hand, a sword shadow flashed by.

In an instant, the sword shadow transformed into a floating silhouette, standing in front of the dining room window.

Divine Technique·Sword Dance Clear Shadow!

The moment that figure appeared, a hand was already pressed against the window, and a flying sword, passing through the barrier of the window from outside, vanished in a flash.

"Crack!"

That was the sound of the Night Charm Robe shattering.

"Sss!"

That was the sound of the blade piercing flesh, the flying sword penetrating the head of the Night Charm.

As smooth and decisive as clouds flowing through the sky!

With just a casual flick of her wrist, Qiao Wanjun had pinned Lu Ran to his chair, even his complexion had stiffened.

He hadn't seen clearly!

Keep in mind, Lu Ran had always had his Evil Technique·Evil Recognition activated.

Under such conditions, Lu Ran had failed to keep up with Qiao Wanjun's speed!

The Lu Ran of the past, being an ordinary person, only had a vague concept of his mother's strength.

But now, having stepped into the River Realm, Lu Ran's understanding of Qiao Wanjun's strength had become even more vague.

This...?

Qiao Yuansi leaned over, hugged Qiao Wanjun's arm, and said, "It's really the safest by mother's side!"

"Let's cut the cake," Qiao Wanjun said softly.

Like every fifteenth day of the first month before, she simply did the same.

But this time, her two children reacted completely differently.

Little Yuanxi still didn't feel much, only thinking that it was quite ordinary for her mother to eliminate Evil Demons with a wave of her hand.

But for Lu Ran...

"What's wrong?" Qiao Wanjun asked Lu Ran gently.

"Ah, nothing, nothing," Lu Ran immediately came back to his senses and stood up, "I'll turn on the lights."

A smile crept onto Qiao Wanjun's face as she watched Lu Ran's retreating figure.

Even though both children had reached the River Realm·First Rank, it was evident that the son was much, much stronger than the daughter.

"Hum!"

Lu Ran's hand touched the room light switch, his action once again frozen.

His brain suddenly buzzed!

This was?

Lu Ran had a thought; his sculpture... had it advanced in rank?

He was both shocked and delighted as he immediately examined his own spiritual world.

Indeed!

Inside the God Demon Sculpture Garden, that one Night Charm Evil Sculpture was trembling wildly.

Mother, I praise you!

After slaughtering for so long in the Demon Cave, the Night Charm Evil Sculpture hadn't budged.

Who would have thought that with mother's move, she directly advanced the Night Charm Evil Sculpture to the River Realm?

"Ranran?" In the dining room, came Qiao Wanjun's gentle call.

"Ah!" Lu Ran quickly turned on the dining room lights.

Suppressing his excitement, he dared not pay attention to the Night Charm Evil Sculpture anymore and briskly returned to the dining room.

Qiao Wanjun, noticing her son's unusual state, misunderstood.

She softly said, "Don't be disheartened, your strength is shallow now, but it will improve."

Since returning to Beijing, this was the second time Qiao Wanjun had said "Don't be disheartened."

The last time was on Jinghong Peak when she held the Dawn Blade, forcibly wielding it.

"Okay," Lu Ran didn't explain much, just nodding repeatedly.

Qiao Yuansi teased with a giggle, "Brother, I know you're fast in a fight, swoosh swoosh~

But aren't you a bit overconfident?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Qiao Yuansi ran a finger through the cream on the cake, smearing a bit on Lu Ran's cheek, and laughed,

"A mere River Realm, and you want to see mom's moves clearly?"

In fact, it was Little Yuanxi who wished most to see her mother's moves clearly.

Because from childhood to adulthood, Little Yuanxi had been punished quite often...

Lu Ran laughed, "What, should I be like you, just waiting without reacting?"

"Eiya, stop making yourself miserable for no reason," Qiao Yuansi huffed, tilting her little face up, "Do you still remember that New Year's Eve?

When Mom spanked me, I didn't even dodge~"

Lu Ran looked bemused, "Are you proud of that?"

Qiao Wanjun suddenly reached out.

"Eh?" Qiao Yuansi was startled and quickly covered her head.

Qiao Wanjun just took out a tissue and shook it towards Lu Ran.

Qiao Yuansi: "..."

"Ha ha!" Lu Ran laughed as he took the tissue and wiped the cream from his cheek.

"Eiya~ Mom!" Qiao Yuansi stamped her feet and protested, "Am I really your daughter?"

Qiao Wanjun: "If you were half as obedient as your brother, you wouldn't have been spanked so much."

Qiao Yuansi pouted, and as soon as Lu Ran had cleaned his cheek, her naughty little hand couldn't resist smearing it again.

Lu Ran: "..."

"Hehe~" Seeing Lu Ran's speechless look, Little Yuanxi cheered up again.

Yet, just as she laughed out loud, she realized something and quickly restrained her laughter, cautiously sneaking a glance at the mother.

Clearly, there was a reason why some people were always being punished.

However, on this special day, Qiao Wanjun was quite indulgent towards her daughter.

Seeing that her mother said nothing, Qiao Yuansi brightened up again.

"Rumble rumble!"

Suddenly, a loud explosion thundered from outside the window.

Lu Ran glanced outside subconsciously, then turned his attention back to the birthday feast.

The family of three chatted and laughed, spending another warm fifteenth of the first month, just like in past years.

In the city, roaring explosions and howling sounds rose and fell.

Against this special backdrop, the brightly lit home felt even warmer.

This unique memory, Lu Ran would never forget for the rest of his life.

Even now, as a River Realm Believer with the capability of self-protection,

Lu Ran still craved this warm, comforting feeling.

Little Yuanxi felt the same.

It seemed like she accidentally revealed her birthday wish.

It was late into the night, long after the family of three had finished their meal and stayed up together in the living room.

Lu Ran and Qiao Yuansi sat on the floor next to the coffee table, playing Monopoly.

Qiao Wanjun sat quietly on the sofa, watching the news on TV, occasionally glancing at her children playing below her knees.

As another round of the game ended, Little Yuanxi, having won, grew tired.

She climbed onto the sofa and snuggled into her mother's arms.

Little Yuanxi fell asleep quickly and sweetly.

In her dream, the young girl murmured in a faint voice, wishing her mother and brother would always be by her side.

Qiao Wanjun cradled her daughter and gently patted her back.

In this moment, Qiao Wanjun was no longer the cold and powerful disciple of Sword One, but a tender and loving mother.

Lu Ran watched his sister asleep in their mother's embrace, and after a while, he silently lowered his head, fidgeting with the dice in his hand.

On the fifteenth of the first month, the sweeter the moment, the harder the farewell.

...

On the nineteenth of the first month, under Qiao Yuansi's reluctant farewell, Lu Ran boarded the train home.

There were only 5 days until the school term started; that was the reason Lu Ran gave.

No matter how much Little Yuanxi didn't want him to go, Lu Ran still had to attend classes, and she was about to start school herself, needing to train and grow with her team.

Just an hour's train journey.

From heaven to hell.

From the thriving metropolitan city to the cold and desolate Rain Alley City.

As Lu Ran stepped out of the station, he couldn't help but inhale deeply.

Yes, the scent of home.

"Young man, where to?" A taxi pulled up in front of Lu Ran, the driver eagerly asked.

"West River, Rain Alley Home."

"Flat rate, hop in!"

"Let's go."

If Rain Alley City had any virtue, it was that it was basically a flat rate wherever you went, and there was never any traffic on the roads.

Soon, Lu Ran returned to the old and familiar house.

As he opened the door, a small figure was squatting at the doorstep, curiously looking up at the newcomer.

"Did you miss me?" Lu Ran crouched down, smiling as he offered his palm.

"Meow~" The small calico cat agilely leaped, avoiding someone's hand.

"Meow." Lu Ran still smiled, facing a face that was becoming more heroic with the days, yet uttered a demonic low whisper.

"Meow~" The little calico cat gave a whining cry and hurriedly ran back.

The little creature, wanting to play tricks again, was scooped up into Lu Ran's embrace as he stepped into the house.

The home was a bit messy, but still presentable.

His gaze swept across the feeding corner in the living room; the calico cat mustn't have been starved.

From now on, it was even less likely to starve.

Clutching the cat, Lu Ran bowed before the small shrine, then headed straight for the bathroom.

Together with the cat, after a refreshing wash, Lu Ran wrapped the calico in a large towel and returned to the shrine.

"Lord Immortal Goat, on the fifteenth, the Night Charm Evil Sculpture already rose to the River Realm."

"Hm." After a month, Lu Ran once again heard Lord Immortal Goat's voice transmission.

When he was living in Beijing, at his mother's place, Lu Ran had tried to contact Lord Immortal Goat from his room.

But there had been no response.

Lu Ran continued, "Can I now create an Evil Demon?"

"Follow Me." After the voice fell, Lu Ran's mind went blank.

His consciousness was dragged into the spiritual world and brought to the Evil Demon Sculpture Garden.

Before Lu Ran, there was a layer of stony, black veil.

He was standing in the palm of the Night Charm!

"It's really huge," Lu Ran looked downwards.

Days before, when Lu Ran checked the Sculpture Garden, he had noticed this issue.

When the Evil Sculpture advanced through the Mist Realm, Stream Realm, and River Realm, each upgrade seemed minor.

But upon reaching the River Realm, the Evil Sculpture underwent a transformation!

Its scale was magnificent, and due to the mist scattered between heaven and earth, Lu Ran couldn't even fully see Night Charm's upper body, let alone the ground.

"Creating Evil Demons is not the goal; the goal is to control them," a deep voice came from behind.

Lu Ran turned his head to see the flickering Black Fire Sheep Head.

Those Dead Sheep Eyes were still as horrifying, emanating a deathlike stillness.

Black Fire Sheep Head: "Connect with the Night Charm Stone Sculpture, and learn the method of creation."

"Huh~"

Thick mist lines radiated from the stony veil, falling into the stone sculpture's palm, enveloping the tiny Human Clan within.

Lu Ran closed his eyes tightly, keenly feeling everything.

After an unknown amount of time, Black Fire Sheep Head suddenly said, "Tell me, how would you create an Evil Demon."

Lu Ran spoke solemnly, "Craft its body with Divine Power, shape its soul with Origin Energy."

The Black Fire Sheep Head's voice was hoarse, "Why does this servant obey you?"

Lu Ran frowned slightly, "Its soul originates from 'energy,' from the Evil Sculpture in my spiritual world.

The Evil Demon servant belongs to the Evil Sculpture; naturally, it belongs to me.

But that's not enough..."

Lu Ran pondered, "When shaping the soul of an Evil Demon, I must instill the concept of obedience, emphasizing the master-servant relationship."

Black Fire Sheep Head: "You are teachable.

Come, shape your first Evil Demon Servant in front of the shrine; I will protect you."

"Yes!" In the small bedroom, Lu Ran suddenly opened his eyes.

"Meow~" The towel in his embrace squirmed as the little calico poked its head out.

Lu Ran bowed slightly, pressing lightly on the calico's head:

"Be good, I'll create you a big sister to take care of you."

"Huh~"

Mists started to spread from Lu Ran's palms...

Chapter 203: Under the Black Veil

In the small bedroom, with the curtains drawn and the door tightly shut,

thick fog filled the air, and a Night Charm gradually took shape.

This was the first time Lu Ran had created an Evil Demon, and he had not aimed too high—he had chosen the lowest level Mist Realm·Night Charm.

"Meow~"

The little calico cat became increasingly restless.

Lu Ran temporarily couldn't spare the energy to soothe it and simply let it go.

The little calico cat immediately darted out.

It leaped toward the doorknob, using its weight to press down.

"Click~"

The little tabby cat had managed to open the door by itself.

A dog in desperation can jump over a wall, but a cat in desperation can open doors?

It slipped through the door gap, its instinct to seek benefits and avoid harm compelling it to get as far from the dark shadow as possible.

"Focus." A hoarse voice dropped down, reminding Lu Ran.

"Yes," Lu Ran responded gravely, continuously driving the Divine Power.

Following the techniques and concepts he had learned from the Evil Sculpture and combining them with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture in his mind, he worked together on creating a body of flesh and blood.

Under the influence of Divine Power, the Night Charm's body took form.

Origin Energy was the final touch needed for the shell.

Eventually, a pitch-dark allure stood between Lu Ran and the Divine Shrine.

Her tall figure was draped in fluttering black gauze.

That tight-fitting black dress outlined her irresistibly tempting curvaceous silhouette.

"Night Charm..." Lu Ran muttered under his breath.

The much-anticipated accomplishment was finally complete; he couldn't help but feel a surge of excitement.

Yet at that moment, Lu Ran forcefully suppressed his roiling emotions and cautiously stepped back.

Even though this Evil Demon belonged to him, Lu Ran couldn't help feeling apprehensive.

After all, the psychological shadow was rather substantial...

"Hisss..." The Night Charm finally came to life, her body tensing up immediately, conjuring a Night Charm Blade in her hand.

But her target was not the Human Clan·Lu Ran, but the White Sheep Jade Carving inside the little divine shrine!

"Silence," Lu Ran commanded in a low voice.

This was not merely a vocal command, but a directive jointly issued by Lu Ran and the Night Charm Evil Sculpture in his mind.

At that moment, Lu Ran was the spokesperson for the Night Charm Evil Sculpture, its envoy in the human world.

Of course, Lord Immortal Goat had corrected Lu Ran a long time ago, telling him not to demean himself in such a manner.

Lord Immortal Goat repeatedly emphasized that Lu Ran was not an envoy for the Divine Sculpture or Evil Sculpture—he was their master.

The Night Charm promptly obeyed and shut up.

However, she still faced the little divine shrine, continuously retreating.

"Stand still!" Lu Ran strode forward, placing one hand on Night Charm's shoulder, anchoring her in place.

The Night Charm understood Lu Ran's intentions and indeed stopped retreating.

The room fell into an eerie silence.

From the Night Charm's body language, one could see that she still harbored wariness towards the little divine sculpture.

However, she also unconditionally obeyed Lu Ran's commands.

After confirming there were no irregularities with the Divine Shrine Divine Sculpture, the Night Charm turned toward Lu Ran and slowly knelt down.

As for whether she was kneeling to the Night Charm Evil Sculpture in Lu Ran's spiritual world or to Lu Ran himself...

There was no difference.

Witnessing this scene, Lu Ran felt a strong sense of reassurance.

From the various reactions after the Night Charm appeared, his first creation of an Evil Demon was fairly satisfactory.

She had flesh, a soul, and most importantly, respect and obedience.

"Knife," Lu Ran signaled for the blade in Night Charm's hand.

Hesitating briefly, she rotated the knife in her hand, presenting it to Lu Ran handle-first.

"Disperse the Night Charm Blade, cancel the Evil Technique," Lu Ran realized he had misspoken and waved his hand.

The Night Charm understood Lu Ran's command well enough; the Night Charm Blade in her hand immediately shattered into mist.

This was the advantage of creating an Evil Demon underling by Lu Ran's hand.

The Night Charm before him was not a crudely made, low-level creature casually summoned by an Evil Sculpture.

But a painstakingly crafted creation involving Lu Ran's earnest efforts.

Fundamentally, the Night Charm was still an Evil Demon, violent and cruel, with a lust for killing.

After all, she was derived from an Evil Demon Sculpture, inheriting its traits.

However, as the crafter, when Lu Ran used the Origin Energy to create her soul, he also endowed her with intelligence distinct from other Evil Demons.

Lu Ran gestured with his hand: "Stand up."

The Night Charm slowly rose, still slightly bowing her head, standing before Lu Ran.

She was already dressed like a roving warrior; this posture made her appear even more like a faithful Dead Soldier trained by Lu Ran.

Lu Ran reached out, gently grasping the black gauze.

Finally, he could take a closer look at the face hidden behind the black gauze.

In fact, Lu Ran already knew what the Night Charm looked like.

During his experiences in the Night Charm Demon Cave, he occasionally "Liao Sha Ci Mei," unavoidably catching a glimpse.

More importantly, this body of flesh was ultimately crafted by his own hands.

"My, my~"

Lu Ran lifted the black gauze and saw a face pale as paper.

Pale, yet bewitchingly alluring!

Even though Lu Ran had mentally prepared himself, he still received a certain visual shock.

On that pale face were embedded a pair of jewel-like, lustrously beautiful eyes.

Those eyes, a pale purple, glimmered faintly.

Mysterious, seductive.

Captivating.

"She really should wear a mask," Lu Ran sighed softly.

If the Night Charm Clan showed their true faces in public, wouldn't they wreak havoc from another dimension?

Night Charm's face was indeed a bit pale, and her eyes were truly alluring.

But those looks were absolutely knockout!

Combined with the enticing figure of the Night Charm Clan, she could definitely compete with Yan Zhi!

"Beauty in their own ways," Lu Ran murmured to himself.

Yan Zhi was more dignified and regal, while Night Charm was more enchantingly seductive.

Then, Lu Ran grasped the edge of the bamboo hat and directly removed her hat.

Her black hair, no longer confined by the hat, cascaded down instantly.

The length of her hair even passed her waist, smooth as satin.

Lu Ran couldn't help but reach out, scoop up that waterfall-like hair, and squeeze it in his palm.

Silently, Night Charm stood obediently, letting Lu Ran play with her hair.

"You this..."

After a long while, Lu Ran grinned, circling Night Charm several times.

"Poof~" The bamboo hat, having been away from Night Charm's body for a long while, quietly broke into mist.

Stopping in his tracks, Lu Ran swiped away the mist with his hand, marveling at the creator's wonder.

Wait a minute!

Wasn't he essentially the creator?

At least he was in cahoots with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture during the process.

A thought struck Lu Ran, and he headed to the wardrobe. As soon as he opened the door, he saw the yellow raincoat of the Big Nightmare.

Well... better not.

Dressing Night Charm in the raincoat of a North Wind Believer would indeed be inappropriate.

Besides, that was left to him by the Big Nightmare, so it certainly wasn't meant for others to wear.

Lu Ran scanned the wardrobe and eventually took out his own black raincoat.

He approached Night Charm, pulled the oversized black raincoat over her, and casually put the hood on her as well.

"Very good," Lu Ran nodded in satisfaction, examining "Black Raincoat Night Charm."

She was ready to use!

It was time to teach Night Charm how to wash clothes, scrub floors, and clean the litter box.

"You stay there; I'm going to draw the curtain," Lu Ran turned and headed to the door.

Also, before letting Night Charm leave the small bedroom, he still needed to emphasize to her not to harm the little calico cat.

Otherwise, while Night Charm was sweeping the floor, she might just gobble up the little tabby cat...

Lu Ran would have nowhere to cry!

In the end, Lu Ran opted for a more cautious approach—he became a foreman.

Cradling the little calico cat, Lu Ran bossed Night Charm around, having her do this and that.

It's undeniable—the intelligence of the Night Charm Clan was indeed higher.

Plus, when Lu Ran created her, he put in his heart and soul, giving her intelligence distinct from her kindred.

Naturally, menial household tasks were a breeze for her.

However, ideals and reality are different.

Evil Demon, after all, is an Evil Demon!

No matter how obedient Night Charm was to Lu Ran, her inherent savagery and desire for bloodshed could never be eradicated.

After all, her soul's essence originated from the "energy" from the authentic Evil Demon Sculpture.

This also meant that she was not suited to be a nanny.

Night Charm constantly thought about ripping the little calico cat apart, and the little calico cat always wanted to stay far from this terrifying creature.

Therefore, Lu Ran couldn't possibly keep this Night Charm at home.

Moreover, there was another point:

The Origin Energy of the Evil Demon Stone Sculpture also bestowed a trace of Ghost Energy on the Night Charm underlings.

And people of the world could sense Ghost Energy!

However, most would only truly perceive it when an Evil Demon approached them face-to-face.

Like Lu Ran, those who could faintly detect "Ghost Energy" within a certain range also existed.

Certain beast-type divine believers similarly possessed a technique similar to Evil Technique·Evil Sense.

It's just that Rain Alley City was too small, with incomplete Moon Gazer troop arrangements and a relatively limited variety of believers, making such believers scarce.

But regardless, this was still a hidden danger.

Only when Night Charm was in Lu Ran's small bedroom was she absolutely safe.

Because the strong aura of the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture could easily overlay that thin trace of Ghost Energy.

To let Night Charm move throughout the entire house, Lord Immortal Goat's help would be needed.

Of course, Lu Ran would not trouble a divine being over a mere nanny.

So this time, creating and summoning an Evil Demon to try controlling it was enough.

There was no need to unnecessarily increase risks.

"Not bad."

As one human and one demon returned to the small bedroom, a transmission fell.

Lu Ran nodded: "She's really quite obedient."

For Lu Ran, who was making an Evil Demon for the first time, it was certainly a success.

Her body was complete, her heart was submissive, and her Mist Realm Evil Technique setup was quite comprehensive.

Lu Ran changed the subject, "But I've got to send her away, there's Ghost Energy."

He leaned forward slightly, sniffing behind Night Charm's head through the raincoat hood.

Sniff~

There was indeed a slightly moldy scent.

Hearing this, Lord Immortal Sheep was even more satisfied.

The divine being's judgment was far more precise than Lu Ran's.

With the small divine sculpture guarding this residence, the aura inside was quite potent; a trace of Mist Realm·Night Charm's emitted energy was unlikely to be detected by others.

But Lord Immortal Goat was also pleased to see Lu Ran being so cautious and thus did not say much more.

"I'm sorry," Lu Ran stood in front of Night Charm, apologizing, "I need to send you away..."

Before he could finish, a sudden transmission fell: "What are you doing?"

"Huh?" Lu Ran instinctively turned his head, looking toward the divine shrine.

Lord Immortal Sheep's voice became somewhat somber: "She is a tool, an Evil Demon composed of your energy.

She is your servant!"

Lu Ran seemed to understand Lord Immortal Goat's point.

Because he had just apologized to Night Charm, the divine being was displeased?

Lu Ran scratched his head: "Oh..."

Chapter 204: Are you number on the test explosion list?

The 24th of the first lunar month, the eve before the start of the new term.

Early in the morning, a buzzing vibration disturbed Lu Ran, who was in the midst of his arduous cultivation.

"Ughhhh~"

Lu Ran stretched out a lazy yawn viciously and got up to his bedside table, picking up his cellphone.

The caller ID made Lu Ran pause for a second.

He answered the call, "Teacher Li?"

On the other end of the line, the voice of the homeroom teacher came through, "Lu Ran, are you in Rain Alley City?"

"I am."

"Good, school starts tomorrow."

"I know," thought Lu Ran, and then he added, "I won't be late."

Li Yanzhu couldn't help but chuckle, "What is your current strength level?"

Lu Ran answered truthfully, "River Realm First Rank."

"Great!" Li Yanzhu exclaimed in admiration, "As is the tradition, at the start of the second term of senior year, the school tallies the students who have advanced to the River Realm. On the very day of school reopening, a school-wide martial arts tournament is held. Those in the River Realm who have acquired the Water Flow Armor are allowed to register for participation."

"Oh, that," Lu Ran understood.

Months ago, when Lu Ran's team was having cold drinks, they had discussed this very subject. Back then, Chang Ying had fantasized that only Lu Ran would advance to the River Realm, and then he'd win without fighting and take the prize directly.

"Do you qualify and plan to sign up?" Li Yanzhu asked.

"Sign up!" Lu Ran responded decisively, then asked, "Teacher Li, are there many from our school who've made it to the River Realm?"

"Not many." Li Yanzhu did not hide it and added, "But compared to previous years, there are quite a few."

"Oh?" Lu Ran was quite surprised.

Li Yanzhu sighed lightly, "This batch of students of yours, you've grown at an impressively high rate, quite remarkable."

Lu Ran: "..."

Has my homeroom teacher been possessed?

Weren't we the worst batch you've ever taught?

This! Can! Not! Be!

Li Yanzhu: "Including you, there should be around 4 to 6 students in the River Realm."

"Oh, indeed quite a few," Lu Ran nodded.

He vaguely remembered that during the second term of senior year of the previous batch, there had only been 3 students in the River Realm.

Li Yanzhu continued, "The number of students at the Fourth and Fifth Ranks of the Stream Realm has also increased quite a bit compared to previous years."

Lu Ran grew curious, what could have caused this? Was it because, in a high-pressure living environment like Rain Alley City, the students were tensely strung and growing faster? Or could there be another reason?

Li Yanzhu admonished, "Whether you're cultivating or competing, you must work hard and never slack off! Your opponents are catching up to you! Every 15th of the month, Evil Demons invading the mortal world are getting stronger, you must guard against arrogance and impatience..."

It was indeed like the homeroom teacher.

Once she started talking, there was no stopping her!

Lu Ran kept agreeing, and seizing an opportunity, inserted, "Teacher, teacher~ What's the prize for this school martial arts tournament?"

Li Yanzhu: "..."

Lu Ran: "..."

The homeroom teacher was obviously taken aback; it took her several seconds before she spoke irritably:

"The prize for the first rank is a River Grade Divine Power Bead and 30 Believer points."

"Got it!" Lu Ran's mind became lively.

He currently had two Divine Power Pearls hanging around his neck, both of River Grade. But such treasures that ensured sustained power were never too many to have!

Lu Ran's level was continually rising, and his techniques' grades were also climbing. More importantly, his casting frequency was extremely high!

Just the Immortal Hoof alone, he was always "zipping" and "zapping" non-stop on the battlefield...

It was foreseeable that after every battle, the total amount of Divine Power he spent was astonishingly high.

And that Lu Ran could cast so extravagantly was, of course, thanks to the two River Grade Divine Power Pearls.

Lu Ran clenched his fist, full of fighting spirit!

The first prize of the school tournament was a must-have!

Then, he could be even more extravagant with his "zipping and zapping"...

"By the way, congratulations on your excellent results in the final exams last term." The subject of points reminded Li Yanzhu of the previous semester's final exams.

"Oh?" Lu Ran perked up instantly, "How many points did I score?"

However, Li Yanzhu was just making a passing remark. After getting choked up, she was no longer interested in prolonging the conversation, simply saying:

"Look it up yourself tomorrow!"

After saying that, she hung up the call.

"Psht~" Lu Ran seemed to have been influenced by Little Yuanxi, at least the sound was very similar.

Lu Ran put down his phone and returned to his shrine to sit cross-legged again.

He quickly refocused his mind and resumed his previous bitter cultivation mode.

Having returned home these past days, Lu Ran had wanted to advance in strength realm. However, since promoting to the River Realm, he had found the path of cultivation to be increasingly difficult!

Lu Ran had advanced to the River Realm First Rank on the 8th of the last lunar month last year.

Now, a month and a half later, he still hadn't even touched the threshold for a breakthrough.

Hmm... he'd need to work even harder.

...

The next day, early in the morning.

Lu Ran took care of his civet cat's food and litter before taking out the trash and leaving his home.

Today was March 1st, according to the Gregorian calendar; although the sky was still overcast, the temperature had warmed up considerably.

It felt like the ice and snow were melting and all living things were awakening.

Regrettably, the atmosphere of Rain Alley City was not part of this revival.

Walking down the streets, aside from a few people at the bun shop, it was deathly quiet.

Until Lu Ran arrived at the street where the school was, it finally seemed somewhat lively.

"Lu Ran!"

Suddenly, a familiar female voice called out from behind him.

Lu Ran turned his head and saw a tall, dark-skinned girl quickly catching up with him.

"Ha!" Chang Ying slammed her hand onto Lu Ran's shoulder, "Happy New Year!"

"Happy New Year." Lu Ran looked up at the girl with a strange expression, "Did you grow taller again?"

"Eh~" Chang Ying waved her hand dismissively, "Don't say such dampening things on New Year's!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Firstly, it's almost the end of the lunar new year!

Secondly, are these considered dampening words?

Chang Ying's face suddenly approached up close, her large eyes boring into Lu Ran's.

The wild but beautiful face of the girl was at close range, which made Lu Ran's expression somewhat unnatural.

He leaned back, "What are you doing?"

Chang Ying asked earnestly, "Is it true that as people's strength grows stronger, the distance between them also increases?"

Hearing these words from the usually carefree Chang Ying made them unexpectedly poignant.

Lu Ran, holding his pair of swords wrapped in cloth, pushed her face away with the hilt:

"What do you mean?"

"It feels like it's been forever since I've heard from you," Chang Ying shrugged.

Lu Ran: "Didn't I send New Year greetings in the group during the holidays? You even snatched red packets, didn't you?"

"Ah?" Chang Ying was stunned for a moment, then after some thought, "Oh, right!"

Lu Ran gave the girl a sideways glance, continuing his stride forward.

Chang Ying caught up and whispered, "Apart from New Year's Day, you've been silent without any news. You seem more distant and stranger."

"Don't overthink it, it's only been a month and a half," Lu Ran lifted his swords, and tapping on Chang Ying's head through the cloth wrapping.

"Alright~" Chang Ying pouted, rubbing her head.

Lu Ran walked on: "I saw you said in the group chat that you've reached Stream Realm Fifth Rank?"

"Huh? You, why didn't you congratulate me after seeing that?"

"I was waiting for you to advance to the River Realm, so we could celebrate together!"

"You..."

The two bickered and made their way to the school gates.

Lu Ran had long noticed the big posters on either side of the school gate, surrounded by many students and parents, many snapping pictures with their phones.

The two moved toward the back of the crowd, Chang Ying propped up on Lu Ran's shoulder, rising on her tiptoes and craning her neck.

The next moment, her mouth formed an "o": "Wow!"

Lu Ran: "What happened?"

"We're first, we're in first place!" Chang Ying whispered excitedly, although unable to contain her excitement as she quickly pulled out her phone.

"Here." After taking the picture, she handed the phone to Lu Ran.

On the big red poster were large black characters.

On the 15th day of the twelfth lunar month, Rain Alley No. 1 High School's senior year final examinations team achievements are as follows:

"First place, Team No. 98!

Team members from senior year class four Tian Tian, Lu Ran, Deng Yutang, and Chang Ying.

Comprehensive task score: 92.7 points."

While Lu Ran looked at the score, he also heard the crowd's discussion:

"No way? Isn't the 15th of the twelfth month a special event? Everyone should've gotten full marks, right?"

"Kid, it's a hundred-point system this time, do you want to hog all a hundred points to yourself?"

"Chang Ying really struck it lucky; Lu Ran's team let her blend in!"

"That's for sure! Even if Teacher Jiang comes back and kicks Chang Ying out of the team, she's got no regrets now."

Chang Ying's face, previously filled with smiles, suddenly stiffened after hearing this.

"Shoot! Lu Ran's team directly scored over 90 points! How did they manage that, did they save the world or something?"

"Yeah, the second-place only has 76 points, this is..."

"Because after the Night of Ghosts, Lu Ran's team didn't even enter the shelter."

"Ah?"

"What are you 'ah-ing' about? It's just the Straw Demon, I'd also love to hunt enemies outside!"

"Yeah, talk is cheap. If the Moon Gazers really let you out, would you dare go?"

"What do you mean by that? Say that again?"

Lu Ran ignored the messy crowd, and pushing Chang Ying, he headed towards the other side of the school gate.

But as he walked, he noticed Chang Ying's anomaly, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing." Chang Ying appeared dejected, taking back her phone from Lu Ran.

"So unhappy even with such great results?" Lu Ran was genuinely curious.

With the crowd in an uproar, with many people speaking at once, he of course couldn't catch everything.

"Satisfied, very satisfied," Chang Ying replied perfunctorily, and headed to the back of the crowd on the right side of the gate, tippy-toeing to peek.

As the individual rankings came into view, Chang Ying's eyes suddenly widened:

"Holy crap?!"

Lu Ran looked bewildered, "What's with the bad language after the New Year?"

Chang Ying gaped in shock and turned to Lu Ran, "You... you..."

Lu Ran questioned, "What's wrong with me?"

After about 2 seconds, Chang Ying finally uttered, "Your score..., it exploded!"

"Ah?" Lu Ran was a bit confused, "Exploded?"

Chang Ying nodded absently, "Yes, overflowed, you just blew it up!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Chapter 205: Bitter Burn Long

Lunar December 15th, Rain Alley First High School senior year final exams for the first term, individual scores as follows:

First place, senior class (4), Lu Ran—118.5 points, Immortal Sheep Believer.

Second place, senior class (7), Wu Shanshan—89.7 points, Asha Believer.

Third place, senior class (4), Tian Tian—84.1 points, Sword Lotus believer.

...

"Yo?" Lu Ran took the smartphone that Chang Ying handed over and looked at the second name on the list, "Is Class President Wu that strong?"

"Huh?" Chang Ying looked at Lu Ran in bewilderment.

You scored 118 points!

You're not concerned about how you scored so high, but instead you're looking at Wu Shanshan?

On Lu Ran's side, as he looked at the photo on the phone, the murmuring around him never stopped.

"Isn't this supposed to be out of a hundred points? Were there bonus questions?"

"118 points, dang! A real beast..."

"He's not even pretending! Normally he'd score eighty or ninety points, making us think he's trying his hardest, but the moment it's a percentage system with bonus points, he just blows past it!"

"Class President Wu is pretty tough too? Nearly hit 90 points?"

"After the Night of Ghosts, I heard that several teams didn't return to the shelter, probably the ones at the top of the ranks."

"Not returning to the shelter? What's the big deal? My bro Ran straight up left the fifth primary school and went out on patrol!"

"Ah???"

"Night of Ghosts? Lu Ran? On patrol?"

"Why all the fuss? It was just a Night of Ghosts event for the Straw Demon clan."

"Yo~ Mr. Sober, how many points did you get?"

"I didn't go out on patrol!"

"Why didn't you go? Don't you like it?"

"You f*ckin'..."

Listening to the chaotic voices, Lu Ran pulled on Chang Ying's sleeve.

Chang Ying nodded, understanding his intent, and followed Lu Ran as they left.

Lu Ran, with his sharp hearing, sneaked toward the school gate and overheard a bet from behind:

"Place your bets! Bet on whether Lu Ran's bonus question is worth 20 points or 30 points, come on, let's start..."

"The bonus question should be 30 points, right? Lu Ran's normal score is 88.5 points."

"Are you kidding me! How could my bro Ran score lower than Wu Shanshan? I bet it's 20 points! All in, 10 packs of spicy strips!"

"So you're saying, Lu Ran scored 98.5 points?"

"98.5, so what? And then my bro Ran would ask, where's the missing 1.5 points?"

"They're deducted here because I now have 1.5 language points."

Lu Ran's face looked puzzled; the voice that kept saying "my bro Ran" sounded very familiar.

It must be that little fatty Qian Hao.

Good kid,

the points were scored by me, but you get all the credit?

Chang Ying whispered, "I really want to know what you did that night."

That morning, after Lu Ran returned to the fifth primary school, he didn't share much with his teammates.

Lu Ran, cradling the twin blades wrapped in cloth and partially covering his face, said lightly: "Didn't do much. Just killed some demons and saved some people."

Chang Ying: "..."

Suddenly she thought of something and in a lowered voice said: "Right, your weapons even leveled up to divine weapons!"

With that being said, isn't 118.5 points a bit low?

"Divine weapons probably don't count for points," Lu Ran quickly arrived at the south side of the sports field, hiding behind a tree, "It has nothing to do with the exam content."

With one hand on the tree trunk, Chang Ying looked at Lu Ran sitting under the tree and found it quite amusing.

The mighty fighter of River Realm, awkwardly curled up behind a tree, presented quite the spectacle.

As she watched, Chang Ying suddenly chuckled: "In a while, during your match, your opponents are going to suffer~

Haha! They'll get slaughtered by the divine weapon!

Poor Ma Tianchuan, poor Wu Shanshan, poor..."

Lu Ran: "I plan to use the Silent Night Blade. Later, you help me hold onto the Dawn Blade."

"Why?" Chang Ying crouched down, curiously looking at Lu Ran.

"Why use a sledgehammer to crack a nut?"

"Poor Ma Tianchuan, poor Wu Shanshan..." Chang Ying whispered softly, "In the eyes of my precious Ran, they're all just chickens."

Lu Ran: ???

...

At eight o'clock sharp, a male teacher stepped onto the podium: "Attention, everyone, assemble!"

Today's podium was quite different from usual days; it had been noticeably extended in size.

Without surprise, the upcoming grand martial arts competition will be held right here.

Lu Ran darted out from behind the tree and began to look for a spot with his team members.

A moment later, silence fell over the sports field.

Inside and outside the campus, everyone's eyes were on the podium.

The onlookers from outside the school outnumbered the students inside.

Taking advantage of the Spring Festival vacation and the end of the term, many students transferred away.

On December 15th, there were still 200 students in the senior year, but now, there were only about 130 to 140 left on the field.

"First of all, congratulations on successfully passing the final exam of the last term!"

The male teacher paced back and forth on the podium, looking at the somewhat sparsely populated student formation below.

"I can say with responsibility that the overall quality of your class is a big step higher than in previous years!"

"Your team scores may be lower, after all, the scoring standards are set, but your individual scores are high. This is also the recognition of your abilities by the Divine People Bureau!"

"The average score of your class is a full 16 points higher than the previous class, give yourselves a round of applause."

Whether proud or obliging, students began to clap and whistle.

On the podium, the teacher stopped walking: "Among them, the highest team score is 7 points higher than the previous class.

The highest individual score... "

The teacher paused, speaking gravely: "Is 31.5 points higher than the highest scorer of the previous class."

Everyone: "..."

The field went silent.

Of course, everyone had seen the big list and knew who the highest scorer of Rain Alley First High School was.

Since last year's Worship God event, Lu Ran repeatedly scored high.

The students went from initially dismissing the idea that Lu Ran was just lucky.

To the full questioning after several exams, wondering why Lu Ran could still score so high.

Then they secretly hoped that Lu Ran would mess up, that the little lamb would be beaten back to form.

Until the end...

Regarding Lu Ran, people could only admire and look up to him.

Da Xia has never lacked geniuses!

It's just that people were very "cautious," taking several months to fully confirm that the little lamb was truly a Heavenly Pride!

To say "confirm" is less accurate than to say "acceptance."

As a Nine-level God-Immortal Sheep Believer, Lu Ran's path of growth was indeed full of endless doubts.

Thinking back, as early as the beginning of June in the lunar calendar last year, the world had been informed of what kind of person Lu Ran was.

Who informed everyone?

Evil Demon-Yan Zhi!

Interestingly, the talent and strength of other believers are typically endorsed by schools, society, gods, etc.

But with Lu Ran, it was Yan Zhi who stamped his approval.

"Senior class (4), Lu Ran." The male teacher looked at Lu Ran, his gaze intense.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Lu Ran didn't react and kept his head down.

The teacher's voice spread through the microphone across the campus: "Before midnight, the exam score was 98.5.

After the Night of Ghosts began, he answered the call of Yunshan City Divine People Bureau Moon Gazer team and participated in patrol duties.

A one-man team, protecting the district.

You received the most evaluation reports from Moon Gazers out of all the students.

You were also the only one who received a commendation letter from the public.

The 20 bonus points couldn't fully reflect your contribution to Rain Alley City that night.

But this is the maximum bonus the school can give you within the scope of the final exam."

In an instant, the sports field buzzed with discussion.

"Damn! So he really went on patrol alone?"

"Ran Shen is a battle sheep of Immortal Goat Sect! You've got to compare him to the North Wind Believers; others can't keep up with him!"

"Pfft, our Rain Alley is just too small. Bring in an East Thunder Believer, and Lu Ran would behave!"

"You're talking nonsense! My bro Ran is f*ckin' happy! He's swift in a fight; there's never a moment of calm!"

"Wu Shanshan must be regretting it now, hahahaha..."

"She had a chance to cling to a great leg, but she played herself out of it~"

"You two are laughing too soon; Class President Wu did super well on this exam."

Wu Shanshan didn't show any expression, not uttering a word.

And Lu Ran, at the center of it all, hadn't said a word either, inwardly criticizing.

There's something off with this teacher!

Always using me as a target to motivate the entire school.

But the thing is, the students really did quite well in this final exam!

Sure enough, the teacher continued!

"For the final exam, team and individual scores count for 50% each. Taking Lu Ran as an example, after calculation, the total score is 105.6 points."

"That score is the number of Believer points that Lu Ran has earned."

The teacher looked at the paper in his hand and nodded in admiration:

"Including the 194 Believer points Lu Ran already had, your total Believer points are nearing the 300 mark."

The teacher's tone shifted: "Actually, you could graduate now.

To commend your contribution on the Night of Ghosts, Yunshan City Divine People Bureau has awarded you 30 Believer points."

"Hiss..."

"Damn! I'm excited just watching this rake in!"

"You're excited for nothing; it's not for you."

"Silence!" the teacher said sternly, "Another student has been commended by Yunshan City Divine People Bureau, senior class (7)'s Wu Shanshan!"

"Oh!!!!"

"Whoo~"

"Awesome! Awesome!!" A wave of cheers suddenly erupted from the field.

And these voices came not just from class 7, but spontaneously from students all over the field.

Such a scene inevitably stirred something in Lu Ran.

What does this mean?

Is my popularity really that bad?

When the teacher announced my grades, the students were either silent or discussing; there was no cheering, right?

Well... it's probably the teacher's fault!

For half a year, I've always been the target.

The name Lu Ran has come to be like a heavy cloud looming over everyone's heads.

For more than half a year, the clouds haven't dispersed, constantly pressing down on people until they can't breathe.

Now, finally, a new face emerges, and the students teased and provoked burst into excitement!

As for who this new face is, it doesn't matter whether it's Zhang San or Li Si; the students just want to stick their heads above the water to breathe...

Having understood all this, Lu Ran couldn't help but nod silently.

It seems,

The people of this world, have long suffered under Ran Shen...

Heh heh~

Chapter 206: Smiling Lamb Kid

"Congratulations, Wu Shanshan!"

The male teacher's gaze swept across the audience, finally settling on a short-haired girl.

"You have always been one of the most promising students with exceptional talent!"

"The god you worship is also the highest-ranked among all the gods worshipped by the teachers and students of the school!"

"After half a year of hard work, you have lived up to expectations and achieved great success in the final exams!"

"On the Night of Ghosts, you were calm and fearless in the face of danger, helping the Moon Gazer team..."

Listening to the teacher's narration and praise, Lu Ran finally understood the taste of being a "spectator."

It's really annoying~

In contrast to Lu Ran's reaction, Wu Shanshan didn't lower her head but proudly raised it.

She accepted the envious or jealous looks from others, as well as a distinguished honor that was uniquely hers.

Wu Shanshan indeed had a reason to be proud!

If not for a certain lamb making a surprising breakthrough, Wu Shanshan would have been the most outstanding student in Yuxiang No.1 Middle School.

The god she revered was Second-class God·Ash.

Common folk also called this god the "Southern Sea Bow."

Together with the East Thunder Spear, West Desolate Axe, and North Wind Blade, it was known as one of the Four Directions Martial Heroes—its strength was undoubtedly formidable!

"...Yunshan City's Divine People Bureau specially awards you 20 Believer Points, as encouragement!"

The male teacher finally finished his speech, and applause rang out on the sports field.

It was undeniable that the Believer of Second-class God·Ash receiving such glory made it more acceptable to others.

"Alright," said the male teacher with satisfaction, nodding his head, "Let's proceed to the second item, the Grand Martial Contest!"

As his words fell, the sports field stirred again.

"It's finally time!"

"Haha, this is going to be a good show~"

"Those who have advanced to the River Realm, they all seem to have some grudges, right?"

"What grudge! Just hurry up and get started, my brother Lu Ran is in a rush!" Ma Tianchuan's voice came from the front.

Lu Ran: ??

"Shut up!" A reprimand came from the back of the line, from Li Yanzhu.

Ma Tianchuan immediately shrank back.

Clearly, many people were looking forward to the Grand Martial Contest. Some students were stuck at the Stream Realm·Fifth Rank, only able to rue their luck privately.

There were only five people participating in the Grand Martial Contest, and if you were qualified to sign up, you were guaranteed at least sixth place!

Even dead last came with Believer Point rewards.

Unfortunately, the "Death of Five" had thwarted many Believer students.

The male teacher continued, "There are a total of 5 students participating in the Grand Martial Contest!"

"They are Lu Ran from Class Three (4), Wu Shanshan, Ma Tianchuan, Kou Yingquan from Class Three (7), and Gao Zhonglin from Class Three (11)."

In the line for Class 7, Ma Tianchuan finally looked a bit triumphant.

Under the students' gaze, he silently pushed his rimless glasses up.

Kou Yingquan also enjoyed the attention of everyone, slightly raising his head with a proud posture.

Though he had just had a flash of insight two days ago and ascended to the River Realm, barely catching the last train.

But no matter what, at this moment, Kou Yingquan was a River Realm strongman!

He could certainly look down from his high position upon all the lesser beings of the Stream Realm.

The male teacher went on, "Here, I would like to commend the homeroom teacher of Class Three (7), Mr. Su!"

"Out of the entire school's five River Realm Believer students, Class 7 has three!"

"The students' aptitudes are one thing, good guidance, a positive competitive atmosphere are another. This success would not have been possible without Mr. Su's guidance..."

Geez~

Lu Ran grinned.

Was the target of commendation shifting from students to teachers?

Suddenly, Lu Ran noticed a figure approaching.

He turned around and saw his homeroom teacher Li Yanzhu with an expressionless face, standing beside him.

She crossed her arms over her chest, looking towards the stage, and asked, "Confident about taking first place?"

Lu Ran couldn't help but look awkward.

Surely, the homeroom teacher wouldn't be provoked by such juvenile tactics?

However, helping students advance to the River Realm must be part of a teacher's performance assessment.

Likewise, if he could win first place in the Grand Martial Contest, the school would probably reward the homeroom teacher accordingly?

"Hmm?" Li Yanzhu looked at Lu Ran with a probing expression.

Lu Ran scratched his head and said softly, "Why don't you let them gang up on me?"

Lu Ran's tone was very humble, but his words were utterly arrogant!

Li Yanzhu immediately glared at Lu Ran, "What did I tell you on the phone yesterday?

Stay humble and vigilant! I told you to stay humble and vigilant!"

It was just a simple reprimand from the homeroom teacher, but it had the same effect as the East Thunder Divine Technique·Thunder Shock.

Lu Ran just felt his head buzzing.

What was the difference between this and being struck by a Divine Technique? He couldn't move his body at all and just had to stand there, continuing to listen to his homeroom teacher's instruction...

It was really uncomfortable~

"Now, please welcome the five students to the stage!" said the teacher on the dais in a loud voice.

"Go ahead," Li Yanzhu patted Lu Ran's shoulder, "Remember my words!"

"Uh-huh, stay humble and vigilant..." Lu Ran nodded continuously, turning his head to look at Chang Ying.

The girl promptly stepped forward and took the blade.

Lu Ran also drew a Silent Night Blade from the cloth, and quickly walked towards the podium.

"Lu Ran, go easy on me, alright?" Just as Lu Ran reached the steps of the stage, someone clapped his shoulder.

Lu Ran turned his head and saw a little wolf pup.

Greedy Wolf Believer·Gao Zhonglin!

Lu Ran immediately smiled, "We agreed, you can't gobble me up later!"

Gao Zhonglin also smiled, "No way, I don't have that ability.

I just wanted to ask if what you said last time still stands?"

Lu Ran asked with curiosity, "What did you say?"

Gao Zhonglin, "You told me, 'The emperor takes turns, next year it's my turn!'

Now, a year has passed!"

Lu Ran nodded thoughtfully, "A promise from a true man cannot be taken back once made."

"Oh?" Gao Zhonglin was just teasing, but he didn't expect such a response from Lu Ran.

Lu Ran suddenly changed the topic, "However, at that time I was only 17, not yet a man.

I was just a naive and clueless pretty boy..."

Gao Zhonglin: ??

"Both of you, come up quickly!" urged the male teacher.

Both of them went up to the stage, and Lu Ran's gaze swept over the three students from Class 7.

Wu Shanshan showed no expression and did not even glance at Lu Ran.

Ma Tianchuan, however, took several looks at Lu Ran, his heart full of fighting spirit.

Their promised duel went back to when they were novices and had been postponed until now.

As for Kou Yingquan...

He had already realized the seriousness of the problem!

Earlier, among the student formation, he immensely enjoyed the admiring and idolizing looks from his classmates.

Now, it was Lu Ran looking at him!

Lu Ran's gaze was friendly, and his smile was gentle.

Yet it sent chills down Kou Yingquan's spine!

But to give up the contest was utterly impossible for Kou Yingquan—it was a matter of Believer Points, after all.

Kou Yingquan could only put on a dark face and pretend to be calm, coldly glancing at Lu Ran.

"You are five people, and one of you will be exempt," announced the male teacher with a microphone, looking towards the audience, "Summoning Sign Believers!"

"Here!"

"Here!" Including Chang Ying, a total of three people responded.

The teacher immediately chose the tall Chang Ying, "Draw the Five Treasures Sign now!"

As the teacher walked past the five students, he said, "Summoning, offense, defense, control, support!"

Whichever sign the Summoning Sign Believer draws will determine who gets the bye."

It must be noted that the probability for each type of sign to be drawn was not one in five!

The Summoning Sign was the hardest to draw, followed by the offense sign, and then control, defense, and support.

Lu Ran was happy in his heart. He was at the end of the line and was assigned the "support sign."

This was the easiest one to draw!

The male teacher didn't mince words and emphasized the unfairness of the school's Grand Martial Contest, not leaving any room for the students to object.

"Whirr—"

Below, Chang Ying was also elated, shaking the sign cylinder repeatedly, muttering under her breath:

"Heavenly spirits, earthly spirits, bless my brother Ran to get the bye..."

"Whoosh!" A sign flew out above Chang Ying's head.

In the next instant, Chang Ying's face lost all its joy.

The Summoning Sign suddenly transformed into a majestic and robust soldier, landing firmly on the ground.

The Five Treasures Sign's Summoning Sign!

The most difficult one to draw!

"Darn!"

"Haha! Impressive, a bullseye!"

"Chang the Great Axe, aren't you something? It seems there's a reason she scored so high, her luck is truly good, right?"

"Tsk-tsk, look at this grand Copper Armor Guard, quite impressive~"

Tian Tian: "..."

Deng Yutang: "..."

After teaming up with the gambler for so long, the two understood Chang Ying all too well.

On the battlefield, your support signs came one after another, barely showing any Copper Armor Guards!

And now you're getting all fired up?

"Uh." Chang Ying covered her face with her hand.

The more people complimented her, the hotter her face felt.

On the dais, Wu Shanshan wore a strange expression.

She was in the first spot, assigned the "Summoning Sign," and was initially quite displeased.

But now... well, this meant she got a bye?

"Go down and watch the match," the male teacher gestured to Wu Shanshan with a wave of his hand.

"Oh." Wu Shanshan immediately walked off the stage.

The male teacher pointed at the second in line, Ma Tianchuan, "You get an extra Summoning Sign."

Ma Tianchuan: "..."

The teacher looked towards the students below, "Another Summoning Sign Believer, draw the Five Treasures Sign!

Next, draw the first pairing for the match."

"Whoosh—"

Another Summoning Sign flew up from the student formation.

This male student seemed less lucky, directly drawing the support sign.

"Lu Ran, go to the side and prepare! Now we'll draw your opponent, and the remaining two students will automatically match up."

The male teacher, taking advantage of the empty "support sign" spot, gave it to Gao Zhonglin, who was now at the end of the line.

Again, the same statement:

The school's Grand Martial Contest, a display of injustice!

Ma Tianchuan and Gao Zhonglin each had two signs, and Kou Yingquan in the middle had only one defense sign.

"Draw now!" called the teacher to the Summoning Sign Believer.

"Whirr—"

People turned to look at the male student, whose face was flushed, clearly unaccustomed to such attention.

He was making an effort to perform well, perhaps hoping to draw a Summoning or offense sign.

"Whoosh—"

A Summoning Sign flew up, and then...

The wooden Summoning Sign suddenly grew larger, looking like a huge fly swatter.

"A defense sign?"

"Haha! Kou Yingquan! Hahaha! Now there's really a show to watch!"

"What show? What happened?"

"Don't you remember at the start of senior year why Lu Ran was punished with a stand in the sports field?"

"Oh, right! Now I remember!"

"Hahahahaha! It's truly a small world~"

On the podium, Kou Yingquan failed to maintain his composure, unable to keep up his pretense.

"Damn!" A single word escaped through his clenched teeth, his face turning ashen.

He had hoped that even if he lost to his teammates Wu Shanshan and Ma Tianchuan, it wouldn't be too shameful.

But his opponent turned out to be that little lamb-capable kid?!

Suddenly, Kou Yingquan felt enveloped by a gaze.

He felt his hair stand on end and turned his head to look not far away.

But he saw Lu Ran with a friendly gaze and a gentle expression.

In front of all the teachers and students, Lu Ran looked at Kou Yingquan and revealed a restrained smirk.

Chapter 207: Don't kill me!

"The first pair to compete is Lu Ran and Kou Yingquan."

The male teacher turned his head to the other two, "Ma Tianchuan and Gao Zhonglin will automatically be matched against each other; both of you go down and prepare."

"Yes."

"Yes!" Ma and Gao responded and then glanced at each other before heading down the stage.

Speaking of grievances, among the five people promoted to River Realm, there were quite a few.

Before worshipping God, Ma Tianchuan was undeniably the top student, leading the second and third students by a sheer margin.

But everything changed after the first day of June in the lunar year last year!

The little sheep and little wolves started riding roughshod over Ma Tianchuan.

Among them, Lu Ran, with his incredibly brilliant combat achievements, silenced all criticism and made it somewhat more acceptable for Ma Tianchuan.

But as for Gao Zhonglin...

Aside from the initial surprise rise, in the subsequent assessments, Ma and Gao alternated in taking the lead.

Ma Tianchuan was definitely holding back his frustration!

Lu Ran, on the other hand, wasn't interested in those affairs. At this moment, his eyes were fixed only on Kou Yingquan.

Unexpectedly, after the conflicts in their class, they would meet again in a grand competition at the beginning of the school year.

They had met before and had another conflict.

That was during their training in Evil Dog Village when the irate Sister Xian'er gave Kou Yingquan a few slaps...

"What are you looking at?" Kou Yingquan's face was stiff as he snapped coldly.

Half a year ago, Kou Yingquan thought Lu Ran was weak and easy to bully.

After all, Lu Ran was seen as the little sheep among people, a Believer under the Nine-class God-Immortal Goat Sect.

Such cowards, ridiculed by the world, were meant to be trampled on.

I am humiliating you; what can you do about it?

Unexpectedly, Lu Ran did not beg for mercy like the usual Immortal Sheep Believers.

Well... not quite.

Indeed, Lu Ran did cry and scream, but while begging, he was swinging a chair, violently hitting Kou Yingquan...

That conflict set a tone.

Since then, Lu Ran rose sharply. The typical weakness and timidity of Immortal Sheep Believers were nowhere to be found in him.

Evil! Completely! Wrong!

Now, Kou Yingquan's view of Lu Ran was greatly changed.

It might be hard to believe, but the mighty Third-class God-Prisoner Demon Believer was somewhat afraid of this Immortal Sheep Believer!

"What are you laughing about? Quit your goddamn tricks!" Kou Yingquan said, seeing Lu Ran smiling without a word, feeling a chill down his spine.

This little sheep was... too eerie!

When engulfed by emotions like fear and unease, people resort to various methods to cope.

Shouting is a good way.

Angry shouts can boost one's morale, using high emotions to dispel inner panic.

"Yeah..." Below the stage, Wu Shanshan shook her head with a long sigh.

She could see that Kou Yingquan was already terrified.

And the fight hadn't even started yet...

It was an inevitable situation.

In the past half-year, Lu Ran's achievements had been shockingly unconventional.

Had it been a normal opponent, it might have been somewhat okay.

But these two had old grudges!

Once they started fighting, both might strike very hard...

"How about you withdraw?" Lu Ran suddenly spoke, looking at the outwardly fierce Kou Yingquan.

After all, as a Prisoner Demon Believer, to be frightened into such a state...

Was his own oppressive presence really that strong?

At the same time, a buzzing noise of discussion erupted from below.

"This Kou Yingquan, seems to be strong outside but weak inside, eh?"

"Say less! Facing Lu Ran, wouldn't you be nervous? Didn't you watch the small videos in the group?"

"That's true, Lu Ran even dare to confront the Barbaric Woman, he really is fiercely ruthless..."

"Scared my ass! Just lose if it comes to that; Kou Yingquan is not the Barbaric Woman, this isn't a fight to the death."

"This is the spirit of the River Realm for you, learning and learning~"

"Heh, really knowing how to make cool remarks? It's not your neck on the line..."

The voices of discussion varied in volume, sentences filled with mockery, ridicule, or justification, turning Kou Yingquan's face from pale to purplish.

"Kou Yingquan!" On the main stage, the male teacher frowned deeply, displeased, "Can you fight?"

Lu Ran had just said "why don't you withdraw," and a normal person would have snapped back).

But Kou Yingquan had gone silent?

Scared before the fight?

Who among you two is really an Immortal Sheep Believer?

"I can fight!" Kou Yingquan immediately shouted.

"You can't." Not far away, came Lu Ran's faint voice.

"Shut your damn mouth!"

Under everyone's gaze, Kou Yingquan indeed seemed somewhat unable to get off the stage, his anger burning as he glared fiercely at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran nodded, "Just reminding you, in front of an Immortal Sheep Believer, you absolutely cannot be afraid.

Even a trace of fear is unacceptable, as it will crush you."

Lu Ran was right.

Immortal Sheep Divine Technique-Immortal Pupil could amplify the target's inner fears.

Giving those Dead Sheep Eyes enough time...

Indeed, an Immortal Sheep Believer could cause the target to mentally collapse in extreme terror!

"You are here to compete, to overcome your opponent." The male teacher also looked sternly at Lu Ran, "Not to give lessons!"

Lu Ran shrugged, "I'm just telling him in advance how he's going to lose."

The teacher appeared startled.

For a moment, the stage below was also buzzing.

"Holy shit, is he that domineering?!"

"I really want to hit him..."

"Girl, take my advice, don't bother; you probably can't beat him."

"My dear Ran, today you're the domineering sheep~"

"Both sides, prepare!" The male teacher looked deeply at Lu Ran and shouted loudly, "Put on the Waterflow Armors.

If the armor is shattered, or one side falls off the main stage, they will be declared the loser!

Wait for my whistle, do you both understand?"

"Yes!"

"Yes." Kou and Lu responded in turn.

"After the whistle, neither side may pursue any further! If violated, not only will Believer points be deducted, but you may also face punishment!"

The male teacher continuously emphasized this, indicating Da Xia's protective measures towards its Believer students.

"Whistle—"

The whistle sounded, quite piercing.

The fight officially began!

"Kill!"

"Fight! Fight!"

"I go! Those eyes, my gosh..."

Lu Ran, as he had previously announced, immediately activated the Divine Technique·Immortal Pupil.

With a blink, his round Human Clan eyes abruptly transformed into horizontal pupils.

True·Dead Sheep Eyes!

The pitch-black horizontal pupils gleamed eerily, glaring sinisterly at Kou Yingquan.

"Come on!" Kou Yingquan said this, but he had shifted his gaze early, now focusing on Lu Ran's legs.

Suddenly, Kou Yingquan waved his hand and a Blood-colored Chain appeared out of nowhere, wrapping towards Lu Ran.

Prisoner Demon Divine Skill·Prisoner Demon Chain!

Lu Ran nimbly leaped, bouncing away, avoiding the entangling chains. His eyes still intensely watched Kou Yingquan:

"Look at me!"

"Go away!" Kou Yingquan bellowed, continuously swinging his Prisoner Demon Chain.

"Sh—"

Immortal Hoof activated, and Immortal Fog billowed.

Lu Ran's figure rapidly wove through space, the haphazard Blood-colored Chains left trailing behind him.

"Whoosh!!"

Kou Yingquan startled inside, energy roiling in him.

At the start, he had donned a Big Red Robe, which now deepened in shade.

It was the Prisoner Demon Divine Skill·Blood Evil Clothes, the Prisoner Demon Sect's most prided technique, well-rounded in offense and defense.

And within those Blood Evil Clothes, Kou Yingquan's Waterflow Armor was hidden.

That is, Prisoner Demon Believers had "an extra life" compared to most other Believers.

In a duel, Prisoner Demon Believers then had an advantage.

You need to shatter the opponent's Blood Evil Clothes first before you could break the Waterflow Armor.

And if there's damage to the Blood Evil Clothes, the caster can replace it at any time.

And that replacement is extremely fast, almost like "changing clothes with one button."

So, Prisoner Demon Believers...

Really are tough!

Tough?

No worries, whether it's Blood Evil Clothes or Waterflow Armor, they are just physical defenses.

Lu Ran's Dead Sheep Eyes were a spiritual level attack!

"Whew~"

Kou Yingquan suddenly swung his hand, and numerous Blood-colored Chains appeared, crisscrossing.

"Wow!"

"Whoa~~~ great movement technique!"

"He's... the little sheep is darting about!"

Among the zigzag of chains, with Immortal Hoof, Lu Ran was rapidly stepping around.

Swift stops and starts, moving left then darting right.

Within the thick Immortal Fog, people even felt like there were many Lu Rans, many shadows darting about!

And as Lu Ran rapidly closed in on his target, he seemed like a creeping Grim Reaper...

That unparalleled oppressive sensation made Kou Yingquan's heart grow more and more terrified.

"Stop right there!" Kou Yingquan roared angrily, stomping his foot.

"Bang," a heavy sound.

Prisoner Demon Divine Skill·Prisoner Demon Array!

In an instant, from beneath Kou Yingquan's feet, countless chains spread out in all directions.

Comprehensive, no blind spots!

This was a quite powerful defensive, controlling technique, akin to a "big move."

This technique naturally had one weakness—it was extremely draining on Divine Power.

The Prisoner Demon Ancestor created this technique for Believers to use when surrounded by enemies, to stand against a hundred, fighting to death!

And Kou Yingquan using it in a one-on-one...

Was this a decision that defied their ancestors?

Probably not, Kou Yingquan was indeed in a fight to the death.

Though it was only Lu Ran, in Kou Yingquan's mind, he felt surrounded by Lu Ran...

"Crackle, crackle!"

"Crackle, crackle..."

The Blood-colored Chains issued a series of steely friction sounds, painful to the ears.

The spectacle was immensely spectacular, beneath Kou Yingquan's feet, it seemed as if thousands of iron snakes had burst forth.

They shook and hissed bloodily, densely swarming in all directions.

"Sh—"

Lu Ran's figure abruptly retreated.

Numerous "Blood Snakes" lunged before him, just a bit short of distance, but they could not bite onto Lu Ran.

"Let, let me go! Ah!!!" Lu Ran suddenly screamed, voice heart-wrenching.

Kou Yingquan trembled inside, what did he just hear?

The panic in Lu Ran's screams?

That's right!

Even if your speed is extreme, your movement technique unpredictable, facing my sect's so powerful Divine Technique·Prisoner Demon Array, how could you escape... ah?

Kou Yingquan immediately captured Lu Ran's direction, raising his hand to cast.

The Prisoner Demon Sect also had another Divine Technique·Blood Chain Stab.

This technique could make spikes grow on the chains, thoroughly piercing any entangled target!

However, when Kou Yingquan captured the sight of Lu Ran...

He didn't see Lu Ran entangled by chains, screaming in agony.

What he saw was Lu Ran crouched, rapidly sliding backwards.

Under that crouched position, instead of seeing Lu Ran's legs, Kou Yingquan saw a pair of intensely malevolent Dead Sheep Eyes!

"Ah!" Kou Yingquan's color drastically changed.

The thousands of stabbing Blood Snakes, as if softened, all drooped their heads.

And at that moment, Lu Ran stomped fiercely.

Rapidly sliding backward as if without inertia, like a sprinting athlete, he surged forward.

Lu Ran's eyes were sinister, his face grim, his mouth still shouting:

"I was wrong! Please, don't kill me ah..."

Kou Yingquan turned ghastly pale, his pupils violently contracting!

Chapter 208: Cause and Effect, Demon and Sheep

That day, Kou Yingquan recalled the fear of being dominated by a little lamb.

The same cries for mercy, the same sinister eyes!

The difference was that last time, Lu Ran was "crying on the face, calling out with a stool".

But this time, Lu Ran held a real deal in his hand—the Silent Night Blade!

"Don't look! Don't look into his eyes!!"

Below the stage, Wu Shanshan hastily shouted, reminding Kou Yingquan.

However, it was already too late!

How fast was Lu Ran?

Overwhelmed with fear, Kou Yingquan couldn't hear the cries from below; he panicked and retreated, swinging his hand subconsciously.

"Whoosh~"

The hem of the Big Red Robe fluttered fiercely forward.

Contrary to everyone's expectations, the rapidly advancing Lu Ran suddenly came to a sharp stop!

Even for the sake of the audience below the stage, Lu Ran stepped continuously, pretending to brake hard.

In reality, amid the dense fog, Lu Ran's feet were already cushioned by a layer of waves.

He could have stopped abruptly!

But Lu Ran did not. He controlled the distance exquisitely, braking while stopping in front of Kou Yingquan.

"Ah!!" Kou Yingquan screamed in terror, his body shivering.

Because, in the moment when the hem of the Big Red Robe fluttered past, Lu Ran's figure was revealed.

Those same sinister, horizontal pupils!

Kou Yingquan felt as if he was in a graveyard with chilly winds, like he had come to a skeletal hell.

"Fuck!"

"Ah!!"

"This, this motherfucker..." The people on the stage were terrified, and those below trembled in fear as well.

Some students intimidated by Lu Ran had their fears amplified.

For a moment, the audience on the right side of the stage was in chaos.

"No, don't, no..."

With a fearful pallor, Kou Yingquan's voice trembled as he hurriedly leapt backward.

The Big Red Robe moved on its own, as if to carry its master away from this disputable place.

The River Grade·Blood Slaughter Robe, which could give its owner the ability to fly.

At this moment, Kou Yingquan, terrified by a pair of Dead Sheep Eyes, instinctively wanted to retreat and get as far from Lu Ran as possible!

"Zi—"

Lu Ran's Immortal Hoof surged again, suddenly lunging forward.

"Be careful!"

"The leg! The leg is going to be cut off...ah?"

People watched as Lu Ran closed in on Kou Yingquan, convinced that the Black Luminous Stone Blade would chop at Kou Yingquan's leg.

But Lu Ran's choice once again surprised everyone.

They heard a crisp "snap!"

Lu Ran grasped Kou Yingquan's ankle tightly.

Kou Yingquan, flying backward and upward, was suddenly caught.

Just when everyone thought they were about to wrestle, Lu Ran's Immortal Hoof surged again!

"Zi—"

Lu Ran, holding Kou Yingquan in mid-air, suddenly darted to one side.

In the blink of an eye, they had darted more than 20 meters!

"Running?"

With a great surge of momentum, Lu Ran forcefully swung Kou Yingquan downward.

"Boom!"

The specially reinforced stage split into pieces, and Kou Yingquan was embedded into it!

"Crashed... crashed?"

"This really opened my eyes, what kind of fighting style is this?"

"Maybe it's the Express Delivery style..."

"No! Kou Yingquan is at least six feet tall, big and burly, and just like that, he's being... cough, played with by Lu Ran?"

"Stop it!!"

Among a burst of exclamations, Lu Ran's movements were seamless. He thrust his knife downwards.

Kou Yingquan couldn't react in time, his eyes widening in fright!

A sense of extreme danger made Kou Yingquan's face ashen, as if in a near-death state, the entire world seemed to slow down...

Am I going to die?

"Zi!"

The sharp blade brushed past Kou Yingquan's ear, sinking deep into the surface of the platform.

As he stabbed with the knife, Lu Ran also dropped to one knee.

To be exact, he fiercely thrust his knee into Kou Yingquan's chest.

With a crisp "snap!"

Lu Ran bent down sharply, pressing one hand harshly on Kou Yingquan's face.

Through his fingers, Lu Ran's sinister horizontal pupils, like sharp knives, pierced directly into Kou Yingquan's terrified eyes.

"Don't kill me," Lu Ran whispered as he leaned down.

Though these words begged for mercy, they sounded like a demon's murmur.

Lu Ran seemed to be helping Kou Yingquan remember something.

And Lu Ran's fingers also helped focus Kou Yingquan's eyes only on those cold Dead Sheep Eyes.

In extreme fear, Kou Yingquan had lost the ability to think.

He seemed to have forgotten he still had the power to fight, even having forgotten his own Divine Technique.

"Don't... don't kill me." Kou Yingquan's voice trembled, his face being pressed down so hard by Lu Ran that he could barely shake his head.

A person's mental will can be likened to a dam.

At this moment, Kou Yingquan's dam was covered in cracked lines, eventually burst by the raging torrent, irretrievable!

"I am wrong," Lu Ran murmured.

"I am wrong, I'm... crying... I am wrong, please... don't..."

Kou Yingquan's face was deathly pale, pleading incessantly.

The desperation in his voice was pitiable, filled with the tone of crying, rendering the onlookers dumbfounded.

The Blood Slaughter Robe on Kou Yingquan quietly vanished, and his Water Armor rapidly dissolved.

This was not done intentionally by him, but in a state of panic, he completely lost the ability to maintain his Divine Technique.

"Whistle—"

A whistle abruptly sounded, and a teacher called a halt to the match.

Lu Ran withdrew the Silent Night Blade from the platform and slowly stood up.

Below, Kou Yingquan scrambled backward in a most undignified manner.

His only thought was to flee from that terrifying demon...

"First battle, Lu Ran wins!"

The male teacher announced in a high voice, his expression complex as he looked at Lu Ran.

This duel, from start to finish, had not seen a drop of blood.

Even Kou Yingquan's dual-layer defenses had not been breached.

But Lu Ran had seized the opponent's weaknesses, crushing the enemy completely on mental and psychological levels.

The Divine Technique of the Immortal Sheep faction was indeed formidable!

When Immortal Sheep Believers are no longer soft, timid, or avoiding battle, such Believers are truly terrifying...

"Swoosh~~"

Suddenly, a surge of energy stirred, and countless water droplets diffused.

Under the sunlight, the droplets sparkled crystal clear, suspended in mid-air.

Oddly enough, flows of water also gathered to form, albeit the outlines were blurry, one could make out the shape of a "dragon".

Ashar Divine Skill·Azure Dragon Sea Domain!

This skill was quite a rare Domain-type Divine Technique!

Within the roaming range of the Azure Dragon, all abnormal statuses would be purified, and the caster could gather and perceive all information within the Domain.

"Woo... Ah..." Not far away, Kou Yingquan was tearfully rolling and crawling.

A slender Azure Dragon swiftly swam towards his body and coiled around him.

Below the platform, Wu Shanshan raised one hand, continuing to cast spells while turning her head to look at Lu Ran.

Her face showed displeasure as this was her first time facing Lu Ran openly, and she said bitterly:

"You went too far!"

"Everything has a cause and effect," Lu Ran spoke softly.

Wu Shanshan's face was angry, and she stared intently at Lu Ran.

Believers of the Second-class God·Ash indeed had the pride to boast.

Wu Shanshan, surrounded by a slender Azure Dragon, was not afraid of Lu Ran's chilling horizontal pupils.

Lu Ran: "Are you coming out now to play judge?"

Wu Shanshan sharply said: "Is there really such a big grudge?"

Lu Ran nodded slightly: "My father died in battle protecting Rain Alley; he was an honored fallen warrior.

Kou Yingquan, however, said in class that the son of a rat will gnaw holes.

He said, since I could invite Evil Demons, how did my dad really die?"

Wu Shanshan opened her mouth but was at a loss for words.

Lu Ran: "Why did all this happen?"

Just to satisfy his sense of superiority, to randomly bully and humiliate an Immortal Sheep Believer and show off his power.

You don't know, Kou Yingquan was very highly regarded!

He is a strong Prisoner Demon Believer; when he charged at me, at that time in class, besides Jiang Ruyi, no one dared to stop him.

So, you've jumped out now to stop me?"

Wu Shanshan's face was stiff, and she clenched her fists tightly.

"Enough!" a male teacher said sternly, "Lu Ran, return to your team immediately!"

Lu Ran glanced at Wu Shanshan, jumped down from the platform, and walked back to his team's position.

Along the way, the students made way for him.

On the platform, Kou Yingquan still sat with tears and snot covering his face, his expression blank.

Even with the Azure Dragon's protection, he had not completely escaped the nightmare constructed from those Dead Sheep Eyes.

Perhaps every time he saw Lu Ran in the future, he would recall this intense psychological shadow...

"Lu Ran." The class teacher Li Yanzhu came up to Lu Ran, placing a hand on his shoulder.

"Hmm? Teacher?"

"You know, Kou Yingquan was suspended from classes for a long time, and I also called his parents in for a harsh warning.

His family repeatedly assured the school that similar incidents would not occur again.

After comprehensive consideration by the school, he has been kept on probation..."

"Mm-hmm." Lu Ran nodded.

This matter could be referred to as a simple student fight, or as disrespecting the honor of the fallen.

However, with such a small population in Rain Alley City and so few students, a third-class God believer is precious and can meet academic enrollment targets.

The school wouldn't easily give up on him.

Li Yanzhu sighed softly, patted Lu Ran's shoulder again: "No matter what, you were wronged."

"Not really," Lu Ran chuckled, "Didn't I just shove the leg of a stool into his mouth?"

Teacher, your keen insight merely gave me a punishment to stand, allowing me to participate in the team formation in time."

Li Yanzhu patted Lu Ran's shoulder and walked away.

Lu Ran silently raised his head, looking towards the platform, watching Kou Yingquan being helped away, his dejected manner.

"Brother Lu." Deng Yutang came up, throwing an arm around Lu Ran's shoulder.

"Hmm?"

"I blame myself for not helping you back then," Deng Yutang apologized.

"Didn't you catch me? Otherwise, I would have hit the desk," Lu Ran shook his head, "Besides, we weren't familiar with each other then."

Hearing this, Deng Yutang found it reasonable and nodded: "That's true.

You were always cozy with Jiang, and didn't have time to get to know the other boys in class."

Lu Ran: "..."

Chapter 209: Dragon Slayer!

The upcoming battle was between Ma Tianchuan and Gao Zhonglin.

Both were Third-class God Believers.

One worshipped God Nuosha, the other worshipped Divine Tan Lang.

Their fighting styles were both swift and equally matched, captivating everyone watching.

In contrast, the battle between Lu Ran and Kou Yingquan was a complete crush!

Where was the excitement in that, the back and forth like the clash between Gao and Ma?

In the end, Ma Tianchuan won by a narrow margin, claiming victory in the competition.

Thus, Lu Ran, Ma Tianchuan, and Wu Shanshan moved into the finals.

The finals would be a round-robin competition, where each of them would face off against the others.

Since Ma Tianchuan had just finished his battle and was receiving healing offstage, the first round naturally fell to Lu Ran and Wu Shanshan.

"Ranbao!" Chang Ying took long strides with her legs and, holding the cloth-wrapped Dawn Blade, reached Lu Ran in just two steps.

She whispered in a mysterious tone, "Do you want to use the Dawn Blade?"

"No need," Lu Ran shook his head.

"Wu Shanshan is quite strong," Deng Yutang spoke softly from the other side of Lu Ran.

Lu Ran nodded, "If there's a suitable opportunity, I'll summon it."

"Okay," Chang Ying's eyes lit up as she adjusted her grip on the Dawn Blade, "Then I won't hold on too tightly."

Lu Ran watched the wild girl with a smile, "Don't worry, you can't stop it.

Even if you hold it tightly, at most it'll take off with you, taking you up to the stage with it."

Chang Ying laughed, "That would be so cool~"

"Master, let's go!" Tian Tian approached Lu Ran, clenched her little fists tightly to cheer him on.

Tian Tian had once been Ma Tianchuan's teammate, but Wu Shanshan's arrival had directly pushed her aside.

"Yeah, I'll vent for you," Lu Ran patted Tian Tian's little head.

"No, no, that's not what I meant," Tian Tian shook her head repeatedly, "I'm just purely cheering for you."

People might not believe it if they were told,

But deep down, Tian Tian really didn't resent Wu Shanshan.

If it weren't for Wu Shanshan's short-sightedness, how could Tian Tian have joined this team, become Sister Ruyi's little sidekick, become Master Ran's little apprentice?

To have met such a group of comrades, facing this dangerous world together, Tian Tian felt extremely honored and infinitely grateful for heaven's gift...

Hold a grudge against Wu Shanshan?

No, quite the opposite!

Tian Tian even wanted to personally thank Wu Shanshan!

However, if Tian Tian actually did that, it would seem a little too heartrending...

"Lu Ran!" The voice of a teacher echoed from the podium.

"Here!" Lu Ran strode towards the podium.

At that moment, Wu Shanshan was standing on the east side of the podium, having been waiting for some time.

In her hand, she held an Ice Blue Wood Bow, which looked quite sophisticated.

"Attention!" The male teacher looked at the two, "This is the final match, and you three will have a round-robin competition.

The primary criterion for ranking is the number of wins.

If you all end up tied in terms of wins and losses, we will rank you based on your performance in the battles."

The teacher's gaze swept over Wu Shanshan and Lu Ran:

"In other words, you need to use all your skills to take down your opponent with the least cost and fastest speed.

If the wins are tied, these factors will be key to determining your rankings.

Do you both understand?"

Wu Shanshan gripped the Ice Blue Wood Bow tightly, "Understood."

Lu Ran held the Silent Night Blade, twirling it flamboyantly, "Got it."

The male teacher put the whistle in his mouth, fingers poised on his wristwatch, and mumbled, "Prepare yourselves!"

"Whoo!"

Instantly, dots of water droplets spread around Wu Shanshan.

Among them swam majestic blue dragons, creating a beautiful scene that was also quite imposing!

With the turmoil of air waves, Wu Shanshan's short hair fluttered vibrantly; she was the very picture of aliveness!

Even Lu Ran couldn't help but secretly nod in approval.

She truly deserved to be a disciple of the Second-Class God Ash.

Such a demeanor of a strong fighter was about to burst forth... well, she had already done so.

Just look at these countless little droplets everywhere~

"Whistle—" The male teacher blew the whistle.

The combat began!

Instantly, Wu Shanshan drew her bow and notched an arrow; a phantom shape suddenly emerged on the Ice Blue Wood Bow.

The Ashar Divine Skill, Sea Suppressing Bow!

This skill allowed the caster to summon a weapon out of thin air when unarmed.

If the caster possessed a weapon, it could enhance the existing weapon.

The effect of Ashar Divine Skill, Sea Suppressing Bow – automatic tracking – was simply breathtaking!

Of course, such an "Enchantment" had prerequisites.

The arrow you shot couldn't be ordinary; it had to be summoned by the Ashar Divine Skill.

"Swoosh~!"

Unreservedly, Wu Shanshan loosed an arrow!

The Divine Technique, Water Mist Arrow!

In the past, when Lu Ran and Wu Shanshan teamed up, he often saw this arrow.

Back then, the Water Mist Arrow was short and small, with very thin mist.

Now it...

had become thicker and longer.

The mist was no longer the body of the arrow but served as an adornment, swirling around the arrow body condensed from water flow.

"Crack!"

Lu Ran gripped the Silent Night Blade and directly shattered the Water Mist Arrow.

"Spurt~"

The Water Mist Arrow broke into mist, and Lu Ran stepped to the side.

This was no ordinary mist!

It could penetrate the body of its target, disrupting the enemy's Divine Power!

"What do you mean?" Lu Ran looked over at the imposing short-haired girl, "Courtesy before action?"

Or do you want to show me how much it has grown since I left?"

Wu Shanshan frowned, clearly catching the implication in Lu Ran's words.

Leaving the team, was always a hurdle in Wu Shanshan's heart that she couldn't get over.

Chapter 210: Dragon Slayer!_2

Lu Ran grew stronger and achieved better results, only making Wu Shanshan feel increasingly sour inside.

She did not think she was in the wrong.

No one would willingly become comrades-in-arms with an Immortal Sheep Believer!

No one!

Even if Lu Ran acted dominant, it was only because he was in the rookie protection phase.

Sooner or later, Lu Ran would mess up!

Yet at this moment, Lu Ran had become a strong figure in the River Realm, still as dominant as ever!

Could it be, she really was wrong?

The reality was right there:

Had she not scorned Lu Ran back then and stayed on the team like Jiang Ruyi and Deng Yutang...

Then the good results she wanted would have been within easy reach.

Deng Yutang, Chang Ying, Tian Tian...

These so-called ordinary folks scored the top group points every time under Lu Ran's lead.

If she was still in Lu Ran's team, would she perhaps have had more chances to be noticed and join the Divine People Bureau's additional examinations early?

Would her Believer points have been seventy or eighty points higher?

Seventy to eighty points!

What did that mean for a high school student aiming to enter university?

"Whoosh~!"

Although Wu Shanshan's mind was in turmoil, her actions remained quick.

She swiftly pulled the bow and strung the arrow. From the Ice Blue Wood Bow, a series of water arrows shot out.

Divine Technique·Continuous Sky Bead!

"That's more like it." Lu Ran slightly bent his legs, mist swirling around his feet, immediately darting forward to the right.

The linked arrows also featured automatic tracking, drawing a U-shaped arc in mid-air as they targeted Lu Ran.

For other Believers, the speed of the linked arrows was incredibly fast.

But for an Immortal Sheep Believer...

They just needed to follow and eat the dust!

Close combat was of course necessary against Asha Believers.

Even if Wu Shanshan activated the Divine Technique·Canglong Sea Domain, Lu Ran had to choose this method!

The arrows of Asha Believers would multiply as they were shot!

Unless you smashed the arrows yourself, those arrows formed of Divine Power would not dissipate in a short time.

In other words, Lu Ran had to make a quick decision!

Fighting a prolonged battle with an Asha Believer meant waiting to be pierced through the heart by thousands of arrows.

"I'm not wrong!"

Wu Shanshan glared hard at Lu Ran, her teeth tightly clenched, cursing in her heart.

She suddenly changed her stance holding the bow, turning the Ice Blue Wood Bow sideways, Divine Power swirling around her fingertips as she released the bowstring.

"Thud!"

The bowstring tensed, violently trembling.

"Sss..."

"Roar!!"

Eight slender water dragons in a row burst forth from her bow, creating a rather spectacular scene.

The crowd below couldn't help but stir, with exclamations erupting from the students.

"Wow!"

"She's indeed a Second-class God Believer, so imposing!"

"It's dragons! Wow, just makes you envious..."

On the battlefield, three slender Canglong dragons lunged toward Lu Ran while the other five circled Wu Shanshan, escorting and protecting her.

They truly behaved like living beings, claws and teeth bared, roaring fiercely toward Lu Ran.

Divine Technique·Canglong Thousand Shadows!

"Hmph." Wu Shanshan coldly snorted, retreating continuously while pulling the bow and stringing it again.

A series of arrows flew out.

Divine Technique·Continuous Sky Bead!

The number of arrows on the field was increasing, densely packed, each endowed with automatic tracking!

Wu Shanshan was also protected by Canglong dragons, intimidating those of lesser strength.

She left countless Evil Demons dead at her hands.

Lu Ran's fate was supposed to be the same as those Evil Demons.

Either penetrated through the skull or pierced through the heart by thousands of arrows.

Or perturbed by the mist inside his body, fighting with Divine Power, eventually becoming a mere ordinary person without any special abilities.

"Ha! Finally, someone is punishing Lu Ran!"

"How is this even a fight? The spiritual techniques of the Immortal Sheep faction are useless against Wu Shanshan."

"Wu Shanshan is still shooting? Not giving any chance at all?"

"Rosy Clouds, do you want to..." Chang Ying held a piece of fabric in her arms, her face full of worry.

However, Divine Weapon showed no response, as it hadn't received its master's call.

"Alas, the Immortal Sheep faction is still just a support class, no match for the Southern Sea Bow... Eh?"

"He... He just charged in?!"

"Dragon Slayer! Holy shit, the sheep kid is doing a Dragon Slayer!!"

Under the astonished gazes of the crowd, Lu Ran ran a "7" shape across the stage.

Relying on absolute speed, he skillfully evaded the attack of three Canglong dragons and a series of flying arrows before charging directly toward Wu Shanshan.

Wu Shanshan's body was guarded by Canglong dragons.

Seeing this, the foremost Canglong immediately attacked Lu Ran.

Lu Ran held the Silent Night Blade in both hands, placed sideways, as man and dragon moved toward each other!

Divine Technique-Immortal Hoof!

Evil Technique-Night Dance!

Lu Ran shifted his step, swiftly moving half a meter to the side.

"Chuff..."

Silent Night Blade swept across the dragon's head!

Not just that!

As Lu Ran swept past the side of the Canglong, the Silent Night Blade slashed from the dragon's head all the way to its tail!

"Splash~" The Canglong shattered explosively, turning into countless water droplets, splattering everywhere.

"Charge!" Wu Shanshan was startled, yet her arrows never stopped.

She commanded the Canglong to lunge forward while rapidly firing a series of arrows.

Canglong dragons were limited in number, but mist arrows were not!

"Roar!"

Yet another Canglong attacked, its long water tail fiercely sweeping.

Just inches above the dragon tail, linked arrows struck simultaneously.

"Baa!"

Lu Ran let out a battle cry, incorporating no Divine Techniques.

Nothing else, the atmosphere was such that he just felt like yelling!

Lu Ran suddenly crouched, diving forward.

Wu Shanshan's pupils contracted slightly!

All she saw was Lu Ran, parallel to the ground, thrusting forward as mist from his feet swirled up, propelling him like a rocket.

"Thud!"

The bowstring vibrated.

Wu Shanshan quickly aimed diagonally downward, shooting a mist arrow.

Why not use Divine Technique-Continuous Sky Bead?

Because only after the mist arrow burst would there be mist surrounding, capable of infiltrating the enemy's body, disturbing their spellcasting.

"Pop!"

Thrusting forward near the ground, Lu Ran fiercely supported himself with his palms, tilting his body.

River Grade Evil Technique·Evil Agility helped Lu Ran move exceptionally swiftly, controlling his body adeptly.

River Grade Evil Technique·Evil Sense helped Lu Ran collect all the battle information around him, making his senses sharp and clear.

"Spurt!"

The mist arrow struck the ground, breaking into mist.

Lu Ran had already changed his forward direction, assisted by Immortal Hoof, stabbing diagonally toward the right.

"Roar!!"

Two ferocious Canglong dragons roared, their fangs and claws lunging downward.

"Baa!!"

The sheep cry echoed once more, incorporating no Divine Techniques.

After all, Wu Shanshan activated Divine Technique·Canglong Sea Domain, able to cleanse all abnormal states.

But this time, a pair of sheep horns sprouted on Lu Ran's head!

Divine Technique·Immortal Horn!

"Thump," a muffled sound rang out.

Lu Ran, like a cannonball, charged forward with unparalleled momentum, using the pair of sheep horns to forcefully split two dragon heads apart!

"My goodness!"

"Solid! Lu Ran is so damn tough!"

"Holy cow... a sheep head splitting dragon heads, is this real?"

"Immortal Hoof is the real MVP here, combining it with Immortal Horn, such explosive impact!"

"Hehe, must be dizzying, huh~"

"Pop!"

Lu Ran supported himself with one hand again, immediately taking a start-up position.

Straight ahead was the retreating figure of Wu Shanshan, her face filled with fear.

"Zing—"

Lu Ran darted forward.

Wu Shanshan instantly pulled the bow to string the arrow, the Canglong dragons around her lunging directly at Lu Ran.

"You..." Wu Shanshan's face turned pale.

During his forward charge, Lu Ran was actually swaying left and right?

Wu Shanshan's left hand, gripping the bow, kept shifting angles while her right hand, squeezing the bowstring, didn't release it.

And in that moment, the blade pierced a water dragon's head!

Once again, Lu Ran held the blade at his side, quickly proceeding along the side of the Canglong.

In the process of slaying the dragon, those pitch-black eyes of Lu Ran calmly observed Wu Shanshan.

There was no malice, nor any ferocity.

Instead, was that disappointment?

Yes, it was disappointment.

Through Divine Technique-Canglong Sea Domain, Wu Shanshan noticed that Lu Ran shook his head.

Wu Shanshan:!!!

At that moment, Lu Ran no longer darted unpredictably.

But Wu Shanshan's fingers, squeezing the bowstring, still didn't let go.

She wouldn't hit.

Wu Shanshan's heart trembled.

In her mind, there was only the image of Lu Ran shaking his head in disappointment.

Such a simple action shouldn't possess such lethality.

Yet it was built upon the foundation of every arrow she shot, every dragon she summoned since the match began.

She wouldn't hit.

She really... wouldn't hit.

This was her last chance, her last arrow, he was about to... well.

"Spurt!"

The blade sliced through the dragon's head, cutting across its body, tearing through its tail.

In a blink, Lu Ran had reached Wu Shanshan, the girl still frozen in place, her fingers still tightly clenching the bowstring.

This last arrow, she could not, and dared not, release.

That Silent Night Blade was so incredibly sharp.

It sliced through Wu Shanshan's pride from head to tail.