

Old Gods 281

Chapter 281: Scapegoat

Over the following several days, Lu Ran had been practicing at home, preparing for his advancement.

Jiang Ruyi didn't come to visit either. It would seem she was worried about disturbing Lu Ran.

Their text exchanges were relatively frequent, and they would always chat for a bit before going to sleep each night.

Jiang Ruyi, as ever, was cold in her messages.

She seemed to have a talent for killing the conversation.

So annoying~

There were a few moments when Lu Ran wanted to get dressed, go out, and head straight to Shui Yi Fang Residential Area to drag her out of her house to see what was going on!

In the end, Lu Ran came to a conclusion: it was still not enough personal contact.

Little Ruyi, you just wait...

Wait for the fifteenth day!

Lu Ran's plotting didn't succeed because, on the fourteenth day of the lunar calendar, Jiang Ruyi actually paid a visit.

It was early in the morning when Lu Ran heard the knocking, still somewhat puzzled.

After all, it was the fourteenth day of the lunar calendar, and the whole city was under martial law; not just anyone could leave their home.

He walked out of his small bedroom, quickly went to open the door, and the sight of a graceful figure entered his eyes as the door swung open.

"Ruyi?" Lu Ran's face showed surprise.

Jiang Ruyi was wearing a black raincoat, and beneath the hood, her fair and beautiful face carried a faint hint of a smile.

Seeing the dumbfounded look on Lu Ran's face, she couldn't help but let out a soft laugh,

"We've only been apart for a few days, you don't recognize me?"

Her charming and adorable appearance was starkly different from the person she was on the phone.

The next moment, the teasing look in Jiang Ruyi's eyes vanished because Lu Ran suddenly stepped forward and wrapped his arms around her waist.

"You're wet," Jiang Ruyi whispered, averting her gaze.

It was drizzling outside, and her raincoat indeed was soaked.

However, Lu Ran didn't care; he leaned in and kissed her tender lips.

"Umm," Jiang Ruyi's cheeks blushed, instinctively pushing on Lu Ran's shoulders.

But soon, she closed her beautiful eyes, gave up the struggle, and let him do as he pleased.

After a long time, Lu Ran finally let go of her.

This time, it was his turn to tease, "You're so cold in your messages, huh?"

Jiang Ruyi looked down, her voice soft, "Every time you chat with me, it's too late.

I wanted you to get more sleep, to be fully rested for your advancement."

Lu Ran understood and laughed, "So that's why you always reply with just 'Hmm'?"

Jiang Ruyi softly replied, "Oh, then next time I won't reply."

Lu Ran: ???

Little Ruyi, have you gone against the heavens!

"You said last night that you plan to advance this morning?" Jiang Ruyi suddenly changed the subject and brought up a serious matter.

"Yeah," Lu Ran nodded.

"Here." Jiang Ruyi raised her right hand.

Only then did Lu Ran notice she was holding a bag in her right hand, which contained a thermos container.

"What's this?"

"Didn't you skip breakfast?" Jiang Ruyi asked, but her tone was declarative, seeming to know Lu Ran very well.

Lu Ran: "..."

"Advancing isn't like normal practice; you have to keep your focus at all times which consumes a lot of energy. How can you do it on an empty stomach?" she said, pushing the bag into Lu Ran's hands.

Lu Ran's heart warmed; he had intended to make do with a canned luncheon meat and a can of milk.

He hadn't expected there would be a lovingly prepared breakfast.

Hehe, not bad~

All was worth it for being trapped by you in the Illusion Realm, taking so long to recover in the Ghost Moon Mountain.

Jiang Ruyi took a step back and softly said, "Eat your breakfast and then focus on your advancement. I'll go home first."

"Hey, don't!" Lu Ran pulled her to the shoe rack and squatted down, changing her shoes for her.

Jiang Ruyi hesitated for a while, but ultimately Lu Ran got her shoes changed, took off her raincoat, and brought her into the house.

When facing Lu Ran, she always didn't know how to refuse him.

And then the scene in the small bedroom made Jiang Ruyi unable to suppress her chuckles.

On the floor, Demon Crystals from the Ghost Moon Fox were scattered, just like the last time Lu Ran had advanced.

Additionally, a small tabby cat was playing carefreely, poking at one of the Demon Crystals.

Again, Jiang Ruyi elegantly tiptoed, stepping from one patch of clear floor to the next, until she reached the small Divine Shrine.

"Lord Immortal Goat, I hope my disturbance is not too much."

The young girl brought her hands together devoutly, and bowed properly.

Unlike the last time, Jiang Ruyi was now very familiar with this Divine Sculpture of the shrine.

Or rather, she had become very familiar with this home.

The only place she had never entered was the master bedroom.

"I'll be advancing, and you can practice on the side," Lu Ran proposed, "it's also a good chance for you to consolidate your realm."

Believers absorb a dense amount of Divine Power in their vicinity when they advance.

"Eat first," Jiang Ruyi whispered softly.

"Meow~ Meow~" Upon seeing the mistress return, the tabby cat immediately came over, incessantly rubbing against her trousers.

It looked so pitifully - as if it had been mistreated by Lu Ran...

The breakfast Jiang Ruyi brought was lavish.

Boiled eggs, white porridge, pan-fried potato cakes, along with cold okra and mushrooms with vegetables.

Lu Ran was thoroughly pleased with the meal!

Honestly, if he failed to advance, he would feel terribly sorry for this meal...

After being well-fed and satisfied, Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi went back to the small bedroom, where they both sat in front of the Divine Shrine.

"Whoosh~"

Lu Ran casually scooped up a bunch of Demon Crystals, composed his mind, and then inhaled deeply!

By midday, when the Demon Crystals from the Ghost Moon Fox had been mostly absorbed, Lu Ran finally initiated his advancement mode.

Mist from the heavens and earth began to gather towards the bedroom.

"Hiss..." Beside him, Jiang Ruyi comforted the restless cat, sensing the increasingly thick Divine Power inside the small house. A trace of joy flickered through her eyes.

Though it all seemed to be unfolding naturally, Jiang Ruyi still felt incredibly grateful.

Once Lu Ran advanced to River Realm·Third Rank, he could learn Divine Technique·Body of Sin.

From that point on, Lu Ran's life would be greatly safeguarded!

In moments of crisis, he would be able to summon the mighty Lord Immortal Goat to block a fatal blow for him!

For an average Immortal Sheep Believer, they might not experience the Lord's compassion even once in their lifetime.

But as for Lu Ran...

Given Divine-Immortal Goat's doting affection for Lu Ran, surely he could manifest at least once to save Lu Ran's life, right?

Jiang Ruyi secretly rejoiced and also silently wished for Lu Ran's success.

This waiting lasted until dusk.

At that time, the tabby cat had long slipped out of the bedroom, leaving only the girl to accompany Lu Ran, waiting for the defining moment to arrive.

"Huff!!"

A Gale burst forth, the air churned!

Jiang Ruyi shielded her face with her hand as her dark hair danced wildly.

Next, the mists swirling around inside the room were visibly absorbed by Lu Ran, compressed and solidified into flowing water within his body.

"Heh..."

Lu Ran took a long breath, leaned back, and lay flat on the ground.

Utterly devoid of any expert's demeanor.

Jiang Ruyi tidied her disheveled hair, watching the sprawling form of Lu Ran, and couldn't help but smile secretly.

In this world, perhaps no other Believer dared to be as unrestrained as he was.

As to the extent of Lord Immortal Goat's fondness for Lu Ran, Jiang Ruyi found it hard to gauge.

"I made it!" announced Lu Ran, turning his head to look at the girl beside him.

"Yep," Jiang Ruyi responded, her smile radiant as she looked at him, "Shall we practice the Divine Technique?"

Lu Ran: "..."

No celebration, straight into practicing Divine Technique?

In your eyes, how fragile am I?

"Alright then." Lu Ran straightened his attire and stood in front of the Divine Shrine with his hands joined together, "Thank you, Lord Immortal Goat, for your protection!"

Inside the shrine, the White Sheep Jade Carving was tranquil, with a faint mist still lingering around.

Lu Ran continued, "Lord Immortal Goat, may I test out the Divine Technique·Body of Sin?"

Jiang Ruyi stood quietly to the side, listening to Lu Ran's bold request.

She also wished eagerly for Lu Ran to successfully cast the spell earlier and rehearse this life-saving divine skill.

"Hm~"

The next second, Divine Power surged violently within Lu Ran.

During these past several days, Lu Ran had already learned how to cast the Divine Technique·Body of Sin, but whether he could succeed depended on whether Lord Immortal Goat was willing to manifest.

Jiang Ruyi quickly backed away, her eyes firmly fixed on Lu Ran.

Lu Ran projected his Divine Power around his entire body.

The technique was similar to casting the armor of water flow but was a one-shot deal that would consume a considerable amount of Divine Power.

"Huff!!"

Mists of the Immortal rose, with Lu Ran's short hair fluttering lightly.

His eyes glowed brightly, with dazzling radiance shimmering within them!

The water streams wrapped around Lu Ran were like boiling, an astonishing sight to behold.

Divine Technique·Body of Sin!

"Disciple Lu Ran humbly requests the Divine's protection!"

Lu Ran murmured, his hands pressed together, bowing slightly toward the shrine.

"Boom!!"

A giant ethereal figure descended from the sky, enveloping Lu Ran within it.

It was clearly seated, but its goat horns almost touched the ceiling!

It wore a broad white jade robe, swirling with mist, exuding an immortal presence.

The robe shimmered like suet jade, glowing strangely, as if billowing like waves, moving gently up and down.

Not only was it astonishingly beautiful, it was majestic!

Jiang Ruyi's mouth fell open slightly as she looked up at the grand divine apparition.

Lord Immortal Goat had truly manifested.

After a moment of response, she hurriedly kneeled down, her hands pressed together, her heart murmuring,

"Thank you Lord Immortal Goat for protecting Lu Ran; I am forever grateful."

The Immortal Goat apparition seemed to notice something and turned its head slightly to look at the devoutly kneeling Human girl nearby.

Its inherently kind gaze subtly changed.

It looked somewhat appreciative, but more than that, it seemed content.

"Hmm~"

The Immortal Goat apparition vanished without a trace, taking with it the boiling Divine Power from Lu Ran's body.

Only a faint mist lingered, and within it, Lu Ran looked visibly distressed.

He had just advanced, and his Divine Power was immensely abundant!

Yet, with just one casting, the technique had whisked away more than half of the Divine Power in his body!

It was quite draining.

But on a second thought, compared to the life-preserving benefit, it was definitely worth it.

"In the future, I can be more reckless," Lu Ran licked his lips.

Suddenly, a low, hoarse voice resounded in Lu Ran's mind:

"Dare you!"

"I dare not, I dare not," Lu Ran quickly shook his head.

The voice transmitted again: "Your consumption of Divine Power is inconsequential.

If I am injured in this state, it would consume my fundamental energy."

Lu Ran was startled, fully aware of the importance of fundamental energy, and immediately responded, "The disciple understands!"

Unless it is a matter of life and death, I will not use this technique."

White Sheep Jade Carving: "Hmm, this technique is somewhat useful in the Human Race World.

Now that you have reached River Realm Third Rank, various Evil Techniques will be enough to keep you worry-free. Immerse yourself in study, especially the Evil Dog Clan's Instant Teleportation Technique.

Also, you need to learn the Paper Effigy Technique of the Yan Paper sect soon.

Another world is waiting for you."

The Divine Lord seldom gave such a lengthy discourse, stirring Lu Ran's heart greatly!

He nodded vigorously, "Yes!"

Chapter 282: Finally Mastered the Divine Skill!

Jiang Ruyi waited quietly by the side.

Divine-Immortal Goat communicated with Lu Ran using telepathy, and naturally, she couldn't hear the Divine's words, only Lu Ran's responses.

After the exchange between man and Divine finished, Lu Ran turned his head to look at her, and a smile appeared on Jiang Ruyi's face as well.

That fleeting smile was so beautiful that Lu Ran couldn't help himself, wanting to hold her in his arms once again.

It must be said, Lu Ran's greed was growing.

So greedy that...

"It's already dark, let's stay here tonight," Lu Ran stepped forward, taking the girl's delicate hand.
"Today is the fourteenth, the city is on lockdown."

Jiang Ruyi had intended to congratulate Lu Ran, to give him a belated celebration.

This sudden change of topic left her somewhat at a loss.

Led by the hand out of the small bedroom by Lu Ran, he no longer held back and wrapped one arm around the young girl's waist, pulling her into a firm embrace.

"Umm." Jiang Ruyi leaned slightly back, receiving an unprecedented passionate kiss.

Her eyes tightly closed, one hand rested on Lu Ran's shoulder, her slender fingers tightly gripping.

Having successfully advanced, Lu Ran was indeed very happy.

That belated congratulation, he didn't bother her to offer it personally; he claimed it himself.

After a long while, Jiang Ruyi, dazed, hung her head lightly panting, trying to calm her erratic breathing.

In her ears were Lu Ran's soft whispers, "I'll go and prepare the master bedroom, you can sleep there tonight.

First thing tomorrow morning, we'll go execute the task."

"Lu Ran."

"Hmm?"

"Take me home," Jiang Ruyi said softly, her eyes drooping. "Tomorrow is the fifteenth. It's the night of Heavenly Pride. We should both be in good shape.

Besides, mom sent me a lot of messages, she has asked me to come home many times."

Lu Ran: "..."

After a long silence from Lu Ran, she mustered her courage, looked up, and lightly kissed him on the lips, like a dragonfly touching water:

"Is that okay?"

That coaxing tone was rare indeed.

"Alright then." Lu Ran couldn't very well insist, so he reluctantly agreed.

Seeing the unhappy look on Lu Ran's face, Jiang Ruyi's cheeks flushed, her coaxing tone remained:

"Tomorrow morning, will I see you at my house to pick me up?"

"Oh." Lu Ran reluctantly agreed and then suddenly said, "When should I visit your house?

I haven't officially met your uncle and aunt yet."

A ripple stirred in Jiang Ruyi's heart; her mother had mentioned this a few times too.

But Lu Ran was very busy. Really very busy.

Busy cultivating, busy experiencing.

Now, Lu Ran finally brought it up.

Was her life entering a new stage?

"Ruyi?"

"After our college entrance exam?" Jiang Ruyi returned to her senses and voiced an answer she had repeated many times in her mind.

"Good, that's settled then!" Lu Ran nodded firmly. "By the way, what do uncle and aunt like? Give me some hints?"

"Guess?"

Jiang Ruyi seemed to be in a very good mood, the usually gentle and quiet girl showing a mischievous smile.

"Tch~"

Laughing and joking, they left the house, braving the light rain, heading towards the residential complex on the waterfront.

Along the way, they encountered many Moon Gazer teams and were stopped several times.

Fortunately, Lu Ran's face was a pass in itself.

Not only was he not reprimanded, but he also received many blessings and words of encouragement.

For tomorrow's "Heavenly Pride," the Moon Gazers seemed to care about it even more than Lu Ran did.

By the time Lu Ran returned home, it was already past seven in the evening.

He didn't idle but began researching Evil Techniques.

To date, Lu Ran had activated a total of five Evil Demon Sculptures.

They were the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture, Soul-splitting Demon Evil Sculpture, Black Lantern Evil Sculpture, Night Charm Evil Sculpture, and Yan Zhi Evil Sculpture.

Among them, the Yan Zhi Evil Sculpture was River Realm·First Rank, the Black Lantern Evil Sculpture was River Realm·Second Rank.

Lu Ran could feel that, after tomorrow, the Black Lantern Evil Sculpture would likely level up as well.

On the night of the fifteenth, the Black Lamp Clan wasn't uncommon.

Then, Lu Ran would be equipped with the Black Lamp Clan's Evil Technique·Yin Lamp Array.

This technique was a group control skill; Lu Ran could summon many black lanterns, and any beings caught in the light would have their movements hindered.

Of course, Lu Ran couldn't learn it yet, so he turned his attention to the remaining three sculptures.

These three sculptures, when in River Realm·Third Rank, matched different Evil Techniques, which were:

Evil Dog Evil Skill·Evil Shadow Flash.

Soul-splitting Demon Evil Technique·Soul Splitting Formation.

Night Charm Evil Skill·Night Charm Shadow.

Aside from the Soul Splitting Formation, the other two Evil Techniques were within Lu Ran's means to study and experiment.

After all, Lu Ran certainly didn't want to summon a herd of brave charging bulls and have his house torn down...

Lu Ran first targeted the Evil Technique·Evil Shadow Flash!

He connected closely with the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture and studied for a long time before opening his eyes.

"Impressive." Lu Ran quickly made a round inside the house, drawing all the curtains.

Being cautious never hurt.

Then, Lu Ran summoned his full Divine Power, joined hands with the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture to cast the spell.

The energy inside him was exceptionally active, and he felt a compressive force.

It felt as though all his energy was squeezing inward, wanting to knead him into a ball?

Immediately afterward, Lu Ran felt an expansive force, as if the energy inside wanted to burst forth fiercely from his body.

And these two sensations occurred in an instant.

"Whoosh~"

Lu Ran teleported instantly, moving from beside the small bed directly in front of the shrine.

Lu Ran, having successfully cast the spell, seemed a bit dazed.

He turned his head to look around, repeatedly confirming that he had indeed moved several steps away in an instant.

"Bloody awesome!" Lu Ran was flushed with excitement.

This damn...

It's a divine skill!

Lu Ran, like a child with a new beloved toy, stared eagerly at his small bed.

"Whoosh~"

His figure flashed again, this time appearing in front of the nightstand.

"It's like friggin' dreaming!"

Lu Ran rubbed his cheeks hard, trying to clear his head a bit.

Wait a minute.

Could he teleport to places he couldn't see?

After pondering for a moment, Lu Ran was all too familiar with the layout of his home.

"Whoosh~"

"Meow!" The calico cat on the living room sofa got a huge fright.

It had been leisurely licking its paw and with a figure suddenly appearing, the calico cat literally sprang into the air.

Good lord~

It jumped quite high?

"Whoa!" Lu Ran reached out to catch the calico.

Strangely, he had not yet landed his forward step when he disappeared again.

When Lu Ran's feet touched the ground, he appeared right under the startled cat, catching it securely.

"Meow?" The calico was utterly baffled.

It nestled in its owner's arms, looking up and staring blankly at Lu Ran.

Clearly, its little brain was a bit overwhelmed.

"Sorry." Lu Ran gently stroked its ruffled fur, soothingly.

"Meow~" The calico quietly mewled, suddenly feeling the surroundings empty.

The master had disappeared again.

The calico fell and managed a half-turn mid-fall, landing on all fours on the floor.

"Meow~~~! Meow meow! Meow!"

Lu Ran, in the pitch-dark master bedroom, heard the calico cursing up a storm in the living room.

He didn't understand,

But it sounded rather foul...

"Can't bring living creatures, huh." Although Lu Ran was prepared, he still felt a bit regretful.

Well then, be content.

Teleportation was good enough.

"Dad, mom." Lu Ran's eyes shimmered with a strange gleam as he looked towards the wall above the bed head, at the hanging wedding photo, "Impressive, huh?"

From now on,

Mom will never have to worry about me forgetting to bring the house keys!

Prisoner Demon believers can pry open windows and pick locks?

Huh,

After all, that's not the right way!

I, as the Master of Evil Dog, can slip silently into people's homes without leaving a trace of picking locks!

Wait!

Lu Ran slapped his forehead, he wasn't a follower of the Evil Dog but the Master of Evil Dog.

"Whoosh~"

Lu Ran teleported again, standing beside the bed.

His hand touched the wedding photo of his parents, softly speaking, "In a while, I'll clean up this room.

You wouldn't mind, right?"

Lu Ran believed this small matter certainly didn't need to bother his mother.

Moreover, since his parents divorced when he was young, his mother had never stepped into this home again and had long abandoned this room.

Even when he moved to Beijing, it had been someone his mother sent.

Regarding his deceased father...

His father hadn't spoken out against it, which was as good as consenting, right?

Lu Ran's hand gently brushed over the old photograph, putting aside his joking thoughts, "I'll keep this photo safe, I'll preserve it well."

In the netherworld, you'll be pleased for me.

"Whoosh~"

Lu Ran silently disappeared.

Returning to the small bedroom, he only felt a hollow inside.

Lu Ran realized then; his excitement had gotten the better of him, casting spells consecutively in a short span.

Coupled with the Evil Dog Evil Technique·Evil Shadow Flash being quite energy-draining, his body sent out warning signals.

Lu Ran immediately drew energy from the Divine Power Pearl around his neck.

With "Heavenly Pride" imminent, he couldn't afford to deplete his body.

After a while, once Lu Ran felt his Divine Power replenished, he then entered the mental realm, closely connecting with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture.

It was time to display the Night Charm Shadow!

This technique that split into three had long been coveted by Lu Ran.

A full quarter-hour later, Lu Ran opened his eyes, his expression a bit odd.

Having thoroughly understood the Evil Technique, Lu Ran also realized the problem.

"Hum~"

Lu Ran's body trembled heavily with overwhelming Divine Power, and abruptly split into three!

More precisely, two figures emerged from his body.

It was these two figures that had Lu Ran scratching his head.

The name of this technique was—Night Charm Shadow.

Then the question arose, who were the two figures created by Lu Ran?

The answer was—Night Charm!

Lu Ran smirked, looking at the two Night Charms, he couldn't switch bodies at will.

Because essentially, the Night Charm Clan was made of energy bodies.

This clan appeared to have flesh and blood, but once killed, their bones would eventually turn into energy, dispersing with the wind.

Lu Ran, however, was truly a body of flesh and blood!

Energy bodies couldn't serve as his physical containers.

If the Evil Technique·Night Charm Shadow was considered a "two-stage technique," Lu Ran could only perform the first stage, summoning two clones.

The fundamental difference in structure prevented Lu Ran from completing the second stage.

Well, no matter.

After all, he already had the Evil Dog Evil Technique·Evil Shadow Flash; he could just treat these two Night Charms as distractions.

"Pfft~"

No sooner had Lu Ran thought this than the two Night Charms burst into mist.

These two clones were meant to enable Night Charm to switch bodies and distract enemies in a short time; they couldn't exist for long.

Hmm... That's no worry!

Being able to distract was enough.

In the future, on the battlefield, killing and having two Night Charms suddenly spring from his body, wouldn't that be enough?

It wouldn't matter if these two Night Charms could last ten or eight seconds, even if they could only appear for an instant, they could still make two strikes!

Enough to take a life, enough to help Lu Ran escape.

Enough for Lu Ran to perform many clever maneuvers, just waiting for him to explore.

So... no worries, no worries at all!

Putting everything aside, everything could be summed up with one sentence: Holy shit, I've got Evil Shadow Flash!

!! Can! Teleport! Now!

Chapter 283: Return of the Heavenly Pride

This night, Lu Ran was immersed in the joy of having learned the Instant Teleportation technique, unable to fall asleep for a long time.

The following morning, when Lu Ran, clad in Huang Yuyi and carrying dual blades, stepped out of his house, he was still grinning foolishly...

The Evil Technique·Evil Shadow Flash was not only a lifesaving trump card but also could substantially leapfrog Lu Ran's combat capabilities.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say: this technique was Lu Ran's capital to conquer thousands of Evil Demons!

The only downside was, the River Grade·Evil Shadow Flash could only blink a distance of a hundred meters.

But no matter, the grade of the Evil Technique could still be raised.

Jiang Pin, Sea Grade...

And possibly even higher grades that might exist.

By then, the world would be vast, and where couldn't we go?

"You seem so happy?" A female voice came from afar, tinged with a hint of curiosity.

"Hm?" Lu Ran came back to his senses and looked over.

He saw a tall figure standing at the entrance of the Shui Yifang residential area.

She was still wearing a large black raincoat, a few strands of long hair peeking out from the raincoat hood, gently swaying in the slanting wind and drizzle.

"What's the good news?" Jiang Ruyi asked with a smile.

However, Lu Ran quickened his pace, wrapping one arm around her waist with practiced ease.

The large black raincoat, constrained by Lu Ran's arm, outlined the young girl's graceful curves.

"Uhm." Jiang Ruyi's face flushed, with butterflies fluttering in her heart.

She, who had been kissed several times, should not be so overwhelmed.

Especially now, her mother should be standing on the balcony, watching over this way...

Naughty guy, he's really becoming more and more presumptuous!

Jiang Ruyi thought to herself and gently pushed Lu Ran away, taking two steps back.

"Let's go~" Lu Ran hadn't noticed anything amiss.

He held the girl's hand and walked off into the misty drizzle in the distance.

Jiang Ruyi lowered her eyes but ultimately couldn't resist sneaking a look at the ninth floor.

She just saw her mother standing on the balcony, sending them off with a beaming smile.

Although it was just a quick glance, Jiang Ruyi was sure that her mother was smiling.

"Umm..." Jiang Ruyi was so ashamed she couldn't lift her head, her cheeks burning like fire.

That damn Lu Ran!!!

Causing trouble at home wasn't enough; now in the streets, he... hmm, why was he so happy?

Today was the fifteenth of the lunar month, a very solemn day.

If others saw Lu Ran's state, what would happen if they blew it out of proportion?

Thinking of this, Jiang Ruyi couldn't care less about anything else and asked again, "Lu Ran, you seem to be in a really good mood?"

"Because I saw you~"

Somebody lied as easily as breathing.

Ever since mastering the Evil Technique·Evil Shadow Flash, Lu Ran's mind was filled with thoughts of teleportation; how could he spare room for anyone else?

Regarding mastering the technique, the last time Lu Ran was this happy traced back to when he learned the Divine Technique·Immortal Hoof.

Back then, he "zipped" non-stop around the area, frolicking recklessly in the rain.

He was like a joyful little pencil~

Lu Ran seemed to have made sense of his preferences.

No matter how strong the output, defense, or control techniques were, they could only make him happy.

Only high-speed movement, instantaneous movement techniques like "movement technique," could make him ecstatic!

It appears,

I was born to show off!

"Nonsense." Jiang Ruyi retorted softly, and, turning the tables, she pinched Lu Ran's palm, reminding him, "It's okay if you don't want to say.

But today is the fifteenth of the lunar month, the day of the Heavenly Pride, and later we will have to wear cameras.

Everyone's life is hard enough, so manage your expressions."

"Oh." Lu Ran suddenly realized, his mood immediately dampened.

The thought of combat under the watch of countless eyes made him sigh helplessly.

Who knew when he'd be able to fight without constraints and unleash his true power!

The "other world" mentioned by Lord Immortal Goat should let him roam freely, right?

Hmm... I must perform well to earn the approval of the deities sooner.

Of course, one must look far ahead!

There will come a day when I will willingly or be forced to lay all my cards out to the entire world.

And when that time comes, upon unlocking all my power...

I shall turn this world upside down!

"You pinched me," whispered Jiang Ruyi, her voice reaching Lu Ran's ear.

"Ah, sorry." Lu Ran quickly released her hand.

Jiang Ruyi hesitated, seemingly wanting to ask something, but ultimately she didn't.

She didn't know what Lu Ran was thinking.

Lu Ran was behaving too unusually today.

Especially his intense gaze and the formidable presence he unintentionally emitted were enough to unsettle Jiang Ruyi.

He seemed to have made some significant decision, reminiscent of someone heading to the battlefield or the front lines.

The saying goes, the more you care, the more you worry.

Now that Lu Ran had advanced to River Realm-Third Rank and acquired the lifesaving technique Body of Substitute, it was only natural for Jiang Ruyi's thoughts to run wild.

Who knows what Lord Immortal Goat told him?

With the deities doting on him so, perhaps there was some deeper reason.

Jiang Ruyi's thoughts were simple: Lu Ran was a unique talent that the Immortal Sheep sect had been waiting for nearly forty years to find.

Given this, Lu Ran should have some important mission, right?

Jiang Ruyi slowly reached out and took the initiative to take Lu Ran's hand.

"Does it still hurt?" Lu Ran carefully held the girl's delicate hand, gently kneading it.

Cool and soft.

It was even more fun to squeeze than a cat's paw.

Jiang Ruyi whispered, "If you have any major decisions to make, you have to tell me in advance, okay?"

"Major decisions?" Lu Ran looked puzzled.

"Mhm." Jiang Ruyi gripped Lu Ran's hand tighter, obviously not wanting him to go it alone.

Her gaze towards Lu Ran was tender and firm.

After a moment of silence, Lu Ran smiled, "Okay."

Rain Alley City remained overcast, with a persistent drizzle.

However, Lu Ran's smile was as bright as sunshine, providing Jiang Ruyi with a semblance of peace.

She lowered her head, allowing Lu Ran to lead her, step by step, towards Hexi Park.

Along the way, the two were somewhat silent.

It wasn't until they reached the familiar spot, in front of the lakeside dock cottage, that the atmosphere was broken.

"Yo?" Sun Zhengfang opened the door and chuckled at the young couple outside, "Had a fight?"

"A fight?" Lu Ran was puzzled, "No, we didn't."

"Your Uncle Sun is an experienced man," Sun Zhengfang said cheerfully, "Having a little conflict with friends is normal."

Who doesn't argue now and then?"

Arguing is one thing.

But we really didn't fight!

Lu Ran picked up the girl's hand and shook it vigorously, "She's been so gentle, how could we fight?"

"Go." Jiang Ruyi spat at Lu Ran and quickly withdrew her hand.

"Alright, alright." Sun Zhengfang nodded, "No conflict is good, tonight we still have to unite and overcome the difficulties."

As Sun Zhengfang's expression became more serious, Lu Ran frowned slightly.

This morning, he forgot an important thing.

He forgot to ask Chang Ying for her prediction and also forgot to ask Bai Manni for her premonition.

Lu Ran's voice was hesitant, "Uncle Sun, is there a great power from outside coming to Rain Alley City today?"

"There isn't," Sun Zhengfang responded crisply, "But Rain Alley City always has great powers stationed here."

Lu Ran pondered and ventured, "Are you talking about Captain Ge?"

"Yo?" Sun Zhengfang was quite surprised, "You still remember Captain Ge?"

"Of course." Lu Ran stepped into the house, donning equipment while he said, "Last July fifteenth, Sister Yuxiang scolded me.

She told me it's best not to always think of seeing Captain Ge, whenever he appears, it means trouble."

Sun Zhengfang nodded lightly and patted Lu Ran's shoulder, "Just face it with an everyday mindset.

How many trials have we been through together?

Whether it is the Night of Ghosts or Demon Lord's advent, didn't we live well and get through it all?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Don't say this kind of thing before a big battle, hey!

Wei Long, who had been sitting quietly, suddenly asked, "How is the progress of your two's training lately?"

Lu Ran smiled, "We're both at River Realm·Third Rank now."

"Oh?" Sun Zhengfang's interest piqued, "So soon?"

"I'm not doing well, I just advanced last night." Lu Ran humbly waved his hand, "Ruyi advanced long ago.

We were training at Ghost Moon Mountain, and while she was at it, she just broke through her realm."

The light words nearly made Sun Zhengfang laugh.

Wei Long remained silent, not wanting to speak further.

"There are cameras here, don't talk nonsense." Jiang Ruyi lightly patted Lu Ran's arm.

"Just lightening the mood," Lu Ran said nonchalantly.

Watching the two Heaven's Chosen, Sun Zhengfang swiftly adjusted his mindset, exclaiming, "Good, very good!"

This meant there was a greater chance for everyone's survival.

"Let's go, patrol the city!" Sun Zhengfang commanded with a swing of his arm, leading the group.

As per the norm, the team patrolled their designated area twice in the morning and afternoon.

The group visited shops along the street and inquired about the number of residents in the apartment complexes, all of which Lu Ran and Jiang knew like the back of their hands.

The day flew by amidst the hustle and bustle.

The intermittent drizzle was utterly annoying.

Night began to fall.

The faraway lights atop Wu Lie Building shone brightly again.

Like a lighthouse, they illuminated and comforted the hearts of the inhabitants of Rain Alley.

"Is it about time?" Lu Ran asked casually.

He gazed into the distance, and below the dim sky, the ruined and diminutive Rain Alley City lit up with thousands of lights.

"It's time. Evil Demons could invade the city at any moment. Stay vigilant!" Sun Zhengfang strode at the center of the team, responding gravely.

"Bring it on." Lu Ran muttered to himself, recalling a sword technique he grasped at Ghost Moon Mountain.

Let's enlighten the world with this Heavenly Pride event!

"Zi..."

Lu Ran lifted his hand and grasped the hilt of the blade on his shoulder, slowly drawing the Silent Night Blade.

"Lur..."

Before the blade was unsheathed, Lu Ran suddenly turned his head toward a pharmacy on the street corner.

The large "Pharmacy" sign had already turned a fiery red.

Without Lu Ran having to alert them, the team members all noticed the fire on the corner of the street!

"Charge!" Sun Zhengfang shouted.

Keeping formation, the four-man group sprinted nearly twenty meters.

"What's this?" Lu Ran was shocked, his gaze shifting upward.

He saw a towering horse, suddenly materializing on the side of a building.

It was pitch black, with lines of flames burning across its body like wounds!

With flames swirling around its hooves and eyes ablaze, snorting scorching breaths, it was truly majestic, compelling awe.

Evil Demon-Wu Huoju!

"Quick, Divine Weapons!" Sun Zhengfang's expression changed, "Finish it quickly, we can't let the Ghost General find..."

Before he could finish, Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi simultaneously made their move, not daring to delay.

It was clear to them both the serious nature of the problem.

The Dawn Blade and Cold Night Sword thrust directly at the fiery steed.

"Xilulu!"

The horse let out a piercing neigh, its already restless behavior intensified as it heavily stamped the ground with its front hooves.

"Whoosh!!"

The flames surged like a tidal wave, billowing forth with a fearsome intensity.

"Ting ting ting," a series of sharp sounds filled the air, the noise of metal clashing echoed incessantly.

Lu Ran's eyes narrowed!

Within the roaring flames, he dimly spotted a Green Dragon Yanyue Blade zooming at high speed...

Chapter 284: generals, a one-on-one duel!

Two months had passed since Lu Ran last participated in "Heavenly Pride."

During these two months, Lu Ran's name had spread far and wide, across the north and south of the great river.

His various performances on the battlefield were repeatedly studied and learned, even entering classrooms and becoming college teaching videos.

The so-called "Heavenly Pride" was not just a strong tonic for the Da Xia populace from the government but also a benchmark set up by Da Xia for the young!

Lu Ran was the only high school student among the hundred Heavenly Prides.

After a round of competition, bearing the title of Immortal Sheep Believer, he ranked seventh overall!

The extent of Lu Ran's popularity was beyond the imagination of ordinary people.

If it weren't for the significant protection of the Da Xia government, starting from the top and pushing down, Lu Ran's family threshold would have been trampled long ago.

Even so, in February, Lu Ran still frequently received various requests for interviews.

Had he not seen the situation coming and turned on Do Not Disturb mode early, blocking unknown numbers and preventing messages from coming through, he wouldn't have had a moment's peace every day.

After two months of fermentation, Lu Ran's second participation in "Heavenly Pride" was explosively hot!

A crushing type of first!

You must know, among the fifty students participating in this battle, everyone was a favored child of heaven.

Among them was even the first-ranked female Martial Monk Believer, a rare and uncommon sight.

With such gimmicky support, the number of viewers on the first Heavenly Pride channel couldn't reach a third of Lu Ran's channel viewers!

A rare and uncommon sight?

Who wasn't!

Immortal Sheep Believer, Paper Doll Lover, Master of Divine Weapon, Personified Night Charm...

A series of labels were slapped on Lu Ran's head, smashing him into deserved fame as the hottest topic.

Those who had not witnessed Lu Ran's heroism personally on the night of the 15th were now surging into the live broadcast room.

Even during Lu Ran's daytime patrols, all kinds of fiends and monsters appeared in the live broadcast room.

The barrages were like seas, layer upon layer.

Now, as the night of the 15th defense officially began, no one knew who started it, but the live broadcast room had already begun "bah-ing"!

Looking around, it was as if they'd entered a damn sheep pen...

"Bah!"

"Bah bah."

"Bah bah bah~"

"Stop your damn bah-ing, the battle has started, and this horse is so cool."

"Ah! Isn't that Wu Huoju? Is the Ghost General coming?"

"Kill it fast, we must not let the Ghost General mount the horse..."

"It's over, I think I saw the Yanyue Blade! The Ghost General is here!!"

"What the hell with this general and that blade, in a moment my homeboy Ran Mei will dance for you, just shake it and that'll be the end~"

Meanwhile, at the corner of Rain Alley City.

Lu Ran covered his face with one hand and held Jiang Ruyi in front of him with the other, retreating backward.

The scorching flames, like waves, lunged forward.

Even though the group wasn't burned by the flames, the hot air that hit their faces made it hard to breathe.

Thank goodness it rained today in Rain Alley City, or else a fire would be inevitable.

The constant "ding ding ding" sound was audible, indicating that someone was clashing with a Divine Weapon amidst the raging flames.

"It still came," Sun Zhengfang said with a somber expression, heaving a heavy sigh.

The Evil Demon-Wu Huoju tribe is adept at using fire, posing a great threat to human cities, but they are auxiliary Evil Demons.

What's truly terrifying is the Evil Demon riding on Wu Huoju—the Ghost General!

Strictly speaking, a general and a horse belong to two different species and are affiliated with different Demon Caves.

But for some reason, whenever they appear on the night of the 15th, they are always together.

Just like the Evil Demon-Ghost Talisman Doll.

Once you find one, there's a certain chance to find another nearby.

Compared to that couple of boys and girls, the pairing of the Ghost General and Wu Huoju has a higher occurrence rate!

Nine out of ten times, they appear together!

It's just that there might be some time or distance differences when they show up.

Humans must seize the opportunity to eliminate one of them first.

Once horse and general unite, the threat level is simply not on the same scale.

"Ha!"

Suddenly, a harsh shout burst forth from within the sea of flames.

Everyone's hearts shook, and a sense of panic and fear rose from the bottom of their hearts.

This was the Evil Technique-Ghost General's Might of the Ghost General clan!

"Don't panic!" Sun Zhengfang shouted loudly.

At the same time, he flung several branches from his hand, and the supple branches landed on everyone, emanating green light.

Combination skill from Biwu Divine Skill: Biwu Branch+Biwu Holy Light!

If Lu Ran's team lacked anything, it was Purification Techniques.

Wei Long and Jiang Ruyi, being Prisoner Demon believers and Jade Talisman believers respectively, are well-rounded in offense, defense, and control, though their focus differs slightly.

This young sheep Lu Ran was a flexible and Swift jungler.

Only Sun Zhengfang played the main support, but while he could heal, he couldn't purify!

With no other choice, Sun Zhengfang could only use the healing skill·Biwu Holy Light's additional effects to try and soothe everyone's minds.

"Swish~swish!"

Jiang Ruyi directly threw out two Jade Tokens, only to see that within the fierce flames, a firewall suddenly stood up, detonating the Jade Talisman in advance and blocking it outside.

"Come back."

Lu Ran's expression was grave as he raised his hand.

The Dawn Blade penetrated the firewall and quickly returned, with the Silent Night Blade following.

"Neigh~~~"

The steed whinnied loudly, echoing through the rainy night.

Accompanied by the sound of hooves, one general and one horse slowly walked out.

"Hiss..." Sun Zhengfang grimaced, taking in a sharp breath.

As an experienced team captain, he surely shouldn't have such a strong reaction?

Lu Jiang duo didn't know that when Sun Zhengfang had just started working, the combination of the Ghost General and Wu Huoju had indeed left a deep psychological shadow on him.

"Whoa!" Lu Ran looked up, watching the majestic general emerge from the flames atop the horse.

He wore a black helmet and armor shrouded in mist, with a beast-headed belt around his waist, wielding a heavy Yanyue Blade.

Truly like an ancient general!

Beneath the dark helmet was a face engulfed in black mist, indistinct, but those blood-red eyes shone terrifyingly.

Eerily daunting yet strikingly awe-inspiring!

Evil Demon-Ghost General!

"Huh!"

The Ghost General swung the Yanyue Blade sharply, scattering waves of flames.

The Ghost General clan lacked any fire-related techniques, but riding on this one Wu Huoju changed everything.

The clan had a hidden trait: a mind-meld with the steed beneath them.

To some extent, the Ghost General was the master of the Wu Huoju, calming the unruly steed to serve him.

"Hm!" The Ghost General let out a deep nasal sound.

He pointed the tip of his blade at Wei Long, the Human Clan member at the very back.

Four words: Call out, single combat!

This was another trait of the Ghost General clan: a love for single duels before the army.

Of course, you could refuse.

Besides being disdained by the Ghost General clan, you wouldn't lose anything.

Clearly, this Ghost General had carefully picked the strongest in his eyes out of the Lu Ran quartet.

Wei Long: "..."

Single combat was against the combat philosophy of the Human Clan troops.

The various schools and sects had different Divine Skills, and the believers of the Human Clan focused on joining forces to face the enemy.

Who would flaunt temporal bravado, abandon their advantages, and engage in a life-and-death fight with an Evil Demon?

In this world, probably only the Red Cloth Sect couldn't stand such provocation.

This was because Divine·Red Cloth despised the Ghost General clan the most!

The techniques of the two sects also had many similarities.

Online, there were many battle scenes of Red Cloth versus Ghost General.

A Red Cloth Believer would hoist a red flag billowing in the wind, and the Ghost General would raise a chilling black flag.

The Red Cloth Believer would invite the ancestor spirit to possess them, while the Ghost General would unfold a massive Domain of General Soul.

The Red Cloth Believer would roar in rage, the battle spirit soaring.

The Evil Demon Ghost General would constantly shout, intimidating all beings.

When the two clashed, it was a true meeting of equals, sharp as the edge of a blade!

Also, only a Red Cloth Believer might get the Ghost General to dismount for infantry combat.

Note! Might, and not definitely.

Aside from the Red Cloth Believer, when the Ghost General fought anyone else from the Human Clan, they always rode their horse.

"Hmph." Atop the steed, the Ghost General, seeing Wei Long unresponsive, lowered his blade and snorted disdainfully.

This contemptuous noise, that lofty demeanor, really blew up Lu Ran's live broadcast room.

In this world, the Human Clan's hatred for Evil Demons was indeed a vendetta as deep as the sea!

Among the audience, common people and low-level believers formed a large proportion.

Powerless against the invasion of Evil Demons, they constantly tasted despair, living under constant pressure every day.

That's precisely why they treated "Heavenly Pride" as spiritual sustenance, seeing the participating students as a spiritual focus.

In other words, others could be timid, but you as the Heavenly Pride absolutely cannot!

Under the gaze of tens of thousands, you were made fun of?

That's! Even! More! Unacceptable!

You represent Da Xia's dignity, the Human Clan's dignity.

To put it unpleasantly: you can die, but you absolutely cannot fear, and even more so, you cannot retreat!

Hardly anyone distinguished who exactly the Ghost General had pointed at.

But on camera, when the Evil Demon·Ghost General directed at your team, issuing a direct challenge to single combat, it meant they were challenging you, Heavenly Pride·Lu Ran!

"Kick his ass!"

"Damn, who's cursing? Get him, Lu Ran! Go!!"

"That Ghost General is so damn handsome..."

"Handsome my ass, kill him! Man and horse! Lu Ran! Slay him ahhh!"

"Bah!!!!"

The live broadcast room's mad surge of comments surprisingly coincided with the voices people heard.

Because indeed, Lu Ran had shouted aloud, "Bah!"

"Huh?" The Ghost General was about to charge when he heard the shout and turned his gaze away.

He looked down at Lu Ran at the forefront of the team, those blood-red eyes locking onto him.

But the Ghost General didn't charge immediately.

Because, like the Red Cloth Sect, the Ghost General clan had Spirit Defense Techniques and was completely immune to mental disturbances!

Lu Ran held the Dawn Blade in his left hand, slowly lifting it, pointing its tip at the Ghost General.

The intention was clear.

Single combat!

"Neigh!!"

The Ghost General was excited beyond measure, his eyes emitting two chilling red glows.

"Huff~"

All at once, the Ghost General, in his right hand, summoned a black flag.

A cold breeze sprang up, mist swirling on the flag.

When the flagpole was planted in the ground, the Domain for a duel would open.

Now the Ghost General held the black flag, not yet planted, clearly waiting for Lu Ran to advance.

"Lu Ran?" Sun Zhengfang frowned deeply.

The trait of the Evil Demon was apparent; it was regrettable they couldn't preemptively kill Wu Huoju.

"Lu..." Jiang Ruyi also lightly furrowed her brows.

"If we duel, the battlefield will be isolated, preventing the city from catching fire," Lu Ran said directly.

Although the rain was light, the horse's flames were too intense—if let to run free, it would certainly be a great hazard to the city.

Lu Ran stepped forward, lifting his hand to slowly draw out the Silent Night Blade on his back, whispering quietly,

"I've given you enough respect."

The soft words spread into thousands of households.

Combined with Lu Ran's slow drawing of his blade and stepping forward alone, it totally set off the live broadcast room.

"Kill! Kill! Kill!"

"Damn, I'm new here, has this always been so stylish?"

"I thought the Ghost General was cool enough..."

"Eliminate the Night Charm, and you'll be Ran Mei! Decapitate the Ghost General, and from then on, you'll be General Ran!"

"Bah bah bah!!"

Chapter 285: Slash!!

"Ah!!"

In a residential house in Jinchuan City, Liaodong Province, a girl leapt up from the couch in the living room, cheering and jumping excitedly.

"Si Xianxian!"

Mother Si clenched her teeth, looking at her daughter who was alternating between shock and excitement, and was genuinely frightened.

"Lu Ran was imitating the way I talk, his tone was exactly the same!" Si Xianxian's face was filled with amazement, pointing at the television screen.

Her mother, Si Caiqin, was taken aback.

Just now, Lu Ran's mutter had naturally reached thousands of households.

Si Caiqin had felt that the line "I'm giving you face here" had sounded very familiar.

Now, the case was thoroughly cracked!

Every time her daughter said this to someone, a fierce battle was sure to follow...

Si Caiqin was irate, "Can't you teach people something good?"

Si Xianxian: ???

He learned it himself, why are you scolding me?

Si Caiqin continued, "Sit properly already, you're a girl, what will you look like! Who will marry you in the future?"

"Who said I want to get married?" Si Xianxian stomped her foot resentfully and turned to head to her bedroom.

"What are you doing?" Si Caiqin asked.

"I'm going to watch on my computer," Si Xianxian answered back directly.

"Come back here!" Si Caiqin's heart tightened, immediately saying so.

Watching on the computer was not the same as watching a television broadcast.

In the livestream room of the official Heavenly Pride website, there were barrages of comments!

Reminiscing about the night of February 15th, Si Xianxian was cursing nonstop, almost smashing the keyboard to pieces.

If it hadn't been discovered in time, her anger might have set the whole house on fire; how could Mother Si let her daughter watch the computer again?

Tonight, it had taken much persuasion from Si Caiqin to get her daughter to watch TV with her in the living room.

And now, in just a few words, her daughter was starting to act up again.

"Si Xianxian!" Si Caiqin watched her daughter continue to walk and said, "If you keep disobeying like this, I will tell Lu Ran!"

Si Xianxian suddenly stopped, her face showing disbelief as she turned to look at her mother.

Si Caiqin: "..."

Si Xianxian: "..."

Awkward silence!

All this time, it had always been others coming to Si Caiqin to tattle, and now here she was, a mother, saying such words.

Hmm... quite magical indeed.

"Neighhh~~~"

Suddenly, a long horse neigh sounded from the television.

Si Caiqin acted as if nothing had happened and urged, "Come over quickly, don't miss his fight."

Si Xianxian, with a strange expression on her face, thought it over and still came back.

On the television screen, flames soared into the sky, with ghastly winds arising from all directions!

The Ghost General was seen holding a flagpole, firmly planting it into the ground.

"Hu!!"

In the blink of an eye, a semi-transparent black dome was unfolded, spanning a radius of about 20 meters.

Within it, wisps of black mist drifted about, giving off a heavy ghostly aura.

Ghost General Evil Technique·Ghost General's Banner!

This technique was quite similar to the Divine Technique·Red Cloth Domain; as long as the flagpole stood unwavering, the people within the dome were unable to escape.

The only difference was that the drifting black mist inside the dome could slightly affect the beings inside, increasing the hostility in the people fighting.

It was hard to tell if this was a positive or negative effect.

After all, once the Ghost General's Banner was raised, it was likely to be a duel.

If the fear in the enemy's heart diminished and they became more bloodthirsty, wouldn't that be even less favorable for the Ghost General to win?

Hmm... indeed, a peculiar Evil Technique.

"Hmm!" The Ghost General pointed with his blade, his nasal tone quite provoking.

"Come on!" Lu Ran held his sword in both hands, his legs bent slightly, as he twirled the sword beautifully.

The two generals faced off, and the Black Fire Stallion took the initiative, stomping the ground heavily with its hooves.

"Pfft..."

Suddenly, a ring of fire spread from underneath the horse's hooves.

Lu Ran's eyes narrowed, and he immediately stepped back.

This technique was not to be underestimated, its effect not outstanding in terms of output, but it was designed to disperse surrounding enemies.

Any living creature touched by the ring of fire was sent flying away.

But since the Ghost General's Banner had already been planted, the combatants couldn't possibly escape.

Therefore, this ring of fire would forcefully nail each combatant against the defensive dome!

The impact on people's backs could be shrugged off, but the Ghost General would take the opportunity to charge; that was the real terrifying strike!

"Haah!"

The Ghost General let out a fierce roar and indeed, as Lu Ran hastily retreated, he charged forward.

The steed neighed vigorously as its blade flashed coldly.

Lu Ran continued to retreat, the Ghost General charged aggressively, and the clear contrast between their situations made the onlookers' hearts clench.

"This is bad."

Sun Zhengfang watched the perilous scene through the semi-transparent black dome.

The spreading ring of fire was about 2 meters thick.

It would be easy for Lu Ran to leap over, but he couldn't fly, and there was nothing in the air to take leverage from.

If Lu Ran dared to jump, he would be close to death.

"Use the dome!" Jiang Ruyi gripped her Cold Night Sword tightly, calling out loudly.

Great minds think alike!

As he was spurred backwards by the ring of fire, Lu Ran suddenly leapt high into the air just as he reached the black dome.

The ring of fire was stopped by the black dome, and the surging flames immediately spread up along the dome.

This was also one reason why Lu Ran agreed to a duel!

No matter how much the Black Fire Stallion thrashed, its flames could not encroach upon the world outside the dome.

There was a dull "thud!"

Lu Ran, who jumped backward, landed on the black dome in a squat and then leapt vigorously forward.

"Haah!"

At the same time, the Ghost General spurred his horse and swung his Yanyue Blade forward viciously.

Lu Ran, nearly parallel to the ground, braced himself with his Silent Night Blade against the Yanyue Blade below him while his Dawn Blade made a direct cut at the Ghost General's head!

"Pang!"

That was the sound of the heavy Yanyue Blade striking the dome causing a violent noise.

"Zzzt..."

That was the sound of the Dawn Blade slicing through the Ghost General's shoulder armor, tearing it apart!

"Hmm?" Under the pitch-black helmet, the Ghost General's eyes glowed red.

His dodging body immediately straightened, and with a shoulder lift, he looked at the torn shoulder armor.

The Ghost General, like the Barbaric Woman Clan, naturally did not possess defensive techniques; the armor on his body was innate.

A piece of shoulder armor just fell off like that, soon crumbling into wisps of green smoke.

"Hmm..." The Ghost General let out an angry nasal grunt, turning to face Lu Ran.

As a wisp of black mist drifted past Lu Ran's face, it revealed his intense murderous gaze.

Lu Ran stood next to the large black flag, holding the Dawn Blade, which rested on the flagpole.

But he wasn't hacking at the flag; rather, he was...

Sharpening his blade?

Lu Ran stared intently at the Ghost General, first wiping the long blade along the flagpole.

Then he twirled his sword, and used the other side of the blade to slowly wipe it over the flagpole.

Such a scene baffled those watching behind the screen.

"His eyes look terrifying, has he been influenced by the Ghost General's Banner?"

"The king of provocation?"

"No wonder Yan Zhi was captivated by our Ran Shen, love it~"

"Kill! Kill! Kill!"

From Lu Ran's actions, the Ghost General not only felt provoked but also deeply insulted!

That was his flag of honor!

It wasn't some ragged grinding stone, nor was it a worn-out sword cleaning cloth!

"Haah!" The Ghost General roared in anger.

"Neighhh~" The steed under him raised its hooves, neighing as flames ignited across its body.

Black Fire Stallion Evil Technique·Black Fire Burning Body!

During the duration of the flames, the Black Fire Stallion's physical attributes would be comprehensively amplified.

What was even more terrifying was that the Ghost General, ablaze with the flames, could also enjoy this amplification!

"Whoosh!" The Ghost General suddenly flung his long blade.

The Yanyue Blade transformed into a thrown weapon, directly stabbing at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran deftly dodged to the side, letting the long blade fly by, clearly aware that once the blade left the hand, it was no longer controlled by its owner.

The next moment, a swirl of Immortal Fog emerged beneath Lu Ran's feet.

"Zzzt—"

Lu Ran shot forward at an astonishing speed!

The Ghost General's clan could summon a new Yanyue Blade, but it required time.

Facing an opponent like Lu Ran, dare you let go of the blade?

"You're courting death!" Lu Ran's expression darkened considerably.

It was hard to say whether he was influenced by the black mist in the dome.

"Pang!" The prancing steed heavily landed its front hooves.

In an instant, another ring of fire spread out.

Lu Ran: !!!

Damn it!

Indeed, the hostility in Lu Ran's heart surged, a rare outburst of profanity.

This damn Black Fire Stallion was truly pestering?!

"Zzzt—"

The mist surged again.

Lu Ran, darting forward, made a hard bounce on his feet, shooting diagonally upwards.

At the same time, energy churned in the Ghost General's palm, and a brand-new Yanyue Blade suddenly formed.

Ghost General Evil Technique·Ghost General's Blade!

Outside the dome, Jiang Ruyi wanted to warn Lu Ran that the blade was coming again.

But she knew well Lu Ran's capabilities and was more worried that her own voice would disturb him from listening to the sound.

As expected, her prediction was accurate!

The Ghost General grasped the long blade and flung it diagonally upward.

Again, Lu Ran squatted on the black dome, this time with his head down, as if squatting on a ceiling.

He certainly couldn't afford to free fall.

And so, facing the incoming long blade, Lu Ran stabbed diagonally downward!

That scene, even the usually silent Wei Long, couldn't help but exclaim, "Be careful!"

The blade was fast, but the person was faster!

A man and a blade crossed paths; Lu Ran's shoulder narrowly missed grazing the blade handle.

The Ghost General's eyes were blood-red, and with his hands empty, he squeezed his legs against the horse's belly.

The General and his steed were of one mind, and the Black Fire Stallion quickly darted forward.

Running away?

Lu Ran landed heavily, the ground beneath his feet crumbled, and the Immortal Fog rose again!

The Ghost General was startled, clenching the recently assembled blade in his hand, and immediately willed it to move.

Energy churned beneath the Black Fire Stallion's hooves, ready to stomp out another ring of fire.

Lu Ran, darting forward, his eyes unusually chilly, suddenly squatted down and lowered his head.

"Whoosh!"

The Yanyue Blade flew over Lu Ran's head.

"Slash!!" Lu Ran roared furiously.

Leveraging the momentum of his forward surge, he slid forward in a starting position, then leapt diagonally upward from the side of the steed.

In Lu Ran's left hand, a gleam of rosy clouds shone, directly cutting at the steed's legs!

"Neighhh~~~"

The Black Fire Stallion cried out in pain, its slender front legs were abruptly severed by Lu Ran.

Still want to stomp out a ring of fire?

I really gave you face, huh!

With a thud, the Black Fire Stallion's legs were severed, and it wailed in pain, its head and neck pounding heavily into the ground.

"Hmph!" The Ghost General showed he was indeed skillful.

Holding his blade, with its tip against the ground, he pushed himself off with force and leapt away from the horse.

Lu Ran quickly turned back.

The battlefield was too small; a mere 20-meter radius was far from enough for someone like Lu Ran, not even the distance of a single hoof strike.

The slanting Lu Ran, now accustomed to crouching on the dome, churned the Immortal Fog beneath his feet and turned to make a diagonal downward stab.

He stamped heavily on the horse's head, and Silent Night Blade in hand flashed coldly.

The Black Fire Stallion, still wailing tragically, was cleanly beheaded.

The horse's neighing ceased abruptly!

A faint voice floated through, "Silence."

Lu Ran stepped on the still-burning horse head, slowly raised the blood-dripped Silent Night Blade, and pointed into the distance at the Ghost General:

"Now, we are even!"

Chapter 286: Rainy Night Knife Realization

Now, is it fair?!

A deep voice, like a bomb, completely exploded the live broadcast room.

"Thrilling! Thrilling!!"

"Ghost General, Ghost General, why did you provoke him? Now look, you lost your horse~"

"Why is this lamb so fierce? It's unscientific..."

"How dare you! Are you calling him a little lamb? This is our Ran Mei! The man who is about to become a Ran General!"

"This side is more enjoyable to watch, there's back and forth, it's lively~ The first day pride's battles on the other side were all oppressively one-sided, not too interesting~"

"Brother, you swear a lot."

"Quick! Everyone, go check out Goddess Jiang's perspective, freaking awesome!!"

At this moment, Jiang Ruyi was standing at the edge of the battlefield, one hand pressing on the black cover, as close as one could get.

Through the semi-transparent cover, the miniature camera worn by the girl captured a heart-stopping image.

A black flag waved vigorously without wind.

The battlefield was shrouded in strands of black fog, heavy with ghostly energy.

Lu Ran stood on the burning horse's head, his posture proud.

The blood-stained Tang blade in his hand was still dripping blood, pointing directly at the distant and mighty Ghost General.

"Point General, one-on-one duel!"

Lu Ran was not short, standing over six feet tall in shoes.

But the Ghost General was over two meters tall, his exceptionally burly body seeming to encompass two Lu Rans.

In such a contrast, the slender human's defiant posture was even more blood-pumping!

People went crazy taking screenshots to use as wallpaper.

Many also got distracted by Jiang Ruyi's hand.

The girl's hand on the black cover was delicate and pale, her fingers slender like green onions.

The rain dribbled, falling on her damp hand back, each water droplet sliding off like a moving piece of art.

Jade?

Jade everything, only makes you... well, balanced nutrition!

What made people even more envious was her slightly tense fingers, clearly showing her concern for the warriors.

Many felt a pang in their hearts.

Undeniably, this was Lu Ran's channel.

But a significant number of people were here to see Jiang Ruyi...

Since the night of February 15, when this girl appeared on camera, she had stunned countless viewers.

Unfortunately, the cameras of the small team were all focused on Lu Ran, leaving few shots of Jiang Ruyi.

Only when Lu Ran looked at Jiang Ruyi could everyone get a close look at her beautiful face.

And that was precisely the problem!

Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi were always very close.

And the way Jiang Ruyi looked at Lu Ran was completely different from how she looked at others.

The girl's gaze was filled with a hint of shyness and a touch of tenderness...

It was simply cheating!

"Roar!"

A commanding roar shocked all the bizarre creatures within the channel.

The viewers in front of the screen were fine, but those on the field felt a slight change in expression and a pang of panic in their hearts.

Red Cloth Divine Skill·Red Cloth Order would boost the morale of all beings!

Ghost General Evil Technique·Ghost General's Might would intimidate all kinds of petty troublemakers!

While the three outside the black cover were indeed affected, Lu Ran on the battlefield felt no extra fear.

The black fog inside the cover had long made his heart seethe with fury, his eyes filled with murderous intent!

"Kill!!!"

Lu Ran roared and charged directly at the Ghost General.

The Ghost General, unable to contain his anger, also rushed forward with his blade.

"Hiss—"

Suddenly, Lu Ran's feet surged with Immortal Fog, vastly increasing his speed.

The Ghost General was startled and immediately lifted his blade to block.

"Clang!"

The Silent Night Blade aimed for the Ghost General's head but struck the blade handle instead.

Lu Ran frowned and slid backward.

The Ghost General's skills were already formidable, and the small battlefield severely limited Lu Ran's performance.

Without sufficient time or distance to confuse his opponent, it was difficult for Lu Ran to make the Ghost General fall for any defensive feints.

The Ran Sect Blade Technique First Form·Moon Inquiry, was a combination of Lu Ran's personal Divine Technique traits.

During his time at Ghost Moon Mountain, he had swapped Divine Techniques·Immortal Hoof three times before beheading a white fox.

But this time...

"Roar!"

Both shocked and furious, the Ghost General only knew just how dangerous the moment had been!

With his roar, a dense black fog erupted from his body.

In the blink of an eye, a large phantom, also in the form of the Ghost General, emerged surrounded by strands of black fog, its crimson eyes emitting a chilling glow.

Ghost General Evil Technique·Ghost General's Soul!

Once this technique was activated, the Ghost General's physical attributes would surge in all directions!

"Thump! Thump! Thump!"

The Ghost General charged forward, each step cracking the asphalt pavement beneath.

Lu Ran's eyes were brimming with killing intent, his internal Divine Power almost boiling.

Soul-splitting Evil Technique·Soul Splitting Power!

"Clash!!"

The Dawn Blade collided heavily with the Yanyue Blade.

The sharp Dawn Blade, with the enhancement of Lu Ran's strength attributes, actually managed to notch the Yanyue Blade.

The Ghost General's pupils widened: !!!

He stepped back swiftly, sucking in his abdomen.

Lu Ran's left hand holding the Dawn Blade resisted the Yanyue Blade while he took a step forward, the Silent Night Blade slicing beside the Ghost General's waist.

"Hiss!"

The Ghost General's waist was wrapped with a beast-headed belt, and the fierce beast's head bore a light cut.

"Roar!"

Unable to contain his fury, the Ghost General roared like thunder.

Having activated Evil Technique·Ghost General's Soul, his overall attributes surged, making the slashes from his Yanyue Blade overwhelmingly powerful!

How could the small-framed Human Clan possibly withstand such a stroke?

Impossible!

The Ghost General continuously retreated, holding the Yanyue Blade handle in both hands, skillfully switching grips as he turned, swinging the blade tightly around his waist in a full circle.

Such skillful moves.

So cool.

A technique truly mastered by the Ghost General's clan!

Anyone else might have waited for the big blade to sweep by before re-engaging in battle.

Unfortunately for the Ghost General, he was facing Lu Ran!

Evil Dog Evil Skill-Evil Sense helped him accurately determine the enemy's offensive movements.

Evil Dog Evil Skill-Evil Agility made his body flexible and swift, almost to the degree of micromanagement.

Lu Ran charged in!

Authentic hard charging!

His charging posture was something no other believer could emulate.

"Hiss—"

Lu Ran charged with the stance of a sprinter.

His legs hadn't moved, purely propelled forward by Divine Technique·Immortal Hoof.

In the next moment, blood sprayed!

The Silent Night Blade horizontally sliced the Ghost General's thigh, forcefully tearing open his armor and leaving a deep wound.

"Ah!!"

The Ghost General cried out in pain, suddenly dissipating into fog.

Ghost General Evil Technique·Ghost Fog Body!

This technique allowed the Ghost General's clan to transform into a mist, escaping through the air or distant grounds.

However, this method conflicted with the temperament of the Ghost General's clan.

Ghost Generals were innately fierce, highly skilled, preferring to conquer opponents head-on, so they rarely activated Ghost Fog Body.

Once the clan used this technique, it meant: The Ghost General was at a significant disadvantage, relying on this method to desperately turn the tide!

With this scene, the thousands of spectators were even more exhilarated:

"This isn't a lamb, this is a pure mad dog..."

"Grandpa is laughing~ The Ghost General clearly activated Ghost General's Soul, but it's like he didn't activate anything!"

"Is it really just fearless, really just charging in hard?"

"So? Ran Shen took on Night Charm, is a little Ghost General too much?"

"Why did he stop? Stick to him, shadow him!"

Indeed, Lu Ran had stopped, and was frowning, thinking about something.

The tumultuous rage in his heart, though not enough to make him lose reason, really made it hard for him to think calmly.

And about ten meters away, that mass of black fog fell to the ground, with the Ghost General's form and armor reappearing.

His armor, which had suffered cracks, was now repaired.

The wound on his thigh had also fully healed!

This is why the technique Ghost Fog Body was often associated with the phrase "rising from the ashes."

In essence, the Ghost General's clan was composed of pure energy.

Like the Evil Demon species with "substitute-class techniques," as long as they did not suffer fatal injuries, these Evil Demons could replace their bodies with energy consumption.

"Lu Ran, don't zone out!" Sun Zhengfang shouted loudly.

Lu Ran twirled his blade, turning his head to look towards the nearby Ghost General:

"I think I've realized something."

His words left the crowd puzzled, yet made Jiang Ruyi's beautiful eyes bright.

The last time Lu Ran said something like this, he was under the bright moon, on top of the cliff.

Back then, Lu Ran had mastered a blade technique—Moon Inquiry.

And now...

Jiang Ruyi's fingers pressing on the black cover, due to a slight force, turned pale; she was nervous and filled with anticipation, watching as Lu Ran charged forward again.

"Roar!"

The Ghost General swung up his great blade, moving with grand, heavy motions.

Lu Ran swung his twin blades, his movement technique swift, his actions sharp.

A man and a general, each with distinct styles, but whether in speed, strength, or skill level, there was somewhat of an evenly matched vibe.

For a while, the clinking of blade contact was incessant.

It was intense enough to make some viewers apprehensive and others to exclaim in delight!

Was this real combat?

No, this was a teaching session!

Jiang Ruyi soon realized that the reason the fight was so evenly matched was that Lu Ran had abandoned the Divine Technique-Immortal Hoof.

So... what had he realized?

Was Lu Ran enduring, waiting for a chance to deliver a fatal blow?

After all, leaving many wounds on the Ghost General was meaningless; he would eventually rise from the ashes!

Only a fatal blow could secure victory... Oh?

Fear struck Jiang Ruyi's heart as sudden strange occurrences appeared on the battlefield!

Accompanied by the authoritative and full-toned roar of the Ghost General, the long blade trailed behind his body, sweeping over his head and chopping straight forward.

This time, Lu Ran didn't dodge!

His internal Divine Power surged, forcefully stimulating the Soul Splitting Power, his left hand's Dawn Blade swept upwards.

The blade of Dawn Blade suddenly burst out a gorgeous spread of rosy clouds, confronting the crescent blade light.

"Crack!!"

The Green Dragon Yanyue Blade was forcibly cleaved, severing a large portion of the blade!

Only a small section of the blade passed before Lu Ran's body, striking the ground with a piercing sound.

Such was the terror of a Divine Weapon!

Lu Ran's movements were incredibly fluid; one foot stepped on the blade handle, closing in.

"Thump! Thump! Thump!"

The Ghost General discarded his weapon and retreated, but Lu Ran, unrelenting, gripped the Silent Night Blade in reverse, ferociously sweeping towards the Ghost General's head.

The Ghost General, decisively just about to turn into mist and disengage to regroup...

"Hiss—"

Immortal Hoof erupted!

Thunder on flat ground!

In a flash, Lu Ran and the Ghost General's bodies crossed, and a black-helmeted head flew high.

Everyone: !!!

Was this head severed by Lu Ran's blade?

No.

Lu Ran's blade swung very fast, but not nearly as fast as his start-up, shuttle-like speed!

In that instant, you could even think that Lu Ran's arm movement was frozen.

He had purely relied on movement speed to decapitate his enemy!

Others kill enemies with sharp weapons in hand; Lu Ran... used his feet.

Using the Divine Technique-Immortal Hoof!

"Crash!"

The black cover shattered loudly, the headless corpse thudding to the ground.

Lu Ran continued to charge forward with his blade!

He had broken out of the Ghost General's flag domain, entering the misty drizzle.

"Now, it's quiet."

"Buzz!!"

Silent Night Blade vibrated with increasing intensity...

Chapter 287: Ran Sect Blade Technique, the second move!

"Do you also like this move a lot?"

Lu Ran grasped the hilt of the Silent Night Blade tightly before his eyes, asking softly.

"Buzz!!"

Compared to last month, the tremors of the Silent Night Blade were now much more intense.

The buzzing blade even gave Lu Ran a bit of an unrealistic fantasy.

Could it...

Possibly?

Would the Silent Night become a Divine Weapon?

second, 2 seconds... 5 seconds.

The Silent Night Blade gradually subsided.

But Lu Ran was not disappointed; on the contrary, he was overjoyed.

Was the Silent Night waiting for an opportunity?

Maybe it really was.

Indeed, it wasn't like the Dawn Blade, which had followed his father for a long time and been nurtured for many moments.

However, Lu Ran had already taken it through too many trials and tribulations.

Every fifteenth night, every lengthy trial in the Demon Cave.

Every beheading of an enemy, and time and again, being clearly led by Lu Ran, on a defined path.

How can a martial artist, even if he danced with a sword or wielded a blade all his life, make any difference?

Without a direction for growth and suitable guidance from its master, a weapon would always just be a mundane object.

The Silent Night Blade was different!

It was in perfect harmony with its master, advancing boldly on the right path.

It also had been nourished by the fragments of the Divine Ruins bestowed by Divine-North Wind!

That was the Divine Ruins of the North Wind Blade Sect, appearing only once in a decade!

The nourishment it brought to a blade was considerable.

"You will succeed," Lu Ran extended two fingers, gently sliding them along the cold blade, "I will help you."

Lu Ran's actions and words, transmitted through the camera, reached thousands of households.

Even the fools could tell that here, with Lu Tianjiao, another Divine Weapon was about to be born!

"Am I seeing things, or did that blade actually tremble?"

"So young, with two Divine Weapons... Isn't that somewhat outrageous?"

"The Ghost General is dead, it's time for Ran to stand! On the fifteenth, all under heaven will be auspicious!"

"Bro, are you trying to stage a rebellion?"

Here in the rain, Lu Ran stood, gently stroking the blade.

In the distance behind him, the once battle-ravaged land quietly diminished, headless general corpses dissolving into mist.

Only the charred remains of a steed, whose flames on its corpse were quenched by the pitter-patter of the rain.

Sun Zhengfang and Wei Long exchanged a glance.

Their eyes betrayed a hint of shock.

The formidable Ghost General was invincible, challenging others in single combat.

Lu Ran responded to the challenge at the frontlines, first beheading the horse, then the general.

It was done as seamlessly as mercury pouring onto the ground!

Laymen might see nothing special, thinking that as Da Xia's genius, Lu Ran should have such a performance.

But the seasoned believers all knew just how terrifying the martial arts of the Ghost General were!

Yet in front of Lu Ran, this powerful Ghost General was almost pressured throughout the fight...

What did that imply?

The martial arts of the world could indeed only be surpassed by speed!

Those with discerning eyes could also perceive that Lu Ran's swiftness wasn't merely about chasing speed.

He seemed to have a new understanding of the rhythm of battle.

Lu Ran was growing!

Compared to the fifteenth of February, his style of fighting had already changed somewhat.

Such a visibly rapid pacing of growth left people speechless.

Especially Lu Ran's last move, "Flat Ground Thunder," sent chills down the spines of many a martial artist!

Asking themselves honestly, if they were in the Ghost General's position...

Could they have reacted in time?

Could they truly have survived under Lu Ran's blade?

"Have you had a new realization?" a female voice came from behind Lu Ran.

"Hm?" Lu Ran turned his head to look and saw the beautiful smile of the girl.

Such a scene made many viewers' hearts race.

Jiang Ruyi... She was a bit too close to everyone.

But then again, considering Jiang Ruyi was this close to Lu Ran, it inevitably triggered a howl within the live broadcast room.

"Go absorb the remains of the Black Fire Colt," Jiang Ruyi suggested.

"What should we name this move?" Lu Ran sheathed his sword with his right hand and tossed up the Dawn Blade with his left. The Dawn Blade spun in the air and sheathed itself automatically.

Such a carefree scene.

Jiang Ruyi wasn't adept at close combat, but she had been by Lu Ran's side often and frequently received his special training, naturally having excellent eyesight.

She knew clearly that what Lu Ran referred to was the last scene, the fatal strike he had dealt to the Ghost General.

The question was, could that be considered a blade technique?

Jiang Ruyi felt that it seemed like an exploitation of Lu Ran's movement technique?

In thought, the two returned to the battlefield.

Lu Ran took off the Divine Power Pearl from around his neck, crouched next to the charred corpse of the horse, and quickly absorbed the energy.

Alas, only the horse had left bones behind.

The imposing Ghost General had already fragmented into wisps of blue smoke, dissipating between heaven and earth.

It had to be said that the Ghost General's Evil Techniques truly suited Lu Ran.

Earlier this month, after returning home from training, he had consulted with Lord Immortal Goat, feeling that he lacked two types of techniques:

One was Purification Techniques, and the other was Spirit Defense Techniques.

The Ghost General's clan happened to possess the Evil Technique·Ghost General's Will!

This technique could make up for Lu Ran's weakness, freeing him from being troubled by spiritual techniques.

As for the other Evil Techniques of the Ghost General's clan, they all seemed quite decent.

For example, that ghostly flag ridden by cold winds could allow Lu Ran to create a one-on-one battlefield.

And then there was the technique to summon the "Ghost General Soul" onto oneself, that could massively boost one's bodily attributes.

It was just unknown whether this technique could stack with the effects of Soul Splitting Power, Evil Sensitivity, and so on.

If they could indeed stack...

That would be quite something!

Moreover, the Ghost General's Evil Technique-Ghost General's Might matched Lu Ran exceptionally well!

This technique was a Battle Roar that could instill fear in the hearts of others.

And Lu Ran's Divine Technique-Immortal Pupil could amplify the fear in an enemy's heart...

Wasn't this a perfect match?

In future encounters with any enemy, Lu Ran need not put up any strong front or terrify the enemy to submission.

The moment they met, Lu Ran would be able to unleash a Battle Roar.

As long as the enemy fell for it, Lu Ran's Divine Technique-Immortal Pupil could come into play, continuously deepening the fear in the enemy's heart!

Until the enemy's spirit collapsed and they begged for mercy on their knees.

"Not bad at all, truly not bad..."

The more he thought about it, the more tempted Lu Ran became.

Ghost General's Might was like a cannonball that blasted a crack in a dam.

While the Immortal Pupil was the ceaseless, surging floodwater that followed!

With such an excellent combo tech, would it gain the approval of Lord Immortal Goat?

Would it allow him to venture to another world sooner?

There were diverse types of Evil Demons, but those with Spirit Defense Techniques were truly few.

In this way, the Ghost General's clan really suited Lu Ran.

"Hiss..."

Suddenly, a hoarse roar came from not too far away.

Lu Ran was jolted from his thoughts, looking up to see an ugly Evil Demon·Lian-Yan standing in the distant street.

That bamboo hat and straw raincoat actually matched quite well with the rainy night, creating a poetic scene.

But the green face beneath the bamboo hat, and the sharp, long fangs protruding from its mouth, ruined this beauty.

"Go," Jiang Ruyi commanded.

From the wide sleeves of her raincoat, a long sword shot out, stabbing straight at the distant Evil Demon.

"Accompany her," Lu Ran thought.

The Dawn Blade unsheathed from behind and thrust straight towards the Evil Demon.

Jiang Ruyi looked down at Lu Ran, asking, "What are you thinking about so intently?"

"I was thinking about the Evil Techniques of the Ghost General's clan," Lu Ran replied truthfully, with the Black Fire Colt's corpse already fully absorbed in front.

He rose to head towards the head of the horse, asking, "Have you thought of a name for that move?"

"You came up with it, you name it," Jiang Ruyi looked towards the battlefield, her right hand naturally falling from her sleeve, fingertips trembling slightly.

No longer just managing the Silent Night Sword, she was manipulating it to slay the enemy.

However, Lu Ran said, "Let's name it together.

Just throw something out there, it could inspire me."

On the surface, Jiang Ruyi was unmoved, but inside, Lu Ran's words of "Let's name it together" stirred her emotions.

She felt a sense of honor, and a little bit of joy.

After pondering for a moment, Jiang Ruyi quietly suggested, "Continuing the theme of the last name, including the word 'moon' would be nice."

Lu Ran nodded thoughtfully, "Good idea."

"Hiss!!"

From afar, the Lian-Yan let out a piercing scream, its body petrifying.

Jiang Ruyi's fingertip delicately hooked, and the Silent Night Sword no longer stabbed but hovered over the Lian-Yan's head.

Accordingly, the Dawn Blade too stopped slashing, instead resting its tip on the Lian-Yan's heart.

A pair of Divine Weapons, poised and ready!

Waiting for the Evil Demon's petrified body to return to normal.

From the perspective of the Evil Demon... it was truly a despairing sight...

The Evil Demon-Lian-Yan's highly resistant petrified body couldn't hold out for very long.

As the Evil Technique-Stone Shattering dissipated, Jiang Ruyi's jade finger lightly tapped.

The Silent Night Sword stabbed from above, piercing through the bamboo hat and into the Lian-Yan's fontanel.

The Dawn Blade aggressively penetrated, stabbing through the straw coat and into the Lian-Yan's heart.

"Moon Shock," Lu Ran murmured, looking up at Jiang Ruyi, "What about 'Moon Shock'?"

"Shock that astonishes the world?" Jiang Ruyi lowered her gaze towards Lu Ran, slightly lifting her eyebrows.

"Yep, yep!" Lu Ran nodded repeatedly.

In his heart, he thought about the saying "Flat Ground Thunder."

Taking out a 'shock' from it and combining it with the word 'moon,' would it not be wonderful?

Ran Sect Blade Technique Second Form·Moon Shock!

"Hmm, it sounds nice," Jiang Ruyi raised her hand, withdrawing the Silent Night Sword into her sleeve, and gestured towards the site of Lian-Yan's death, "Go replenish your Divine Power."

"Alright," Lu Ran hurried over.

He didn't realize how the scene that had just unfolded looked so brilliant in the eyes of the world.

Lu Jiang chatted idly while slaughtering the Evil Demon·Lian-Yan.

Four characters: Effortlessly!

"It indeed sounds good! The lady's voice is really pleasant~"

"Used to seeing Ran Mei fighting desperately, now pulling off this stunt, I'm thrown off."

"These two are both Masters of Divine Weapons, do you think it's all just play? Any evil demon weaker in power doesn't even deserve to be on camera."

"Please tell me, what kind of dream do I need to have, to get a girlfriend like her?"

"Ruyi, Ruyi, follow my wishes... quickly leave Lu Ran!"

Lu Ran was unaware that Jiang Ruyi's gentle whispers had once again crushed the dreams of numerous young men and women.

At this moment, he had just absorbed energy into the Divine Power Pearl and, taking advantage of the situation, raised his Magic Artifact, absorbing the Lian-Yan's soul into the Rebirth Money.

Having done all this, Lu Ran looked back and called out:

"Let's go, Captain Sun."

"Let's go," Sun Zhengfang nodded in agreement, gesturing for the two to move forward.

The drizzle continued to fall.

The remaining traces of blood on the ground were gradually washed away.

As if nothing had happened here.

Only the shattered asphalt road told the world of the fierce battle that had taken place here.

"Whew..." Sun Zhengfang let out a deep sigh, full of emotion.

He met Lu Ran once a month.

And every time they met, Lu Ran's strength soared like a rocket.

He dared not imagine how much Lu Ran would grow by the next month... Oh right.

Next month on the fifteenth, Lu Ran was supposed to take the college entrance exams.

...

Chapter 288: steps to the mountaintop!

As time passed, the rain grew heavier.

Lu Ran and the others kept moving and fighting, occasionally heading to various locations for reinforcement as instructed by their superiors.

He had experienced countless such rainy nights.

Yet for some reason, Lu Ran felt that this night was passing especially slowly.

Was it because he was feeling anxious that time seemed to drag?

After all, during the day, Captain Sun had clearly stated that tonight in Rain Alley City would not be very stable.

"What time is it?" Lu Ran crouched by the roadside, holding a Divine Power Pearl and absorbing the remnant bones of the Evil Demon.

His voice had barely fallen when the dark night suddenly lit up.

A bolt of lightning split the sky!

"It's ten thirty-four," came the voice of Sun Zhengfang from behind.

Jiang Ruyi furrowed her brow slightly, her gaze piercing through the layers of rain, vigilantly scanning the surroundings.

The rain was getting heavier.

It was starting to obscure vision.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The sound of thunder exploded across the night sky.

Lu Ran's body trembled slightly.

Since lightning had just appeared, everyone was mentally prepared and knew that the sound of thunder would follow.

However, Lu Ran's complexion was still a bit off.

The great genius of Da Xia, afraid of thunder?

Hmm... he once was.

The sounds of the storm and thunder brought back some painful memories for him.

As a child, Lu Ran was indeed afraid of the flashing lightning and roaring thunder.

During those terrible stormy nights, his father would always come to his room to tell him bedtime stories to lull him to sleep.

At the age of thirteen, Lu Ran thought he had grown up and become strong enough not to be afraid anymore.

Because of this, on the night of the fifteenth, his father, Lu Xing, did not stay by his side. Instead, he went out on a mission.

That departure

meant that his father never returned.

And Lu Ran was left trapped in that stormy night.

To this very day, he still couldn't escape from it.

Lu Ran often thought that he should have continued to be afraid.

That way, on that stormy night, his father would surely have stayed by his side as always.

His father... wouldn't have died on the banks of the Wu Lie River.

"This rain is quite heavy, isn't it?" Captain Sun said, his face solemn.

Rain was common in Rain Alley City, and heavy downpours were not unusual.

But a thunderstorm of this scale was a rare occurrence.

"Lu Ran," Jiang Ruyi called softly, "Lu Ran?"

"Ah?" Lu Ran came back to his senses, the Evil Demon's skeletal remains in front of him had already been absorbed completely.

Jiang Ruyi, with her delicate perceptions, noticed Lu Ran's odd behavior, and leaning over, she took hold of Lu Ran's arm:

"Are you okay?"

Her voice was very soft, dispelling the sound of thunder that still lingered around Lu Ran's ears.

"I'm fine, I'm fine," Lu Ran said repeatedly, and looking at the pouring rain, he joked, "It's like the sky has sprung a leak."

That forced smile naturally didn't escape Jiang Ruyi's eyes.

Jiang Ruyi opened her mouth to speak but, given the presence of cameras, she decided not to press further.

As Lu Ran stood up, Jiang Ruyi's hand naturally slid down and gently picked up Lu Ran's hand.

This gesture, obviously, should not have occurred under these circumstances.

The squad was on a patrol mission and could engage with Evil Demons at any moment.

All the members wore cameras, and any action would be watched by the public.

Jiang Ruyi was undoubtedly a competent warrior, and her skin was so thin that, from any angle, she wouldn't normally take Lu Ran's hand.

"What's the matter?" Lu Ran turned his head to look at her and teased, "Such a grown person, still afraid of the rain and thunder?"

This act of a villain suing first was something he had played well.

Unexpectedly, Jiang Ruyi did not retort but merely looked down slightly and quietly replied, "A little bit."

Lu Ran was utterly stunned.

It was a type of tenderness difficult for ordinary people to understand or feel.

She had accepted Lu Ran's groundless words.

She had accepted them on behalf of Lu Ran himself.

Her slender fingers threaded through the gaps between Lu Ran's fingers, gripping his hand a little tighter.

"Let's go, continue the patrol," Jiang Ruyi said as she began to walk, gently pulling on Lu Ran.

This gesture was like...

Like she was trying to lead Lu Ran, who was trapped, out of the thunderstorm night of many years ago.

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning crossed the night sky, and the pitch-black firmament lit up again.

Silently following her, amidst the lightning and thunder, Lu Ran felt an incomparable sense of peace.

What no one expected was that just after the sound of thunder passed, an anxious female voice came through the earpiece:

"River Realm, River... Ah!"

"Uh..."

The voices of two Moon Gazers came abruptly and ceased with a scream.

Captain Sun's face changed drastically, and just as he was about to say something, alarms blared!

Lu Ran's heart plummeted.

The time had finally come, hadn't it?

Just last month, on the fifteenth, Rain Alley City had just had a "peaceful" night, with a chance to catch its breath.

Tonight, could this cursed city still not escape...

Initially, Lu Ran's live stream was filled with chats such as "Don't be afraid, Miss, come to my embrace" and "Hugs."

As the alarm sounded, the comments in the stream abruptly changed:

"Special event! Is Rain Alley City facing a special event now?!"

"This is the fourth student to experience a special event, right? The channels next door are all broadcasting Night of Ghosts!"

"The alarm sounds short and urgent, the Demon Lord descends!"

"It's not alternating in length, Rain Alley City is not experiencing the Night of Ghosts, it's the descent of the Demon Lord!"

"What should we do, find a shelter to stay in?"

"Scared for what, just kill and be done with it~"

"Your horse, are you so eager to risk it? What about Lu Ran's life? He's only at the intermediate level of River Realm, at most River Realm-Third Rank, and the descending Demon Lord is at least Jiang Realm!"

"Right! This is beyond Lu Ran's capabilities, he definitely shouldn't act recklessly, leave it to the Human Clan's powerhouses, survival is the priority!"

"Nonsense! Such a proud Heavenly Pride, how can he retreat?"

The chat in the live stream was a commotion, while on the streets of Rain Alley City, the four-person group moved swiftly through the heavy rain that poured from the dark sky that brightened repeatedly.

The terrifying sound of thunder, mingled with the low and urgent alarm, weighed heavily on anyone listening.

"Woo! Woo! Woo!"

"Hurry up, pick up the pace!" Captain Sun urged his team members, rushing toward an office building next to the crossroads.

That was a shelter.

Captain Sun's plan was simple: Lu Jiang pair absolutely must not have an accident!

Existences of the "Demon Lord" strength level should be handled by the Human Clan's powerhouses.

If the Demon Lord descended in a nearby district, Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi had to enter the shelter immediately for protection.

If the Demon Lord descended elsewhere, only then might Captain Sun let Lu Jiang pair continue their patrol mission.

In the end, Lu Ran was a hope for the Human Clan, a rising star destined to shine.

He must not perish halfway, he must not die here!

"All units, attention!" A man's voice came through the invisible earpiece, "In the area of City Center Square, an Evil Dog of River Realm has been spotted!"

A conservative estimate puts the Evil Dog's strength at River Realm Third Rank or higher!

Our warriors have already engaged it, fighting the Evil Dog in the square.

However, this Evil Dog possesses the Evil Technique-Evil Shadow Flash, with extremely far Instant Teleportation distances, and may flee to any location at any moment.

All squads be vigilant, prepare for combat, and report immediately if anything is spotted!"

"Damn!" Captain Sun stopped, his heart filling with both shock and rage, and he unusually cursed out loud.

Evil Dogs of River Realm Third, Fourth, Fifth Rank?

If the Human Clan's powerhouses defending Rain Alley City failed, how many would die tonight?

Even if the Human Clan's powerhouses achieved victory, if a single mistake was made, failing to kill the Evil Dog, and allowing it to flee...

Tonight's Rain Alley City would still result in numerous deaths and injuries!

Out of all the types of Evil Demons in the world, why did it have to be one capable of instantaneous movement?

Will slaughtering Rain Alley City to the ground finally please the heavens?!

"Captain Sun!" Wei Long, who had been silent, suddenly spoke up.

"Hmm?" Captain Sun looked at Wei Long.

Wei Long had a burning gaze: "Evil Dogs of River Realm."

Captain Sun was confused and didn't catch the implication: "Yes, we continue to patrol, but we must remain on alert..."

Captain Sun stopped speaking.

He was thinking that since their squad was in the West River Area and City Center Square was in the Hedong Area, situated in the Wu Lie Building, since the battlefield was that far away, they could continue their patrol, carry out their duties, eliminate as many Evil Demons as possible, and support the Moon Gazer troops.

But as he spoke, Captain Sun suddenly remembered something.

That was last month, on the sixteenth morning of the lunar calendar.

At the entrance of Lu Ran's neighborhood, he heard a startling piece of news and spontaneously spoke a few words:

Not only can Lu Ran deal with Night of Ghosts, but he can also take on Demon Lord descents...

"Slap!"

Captain Sun slapped himself: "Cursed tongue."

That a composed and stable Captain Sun would display such distress showed how threatening the Evil Dog of River Realm was to the Human Clan.

The main reason for this was the dreadful Instant Teleportation Technique!

Other River Realm Evil Demons might not necessarily be able to break into the shelters.

After all, each shelter had a number of Divine Shrine Divine Sculptures.

But the Evil Dog Clan?

They truly can flash and slaughter their way inside buildings, slaughtering ordinary citizens!

"Uncle Sun?" Lu Ran was puzzled, staring bewilderedly at Captain Sun.

That morning, Lu Ran had given the Jiang Grade-Dog Demon Crystal to Jiang Ruyi and stayed at home.

He was unaware of the conversation that took place among the squad members after Jiang Ruyi rejoined the team.

Captain Sun simply waved his hand, not intending to explain.

Wei Long's expression was stern, and he repeated to Captain Sun: "Evil Dogs of River Realm!"

Because of the cameras, he carefully concealed much of the message.

If Wei Long straightforwardly mentioned that Lu Ran had the feat of killing an Evil Dog of River Realm, with this unique experience...

There would be no room for maneuvering!

Thousands of pairs of eyes were watching Lu Ran.

Speaking candidly would be tantamount to compelling Captain Sun to make decisions and pushing Lu Ran up Liang Mountain!

Wei Long merely mentioned it in four brief words to remind Captain Sun, allowing him to make his own choices and give orders.

Wei Long, however, did not expect Lu Ran to speak up: "Uncle Sun, I..."

"No!" Captain Sun cut him off decisively.

Lu Ran, on the other hand, remained calm, showing the bearing of a warrior: "There are three scenarios right now.

First, our powerhouses kill the Evil Dog, and all is well.

Second, our powerhouses severely injure the Evil Dog, which during escape, continues to wreak havoc.

Third, the situation we least want—the Evil Dog wins."

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Thunder roared continuously.

Lu Ran paused: "As long as I'm here, the second scenario is impossible!

I can attract the Evil Dog's enmity, completely cutting off its thoughts of fleeing.

My presence can also help our warriors, striving to prevent the third scenario from happening!"

Jiang Ruyi gripped Lu Ran's hand, squeezing tighter and tighter.

Wei Long's eyes blazed, looking at Lu Ran with not just respect, but deep admiration.

Captain Sun opened his mouth, but before he could speak, Lu Ran continued: "Uncle Sun, you don't know."

Lu Ran looked straight at Captain Sun, word by word:

"I've killed an Evil Dog of River Realm!"

Forced up Liang Mountain?

What a joke, the magnificent Ran Shen, needs others to push?

This mountain...

This mountaintop!

Lu Ran will ascend himself!

Chapter 289: Old Sayings

Sun Zhengfang heaved a heavy sigh in his heart.

It's over!

No way out...

When Lu Ran personally stated, "I have slain an Evil Dog," this genius of Da Xia had no choice but to join the battle.

"Uncle Sun?" Lu Ran spoke again.

Sun Zhengfang, hand pressed to his ear, exclaimed, "Patrol Team 004, calling Command Center!"

"Speak!" A man's deep voice came through the earpiece.

Sun Zhengfang's voice was severe, "We request to proceed to the City Center Square for reinforcement."

As Sun Zhengfang reported to the Command Center, his voice also reached the ears of all the other teams through their earpieces.

For a moment, the expressions of the Moon Gazer teams stationed in Rain Alley City were mixed.

Patrol Team 004 was famous!

This team had a glorious track record and had produced two great powers of the Human Clan.

One was the Nuoshasha believer, Ge Bin, and the other the North Wind Believer, Deng Yuxiang.

The camp was firm, the soldiers ever-flowing.

Both had successively left the team to take residence in the Wu Lie Building, shifting from guarding a district to safeguarding the entire city.

Though great powers had left the team, new Heavenly Prides had joined, once again elevating Patrol Team 004 to the top combat echelon.

At this moment, listening to Sun Zhengfang's meaning, did he want to meet up with the old team captain, Ge Bin, and lead Lu Ran to combat the Demon Lord?

Unfortunately, Deng Yuxiang was not in Rain Alley City.

Otherwise, facing off against the Demon Lord would have meant a full assembly of Patrol Team 004!

Through the earpiece, the man replied crisply, "004, hold your ground and continue patrolling!"

Sun Zhengfang's words rang with conviction, "Our team member Lu Ran has experience in slaying River Realm Evil Dogs.

He can also prevent the Evil Dogs from fleeing and causing chaos in the city.

Patrol Team 004 requests to proceed to the City Center Square for reinforcement!"

His words, sonorous and forceful,

even shook the Moon Gazers to the core.

Lu Ran had slain a River Realm Evil Dog?

What a joke...

Yes, Lu Ran was undoubtedly a Heavenly Pride, and everyone had witnessed his astonishing feats.

But a River Realm Immortal Sheep Believer slaying a River Realm Evil Dog?

Not to mention whether you have the capability to slaughter dogs, just the logistics of how this battle could have occurred was befuddling.

Encountering the Demon Lord, you didn't retreat immediately but rushed headlong instead?

That sounded... yes, indeed like Lu Ran's style.

From the Barbaric Woman to the Night Charm, then to Tangled Silk Shadow, repeatedly, he faced the Night of Ghosts;

Ghost Generals, Prison Sky Demons, Jade-faced Snakes, one after another, powerful Evil Demons close to the River Realm caliber...

Every creature Lu Ran encountered, he treated without discrimination!

Two words—hard charge!

The Command Center did not respond immediately, seemingly contemplating the battle request earnestly.

Meanwhile, Lu Ran's channel was abuzz:

"What the hell? Little Sister Ran slaughtered a River Realm pup?"

"If anyone else said this, I'd slap them right away! But when Ran Mei speaks..."

"Willing to die?"

"Charge! General Ran! Slaughter the Evil Dog and from then on, you shall be Ran, the Dog Slayer!"

"Don't go, please don't go..."

As people expressed their opinions, they suddenly noticed that in the frame, Lu Ran's expression turned solemn.

Because through his invisible earpiece, the Command Center's orders finally arrived:

"Patrol Team 004, Lu Ran!"

"Present!"

"Target area: City Center Square. Assist our warriors in slaying the Evil Dog!"

"Yes!" Lu Ran responded immediately.

"Remainder of Patrol Team 004, hold your position and continue patrolling!"

Jiang Ruyi's expression changed, and she immediately said, "I too have been part of the slaying..."

Sun Zhengfang was also anxious, "Report, our team..."

"Silence!" The man commanded with a harsh shout, his attitude unyielding, "Obey the orders, execute the mission!"

Their expressions looked quite unpleasant.

The Command Center's decision surely came with considerations: hunting a River Realm Evil Dog did not warrant a human wave tactic.

At least at this stage, there was no need to fill the ranks with lives.

The Evil Dogs possessed the long-range output technique—Evil Fang.

That was a genuine Jiang Grade Evil Technique!

The Water Armor of the River Realm believers was as fragile as paper before the rows of canine teeth.

Currently, at the City Center Square, besides the Human Clan great powers, no other Moon Gazers were present.

Even if the Evil Dog was embroiled in fierce battle, if it found the time to sneak and bite someone, the surrounding River Realm Moon Gazers would be snapped in two as well!

"I'm off," Lu Ran declared, his gaze sweeping over the few.

"Be careful!"

"Be extremely careful!" Sun Zhengfang and Wei Long said simultaneously.

"Lu Ran..." Jiang Ruyi's gaze was incredibly complex.

Just then, a streak of lightning tore across the night sky, illuminating her visage.

Reluctance, self-blame, sorrow...

Her gaze was so heartbreakingly witness.

"Wait for my return." Lu Ran stepped forward and gently embraced the girl.

Jiang Ruyi raised her arms and hugged Lu Ran tightly, more proactively than ever before.

This embrace lasted a full 3 to 4 seconds, seemingly too prolonged.

"Boom!"

After the flash, thunder naturally followed, roaring through the sky.

Amidst the thunderous roar, the girl's voice was soft, lingering around Lu Ran's ears, "Take the Cold Night with you."

"Thank you," Lu Ran murmured.

Both were aware that Lu Ran's gratitude was not only for the Cold Night Sword Jiang Ruyi had given.

After the thunder, Jiang Ruyi finally released Lu Ran, stepping back.

The Cold Night Sword flew before Lu Ran, suspended upside down.

Grasping the Cold Night Sword, he no longer lingered and shot straight into the night sky.

Jiang Ruyi clasped her hands together, her fingertips pressed to her lips, looking up at the silhouette of Lu Ran flying into the night until it disappeared into the torrential rain.

"Whish!"

A wide yellow raincoat fluttered, rustling amid the wind and rain.

Lu Ran, clutching the Cold Night Sword, soared over the city, and what lay before him were the Moon Gazers still fighting valiantly in the streets and alleys.

The towering Wu Lie Building, a shining beacon, guided Lu Ran's direction.

Through the earpiece, the voice of the Command Center reached him again, with a noticeably older sounding operator, "Mr. Lu, when was the last time you killed a River Realm Evil Dog?"

Mr. Lu?

It sounded as if they were addressing his father, Lu Xing.

Lu Ran, steadying his mind, responded, "I used myself as bait, leading the Evil Dog into the Fiery Heavenly Divine Skill-Fiery Earth Thousand Flames."

The Command Center: "..."

Lu Ran continued, "Prior to that, I grappled with the Evil Dog for a long time, acclimating to its style of combat, rest assured.

This is not the same as before; I will work with the elder of River Realm to find a breakthrough in killing the enemy.

Furthermore, I'll soon enter the battlefield range, and I need to listen to voices, so please keep quiet."

The Command Center: "We have adjusted you, Ge Bin, and Liu Yunlan to the same channel.

Mr. Lu, on behalf of this city, I thank you for your selfless aid and contributions during this crisis.

If you have any needs, please contact us in time.

May Rain Alley survive this long rainy night, and wish us luck."

Lu Ran suddenly laughed.

Dad,

After many years, I've heard the words they once said to you.

"Crack!"

Suddenly, lightning struck down, illuminating the night sky and hitting the lightning rod atop the Wu Lie Building.

Lu Ran couldn't help tightening his grip on the hilt of the Cold Night Sword.

Afraid?

Such a grown man; he had battled through many fifteenth nights, often keeping company with death.

How could he possibly fear thunder?

It was merely that he hadn't yet stepped out from that stormy night of youth.

"Boom, boom, boom..."

From West River to Hedong.

From the dim streetlights of city areas to the neon flickers of the bustling square.

"Swoosh~"

Lu Ran descended at high speed, landing securely on an outdoor restaurant on the eleventh floor or so of Wu Lie Building.

He approached the railing and looked down at the square below.

Right then, a massive camphor tree stood erect in the center of the square.

Its branches lashed out continuously, creating a horrifying scene.

Judging by the tree's size, it was undoubtedly a Jiang Grade Divine Technique.

This River Realm Biwu Believer must be the "Liu Yunlan" the Command Center mentioned just now, right?

Lu Ran's eyes narrowed. At the northeast corner of the square, he spotted two dead Moon Gazers.

One had been severed at the waist, the cut edge jagged, clearly the work of canine teeth.

His eyes wide with horror.

Another fallen female Moon Gazer's head had rolled to the side, while a thigh had fallen far away, already partially devoured.

Damn it...

Anger surged in Lu Ran's heart.

The Evil Dog Clan's Evil Technique made it clear that surround tactics were futile.

And it also meant this battlefield should not have anyone making a final stand.

There were more than these two human corpses at the scene; within a pile of Evil Dog corpses to the northwest, scattered limbs could be seen as well.

The sight was incredibly grim.

Those Moon Gazers, most likely, had been consumed.

It was hard to imagine the agony they must have suffered in their final moments...

"Snap! Snap! Snap!"

The camphor tree whipped its branches around, covering a substantial area.

A pack of Blood Disaster Dogs emerged on the eastern side of the square, and immediately a multitude of Biwu branches extended, whipping and stabbing.

Several Evil Demons hadn't even gotten a clear glimpse of the human world before they perished on the spot.

In the area to the front left of the tree, a man and a dog were engaged in intense combat.

The man wielded dual daggers, his figure ghostly, nimbly dodging the lashing branches, entangled with the Evil Dog.

That Evil Dog was no small creature!

It must have been over three meters in length with a shoulder height surpassing two meters, its joints swirled with thick black energy, resembling smoke or fog.

That stature...

Was it River Realm Fourth Rank, or even Fifth Rank?

As the Evil Dog leapt about, clouds of black mist also spread in its path.

With a heavy heart, Lu Ran watched for a moment before he leaped forward, wielding the Cold Night Sword as he plummeted towards the edge of the square.

Wu Lie Building was Command Central and also a refuge, and of course, there were also ordinary citizens inside.

Lu Ran naturally couldn't linger too long here, lest he draw the Evil Dog's attention.

As Lu Ran drew closer, he distinctly noticed a slight change in the forcefulness of the tree's whipping.

Immediately, Lu Ran spoke up, "Senior Liu, there's no need to hold back on my account."

He came to slay enemies, not to be a burden!

For other River Realm believers to speak to a River Realm great power in such manner would be sheer arrogance.

But Lu Ran...

He had dared to blaze through the Tether Silk Robe, were these thousands of branches any different?

Moreover, Liu Yunlan's target of attack was not him.

"Hmm, ready your special Voice of Compassion," the woman's voice was cool, carrying a touch of authoritative aura.

"A name well-known," the man's voice came through, steady and powerful, presumably Captain Ge Bin whom Lu Ran had yet to meet.

Lu Ran advanced step by step amongst the relentless lashing branches, his focus on the entangled pair of man and dog:

"A name well-known."

Chapter 290: River Realm... Peak?!

"Hmm?"

As Lu Ran approached the battlefield, he suddenly discovered a tree branch flickering with a phosphorescent green light reaching out towards him.

This branch clearly carried the Divine Technique·Biwu Holy Light!

Lu Ran did not dodge, allowing it to bind around his waist.

In an instant, Lu Ran felt a terrifying life force injected into his body.

Within the scope of Divine Technique, life force was a relatively complex concept.

It included, but was not limited to, the body's self-healing ability, physical strength, Qi, mental energy, and so on.

At the same time, Lu Ran felt mentally relaxed and at peace, his morale didn't surge despite feeling fully invigorated.

What a Jiang Realm Great Power!

This supportive effect far exceeded Sun Zhengfang's by a lot...

Liu Yunlan spoke again, "You lack the realm, and this dog has provocation techniques.

Though the brute has a low intellect and doesn't understand tactics, occasionally it's driven by instinct to let out an evil bark.

Do not sever the Biwu tree branch, lest you lose your senses and throw away your life in vain."

"Thank you, senior."

Lu Ran responded solemnly, his gaze still fixed on the battlefield.

Up until now, Lu Ran hadn't seen the true face of the Biwu believer·Liu Yunlan, but he had a clear view of Ge Bin.

Captain Ge appeared to be in his forties, of average build and unremarkable appearance.

He would be hard to find in a crowd.

But his martial arts skills were extraordinary, and his movement technique was remarkable!

The Evil Dog possessed the Evil Technique·Swift, and the Nuoshasha believer had the Divine Technique·God and Ghost Entanglement!

This technique was used to perfection by Captain Ge, truly tenacious, entangling with the Evil Dog in combat.

Lu Ran's brow furrowed slightly.

He suddenly discovered, Ge Bin was injured!

There were clear bite marks on his right leg, his pant leg tattered and torn.

Through the cover of the Jiang Grade·Water Armor worn by him, Lu Ran could see the newly grown flesh.

Presumably, the wound must have been healed by Liu Yunlan.

Here's the question!

With Ge Bin's swiftness, still shaded by the Jiang Grade·Water Armor, how did this Evil Dog manage to hurt him?

Just how fast and how ferocious is this dog?

"Woof! Woof!!"

The Evil Dog barked furiously, its expression savage.

Relying on the Instant Teleportation Technique, it fought against two enemies without falling behind!

The Evil Dog widened its bloody maw, frantically biting at Ge Bin's heals, and the fierce Jiang Grade·Evil Teeth it flung also shredded the nearby branches.

Suddenly, another Evil Dog appeared beside it.

Evil Technique·Evil Shadow!

Fog Grade·Evil Shadow could summon an ethereal shadow of the Evil Dog to disturb and lure the enemy.

As the grade of the Evil Technique increased, this shadow became more real and lasted longer in the world.

With advancement into Jiang Pin, it underwent a qualitative change!

Now, the Jiang Grade·Evil Shadow summoned was no longer a mere shadow but a solid clone!

A tangible clone, identical to the Evil Dog itself.

The only difference was that the clone was more fragile and did not have the ability to use Evil Technique.

"Phew!"

Ge Bin reacted incredibly quickly, summoning a clone at nearly the same moment.

Nuosha Divine Technique·Shadow of Evil!

"Sss!!"

The Shadow of Evil hissed sharply, though identical to Ge Bin, its expression was extremely vicious!

The Shadow of Evil immediately confronted the Evil Shadow, and the two grappled in combat.

Within the scope of the Biwu tree, the clones had no substantial ability to survive, and in just a few seconds, the fine branches crumbled both man and dog into mist.

"Are you ready to break the situation?" Liu Yunlan's voice came through.

"Ready!" Lu Ran passed the Cold Night Sword to his left hand and pulled out the Silent Night Blade from behind his back with his right.

Liu Yunlan instructed, "After casting the spell, jump straight up; I'll leave you a way out."

"Understood." Lu Ran naturally followed the command, feeling the surrounding branches abruptly halt.

Then, countless branches suddenly changed direction, aiming at Lu Ran's position.

One by one, the branches brandished sharp wooden spikes, making Lu Ran's scalp tingle!

"Zoosh~"

"Zoosh! Zoosh!!"

Countless wooden spikes flew at Lu Ran from every angle!

Liu Yunlan: "Cast the spell!"

Lu Ran: "Meh!!"

"Huh?" The Evil Dog suddenly turned its head.

Ge Bin's eyes lit up, and he thrust forward fiercely with a dagger in his right hand.

The inherent brutality in the Evil Dog's heart couldn't be contained in the face of the little sheep's cry.

Want to die, young lamb?

By instinct, as it turned its head, it teleported over!

For the Evil Dog, the good news was that it evaded Ge Bin's fatal strike.

The bad news was...

As the Evil Dog blinked into existence, endless branches crisscrossed, and countless wooden spikes weaved into a death trap!

"Zi—"

Mist rolled under Lu Ran's feet as he shot straight up into the air, flinging the Cold Night Sword downwards with his left hand.

"Woo~ Woo~~"

The Evil Dog groaned in pain.

And its groan moved from the ground to the night sky.

Lu Ran was shocked, had it managed to escape?

He looked up, guided by the sound, and saw the Evil Dog's rapidly flickering silhouette high in the sky.

The Evil Dog lacked the ability to fly, but through incessant blinking, it "stood" in the air.

And its body was riddled with bloody holes!

Tiny streams of blood flowed outward from the wounds, creating a sorrowful sight.

However, most of these wounds were shallow and not life-threatening.

Not life-threatening?

No matter!

Without the Healing technique, the Evil Dog would surely bleed out given enough time.

"Good!" Ge Bin shouted, gripping his twin daggers tightly.

In front of them was the Demon Lord of the Jiang Realm·Fifth Rank, beyond a doubt.

In terms of sheer power, it was 2 or 3 ranks above the two Human Clan powers!

Even with Ge Bin and Liu Yunlan attacking together, they were unable to take it down for a long time and instead suffered a bite to the leg.

The Evil Dog was so quick, so swift, it had reached the peak of the River Realm!

This was no longer just a troublesome issue!

A moment's carelessness, and the two powers could be torn to shreds!

Now that Lu Ran had just entered the fray and already inflicted some damage on the Evil Dog, it was unquestionably uplifting.

However, the neophyte Lu Ran couldn't share Ge Bin's joy.

He was still amazed that the Evil Dog could escape such a death trap.

Could its reaction speed be a bit too excessive?

Did it instinctively teleport away at the slightest pain?

"Woof!!"

The Evil Dog launched its retaliation, barking down below.

The surging energy startled Lu Ran, who in his heart frantically called for the Dawn Blade while yelling out loud:

"Down!"

"Hum!"

At this moment, the Dawn Blade was still sheathed behind Lu Ran, and it immediately flew downwards with force.

Simultaneously, Lu Ran himself plunged downwards.

Liu Yunlan heard Lu Ran's call and helped him by controlling the Holy Light Tree Branches, adding some force to his descent.

"Crack!!"

Two rows of canine teeth emerged above Lu Ran's head, biting together and instantly shattering several branches.

Terrifyingly close!

"Woof! Woof!!"

The Evil Dog, driven to a frenzy, was also gifted with the Evil Technique-Evil Sense, and accurately found Lu Ran among the dense branches.

"Here I go!"

Lu Ran's foot landed on a branch, his Immortal Fog swirling below.

It seemed like the Divine Technique-Immortal Hoof.

In reality, it was the Evil Technique-Night Dance!

Even Ge Bin watched with a shocked expression.

The branches below Lu Ran were too dense, remnants of the previous hunt for the Evil Dog.

Since Lu Ran couldn't fall to the ground, he could only rush left and right among the entwined branches in this world.

At this moment, Lu Ran's three teammates were absent, leaving only his first-person perspective.

The channel's audience was in for a treat...

"That's, that's too thrilling, right?"

"Run fast!"

"Wow, can you even fit through such a small gap?"

"Stop shaking, I'm getting motion sickness..."

The dense branches suddenly closed, forming a barrier and obstructing the Evil Dog's view.

"Woof!!"

The Evil Dog lost it entirely, shifting its target and lashing out tooth after tooth at the Biwu tree.

"Crack!"

"Crack!!" The tree trunk was bitten, wood chips flying everywhere.

Hidden by many branches and on a piece of bark, a woman's face appeared.

At this moment, her expression was very ugly; the Evil Dog was so rabid that any bite might reach her true body.

"Zoosh~ Zoosh!"

Liu Yunlan manipulated numerous branches, stabbing into the night sky.

At this point in the battle, no one believed such a straightforward attack could hurt the Evil Dog.

But as long as it could disrupt the Evil Dog, stopping its frenzied biting, it would be successful.

"Shush~"

As expected, the Evil Dog's figure vanished.

When it reappeared, it had instantaneously moved to a location over ten stories high on Wu Lie Building, precisely where the outdoor restaurant was.

"Hmm..." The Evil Dog uttered a deep guttural sound, violently shaking its body, spraying droplets and blood beads in all directions.

Sniff~

The Evil Dog suddenly halted its motion, its nose twitching.

"Hmm?" The Evil Dog abruptly turned its head, its crimson eyes blazing with a terrifying glow.

The scent of the Human Clan.

The moment everyone least wanted to see had happened!

The Evil Dog, flickering all over the place, now appeared over the human sanctuary!

The soldiers, who had been on high alert, spotted the Evil Dog on the surveillance feed right away.

In an instant, everyone's hearts rose to their throats!

"Lu Ran! Voice of Compassion, Lu Ran!!"

A man's panicked voice came through the earpiece.

Moon Gazers, not afraid to die.

Having joined this force, they had already placed their heads on their belts.

But there were thousands of ordinary citizens in this building!

"Meh!!"

The Evil Dog paused in its tracks.

Evil Technique-Evil Sense allowed it to still smell human scent amid the storm and clearly hear the cries of the lamb.

"Shush~"

The Evil Dog vanished again, reappearing in the plaza's night sky.

At this time, Lu Ran had landed on the ground and retrieved the Cold Night Sword.

"Woof!"

The Evil Dog opened its gaping maw, and a fierce tooth flew over.

Feeling the position of the energy fluctuation, Lu Ran suddenly released mist at his feet and lunged forward 2 meters.

"Crack!!"

The grating sound of clamping came from behind Lu Ran.

"Seniors, the Evil Dog is continuously bleeding. Let's lure it into close combat, so it doesn't dash around everywhere."

As he spoke, mist rose from under Lu Ran's feet again, and he retreated 2 meters.

"Crack!!"

Two rows of canine teeth appeared in front, clamping down fiercely again.

Compared to his previous flustered scurrying through the lush branches, Lu Ran was now terrifyingly composed.

Through Liu Yunlan's eyes, this composure was even elegant!

This was an Evil Dog of the River Realm pinnacle!

The very peak of Jiang Realm!

This kid...

"Sister Liu, let's retract the branches for now," Ge Bin suddenly spoke, eyes blazing as he watched Lu Ran, "Lu Ran, and I will have a fight with this Evil Dog!"

"Crack!"

Once again, Lu Ran dodged horizontally, completely unfazed.

The Jiang Grade-Evil Teeth indeed had a powerful grip.

But as it enhanced its output, the energy fluctuation also grew larger.

Naturally, Lu Ran could detect and dodge it more easily.

His movements were smooth as he pointed at the ground in front of him with the long sword in hand:

"Meh~"

Provocation to the max!

Evil Dog: !!!

Liu Yunlan: "..."