

Old Gods 271

Chapter 271: Jerk God Skills?

Lu Ran and the others followed the main force, winding their way under the column and step by step entered the Demon Cave Gate.

Instantly, the sky darkened, and night fell.

"Don't stop, keep going down!" came the voice of the leading soldier below.

The students marveled, looking around.

Stars dotted the night sky, accompanied by clusters of floating clouds.

A bright moon hung high, casting a broad, cold glow over this world.

Looking downward, Lu Ran saw endless mountains and forests, adorned with bright mountain flowers.

The night wind swept over the hills, causing the flowers to sway gently, mysterious and beautiful.

Such scenery almost dazzled Lu Ran.

No wonder it's a romantic rendezvous spot!

Everywhere you looked, it was "under the moon with flowers."

"Whoo~"

The mountain breeze blew, making their clothes flutter and Jiang Ruyi's long hair billow.

Unable to resist, Lu Ran reached out his hand, running his fingers through her black hair, gently teasing it.

Jiang Ruyi noticed someone's mischief and turned her head to look.

Lu Ran responded with a classic expression—a pursed-lip smile.

Jiang Ruyi shot Lu Ran a mild glare and, taking advantage, took off the hair tie from her wrist and handed it to him.

Lu Ran: "..."

Jiang Ruyi: "You like playing, don't you?"

Lu Ran took the hair tie, feeling somewhat awkward.

Yes indeed, I just like to play; how would I know how to tie hair?

As everyone continued downward, by the time they stepped onto solid ground, Lu Ran had tied Jiang Ruyi's hair in a somewhat sloppy fashion.

These three thousand strands of black silk in Lu Ran's hands, indeed, were wasted.

"Master, let me do it." Tian Tian couldn't stand it and said timidly.

"Alright, alright." Lu Ran, feeling relieved, stepped back to appreciate the scenery.

This main city of the Demon Cave's Human Clan was built leaning against the mountains, mostly using wood as the building material.

The wooden small buildings constructed on the mountain slopes brought to mind the Miao's stilt houses.

Perhaps out of fear of fire, there were no torches in the village; instead, red lanterns hung in front of each exquisitely made small building.

The atmosphere was palpable!

Compared with other Demon Cave stone fortresses, this main city looked less like a defensive fort and more like a peaceful village.

"Is everyone here?" a soldier called out loudly, breaking the silence, "There are no torch-lit paths in Ghost Moon Mountain.

Your first concern should be not getting lost in the mountain.

We have opened many mountain paths, and there will be plenty of signs along the way..."

As the soldier continued giving instructions, other soldiers distributed lighting and communication devices to the students.

After a while, when the soldier finished his instructions, nearly 200 students immediately scattered.

"Which way should we go?" asked Chang Ying excitedly.

Lu Ran casually suggested, "Choose a less crowded direction?"

"Let's go!" Deng Yutang, holding the Heavenly Star Spear, charged ahead leading the way.

After leaving the village, the rugged mountain path provided a distinct experience.

Such lush forests inevitably made everyone a bit nervous.

Fortunately, with Lu Ran in the team, they dared to stride forward without fearing an ambush from the Ghost Moon Fox Clan.

"The moon is so bright here," whispered Tian Tian.

"Oooh~~~"

Under the moonlight, suddenly a fox's cry echoed.

Melodious, pleasant to the ears.

Everyone stopped in their tracks to listen intently.

Whether it was psychological or not, Lu Ran felt a sense of peace.

The Ghost Moon Fox Clan possesses an Evil Technique·Night Fox Cry, which can calm and soothe the mind.

Because of this technique, many people specifically come here to recuperate.

"Let's go see!" Deng Yutang quickened his pace even more.

It was clear that he was very excited to witness the beautiful Ghost Moon Fox.

"Rustle, rustle~"

Chang Ying clasped a divination cylinder tightly, shaking it quickly while muttering:

"Heavenly spirit, earthly spirit, divine talisman, please show your power..."

Lu Ran looked towards the girl and could tell from the sticks in the cylinder that she was casting the Spiritual Talisman Divine Technique·Eight Treasures.

In the cylinder were exactly three battered wooden sticks.

The other five sticks were valuable-looking golden sticks!

Yes, depending on the different divine techniques cast by the followers of the talisman, the material of the sticks in the cylinder also varied.

Chang Ying commonly used the Five Treasures, all of which were wooden sticks.

The Six Treasures consisted of five iron sticks and one battered wooden stick.

The Seven Treasures consisted of five silver sticks and two battered wooden sticks.

The Spiritual Talisman Divine Technique·Eight Treasures that Chang Ying had learned in the River Realm·First Rank now used golden sticks!

"Whoosh~"

Chang Ying's face fell, and she stood rooted to the spot.

A battered wooden stick flew out, buzzing annoyingly around Chang Ying like an irritating fly.

"It's okay," said Lu Ran nonchalantly, "Let's go."

"Oh." Chang Ying pouted and moved forward, carrying a large axe.

The erratically flying battered stick gradually calmed down and quietly followed behind Chang Ying.

Clearly, Chang Ying had begun to pray, offering the Power of Faith to the deities; otherwise, the battered stick would only become more bothersome.

"No pressure," Lu Ran said as he caught up to Chang Ying, gently patting her back, "In three minutes, we'll be alright again!"

Lu Ran had seen a battered stick flying around the corpse of a believer on the battlefield.

Since seeing that image, he had not had high expectations for the talisman sect's divine techniques.

"Mm-hmm," Chang Ying responded softly.

Lu Ran's gentle words comforted her greatly.

In fact, since joining this team, Chang Ying had felt nothing but warmth.

During their journey, she sometimes performed miraculously, sometimes disastrously, with extremely unstable results.

No matter how she performed, her teammates never shunned her.

The group walked silently for a long time until Deng Yutang's voice suddenly came from ahead:

"I see it, I see the fox!"

"Be careful, everyone." Tian Tian raised a small hand, and a beautiful lotus flower materialized in her palm.

Thanks to this delicate lotus, everyone could freely look at the Ghost Moon Fox.

Under the moonlight, on the hillside.

A completely white fox was quietly sitting.

Moonlight poured down, draping it in a layer of beautiful pearly whiteness.

It had a pair of ice-blue eyes, with pupils shaped like crescent moons, resembling the curved moon shadow in crystal-clear lake waters.

It also had no less than seven fox tails fanned out beside it, with the tips playfully flicking.

As if tantalizing people's hearts...

"It's so beautiful..." muttered Tian Tian softly.

Jiang Ruyi gazed up at the Ghost Moon Fox on the hill, her heart filled with continuous admiration.

It was much more beautiful than any pictures in textbooks.

Is this really an Evil Demon?

Compared to the fierce and irritable Evil Dogs and Soul-splitting Demons, the Ghost Moon Fox before them seemed unbelievably elegant!

Its fur was long and soft, looking fluffy and probably very comfortable to hold.

Jiang Ruyi didn't know that her wish could actually be fulfilled.

Because Lu Ran really could summon a Ghost Moon Fox and give it to her as a pillow.

"Goodness gracious~" Lu Ran grinned.

What the heck is this?

First the Jade-faced Snake, now the Ghost Moon Fox.

Can't you demons act a bit more like proper demons?

How... how am I supposed to lay a hand on this?

"Oooh~~~"

The fox's cry rose softly.

The Ghost Moon Fox raised its beautiful head, looking at the moon as it sang.

Evil Technique·Night Fox Cry!

Listeners, calm and soothe your minds.

It seemed like the Ghost Moon Fox had no desire to kill the few humans below on the hillside.

The answer is... false!

This pleasant fox's cry was just to stabilize the prey, and also to settle the fighters, preparing them for battle.

It's not that a calm-minded human can't fight.

But compared to tightly wound human warriors, the Ghost Moon Fox would prefer a peaceful spellcasting target.

When it finished crying and looked down again, its crescent-shaped pupils were covered with a beautiful radiance.

The Ghost Moon Fox's eyes blossomed with pearly light, as beautiful as moonlight.

"Whoo~"

Tian Tian immediately raised the lotus flower, and the night wind swept through the woods, spreading the flower's strange fragrance to everyone's nose.

"Hmm?"

The Ghost Moon Fox let out a soft hum, tilting its head slightly, its eyes glowing even more intensely!

From beautiful moonlight to blinding white light.

Hmm... it finally looks a bit like a bewitching fox.

This creature may be beautiful, but if it starts to consume humans, it does so alive!

The Ghost Moon Fox Clan has a hidden trait; they never kill humans first before slowly savoring them.

During the feeding process, this clan will try to extend the human's life as long as possible to maximize the harvest of various negative emotions.

Pain, panic, fear, despair...

The Ghost Moon Fox Clan loves all of these.

"Is this fox from the Stream Realm?" Deng Yutang suddenly spoke, waking everyone from their quiet admiration.

As a follower of the Red Cloth Sect, whether or not he was protected by the lotus flower, Deng Yutang wouldn't be half affected.

Followers of the Red Cloth Sect are inherently resolute.

And in the River Realm·First Rank, the sect's adaptative divine technique is called Red Cloth Will!

It's a rare Spirit Defense Technique, enough to allow Deng Yutang to rest easy.

Among the many gods and divine techniques of Da Xia, spirit defense techniques are truly scarce!

Like the Drummer Sect, followers of the Red Cloth Sect are also unaffected by delusions.

"It's from the Stream Realm," nodded Lu Ran. "About one meter in body length, with a tail of seventy to eighty centimeters, early-stage Stream Realm, I guess."

As soon as he finished speaking, the white fox on the hill leaped gracefully and turned its head to flee.

Clearly, this clan is quite intelligent, choosing to escape once it realized its illusion was ineffective.

"Hisss—"

Lu Ran's feet swirled with mist, shooting straight up the hill.

Deng Yutang followed quickly, but in terms of speed, he was no match for Lu Ran.

When he climbed the hill, he saw Lu Ran from afar, with eyes closed, already in front of the Ghost Moon Fox.

"Everyone," Lu Ran called out loudly, "I want to try."

Deng Yutang paused: "Try?"

Lu Ran: "Yes, I want to try the illusion of the Ghost Moon Clan, experience it firsthand."

For a moment, the trio of Deng, Tian, and Chang looked at Jiang Ruyi.

If Lu Ran volunteered, it indeed would be easy for him to become infatuated with this beautiful white fox.

A mere early-stage Stream Realm Ghost Moon Fox couldn't delude Lu Ran into slaughtering his fellow humans.

But the Ghost Moon Fox might make Lu Ran reluctant to kill it.

Lu Ran was eager to try, continuing, "You guys cover me, let me feel it?"

"Whoo~"

Divine Weapon unsheathed!

The Ghost Moon Fox pretended to flee toward the woods on the left but was blocked by the Dawn Blade.

"Hmm~"

The Ghost Moon Fox let out a soft hum, its eyes mournful, reluctantly looking at Lu Ran.

Man, Lu Ran was charmed!

Was this coquettish voice a bit too much?

Without any need for illusions, Lu Ran felt he had already developed feelings of pity.

If he summoned this clan in the future, wouldn't it wreak havoc among humans?

And coupled with the Ghost Moon Fox Clan's Pupil Skill...

If he made eye contact with anyone, would they immediately fall in love?

Tsk~

What a cad's ultimate skill!

Chapter 272: Moon Chasing Eyes

Jiang Ruyi pondered for a moment before opening her mouth and saying, "Then let's give it a try."

"Sister Ruyi?" Tian Tian was somewhat surprised, looking at Jiang Ruyi.

"It's fine." Jiang Ruyi gently shook her head, naturally understanding Lu Ran's intention.

Only by deeply understanding the Evil Demon Clan can one better combat them.

Tian Tian didn't dare to question Jiang Ruyi's decision too much and could only clench her small fists tightly, filled with worry.

She wasn't worried that Lu Ran would be in any danger. After all, a mere Early-stage Stream Realm White Fox was not enough to get stuck in their teeth.

The problem was, what if Master falls for someone else?

No way...

Is Sister Ruyi so confident?

Is she so sure that in the Ghost Moon Fox's Pupil Skill world, Master won't see someone else?

Tian Tian couldn't help but put her hands together in front of her chin and silently prayed.

At the same time, Lu Ran also opened his eyes, what he saw was a beautifully poised white fox.

Those icy blue fox eyes, like a clear lake, the crescent-shaped pupils, even more so entranced Lu Ran.

second, 2 seconds...

The Ghost Moon Fox didn't cast any spell; beneath its beautiful shell, it possessed a rather remarkable intelligence.

It appeared motionless, but in reality, it was seeking a breakthrough, looking for a path to escape.

"Well, now it is actually looking at me!" Lu Ran was also very convinced; he wanted to be ensnared, but the opponent didn't cast a spell after all.

The intelligence of the Evil Demon Clan is really no good thing.

After the brief encounter just now, it was obvious that the Ghost Moon Fox understood that illusions had no effect on them, hence, there was no point in exerting fruitless efforts.

"Me~" Lu Ran suddenly spoke up, emitting a weak bleating sound.

"Hmm?" The Ghost Moon Fox's demeanor changed slightly, and it instantly turned its head to look at Lu Ran.

"Baa~~~" Lu Ran's eyes were fixed on the Ghost Moon Fox, giving it ample opportunity to cast a spell.

"Woo~~~" The howl of the fox suddenly arose!

The Ghost Moon Fox raised its snowy white head to the moon and sang.

Including the white fox, all the creatures around them settled and calmed their minds.

"Eh, what the heck?" Lu Ran scratched his head, astonished.

My taunting skill actually failed?

After fighting battles to the south and north for so long, this seemed to be the first time his spell had failed!

Whether it was the Night Charm or Tangled Silk Shadow, each of these astute Human-shaped Demons couldn't escape Lu Ran's clutches.

After all, the base nature of the Evil Demon Clan lay before them; their yearning for human blood and tender flesh was unimaginable to ordinary people.

Yet, this white fox before him had truly taught Lu Ran a lesson!

The Ghost Moon Fox not only possessed a high intelligence but also corresponding Evil Techniques to guard its true heart.

Another point Lu Ran discerned:

The Ghost Moon Fox Clan was indeed ferocious but not rash; their temperament might be comparatively calm.

It was hard for Lu Ran to imagine that one day he would use the word "calm" to describe an Evil Demon.

This...

This is just too suitable to be summoned as a pet or a pillow at home, isn't it?

"Tian Tian, get the Lotus Treasure ready, I am going to exert my power!" Lu Ran called out loudly.

Since the demons had no resistance, every time Lu Ran made a call, they would be caught in it;

Also, because he was always accompanied by humans when casting spells, he had grown accustomed to lowering the Grade of Divine Methods over time.

But facing the Ghost Moon Fox, Lu Ran had to go all out.

"Yes!" Tian Tian held the Lotus Treasure in her hands, striving to stimulate the flower.

Lu Ran exercised Divine Power, pulling the Divine Method Grade to its highest:

"Baa~"

His call was incredibly feeble, and his voice conveyed a hint of sorrow, a hint of panic.

In that moment, Lu Ran was the most vulnerable youngling, tempting the predator to trample and ravage him.

River Grade Divine Technique·Desolate Sound!

"Mew!!"

The mere Early-stage Stream Realm Ghost Moon Fox, facing the River Realm warrior's River Grade Divine Technique, was completely ensnared!

The Ghost Moon Fox suddenly sprang forward, its seven long tails stretching incredibly long behind it.

Over the fox tails was a layer of glowing white shine, just like enchanting moonlight!

Ghost Moon Evil Technique·Flowing Light Moon Tail!

Lu Ran: "..."

Damn!

Did I overdo it?

All I wanted was for you to hit me with an Illusion Technique, is that so difficult?

Lu Ran lifted his right hand and unsheathed his sword in a fluid motion to block!

"Ding!"

A crisp sound, stinging everyone's eardrums.

One of the fox tails of the Ghost Moon Fox collided heavily with the Silent Night Blade.

The fluffy fox tail, which should have been soft, had gained immense hardness and destructive power due to the glowing sheen.

"Ding~ Ding~ Ding!"

A series of crisp sounds followed.

On the Bright Moon Mountain, figures and sword marks.

Amid the moonlight woven by the seven fox tails, Lu Ran moved with leisurely steps and effortless skill.

Jiang Ruyi watched this scene lightly, her eyes slightly misty.

All present knew well the level of Lu Ran's martial skill.

This Ghost Moon Fox being a Stream Realm demon, naturally couldn't pose any trouble for Lu Ran.

However...

This scene was just too beautiful.

The fox was beautiful, the sword was beautiful.

And the person, even more so!

To the eyes of several warriors, Lu Ran did not seem to be fighting a demon, but more like he was dancing under the moon.

Both Jiang Ruyi and Tian Tian had attended Lu Ran's masterclasses, where he hoped they would have the ability to protect themselves when demons got close.

Now, Lu Ran brought the lesson into real combat, once again demonstrating what a "seller's show" was all about.

"Hmm." Chang Ying, holding her cheek with one hand, watched Lu Ran with eyes filled with admiration.

"Nice." Deng Yutang looked satisfied, appreciating the valiance of Lu Ran.

Far better than watching videos on the computer.

"Pop! Pop!"

The seven long fox tails whipped at Lu Ran, leaving behind beautiful trails of moonlight in mid-air.

Frustrated by its inability to defeat him, the Ghost Moon Fox grew increasingly irate.

It suddenly leaped nimbly, its four paws scraping the ground, skidding to a lateral move.

Those beautiful fox eyes emitted a glowing white moonlight, aimed at Lu Ran.

Here it comes!

Lu Ran braced himself without dodging, gazing straight into those moonlight fox eyes.

Ghost Moon Evil Technique·Chasing Moon Eyes!

second, 2 seconds, 3 seconds...

Although Lu Ran had no Spirit Defense Techniques, as a River Realm Believer, his spiritual strength was evident.

It took a good 5 or 6 seconds before Lu Ran completely entered the Illusion Realm.

"Ding Ding Ding~"

The school bell suddenly rang.

Lu Ran looked around in confusion, finding himself in a classroom.

The students in the class were chattering, creating a noisy atmosphere.

Suddenly a pleasant female voice reached his ear: "Hello, my name is Jiang Ruyi."

"Huh?" Lu Ran turned his head and saw a fifteen or sixteen-year-old girl.

She didn't have her long hair over her shoulders or flowing sleeves.

She was wearing a plain blue and white school uniform, her hair tied in a refreshing ponytail, with an unripe look on her face.

"Jiang, Like, Remember."

The girl picked up a pen, muttering as she wrote her name in a notebook.

Lu Ran's mouth was slightly agape, his mind dazed.

"You?" Jiang Ruyi extended her fair little hand and passed the pen over.

"I... my name is Lu Ran." Lu Ran spoke with some difficulty.

As if under a spell, just like several years ago, he took the pen handed to him by the young girl and wrote down his own name.

"Lu Ran." The girl chewed on the name and suddenly smiled with a chuckle, "Looks like you have quite the temper, huh?"

Lu Ran: "I..."

This seems to be the first day of school?

...

The sun set in the west, in a desolate area.

Lu Ran, carrying a backpack, stepped towards the Wu Lie River residential area when suddenly he heard a voice behind him:

"Lu Ran?"

"Hmm?" Lu Ran turned around.

He saw Jiang Ruyi walking over, curious: "Do you live around here too?"

"I..." Lu Ran glanced at the abandoned residential complex nearby.

"Why aren't you speaking?" Jiang Ruyi, backpack on, came up beside Lu Ran, laughing behind her hand, "You seem spacey."

"Hehe." Lu Ran scratched his head but didn't reveal his actual destination.

The setting sun stretched their shadows long and far.

...

"Next year, on this day, it will be our turn to Worship God. Have you decided which deity you'll worship?"

On the weathered rooftop, Jiang Ruyi stood in front of the railing, gazing at the waters of the distant Wu Lie River.

"Lord Jade Talisman, for sure." Lu Ran wielded a wooden sword, dripping with sweat, "And you?"

Jiang Ruyi pursed her lips, seeming hesitant to reveal her choice.

"Yo, feeling shy?" Lu Ran stopped his training and came to the railing side, looking at the girl's profile.

His teasing words lost the timidity of their first meeting.

"Lord Jian Yi." Unable to resist Lu Ran's prompting, Jiang Ruyi spoke softly.

Lu Ran's face contorted strangely: "Jiang Beauty is so gentle, will Lord Jian Yi want you?"

Jiang Ruyi pouted, turning to look at Lu Ran.

She opened her icy blue eyes, the crescent-like pupils stunningly beautiful.

However, Lu Ran seemed oblivious to anything amiss, only begging for mercy:

"Wrong, wrong, you're so pretty, Lord Jian Yi will definitely be crying and screaming to have you!"

"Don't talk nonsense." The young girl's face turned red, she turned and walked towards the staircase.

"Eh? You're going home?"

"Hmph."

...

"Lu Ran?"

"Hmm?" Inside the old family house, Lu Ran approached the window and saw a tall, graceful figure standing under a tree.

The girl had shed her school uniform for a beautiful white long dress, and her ponytail had turned into shoulder-length hair.

A breeze blew by, fluttering her flowing hair and skirt.

"Wow~~~"

Lu Ran exclaimed, looking at the gentle and lovely girl: "Oh no."

"What's wrong?" Jiang Ruyi, with her icy blue crescent-moon pupils, looked puzzled.

Lu Ran: "How can anyone tell the difference between you and Chang'e?"

Jiang Ruyi's cheeks grew even redder, she couldn't help but give Lu Ran an annoyed look: "Flatterer."

...

Autumn wind soughed, withering leaves yellowing.

Outside the Rain Lane Community, the young girl placed a dark red knitted scarf around his neck.

...

Winter snow blanketed the world.

In the small schoolyard's swings, a lonely figure quietly watched the empty space beside the swing.

...

Spring breeze was gentle, under a clear blue sky.

A girl in a white dress gently descended, her icy blue eyes filled with a trace of longing, smiling at the person on the stage who was lost in thought.

"Slash!"

The sound of a blade piercing flesh suddenly came.

The Illusion Realm shattered suddenly.

The blue sky turned into stars, the playground into mountain ridges.

The only constant was those icy blue eyes, those beautiful crescent pupils.

"Woo~" the Ghost Moon Fox whimpered, lying on the side.

It had been pierced through the neck by the Cold Night Sword, the blade tip embedded in the ground.

One human, one fox, still gazing at each other.

Lu Ran stared blankly at those fox eyes, seeing the love and longing in them, watching the light within slowly fade.

"Heh..."

Lu Ran's sigh was tinged with a tremble.

In a short time, the surging emotions in his heart were obviously tethered to those beautiful eyes, unable to be severed.

Lu Ran bowed his head, one hand covering his eyes.

Playing dirty, little fox.

What about the promised techniques of the flirtatious beauty, the scintillating charmer?

You directly show me the pure love from the past instead of the alluring enchantress?

What kind of sorcery is this...

Chapter 273: Moonlit Wooden Building

A week later, in the village.

Perched in a stilt house, Lu Ran stood on the second floor's corridor, hands on the wooden railing, gazing up at the night sky's full moon.

Unlike other demon caves, within Ghost Moon Mountain, the inns were not stone lodges, but beautifully crafted small wooden buildings.

Lu Ran's eyes were a bit hazy, as if he were lost in his own world.

For a full seven days, he hadn't yet emerged from that special emotion.

The icy blue eyes of the Ghost Moon Fox, especially those crescent-shaped pupils...

The aftereffects were too strong.

In a sense, the Evil Technique·Moon Chasing Eyes could be considered a dreamscape jointly woven by the caster and the victim.

The caster provided the foundation of the Illusion Realm, an initiator.

As for how the illusionary world unfolded, that depended more on the inner world of the person ensnared, stemming from their desires.

All the figures you could want, the fair maiden, the charming scholar, the beauty, and the lustful poet...

The white fox had them all.

Of course, it didn't have to be just one.

With a myriad of enchantments, you could take as much as you wished, pouring all into your bosom.

Lu Ran never expected that in the world of pupil skills, the Ghost Moon Fox would take the form of Jiang Ruyi.

Now thinking about it, he didn't even know when her eyes had turned into those beautiful, bizarre fox eyes.

Such subtle penetration, surreptitiously swapping day for night.

"Ah..." Lu Ran sighed deeply, a bitter smile crossing his face.

Since being ensnared by Moon Chasing Eyes once, he had realized a problem.

Whenever he ventured into the mountains now, every white fox he saw, every pair of crescent eyes...

They all seemed like her eyes.

"Crazy." Lu Ran covered his eyes with one hand, rubbing them harshly.

"Brother Lu?"

"Hmm?" Lu Ran turned his head and saw Deng Yutang stepping out of the hall and onto the corridor.

Deng Yutang came to the wooden railing and looked up toward a window on the third floor, "Jiang should be close to successfully advancing, right?"

Thick white fog swirled at the window, and the energy fluctuations were intense.

Clearly, Jiang Ruyi was at a critical moment of advancement.

Over the past seven days, everyone had gathered enough demon crystals, and Jiang Ruyi was thoroughly prepared; today was the day to see the fruits of her efforts.

"It should be soon," Lu Ran said offhandedly.

Deng Yutang withdrew his gaze, smiling at Lu Ran, "Still troubled?"

Lu Ran looked up at the bright moon, his tone tinged with a hint of melancholy,

"The Red Scarf Young Master's perseverance is so strong, how could he understand the love charm laid by the white fox."

Deng Yutang: "..."

He didn't know how to comfort Lu Ran or help him out of this quagmire.

After a while, Deng Yutang suddenly spoke, "Maybe I should try it too?"

Red Cloth Divine Skill·Red Cloth Will needed to be initiated voluntarily by the Believer, in other words, Deng Yutang could also be ensnared.

Lu Ran's face showed difficulty; as someone who had experienced it, he really wanted to dissuade the other.

But Deng Yutang was a Warrior, and if he wanted to know his enemy, Lu Ran couldn't well stop him.

After some thought, Lu Ran finally said, "Be cautious. You have Spirit Defense Techniques, so you're not easily ensnared. Some hardships are unnecessary to endure."

Spirit Defense Techniques generally had one characteristic—over-rank defense!

For instance, Deng Yutang, a River Realm Believer with River Grade Divine Technique, even if a Ghost Moon Fox of the River Realm appeared and used Pupil Skill on him, it would be difficult for Deng Yutang to be ensnared.

Only if a Ghost Moon Fox from the Sea Realm took action personally would Deng Yu be fed a dose of emotional poison.

"I just want to feel what it is that has you so dejected," Deng Yutang said, raising his head suddenly.

A room on the third floor experienced turbulent wind, with sounds of moving furniture coming continuously.

Had Jiang Ruyi advanced?

Lu Ran's mood finally lifted a bit; he quietly looked up.

After a while, she hadn't shown herself at the window.

Hmm... perhaps she was practicing a new Divine Skill.

Jade Talisman Believers at River Realm-Third Rank had a technique named "Golden Jade Eight Talismans."

This was a bona fide defensive skill that, once deployed, would surround the body with eight pieces of White Jade Stone.

And each piece of White Jade Stone would be wrapped in a faint golden light.

Golden Jade Talisman had quite impressive defensive power.

Each time it received a blow, it would emit a unique sound, akin to striking a bell or a cymbal.

Thus, this technique was also known by the beautiful name "Gold and Jade Striking."

It's worth mentioning that River Grade-Golden Jade Eight Talismans had no need for the master's mental command, but defended autonomously.

Only when this skill advanced to Jiang Grade could the caster terminate trusteeship and control the Golden Jade Talismans on their own.

And by then, the palm-sized Golden Jade Talismans could be adjusted to larger sizes according to the master's will!

They not only offered broader defensive coverage but could also be used to destroy buildings or crush enemies.

Jade Talisman Believers were rightfully called the "late-game champions" by people.

The further they practiced, the Divine Technique effects and strength improvements were astonishing.

"What's there to feel." Lu Ran had waited a long time without seeing Jiang Ruyi appear, so he spoke again, "You know the uniqueness of Moon Chasing Eyes.

The dreamscapes that the white fox plants in people's minds are all personally tailored.

You won't see what I did."

"Hmm," Deng Yutang sighed deeply, leaning against the railing, "You never told us what you went through."

Lu Ran remained silent, as usual, without responding.

He could feel Deng Yutang's concern.

Deng Yutang's actions over the past few days...including his presence now, and his express desire to try that pupil skill...

Such a good brother!

Lu Ran raised his head, murmuring, "What I went through..."

Deng Yutang immediately perked up, not expecting Lu Ran to relent.

Everyone was concerned about Lu Ran, and they had all asked him about it, but even Jiang Ruyi hadn't gotten an answer.

Lu Ran: "Her."

Deng Yutang: "What?"

Lu Ran slightly tilted his head, pointing towards a window on the third floor: "Her."

Deng Yutang looked up and saw Jiang Ruyi's figure appearing at the window, smiling down at the two on the corridor below.

Deng Yutang's expression turned odd.

So, you went through... her?

This answer was truly unexpected, and once Deng Yutang recovered, he couldn't help but smile.

In a blink, the figure at the window had vanished.

Deng Yutang put some force into his back, straightening up with the rebound and walked back towards the hall, "I'm going to sleep."

Lu Ran watched Deng Yutang's retreating figure, speaking softly, "Thank you."

Deng Yutang turned around, and though he said nothing, his expression said it all: Is it worth saying that?

Lu Ran indeed appreciated Deng Yutang's concern, but mushy words were not his style.

He shrugged his shoulders: "Thanks for letting the space."

Deng Yutang: "..."

The next second, Deng Yutang turned and left.

Just then, Jiang Ruyi came facing him: "Why are you leaving?"

Deng Yutang passed by Jiang the Beauty without turning back: "Tired."

"Hehe~" Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but chuckle lightly.

She stepped onto the outer corridor of the second floor, looking at Lu Ran: "Did you make him tired?"

"Mr. Deng knows his own mind, he's tired by himself," Lu Ran reached out and pulled the young girl into his arms.

"Whoa." Jiang Ruyi stiffened, not expecting Lu Ran to make such a move.

Perhaps it was the quiet of the moonlit night, or perhaps because they were alone.

In any case, Jiang Ruyi hesitated for a moment, but then leaned into his embrace, without leaving.

"Congratulations on advancing," Lu Ran murmured, cradling the tender beauty and smoothing her long hair.

"It used a lot of demon crystals," Jiang Ruyi's voice was soft and low.

"Just kill more," Lu Ran said nonchalantly, "There are white foxes everywhere here."

Jiang Ruyi slightly lifted her eyelids, her beautiful eyes carrying a teasing glint: "Could you bear it?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Indeed.

On a rational level, Lu Ran clearly knew the Ghost Moon Fox Clan were evil demons, cruel spirits that devoured humans alive.

But emotionally, every strike Lu Ran delivered was tinged with an inexplicable sentiment.

This was what they called "aftereffects."

"Thump~"

Suddenly, a unique, low sound echoed.

Though it wasn't loud, it rang right by Lu Ran's ears, startling him!

Lu Ran then realized that several palm-sized White Jade Stone pieces had formed a "Rune Stone Ring," slowly revolving around them.

Divine Technique·Golden Jade Eight Talismans!

"You've learned it already?" Lu Ran examined the Golden Jade Talismans.

"I already mastered the method, practiced it countless times, just waiting to advance," Jiang Ruyi picked up a Golden Jade Talisman, gesturing to the side.

The Golden Jade Talisman Stone returned to the Rune Stone Ring, continuing to follow the main troop, slowly floating around its master.

Jiang Ruyi smiled, "If we face the Ghost Moon Fox Clan again and you have a soft heart or hesitate, I'll ring the bell for you."

"Sure," Lu Ran also smiled, "Oh, there's something I need to tell you."

"What?"

Lu Ran: "When you came back, you rushed to advance and missed the notification."

The Inn's front desk informed me that the military has chosen a suitable mission for us, which could upgrade our training mission."

Jiang Ruyi: "What mission?"

Lu Ran explained, "The military wants us to clear a mountain."

Apparently, there's a tribe of Ghost Moon Foxes in the mountain, including quite a few high-ranking ones from the River Realm."

Jiang Ruyi frowned slightly, "Are you sure there are no foxes from the Jiang Realm?"

Lu Ran reassured, "No worries, the military has been encircling and blocking this clan for a long time, and they have a thorough grasp of the enemy situation."

Moreover, there will be military personnel acting with us."

Jiang Ruyi felt somewhat relieved but added, "Ghost Moon Foxes above River Realm Third Rank possess the Invisibility Technique."

Lu Ran chuckled: "Isn't that why they need me?"

The military values my ability, knowing how keen my ears are, and that's why they're giving us this opportunity, letting us join the operation."

As he spoke, Lu Ran's hand gently smoothed the girl's long hair.

Feeling Lu Ran's tender movement, Jiang Ruyi softly "mhmmed."

Lu Ran: "Let's go for it, a good twenty minutes, we'll see our teammates off."

"Mhm, okay," Jiang Ruyi nestled against his shoulder, slowly closing her eyes.

...

Chapter 274: Karmic Affliction

In the midst of Ghost Moon Mountain, there was no day or night cycle.

At eight o'clock in the morning, the group of five, decked with stars and moon, rushed off to the southeastern area of the village.

Before a wooden building adorned with large red lanterns, Lu Ran and the others met a small squad of soldiers.

The leader was a middle-aged female soldier with a stern face, a harsh gaze, and a capable demeanor.

She was exactly the type that Lu Ran feared!

Every time he encountered such middle-aged women, Lu Ran was always reminded of his headteacher...

"It's an honor." The female soldier held out her hand, introducing herself, "Fang Lin, River Realm Second Rank, North Wind Believer."

"Miss Fang, hello." Lu Ran was secretly surprised; he had encountered a great power.

Logically speaking, Fang Lin should have exceptional talent, since she was taken under the wing of Second-class God Lord Beifeng.

But looking at her age, she must be around forty, right?

She was about 20 years older than Big Nightmare but was only a small rank above Big Nightmare?

Sigh...

The path of cultivation really is difficult.

The further one progresses, the more one treads on thin ice.

Even if your talent and qualifications are evident, any other influencing factor can firmly hold you back from leveling up.

Insufficient luck, missed opportunities, a lack of sincerity, an unstable state of mind, and many more.

All the words and phrases converge into one—difficult!

"I'm the person in charge of this encirclement and suppression of the Ghost Moon Fox Clan. I'll explain the situation to you now."

Fang Lin looked at the group of students and continued, "The clan consists of thirty-three Ghost Moon Foxes.

Among them, eight are from the Stream Realm, mostly Stream Realm Fifth Rank.

There are twenty-five Ghost Moon Foxes in the River Realm, with eighteen of them being River Realm Third Rank or above."

Chang Ying couldn't help but mutter softly, "That's quite a large clan."

Fang Lin nodded, "The Ghost Moon Fox Clan is intelligent and extremely cunning.

Moreover, the clan possesses a skill: 'Bright Moon Fox Heart'."

Deng Yutang nodded in agreement, "It can predict danger."

The most excited person to come to Ghost Moon Mountain was Caster Believer Bai Manni.

This was because the Caster sect and the Ghost Moon Clan were sworn enemies!

For some reason, the techniques of the two factions have many similarities.

Like Caster Divine Technique·Heart Sense Spell and Ghost Moon Evil Technique·Bright Moon Fox Heart.

Both of these techniques allow the caster to sense impending danger in advance.

The God Caster despises the Ghost Moon Fox Clan!

If Bai Manni kills enough enemies during this trial, upon her return, she could receive a reward from her God.

Fang Lin said solemnly, "Especially their leader, who is a River Realm Fifth Rank Ghost Moon Fox, significantly larger than its clan members, seemingly on the verge of advancing to the Jiang Realm.

Under its leadership, this clan has continuously roamed within our territory, growing and expanding.

Fortunately, we discovered them in time and contained the clan's development.

Otherwise, the consequences would be unimaginable."

"Jiang Realm?" Tian Tian said with her mouth slightly agape.

Fang Lin nodded, "After several days of pursuit, the clan is now surrounded by our forces in a forest.

This mission is to exterminate the entire clan without leaving a single survivor."

"No problem!" Lu Ran said, full of confidence.

Fang Lin was quite satisfied and took the opportunity to ask, "None of you have been affected by the Ghost Moon Fox's Pupil Skill, right?"

For a moment, the four teammates all looked at Lu Ran.

Fang Lin was also a bit puzzled, looking at Da Xia's prodigy, "Are you affected?"

Lu Ran felt a bit embarrassed, "It happened seven days ago."

Jiang Ruyi timely explained, "Lu Ran fell into it deliberately."

Fang Lin: "..."

Lu Ran smiled, "Knowing is half the battle."

Behind the female leader, the three soldiers looked at each other in dismay.

This young man!

Truly brave?!

The soldiers guarding Ghost Moon Mountain had been churning through the ranks, all bewitched by the Ghost Moon Fox.

Others couldn't avoid it fast enough, yet here you are.

Walking into the trap?

Or, under the guise of "knowing the enemy," are you here looking for true love?

After hesitating for a moment, Fang Lin still asked, "Are you still up to the task?"

If the opposite party were not a Jiang Realm Great Power, Lu Ran really wanted to roll his eyes.

Where am I not okay?

I'm super okay...

"No worries, Captain Fang," spoke Jiang Ruyi, "During these days, Lu Ran has slain many Ghost Moon Foxes decisively."

"Rest assured, Captain Fang!" Lu Ran said with seriousness and earnestness.

The pride of Da Xia, his credibility naturally had a guarantee.

"Mm." Fang Lin nodded and didn't think too much of it.

Perhaps Lu Ran was steadfast in mind or perhaps cold and ruthless.

It doesn't matter either way.

As long as Lu Ran could slay the demons.

Fang Lin continued to remind, "Among these thirty-three Ghost Moon Foxes, most of them can turn invisible."

Lu Ran replied directly, "Invisibility won't work in front of me.

The foxes won't remain still; as soon as they cast a spell, there's movement."

"Good!" Fang Lin's eyes brightened, her tone a little more spirited, seemingly appreciating Lu Ran's confidence.

Such is the bearing of Heavenly Pride!

Lu Ran grinned.

There, I've even oversold myself!

What does it matter if the Ghost Moon Foxes don't move?

Their scent, that fox charm, can't escape my dog's nose, ahem, my nose?

Besides, if I just call out, won't they reveal themselves?

"Let's not delay, we leave now," Fang Lin turned to look behind her.

A male soldier immediately stepped forward; with a flip of his hand, a black Other Shore Flower quietly bloomed.

Deng Tian Chang, the three of them, had their eyes light up; this was their first time experiencing the Teleportation Skill.

Lu Jiang, the pair, were quite used to it, having teleported frequently during their Yan Zhi Village trials.

"Whoosh~"

The illusion of the flower expanded and then retracted.

In the blink of an eye, from the peaceful village, they arrived at the edge of a forest.

Lu Ran quickly surveyed the surroundings and saw many soldiers around.

"How's the situation?" Fang Lin asked in a low voice.

A male soldier glanced over Lu Ran's face, suppressing the excitement in his heart, and reported in a low voice,

"This forest is surrounded by mountains on three sides; there's only this exit, so the fox clan can't escape."

Fang Lin looked toward Lu Ran and the others, "Our squad will follow you into the forest."

The completion of this mission determines your score; you can proceed with the task now."

"Let's go." Lu Ran took the lead, charging into the forest first.

"Quite decisive," Fang Lin showed a trace of admiration on her face and followed with her team.

"Tian Tian, Treasure Lotus Flower," commanded Lu Ran.

"Yes!" Tian Tian immediately employed the Divine Technique, cradling a delicate lotus flower in her palms.

"Chang Ying, Eight Treasures!" Lu Ran continued.

"Rattle rattle~"

Chang Ying took out the divination cylinder, shaking it incessantly while chanting,

"Heaven's spirit, Earth's spirit, when treasured Lu Ran commands me, you must deliver... Output sign, come out!"

Five golden signs and three shoddy signs rattled within the cylinder.

Then, with a "swoosh," a golden sign flew out.

Chang Ying's face immediately brightened with joy.

It wasn't the output sign she wanted.

But it was the extremely rare Summoning Sign!

"Whoosh~"

A massive golden figure landed heavily on the ground.

His body was enormously tall, standing at three meters, exuding a massive sense of oppression.

Draped in a golden helmet and golden armor, holding a golden spear, his entire being shimmered in dazzling radiance!

Eight Treasures·Summoning Sign·Golden Armored Guard!

"Oh my goodness..." Chang Ying clutched her heart, so excited she was nearly in tears.

It might be unbelievable if she said it out loud.

This was the first time since advancing to River Realm First Rank and learning the Eight Treasures that she had drawn a Summoning Sign!

Indeed!

Where there's a child crying every day, is there a gambler losing every day?

With plans gone awry!

Today, I, Chang, will not exceed ghosts.

!! Shall! Exceed! Gods!

Her teammates turned their heads, infected by Chang Ying's joy.

"Nice!" exclaimed Deng Yutang at once.

"Yingying, that's awesome!" Tian Tian immediately encouraged.

With such teammates, it was indeed Chang Ying's luck.

When she failed, no one blamed her.

Whenever she performed well, there was nothing but praise and applause within the team...

"Captain Fang!" From the back of the soldier squad, a young woman hurried to Fang Lin's side.

"Mm?" Fang Lin's expression was solemn, looking at her teammate beside her.

This female soldier was a Mountain Lord believer.

In the Da Xia god hierarchy, there were six Second-class Gods.

Four Directions Martial Heroes accounted for four, with the remaining two divine beast gods: one the Heavenly Luan, and the other the Mountain Lord.

The image of God Mountain Lord was a golden tiger.

As for the Mountain Lord believers, not to mention their ferocious output, their senses were terrifyingly sharp!

"Over there." The female soldier pointed not so far away and indicated that members of the Ghost Moon Fox Clan were nearby.

As a North Wind Believer, Fang Lin needed to rely on Sound Positioning and had not yet detected the presence of the Evil Demon.

But the Mountain Lord believer was different. The young woman used her sense of smell to point out the location of the Evil Demon ahead of time.

"Mm." Fang Lin discreetly pressed down on the woman's hand, signaling her to stay silent.

This mission involved student evaluations.

At the moment, the student squad in front was jubilant, as if unaware of the seriousness of the task.

This was a good opportunity to teach these proud youngsters a lesson!

Of course, the main goal was to teach Da Xia's pride, Lu Ran.

Feeling responsible, Fang Lin was willing to help this young person.

It's better to take a small setback and be alerted now than to lose one's life in the future.

"Huh?" Fang Lin suddenly froze.

The Mountain Lord believer beside her also froze.

Just as Fang Lin's hand pressed down the young woman's hand, Lu Ran, twenty meters ahead, raised his.

And the direction he pointed was exactly where the Mountain Lord believer had indicated!

"Whoosh~"

Behind Lu Ran, the Divine Weapon was unsheathed.

Black Ice Blade sped through the moonlit forest, drawing a beautiful arc of rosy light.

"Sss!"

Blade met flesh.

With a pitiful howl, a white fox was impaled beneath what was previously empty space, now pinned to a tree by its tail!

It was clear that the fox, trying to flee quickly, didn't stand a chance against the speed of the Dawn Blade; it penetrated the fox's tail and nailed it to the tree.

"Wow..." The young woman's eyes glittered brightly.

Worthy of being Heavenly Pride!

No fake prestige; this is the real deal?

Before, while watching "Heavenly Pride," the soldiers couldn't comprehend Lu Ran's ease within the Night Charm Blade Formation, amidst thousands of red threads.

Now, Lu Ran piercing the invisible white fox with a single strike made the woman marvel even more.

Fang Lin's face soured.

There's no denying that the Ghost Moon Fox had moved.

Upon seeing the group, it observed for a moment and then chose to flee the scene, likely to warn its kin.

But Lu Ran... noticed?

He seemed carefree but was actually on high alert?

Was this meant to lull the enemy into complacency?

Thinking this, Fang Lin felt a bit uncomfortable.

She planned to teach Lu Ran a lesson within her capability.

In the end, had Lu Ran taught her a lesson instead?

"Get in formation, face the enemy!" Lu Ran roared, "Golden Armored Guard, take the front!"

A large force is coming from behind, they seem to be making a desperate push to break our ranks!"

Lu Ran commanded swiftly, drawing the Silent Night Blade from his back.

Thirty-three Jiang... ah, Ghost Moon Foxes.

Twenty-five from the River Realm, with eighteen River Realm Third Rank or higher!

Bring it on,

Let's battle!

Time to sever this karmic bind!

Chapter 275: is...is it installed?

In the dim woods, pairs of luminescent white pupils quietly lit up.

The moonlight-like, stunningly beautiful color of their eyes should have dazzled and entranced, but in the context of the battlefield, it only sent chills down one's spine!

Evil Technique·Moon Chasing Eyes!

"Charge!" Chang Ying, with a large hand gesture, commanded the Golden Armored Guards to storm the formation.

At the same time, Chang Ying, carrying an axe, charged forward— not to lead the charge but to protect Tian Tian on her left and right.

The pairs of lunar-colored fox eyes in the forest were indeed a bit horrifying.

The Golden Armored Guards didn't care about these, being summoned beings, they also didn't need the protection of the Sword Lotus Divine Skill·Treasure Lotus.

With Chang Ying's command, the Golden Armored Guards stomped heavily at their feet and suddenly accelerated.

"Bang!"

The Golden Armored Guard, a full three meters tall, like a heavy cannonball, blasted toward the enemy lines.

Golden light scattered in all directions, imposing and majestic!

A series of "clackety-clack" noises could be heard.

The Ghost Moon Foxes made a unanimous choice, one after another, they flicked their tails, lashing at the Golden Armored Giant.

Belonging to the same source, their combat tendencies were naturally identical.

For a moment, the forest was sprinkled with flashes of moonlight, strikingly beautiful.

"Ha!" Deng Yutang roared angrily, and also charged into the fray.

Red Cloth Believers were fearless, their bearing no less impressive than the Golden Armored Guards.

Illusion Technique?

Laughable!

Under the Red Cloth Will, they were unstoppable!

"Be careful." Tian Tian supported a Treasure Lotus with one hand, and with the other, she pushed out a full nine lotus petals.

Four petals followed Deng Yutang, two guarding his left and right, two above his head.

Jiang Ruyi observed the three's positioning and coordination, nodding secretly to herself.

"Kill at will." Jiang Ruyi's thoughts shifted, commanding the Divine Weapon at her waist, "Leave none alive."

With a "ching" sound, the Divine Weapon unsheathed!

The Cold Night Sword weaved through the air, stabbing directly at the enemy.

Unsheathed at the same time was another blade—Lu Ran!

As the saying goes, outsiders watch the excitement, while the insiders observe the skill.

In the eyes of some, Lu Ran on the battlefield was not a man.

He was a blade!

A sharp, fierce, horizontal Tang blade!

"Zzt—"

Lu Ran's steps surged with mist, taking action later but arriving first.

The Golden Armored Guard took the first step, Deng Yutang followed close behind, both with no sluggishness in speed, yet it was Lu Ran who first broke into the formation.

What was even more terrifying was that Lu Ran wasn't moving in a straight line!

"Wow..." The young female soldier watching from behind the forest couldn't help but gasp in admiration.

As a Mountain Lord Believer, she possessed the Mountain Lord Divine Skill·Mountain Lord's Knowledge!

This technique greatly enhanced the senses.

That included night vision, of course.

The name of the technique itself clearly informed all beings: in front of the Mountain Lord, all your little tricks can't escape the discerning eye of the Mountain Lord.

Because of this technique, the female soldier was shocked!

In her vision, Lu Ran surged forward rapidly, continuously making turns, brushing past the white fox tails time and again.

Countless long fox tails scattered traces of beautiful moonlight.

Amidst the crisscrossing moonlight, that casually wandering silhouette... was astoundingly beautiful!

"He Wenjing." Fang Lin suddenly spoke.

"Present!" The young female soldier looked toward her captain.

Fang Lin, while observing the battlefield, scolded, "Don't make such a fuss, what does that look like!"

He Wenjing: "..."

As a Mountain Lord Believer, He Wenjing indeed felt a bit wronged.

Captain Fang, Captain Fang, you are indeed a Jiang Realm Great Power, but you are a North Wind Believer, only gifted with keen hearing.

If you could see what I see, you definitely wouldn't be so calm as you are now!

If I said...

Before Lu Tianjiao slaughtered the first Ghost Moon Fox, he used its tail to wipe his blade, would you believe it?

You simply can't catch these details!

In the moment the long fox tail fell, Lu Ran, who was thrusting forward, suddenly turned and slid backward, holding the Black Luminous Stone Blade with a slight twist of his wrist.

He didn't use the blade to chop at the fox tail but placed the flat of the blade under the tail, sliding along it.

Did Lu Ran want to use the fur of the fox tail to wipe his blade, or was it the moonlight shining from the tail he wanted to wipe, either way...

After the figure passed, down came the fox tail.

The retreating figure stopped abruptly and thrust sharply towards the front left.

The cleaned Black Luminous Stone Blade directly pierced into the head of the fox.

The shadow continued to weave through, carrying the corpse of the Ghost Moon Fox out of the melee and stabbing towards a large tree in the distance.

Elegant,

Truly elegant!

And so damn pretentious!

But who are you showing off for?

With a total of nine people present, aside from me, a Mountain Lord Believer, who else can catch your subtleties?

That fleeting action of yours, even if someone saw it, would surely be thought to be you raising your blade for defense.

In such a chaotic and perilous battlefield, who would think that you're wiping your blade?

This...

He Wenjing knew herself well, of course, she didn't think Lu Ran was performing for her.

Thus, all of Lu Ran's reactions and movements must be ingrained in his bones.

They were innate!

Before, when He Wenjing regarded Lu Ran as a "blade," her evaluation was sharpness and fierceness.

Now, she added two words to describe Lu Ran—elegance!

Indeed, a Great Power should have its own style.

This Lu Tianjiao, although from the River Realm, was already on that path.

"Bang!"

As He Wenjing saw, Lu Ran's blade pierced through the fox's head, carrying its carcass to hit heavily against a large tree.

"One less Jiang Ruyi," Lu Ran muttered to himself, suddenly slashing horizontally with his blade.

The fox's head was split with another cut.

The remaining unharmed fox eye, its radiance fading, its crescent pupil diffusing.

Lu Ran immediately averted his gaze.

This subconscious action ignited a fury in Lu Ran.

It was not enough, he needed to chop again!

This cursed bond was not severed cleanly!

Reason urged Lu Ran to pick up the slaughtering knife, yet emotion compelled him to avoid eye contact with "her."

"Damn fox!" Lu Ran gritted his teeth.

How dare you trouble my Dao heart!

"Zzt—"

Lu Ran suddenly weaved through the fray, seeking out the next Jiang Ruyi.

Suddenly, from a distance, a battle cry rang out, "Ha!!"

Deng Yutang raised a great flag, a red cover suddenly unfurled, directly encompassing two white foxes and himself within it.

Red Cloth Divine Skill·Red Cloth Domain!

With the flag raised, the battle was to the death!

"Hu!!"

A massive phantom arose from Deng Yutang's body.

Red Cloth Disciples, please invite the Red Cloth Ancestor to take over!

Red Cloth Divine Skill·Red Cloth Soul!

"Ying!"

"Wuu~~~" The two white foxes cried out, their fox eyes brilliantly luminous.

Deng Yutang glared back directly, charging forward.

What's wrong with staring at you?

"Evil brutes, meet your death!" Deng Yutang wielded the Heavenly Star Spear, the spear tip flashing with red light.

"Crack!!"

Deng Yutang thrust out with his spear, and even more so, thrust out a red streak.

The tough fox tail, bathed in moonlight, was shattered by Deng Yutang's strike.

Red Cloth Divine Skill·Red Edge!

Red Cloth Believers, their attacks firm, their breaches formidable!

Honestly, if that fox tail remained as soft as before, without the moonlight coating, then Deng Yutang's spear wouldn't have been able to shatter the whole tail.

"Kill!!!" Deng Yutang roared angrily, his spirit surging with fervor.

Under the Red Cloth Order, aside from the few within the range of the Treasure Lotus, the battle spirits of all other beings soared!

That included Lu Ran.

He roamed outside, hearing everything clearly, his blood boiling!

Thank goodness Sister Xian'er was not here.

If she had heard this shout, she likely could have flattened this mountain.

What Lu young master, Jiang young madame...see if I don't just blast you to smithereens!

As for when everything concludes, when the fierce lady Tian awakens and then regrets crying, committing suicide as an apology, that would be another matter.

"Whoosh~"

"Whoosh!" The Dawn Blade and the Cold Night Sword weaved through without restraint, slaughtering the demonic foxes.

The mighty Divine Weapons killed enemies with terrifying efficiency!

A pair of blades pierced through one white fox after another, flying across the sky, the long fox tails wafted lightly.

The scene was beautiful, but the splattered blood was shockingly vivid.

"Wuu~~~~"

Finally, a Ghost Moon Fox couldn't bear it and cried out in misery.

And on its body, a brilliant luster emerged.

Evil Technique·Moonlight Fox!

This technique allowed the Ghost Moon Fox to radiate pure moonlight, healing any living beings touched by the moonlight.

So, should this really be called an "Evil Technique"?

Shouldn't such a technique, which blesses all beings, be called a "Divine Technique"?

"Rumble!"

Shock waves tumbled, flames spilled out in all directions.

A White Jade Token rushed to the spot, meant to fall near the fox head, but was smashed by the wildly flailing fox tail.

The exploding flames blasted the Moonlight Fox outwards.

The Cold Night Sword rapidly pierced into the flames, taking away the Evil Demon's life.

Jiang Ruyi, with a cold expression, stood on the edge of the purifying range of the Treasure Lotus, encircled by Jade Talismans, forming her own system.

Four White Jade Talismans ready to spring forward,

Another eight golden Jade Talismans, circling Jiang Ruyi's body.

Jiang Ruyi didn't need to defend actively!

Whenever a fox tail came stabbing, a golden Jade Talisman would proactively meet it head-on, firmly intercepting the enemy's assault.

All-round, no blind spots!

The Jade Talismans might appear to be only eight, but they seemed to have given Jiang Ruyi a defensive shield, impervious to all kinds of Evil Techniques!

Striking gold and jade was indeed true to its reputation.

A succession of gong and bell-like sounds emanated outwards, the special tone, as if alerting everyone not to be beguiled by the beautiful demonic foxes.

The Ghost Moon Foxes ripped and skinned people of the Human Clan alive, they were malevolent spirits causing chaos in the world.

They were not pitiable, weak creatures!

"Zzt!"

The blade entered the flesh.

The swiftly weaving Lu Ran, beneath an empty tree, forcefully pierced out a white fox.

"The sixth Jiang Ruyi..."

Lu Ran murmured in his heart, listening for something.

The most threatening aspect of the Ghost Moon Fox Clan was their pair of fox eyes.

Aside from that, the clan had only one offensive technique-Flowing Light Moon Tail.

Beyond that, were the calming cries, the healing light, the fox heart that sensed danger, the Invisibility Technique for hiding and escaping.

From the standpoint of Evil Technique construction, the Ghost Moon Foxes leaned more towards the support faction.

They were not warriors who charged into battle, nor were they meant to hold the position of damage dealers.

In the future, this clan could accompany Lu Ran by his side, manipulating the hearts of enemies, healing Lu Ran's wounds, and giving reminders.

Then the question arose:

Since this clan could foresee danger and wasn't adept at direct combat,

Why would they still charge forth?

"Hmm?" Lu Ran's heart stirred.

Since the battle began, it seemed he hadn't located the leader of this group?

Captain Fang had said that the White Fox was much larger than the ordinary River Realm·Ghost Moon Fox.

So, the leader fled?

These Ghost Moon Foxes willingly used themselves as bait to buy time for their leader's escape?

"Heh." Lu Ran inwardly praised.

The Ghost Moon Fox Clan possessed not only a shrewd mind but also a spirit of sacrifice.

To go to such lengths, they were indeed fit to be pets, weren't they?

Chapter 276: Three Questions Under the Moon

The duration of the Golden Armored Giant was 8 minutes.

Yet before even half the time had passed, the Ghost Moon Fox Clan had already crumbled into disarray.

The spirit sign Believer, nicknamed "Gambler Dog," was exceptionally godlike today!

"Crush it!"

Chang Ying, on the battlefield, lacked her usual frivolous laughter, showing only a heroic and imposing presence.

Wielding a mountain-splitting axe in her hand, she stood alone in front of Tian Tian, her other large hand grasping at thin air.

In the distance, the Golden Armored Giant, holding a beautiful fox head in his hand, clenched his fist violently according to his master's will.

"Snap! Snap! Snap..."

For a time, endless fox tails swept over, lashing against his body.

The Golden Armored Giant stood imposingly, seemingly invulnerable with his golden body, not budging an inch!

Since the start of the fight, he had already taken who knows how much damage.

"Ha!"

Deng Yutang truly lived up to the Red Cloth Sect's name, growing stronger with every battle!

Red glimmers at the tip of his spear shattered everything in their path; a large banner fluttered in the wind, leaving Evil Demons nowhere to hide.

Further amplifying his attributes with the vast shadow of a red cloth by his side, satisfying the soaring battle intent within him.

It's no wonder why in Lu Ran's God Demon Sculpture Garden, the souls of the Red Cloth Sect believers were the most numerous.

With the Red Cloth Sect being so fiercely valiant, wasn't their death rate the highest...

"Ah~!" Tian Tian let out a delicate shout, kneeling on the ground.

That petite body hid behind the tall figure of Chang Ying, shielded solidly.

Moreover, a few lotus petals guarded her left and right, providing Tian Tian with a stable environment to cast her spells.

Tian Tian placed a small hand on the ground, and a surge of energy welled up in her palm.

In the distant forest, a huge lotus flower bloomed!

As the petals unfolded, there hung a phantom sword shadow above the lotus core.

"Whoosh~ Whoosh~"

A string of flying swords zoomed out from the phantom sword shadow.

Following in the footsteps of the Cold Night Sword and the Dawn Blade, these swords wildly weaved through the forest, wantonly slaying enemies.

Sword Lotus Divine Skill·Lotus Flying Sword!

Jiang Ruyi stood behind Tian Tian on the right, her eyes filled with indulgence, and even more so, with satisfaction.

In the past, that timid little girl didn't even dare to speak loudly.

Jiang Ruyi still remembered Tian Tian standing in front of her with her head bowed, nervously twisting her fingers, afraid to make eye contact.

Now, Tian Tian had become a qualified Sword Lotus Disciple.

The Sword Lotus Sect was gentle on the outside and tough on the inside.

Her lotus petals could protect everyone, and the Lotus Sword could exorcise demons and spirits!

The next step was to draw forth the sword within the lotus.

Jiang Ruyi believed Tian Tian could do it!

Continuing to grow like this, Tian Tian would surely gain the appreciation of her own Divine Being and blossom a true Sword Lotus flower.

While Jiang Ruyi admired, her offensive and control abilities never stopped.

An Electric Shackles Talisman after another released countless lightning snakes that writhed about.

A Quicksand Talisman after another forced the invisible spirit foxes to reveal themselves.

The Ghost Moon Fox Evil Technique·Moon Concealing Fox had one characteristic:

While invisible, you could move freely, but if you cast other techniques, the invisibility would break on its own.

"So impressive."

In the mountains behind them, He Wenjing murmured to herself while watching the battle.

"Yes." Fang Lin rarely refrained from scolding her team members, instead nodding in agreement, "They certainly are an elite squad.

However, they're also quite fortunate.

That Golden Armored Giant has drawn the attention of most of the Evil Demons, absorbing most of the damage."

He Wenjing opened her mouth and then spoke softly, "I mean Lu Tianjiao."

Fang Lin: "..."

You girl, you have eyes for no one else, do you?

This team has demonstrated such excellent performance, Divine Techniques emerging frequently, a mere handful of people managing to turn the Ghost Moon Fox Clan into rivers of blood.

Aren't these feats enough to catch your eye?

"Hiss—"

Fang Lin's ears twitched, following the sound of Immortal Fog spouting, she searched for Lu Ran.

As Fang Lin shifted her attention, the speed of her eyeballs suddenly increased!

Fast,

Unbelievably fast!

Ever since Lu Ran had been acknowledged as "Heavenly Pride," he had earned himself a nickname—Ran Mei.

Indeed, beneath a famous name there is no lack of genuine talent.

Seeing him now, he was truly captivating!

"Captain Fang, did you notice?" He Wenjing said, full of admiration, "Lu Tianjiao is fighting with his eyes closed.

Look! He barely opens his eyes, see?"

Fang Lin: "..."

I can only see his silhouette; how am I supposed to see his eyes?

You think I have night vision too?

While internally complaining, Fang Lin actually managed to get a clear view of Lu Ran's face.

Just as he brushed past a fox tail, the moonlight reflected off the tail illuminated his face.

Indeed, he was fighting with his eyes closed!

Probably, Lu Ran feared looking into the twin pupils of the Ghost Moon Fox.

"Sigh..."

Fang Lin sighed softly.

Lord Immortal Goat, quite adept at keeping secrets, huh?

Lu Ran's ability to locate by sound was hardly inferior to North Wind Divine Skill·Wind Listening.

Since Lu Ran had become famous, everything about his past had been thoroughly exposed.

Including his special way of utilizing Divine Technique·Voice of Compassion (Sound of Despair) and his special application of Divine Technique·Immortal Hoof (Evil Technique·Soul-splitting Demon Hoof).

But from beginning to end, no one leaked any information about Lu Ran's ability to locate by sound or exactly what skill it was.

Contrarily, many rumors suggested that this ability was Lu Ran's own talent.

That he developed and polished it himself.

And this statement was also corroborated by many from the Demon Cave military.

It was said that while Lu Ran was growing and training in the Demon Cave, he always covered his eyes with a red cloth.

Fang Lin believed that military colleagues wouldn't lie, so Lu Ran must definitely have trained blindfolded.

But she still thought it should be a Divine Skill of the Immortal Goat Sect!

It's just that, Lord Immortal Goat, cunning as he was, had always been reluctant to teach it to his believers.

Chapter 277: Moonlit Triple Question_2

Talking about it, teaching that Divine Technique to those cowardly Immortal Sheep Believers isn't much use, is it?

In the world of Immortal Sheep Believers, isn't Lu Ran the only little lamb who dares to go to battle?

"Report the enemy kill count!"

"Seven!"

"Eight..." Voices came from the woods.

The battle had completely ended, but Jiang Ruyi's brows lightly knitted together, "Including the kills by the Divine Weapons, the numbers still don't add up.

It seems like we've never seen the tribal leader?"

"No," Lu Ran said gravely, "The Ghost Moon Fox tribe possesses the Evil Technique·Bright Moon Fox Heart.

Since they can foresee danger, they should have known their time was up.

But they didn't flee desperately; instead, they clashed head-on with us, probably to buy time for their leader."

Jiang Ruyi said, "There's no need to worry too much. The soldiers had said that the forest is surrounded by mountains on three sides with only one exit."

"Let's go, let's search the forest!" Lu Ran said directly.

"Let's go!" Deng Yutang was the first to respond.

As his words fell, the golden armor quietly shattered and dissipated with the wind.

"Thank you," Chang Ying said, looking at the dispersing golden specks, her heart filled with gratitude.

Then, she ran alongside the squad while taking out a stick container.

"Whirrrr~"

Spiritual Talisman Divine Technique·Eight Treasures!

With a "swoosh," a stick flew out.

The problem was, five golden sticks were still in the container, but one of the three rotten sticks that were originally there was missing...

"Huff~"

The ragged wooden stick flew straight at Chang Ying.

It wasn't just following her, but rather fluttering in front of her left and right, eagerly disrupting her view.

Chang Ying: "..."

I've just won a million, reaching the pinnacle of my life!

In the blink of an eye, have I gambled away my underpants?

"It's alright, Yingying," Tian Tian hurriedly comforted, "You're already amazing!"

Chang Ying scraped at her short hair in distress without uttering a word.

"You guys, fly up," Lu Ran suddenly said.

"Ah?" Deng Yutang looked towards the figure ahead.

Lu Ran: "Your footsteps are too messy, affecting my ability to listen."

The others: "..."

Normally, everyone would proceed slowly through the forest while remaining vigilant of their surroundings.

But at this time, under Lu Ran's lead, they were practically jogging.

In the wilderness, which was already hard to navigate, and with people running and leaping about, they indeed disturbed Lu Ran.

"Tian Tian."

"Master?" Tian Tian responded urgently.

"Activate the Nine-Petal Lotus, carry the squad into the sky, and move through the air!"

As Lu Ran gave the order, his left hand flicked, and the Dawn Blade flew high into the air: "Follow it."

"Understood," Tian Tian obediently said.

Everyone jumped onto the lotus petals, soaring high into the air.

Even Jiang Ruyi took to the skies, afraid to interfere with Lu Ran's search for the Evil Demon.

Just in terms of searching ability, the four members of the squad didn't match up to Lu Ran alone.

Sniff~

Lu Ran shrugged his nose, and the Immortal Fog beneath his feet churned.

This left the military squad following behind dumbfounded.

"He Wenjing."

"Present!"

"Lead the troops." As her words ended, Fang Lin moved with wind bound to her feet, flying straight ahead.

Lu Ran moved forward with intermittent stops, feeling the smell grow stronger.

When he reached the foot of the mountain, Lu Ran finally realized.

Damn it!

What he had found wasn't the fox tribe leader, but the fox tribe's gathering spot beforehand.

No wonder the smell was so strong here!

"Lu Ran!" Suddenly, Jiang Ruyi's voice came through the invisible earpiece.

"Here," Lu Ran immediately responded.

"I've seen the Ghost Moon Fox."

"Ah?" Lu Ran was a bit stunned.

"It's climbed up the mountain; it's very noticeable under the moonlight."

"Got it!" Lu Ran reached a tree, the fog at his feet swirling as he shot upwards.

After a few leaps, Lu Ran climbed the treetop, and the Immortal Hoof beneath him kicked off again.

The Dawn Blade conveniently flew to him, which he grasped in his hand.

With Extreme Vision activated, he saw a white fox high on the mountain cliff, struggling to climb.

"Nice catch~" Lu Ran was truly enlightened.

The Fox Tribe wasn't adept at rock climbing.

And this Ghost Moon Fox, with seven moonlit tails, repeatedly stabbed into the cliff wall, using an unusual method to climb upwards.

If it weren't for its awkward posture and unskilled movements, it might have easily slipped away!

"Meh~~~" Lu Ran let out a sheep's bleat.

The moment one of the Ghost Moon Fox's tails landed on the edge of the cliff, it stiffened at the sound.

"Meh!!"

The Dawn Blade zipped through the air, Lu Ran gripped the hilt tightly, his body nearly flying horizontally in the air.

"Whoo~~~~"

The Ghost Moon Fox immediately let out a fox's cry, fighting back move for move.

As Lu Ran neared the cliff, he swung his blade sharply downward, and the Dawn Blade immediately dove down.

"Ying!" The Ghost Moon Fox heard the terrifying whistle of the air being split.

Having just climbed to the edge of the cliff, it quickly leaped to the side.

"Boom boom boom!"

The Dawn Blade cut into the cliffside like tofu, and the rocks shattered loudly.

Lu Ran landed steadily, sliding across the barren cliff.

The Ghost Moon Fox dug in its limbs, sliding laterally as well, its pupils shining brightly.

Ghost Moon Evil Technique·Moon Chasing Eyes!

In the next moment, the Ghost Moon Fox changed its expression.

Because the Human Clan member sliding across from it had actually closed his eyes?!

The Ghost Moon Fox slowly stopped as Lu Ran below stirred up the Immortal Fog, abruptly halting his slide.

Then, the squad member riding the lotus petals arrived, but they heard Lu Ran say:

"I'll handle it!"

"Be careful. Captain Fang said that this tribal leader is about to advance to River Realm," Jiang Ruyi reminded.

"Hm," Lu Ran spun the blade in his hand.

Even if it truly reached the River Realm, it would still be up to me to cut it down!

I need closure!

"Let's go," Jiang Ruyi called out to Tian Tian, flying towards the edge of the forest.

Tian Tian immediately maneuvered the lotus petal, carrying everyone to the barren cliff, surrounding it.

"Ying~"

The Ghost Moon Fox's moonlight in its eyes gradually dissipated, looking pitiful, its voice soft and weak.

But the person before it was simply merciless!

Although he hadn't made a move, the Ghost Moon Fox could feel the tremors beneath its feet, the sound of breaking stones.

"Ying!" With a fox's cry, the Ghost Moon Fox leaped back.

The Dawn Blade burst through from the ground, sending rock fragments flying.

"Whoo~~~"

The Ghost Moon Fox raised its beautiful head, fox-crying again.

It seemed to want to use this sound to pacify the Human Clan member and erase the murderous intent from Lu Ran's mind.

Did Lu Ran care about that?

His feet kicked up the Immortal Fog as he swiftly lunged forward.

"Zzzt—"

Blade light followed his figure, flashing by.

A second ago, the Ghost Moon Fox was tilting its head and crying; the next, it urgently leaped to the side.

Lu Ran silently nodded.

Such a strong Evil Demon, such speed, such a quick response!

Worthy of one about to advance to the River Realm, indeed much stronger than the other River Realm·Fifth Rank Ghost Moon Foxes!

"Ying~" The Ghost Moon Fox sweetly yelped, unwillingly looking at Lu Ran.

But that unfeeling person still had his eyes tightly shut, his hand still gripping the blade.

The Ghost Moon Fox quickly surveyed the encirclement behind it, the moonlight rising again in its eyes.

However, Tian Tian held out a precious lotus flower in her hand, utterly shattering the Ghost Moon Fox's beautiful dream.

"Ying!!"

After several unsuccessful attempts, the Ghost Moon Fox suddenly cried out in anger.

Finally, the demonic fox revealed its true nature!

Its eyes were extremely vicious, and it turned to look at Lu Ran, the closest to it, seemingly giving up its illusions, ready for a desperate fight.

"Do you and I have fate?"

Lu Ran circled the Ghost Moon Fox, gradually taking steps.

The sudden question caught the Ghost Moon Fox off guard.

It couldn't understand human speech, and those in the distance couldn't hear what Lu Ran was saying.

All they could see was Lu Ran walking slowly, seemingly muttering something.

"Yes."

Lu Ran whispered to himself, answering his own question.

"Ying~" The Ghost Moon Fox realized the situation was changing, and immediately switched its demeanor, making soft yelping noises.

"Do you and I share affection?"

Lu Ran turned in another direction, walking slowly, a flood of memories surging in his mind.

"...Yes, too."

Lu Ran twirled the blade in his hand, then stopped.

So the final question:

Are you her?

No.

"Zzzt—"

Lu Ran suddenly burst forth, revealing the blade in his hand and thrust it straight at the Ghost Moon Fox!

An inauspicious connection,

false affection,

a fake person!

Chapter 278: form of the Ran Sect Blade Technique!

"Ouch!"

The Ghost Moon Fox suddenly leaped to the side, using both feet and tail.

Lu Ran's eyes widened slightly as the unstoppable momentum he had been carrying faltered.

Don't get it wrong; Lu Ran wasn't afraid to fight but was astonished by the Ghost Moon Fox's reaction speed, which caused his attention to shift slightly.

Lu Ran knew that the Ghost Moon Fox Clan did not have abilities like Evil Sense or Evil Sensitivity.

So if the opponent had such speed, it was clearly a racial trait:

The Ghost Moon Fox Clan, naturally swift!

Compared to the bestial Evil Demons, the physical talents of the Human Clan were truly at a disadvantage.

What left Lu Ran even more in awe was that this particular Ghost Moon Fox was significantly faster than the River Realm Fifth Rank Ghost Moon Foxes he had faced in the forest before!

"Quite out of the ordinary," Lu Ran muttered to himself, turning his head to look at the white fox under the moon.

This Ghost Moon Fox, while dodging with leaps, was actually using its tail too?

So, that's why its dodging was even quicker!

This was indeed novel since the habits of the Evil Demon minions stemmed from the Evil Demon's likeness.

As such, each Ghost Moon Fox's tail was used for output and defense.

Hmm... Occasionally, the tip of the tail would curl, toying with the prey's nerves.

And here was this white fox, using its tail in movement?

It seemed trivial, but in reality, it was quite horrifying!

Because it signified change, growth, the beginning of detaching from the traditional Evil Demon's influence and self-developing.

Was it that clever?

Or...

A thought struck Lu Ran!

Could it be because it was cornered into climbing the mountain to escape that it realized the tail's ingenious use?

Very likely!

"If you manage to advance to the River Realm, then won't that be something?" Lu Ran gripped the Silent Night Blade tighter and stamped his foot hard, conjuring the Immortal Fog once again.

"Ouch~"

The Ghost Moon Fox whimpered pitifully.

Its coquettish cry was enough to soften anyone's heart.

Generally speaking, a River Realm Fifth Rank Ghost Moon Fox Clan member would measure around 2.5 meters in length, with a tail length of about 2.2 meters.

The Ghost Moon Fox before him was no ordinary River Realm Fifth Stage beast; it was more than two sizes bigger!

Such a large creature, acting coquettishly with whimpers and whispers, didn't seem out of place at all...

Indeed,

Appearances are justice!

Of course, coquettishness aside, the Ghost Moon Fox's dodging was anything but slow.

The big white fox continued to utilize both feet and tail in unison, and its lateral movement became even more skillful.

"Thud! Thud! Thud!"

Lu Ran lost his target and headed straight for the cliff!

He stepped rapidly, trying hard to brake his momentum, and finally came to a stop at the cliff's edge.

This scene made the onlookers by the forest clench their hearts with apprehension.

And it was this scene that revealed the Ghost Moon Fox's true form!

Born with seven tails, it used two to dig into the ground, coordinated with all four feet to leap forward, and the remaining five tails gleamed with the beautiful moonlight.

Ghost Moon Evil Technique·Flowing Moon Tail!

"Ouch!"

The long fox tails bloomed like flowers, aiming at Lu Ran from all angles as he neared the cliff's edge.

Lu Ran tilted his head slightly, listening intently.

He clearly could have stopped abruptly, so why did he step continuously, so desperately?

The ploy was complete~

"Sss—"

Holding a blade in hand, Lu Ran, with his back to the Ghost Moon Fox, suddenly darted backward.

Fang Lin: "..."

She arrived in time to witness a heart-stopping moment.

Under the moonlight, Lu Ran stood on the edge of the cliff, seemingly in a dire situation.

Behind him, the white fox lunged swiftly, its long tails waving wildly.

Upon seeing this sight, Fang Lin almost couldn't help but intervene.

However, what followed was Lu Ran's "charging with his back turned to the enemy," which truly dumbfounded her!

Is this... what is this?

Is this the behavior of a person with a normal way of thinking?

Fang Lin finally understood why He Wenjing was always keeping a close watch on Lu Ran.

The kid indeed had something special.

And he really had some nerve!

Charging usually meant head-on into the enemy.

But what Lu Ran did was "back turned to the enemy, embracing death," chilling to the bone!

"Pop! Pop..."

Several fox tails struck down in front of Lu Ran, shattering the rocks.

Lu Ran, who had been sliding backward fast, put all his strength into his feet for a 180-degree turn and lunged at the white fox with his blade.

"Ouch!" the white fox cried out sharply.

Five tails had been thrust forward, but it still had two concealed behind.

In an instant, one tail stabbed from above to Lu Ran's left, and another swept toward his right.

Lu Ran used the swirling fog under his feet as a cover, padding beneath with a layer of airwaves.

Night Charm Evil Technique·Night Dance!

Lu Ran shifted direction sharply, stabbing towards the front left.

This small adjustment could be described as "exquisite."

He could completely avoid the tail stabbing from above and, at the same time, use it to intercept the tail sweeping from the right.

Looking at this expectation, Lu Ran could get even closer to the Ghost Moon Fox!

It was like killing three birds with one stone!

However...

"Whoosh!"

Unexpectedly, the tail sweeping from the right accelerated fiercely!

Lu Ran was taken aback, and with his eyes closed, he could perceive the suddenly intensified gust.

Instinctively, he lifted his blade to block the right side.

Sure enough, the tail sweeping from the right reached him first!

"Cling!!"

The moonlit tail, extremely tough, struck the blade, making a crisp sound.

Lu Ran felt a numbness in his arm and almost lost grip on the blade.

If he hadn't been using the Soul-splitting Evil Technique·Soul Splitting Power, at his mere second rank in the River Realm, he could easily have been flung away, blade and all.

Chapter 279: form of the Ran Sect Blade Technique!

Even though Lu Ran's powers were exceptional, he was still swept far away by the fox's tail...

The white fox did not pursue him but swiftly leapt backward.

A Black Ice Blade swiftly cut through, piercing the spot where the fox's head had been.

"Huff..."

Lu Ran slid sideways, constantly easing the tremendous momentum until he finally steadied himself.

"Shoo~shoo~!"

The Dawn Blade continued to move through the air, and the Ghost Moon Fox dodged again and again, its seven tails flailing wildly, scattering beautiful moonlight.

To everyone's surprise, after stopping, Lu Ran did not move again.

His furrowed brows suggested he was deep in thought?

"Come."

Perhaps feeling that the noise of the battle was annoying, Lu Ran suddenly raised his left hand.

The Dawn Blade immediately abandoned its target and flew towards its master.

With a "snap,"

Lu Ran caught the handle, apparently also capturing a spark of enlightenment in the process.

The battle came to a halt.

Under the bright moon, atop the cliff,

there was only a tense white fox and a man deep in thought.

"What's this?" Fang Lin slightly raised an eyebrow, unclear what had occurred.

Being distracted in battle was a major taboo for soldiers.

And since meeting Lu Ran, this young man's actions had indeed been very "unconventional!"

Fang Lin looked displeased and turned to glance at the four students standing at the edge of the forest, also seeing puzzled expressions on their faces.

"Ying~"

But the Ghost Moon Fox misunderstood the situation, and once again began to act coquettishly towards Lu Ran.

It must be said, the fox's ability to change its demeanor was truly remarkable!

One second earlier, it was fiercely eager to kill Lu Ran.

The next second, it switched to a gentle and weak appearance.

"Ying?"

Seeing Lu Ran ignoring it, the Ghost Moon Fox changed its target of seduction.

It turned its head towards the forest edge.

Red Scarf Believer, Lingpai Believer, Sword Lotus Believer, Jade Talisman Believer.

The four believers of different deities, at that moment, were like four great protectors!

The four of them carefully surrounded the cliff area, also supporting the main general who was dueling alone.

The beautiful white fox immediately set its sights on Deng Yutang, as if to single out this robust young man as a breakthrough point.

The Ghost Moon Fox was indeed very unlucky...

Among those present, anyone could have fallen for its charms.

But this Red Scarf Young Master, he truly had a heart of stone!

"Ying." When the fox saw no trace of pity in their eyes, it could not help but shift its gaze again.

The fox was well aware of the threat posed by Lu Ran.

Its mind worked quickly, and it ultimately chose to break through the encirclement!

"Hmph." Jiang Ruyi clearly realized something, raising one hand.

A Divine Weapon was drawn from her waist, and Jade Tokens circled around her body.

Deng Yutang picked up his spear, Chang Ying clenched her large axe, and Tian Tian pushed forward nine lotus petals.

Hmm... it indeed felt like the four great protectors.

Lu Ran could easily handle the enemy, but it did not mean they could as well.

Facing a powerful Evil Demon that could possibly advance to the River Realm at any moment, everyone naturally did their best.

Right when the battle was on the verge of erupting, a voice suddenly rang out:

"I've got it!"

"Eh?"

"What?" Everyone immediately looked towards Lu Ran.

Even the Ghost Moon Fox was on edge, turning its head toward Lu Ran.

Lu Ran held the Dawn Blade in his left hand and gently raised it, his palm opening.

The Dawn Blade traced a parabola over Lu Ran's head and precisely entered the sheath protruding above his right shoulder.

Lu Ran's right hand held the Silent Night Blade, spinning it around, facing the Ghost Moon Fox:

"Come!"

"Ying!" The Ghost Moon Fox, full of wariness, flailed its tails haphazardly.

Anyone could sense the pulsating battle intent from Lu Ran!

The next moment, Lu Ran, with a single blade in hand, sprinted toward the Ghost Moon Fox.

Sprinting?

This scene made everyone a bit uncomfortable.

After being teamed up with Lu Ran for so long, they had gotten used to his state of darting around at high speeds.

They had a hard time keeping up with Lu Ran's pace, unable to match his combat rhythm, all thanks to the Divine Worship Skill-Immortal Hoof!

Now, was Lu Ran discarding the Immortal Hoof?

Why?

Why was he forsaking his own advantage?

"Ying!" The Ghost Moon Fox eyed Lu Ran warily, seeing him rapidly approaching, and immediately extended its tail.

Ghost Moon Evil Technique-Flowing Moon Tail!

The white fox's tail suddenly lengthened, striking at Lu Ran from all angles.

Whether stabbing, sweeping, or smashing.

Lu Ran continued to charge forward, his Evil Sensitivity and Evil Sense fully activated, his sprinting speed slightly increased!

"Master?"

"Brother Lu..." Everyone was somewhat astonished and very concerned.

Following the momentum of Lu Ran's sprint, he was bound to be hit by countless tails... Hmm?

Everyone's expressions changed, hearing a familiar sound:

"Zzz—"

Lu Ran's Immortal Hoof activated beneath his feet again!

The sudden change in speed completely disrupted the Ghost Moon Fox's rhythm.

It also disrupted the entire battleground's equilibrium!

Normally, several tails should have intercepted and struck Lu Ran.

But the anticipated scene didn't occur!

At this critical point in time, Lu Ran, who should have been struck under the tails, had already shot past the white fox's side.

"Ying~~~"

In a split second, the Ghost Moon Fox harshly shifted sideways but still let out a scream.

The Silent Night Blade slashed across the Ghost Moon Fox, tearing open a deep wound on the side of its neck!

As they crossed paths,...

Under the moonlight, blood spurted!

Fang Lin couldn't help but be dazzled!

As a fellow blade user and fast-moving believer, she immediately realized what Lu Ran's "insight" was.

Mere speed is not true speed!

How many times had the Ghost Moon Fox dodged Lu Ran's full-on sprints since the beginning of the fight?

Variations in speed and rhythm control were truly deadly skills!

"Huff..."

Lu Ran turned around in midair and landed steadily, sliding backward.

The next moment, the Immortal Hoof activated again!

Accompanied by the rushing sound of Immortal Fog, Lu Ran dashed toward the wounded Ghost Moon Fox.

"So that's it." Jiang Ruyi, sharp as ever, also understood Lu Ran's intention.

Not just her, but the other three teammates also realized that this time, Lu Ran's Divine Worship Skill·Immortal Hoof was not at full speed.

Why not?

To create a scenario for the enemy, to allow the Ghost Moon Fox to adapt in advance and make a targeted defense.

Lu Ran, sprinting forward at high speed, directly attacked the Ghost Moon Fox.

This time, the Ghost Moon Fox learned its lesson, also scared by the attack; it used several tails to counterattack while moving sideways again.

"Zzz—"

In the next moment, Immortal Fog spurted vigorously from beneath Lu Ran's feet.

Second acceleration!

Lu Ran treaded on the raging winds, instantly switching the Divine Method Grade.

Whether turning or suddenly speeding up, everyone was inwardly amazed.

The Ghost Moon Fox clan was not vegetarian; it had learned from its mistake and clearly prepared.

Even... this Ghost Moon Fox seemed to be waiting for Lu Ran to change his tactics?

Under the astonished gazes of the crowd, several tails carrying moonlight fell.

The force, the momentum, seemed determined to smash Lu Ran into the ground, grinding him into dust!

But...

"Zzz—"

Lu Ran's speed increased further!

Could he accelerate again?

Of course!

Initially, Lu Ran had activated the Fog Grade-Immortal Hoof under his feet.

The second acceleration was the Stream Grade-Immortal Hoof.

And this final killer move was the full-powered River Grade-Immortal Hoof!

"Huff!"

"Huff~"

Several tails, carrying streams of moonlight, crisscrossed.

However, each tail was just a bit too slow, sweeping past behind Lu Ran.

A miss by a fraction is as good as a mile.

The Ghost Moon Fox's eyes widened: !!!

As they crossed paths,

a beautiful fox head soared high, its long tails drifting erratically.

Elegant, yet horrifying!

"Huff..."

Lu Ran landed again, this time, without the customary backward slide.

He eased his forward momentum, stepping lightly and standing firm.

Behind him, the headless fox corpse fell to the ground, kicking up a cloud of dust.

Atop the cliff, everything finally quieted down.

With his back to the headless fox corpse, he flicked his blade, casting off the droplets of blood, and sheathed the knife.

"Thud."

Just then, the white fox's head fell to the ground, coinciding with the sound of the Silent Night Blade being sheathed.

"Ghost Moon clan, Ghost Moon Fox..." Lu Ran murmured.

This move, you taught me.

In that case,

let's call it "Moon Inquiry."

Chapter 280: Immortal Sheep love me

April 9th of the lunar calendar, Lu Ran and his group emerged from Ghost Moon Mountain.

They reaped substantial rewards from this journey of trials!

Jiang Ruyi advanced in rank to become a River Realm·Third Rank powerhouse.

Lu Ran severed a karmic tie, confronted his inner demons, and would likely no longer be troubled by similar techniques in his remaining life.

He also comprehended a sword technique atop the cliff, which, combined with his unique skills, led him to master a new technique—Moon Inquiry!

This breakthrough meant that Lu Ran no longer focused solely on absolute speed but delved deeper to master the changes in rhythm.

Such a move would surely make Lu Ran shine brightly on the battlefield!

Meanwhile, everyone had properly finished their school assignments and the special mission assigned by the military.

If all went as expected, they would gain a total of 40 Believer points.

Lu Ran's score would likely reach 529.6 points.

With this, even if Lu Ran did nothing before the college entrance exam, his final score could still surpass the 600-point threshold!

After all, the college entrance exam (the final major exam) was graded on a percentage scale.

Would Lu Ran rest on his laurels?

Of course not!

As Da Xia's genius and the only high school student among the Heavenly Pride, Lu Ran was certainly expected to achieve an astonishing report card.

He aimed to achieve a special accomplishment and become what every parent referred to as "someone else's child."

That title...

Just thinking about it could get one hated, right?

That afternoon, Lu Ran and others returned to Rain Alley City.

As they exited the train station, it started drizzling.

The familiar overcast sky and street scenes gave Lu Ran a strong sense of belonging.

"Let's wait a bit, the car is almost here," Deng Yutang took shelter under the eaves at the exit, looking out toward the distant street.

"Ah~" Chang Ying burst into the rain, unconcerned about getting drenched, her face showing only enjoyment.

The group had spent a whole twenty days in Ghost Moon Mountain.

When they had first entered the mountain, everything was picturesque.

But having stayed inside for long, even the most beautiful scenery could not beat the natural change of sun and moon, or the shifting of wind and weather in the ordinary world.

Looking at Chang Ying playing joyfully in the rain, Lu Ran joked:

"What if Mr. Deng doesn't let you get in the car all wet like that?"

Chang Ying brushed her wet hair with one hand, revealing a wild-looking face as she casually replied:

"Then I'll just walk back myself, I'm thirsty anyway."

Everyone: "..."

You are truly wild, Chang Ying!

Lu Ran looked puzzled: "If you're hungry, are you going to catch a kid on the way and take a bite?"

Chang Ying turned to look at Lu Ran, her face full of question marks.

I'm just drinking rainwater, and the next thing is to eat a kid?

"Um." Tian Tian shifted a step sideways, hiding behind Jiang Ruyi.

"You little Tian Tian!" Chang Ying strode over, her large hands reaching out, "following Ran to tease me!"

"Ah!" Tian Tian exclaimed, circling around Jiang Ruyi.

The group was warm and lively.

While Lu Ran was joking around, he gradually grew more serious.

He silently watched the scene, truly wishing this team could always be like this.

Jiang Ruyi seemed to sense something and approached Lu Ran, softly asking, "What's wrong?"

"Ah?" Lu Ran snapped back to reality.

He was just a bit silent and disengaged, yet Jiang Ruyi had noticed it.

Little Ruyi,

is your mind filled with thoughts of me?

Unable to resist, Lu Ran reached out and wrapped his arms around her waist.

Deng Yutang was stunned for a moment, then quickly looked away, appearing to follow a principle of "see no evil."

In contrast, Tian Tian's eyes widened, full of expectation.

"Kids, don't look," Chang Ying wrapped one arm around Tian Tian, covering the girl's eyes with her other hand.

Jiang Ruyi gently wriggled out of Lu Ran's embrace, her face slightly pink as she glared at him:

"There are many people here."

Lu Ran watched her blushing face, admiringly for a moment, then turned his head to enjoy the rain.

He remained silent.

This piqued Jiang Ruyi's curiosity, as normally he was sharp-tongued.

She had no idea that Lu Ran's thoughts were intensely complex.

The journey to Ghost Moon Mountain had profoundly clarified something for Lu Ran:

His life was intertwined with hers.

The Ghost Moon Evil Technique-Chasing Moon Eyes was special, a conjured illusion between the caster and the victim.

When Lu Ran was pulled into the illusionary world, even the enchantingly beautiful Ghost Moon Fox had no choice but to use Jiang Ruyi as a model to penetrate deeper into Lu Ran's heart...

Why say more?

White fox adds grief to separation, while the bright moon mirrors my heart.

In fact, that illusionary world had another significant impact on Lu Ran.

It came from the final scene:

The feeling of loss.

Especially the taste of death, that was too hard to bear.

This deep heartache was something Lu Ran kept buried deep within, silently processing it.

Try harder, cherish more...

Lu Ran absolutely did not want to go through that a second time.

Although the person who died in the illusion wasn't really her, the feelings for the deceived Lu Ran were genuinely palpable.

"Beep beep~"

The van arrived, pulling Lu Ran out of his thoughts.

As Lu Ran walked towards the vehicle, he faintly heard Tian Tian anxiously asking Chang Ying something:

"Did they kiss? Did they?"

Subsequently, he heard Tian Tian's soft whimper, it seemed she was lightly reprimanded by Jiang Ruyi...

Deng Family's eldest son sent each team member home, on the way, they still made time to wish Lu Ran an early promotion and good results in the upcoming fourth season of "Heavenly Pride."

Lu Ran participated in "Heavenly Pride" every even-numbered lunar month, and soon, it would be the 15th of April.

For the upcoming night of the 15th, Lu Ran was very confident!

He couldn't wait to unleash the "Moon Inquiry" move and dominate the battlefield.

What made Lu Ran even more confident was that he had already encountered the bottleneck of cultivation three days ago!

Lu Ran had advanced to River Realm·Second Rank on February 11th of the lunar calendar.

Today being the beginning of April, almost two months had passed.

Once back, he needed to sincerely ask Lord Immortal Goat for a blessing...

Lu Ran, filled with anticipation, carried a bag full of Ghost Moon Fox Demon Crystals as he opened his house door.

"Click~"

The door opened, and a voice reached Lu Ran's ears.

"Meow?"

The curious tabby cat ran up, looking up at its master.

"Missed me?" Lu Ran quickly shut the door to keep the little guy from slipping out.

The tabby cat watched Lu Ran for a moment, then quickly ran away.

In Ghost Moon Mountain, Lu Ran had indeed killed quite a few beings, and like the Evil Dog and Soul-splitting Demon, Ghost Moon Fox Clan members had fleshy bodies, their blood splattering on Lu Ran's body, naturally not dissipating.

Even though Lu Ran often washed his clothes when returning to the village, the scent of blood was really hard to remove.

"Baa~"

Lu Ran was used to this scene; he headed straight for the bathroom, continuously calling out.

Poor tabby cat, once again toyed with by the Enchanting Demon Sheep.

From a cautious escape to an overflowing chase, it only took a moment...

The tabby cat meowed as it followed Lu Ran into the bathroom.

With the tabby cat still meowing, Lu Ran held it in her arms after about fifteen minutes, muttering, "Stay still."

He wrapped the tabby cat in a large towel, turning it into a "cat roll," and casually placed it on the small bed in the bedroom.

"Lord Immortal Sheep!"

Lu Ran approached the shrine, placed his hands together, and bowed a greeting.

The small shrine was quiet, the White Sheep Jade Carving silently still.

Lu Ran didn't mind and began recounting his journey of trials.

From his cultivation progress, the understanding of sword techniques, to the growth on an emotional level.

Aside from the worldly concern for Believer points, Lu Ran shared everything he had experienced and achieved with the divine deity.

Lu Ran had thought it to be a one-sided report.

Unexpectedly, Lord Immortal Goat bestowed great kindness, offering him a high evaluation:

"Good!"

A single word made Lu Ran's mind buzz.

"Lord Immortal Sheep, the Ghost Moon Fox Clan is extraordinary," Lu Ran immediately said, "They have Illusion Techniques, Healing, and can even foresee danger."

The White Sheep Jade Carving asked, "Do you intend to activate this clan's Evil Sculpture?"

Lu Ran pondered for a moment and replied, "The Ghost Moon Fox Clan is indeed a rare helper; it might be good to keep it on standby."

According to the number of enemies killed, Lu Ran's trip to Ghost Moon Mountain and his sculptures in the God Demon Sculpture Garden, the Ghost Moon Fox Evil Sculpture should be able to cultivate to the middle part of the River Realm.

Lu Ran thought and continued, "Considering the current Evil Sculpture configuration I've activated...

I'm probably missing Purification Techniques and Spirit Defense Techniques?"

The White Sheep Jade Carving stated, "You may judge on your own."

Lu Ran opened his mouth but ultimately remained silent.

When Lu Ran had first become a Believer, Lord Immortal Goat had clearly directed him, allowing him to activate the Evil Dog Clan's Evil Sculpture.

Subsequently, Lord Immortal Goat had ordered Lu Ran to activate the Yan Zhi Clan's Evil Sculpture.

The Evil Dog Evil Sculpture indeed displayed incomparable value, helping Lu Ran rise and accompany him in battles to this day.

The Yan Zhi Clan, representing life-saving techniques, was essentially Lord Immortal Goat ensuring Lu Ran's safety.

Beyond these two sculptures, Lord Immortal Goat no longer interfered much with Lu Ran's decisions.

Divine-Immortal Goat had led Lu Ran to the doorway and onto the path.

It also repeatedly indicated that the path ahead should be walked by Lu Ran himself.

Or perhaps it should be put another way: Lu Ran should walk his own path!

Not one laid out by Lord Immortal Goat.

"Yes!" Lu Ran bowed deeply out of sincere respect to Lord Immortal Goat.

The shrine remained quiet, the White Sheep Jade Carving falling back into silence.

After a long silence, Lu Ran spoke again:

"Lord Immortal Sheep, I think I've reached a bottleneck, and I'm about to learn Divine Technique-Body of Sin.

I just don't know if I can advance before the 15th of April.

This time, I've brought back a bag of Ghost Moon Fox Demon Crystals, in case it's not enough..."

Lu Ran was about to ask the deity for help, if just a bit more was needed, to request Lord Immortal Goat's blessing.

However, before he could finish, a deep gravelly voice echoed in his mind:

"Cultivate."

Lu Ran's heart immediately filled with joy: "Yes."

What everyone says is true!

Lord Immortal Goat really loves me~