

Old Gods 311

Chapter 311: Top Scholar

For more than half a month, Lu Ran, accompanied by Night Charm, had been slaughtering wildly in the Demon Cave.

The efficiency of the slaughter was astonishing, and the growth rate of the Evil Sculpture was naturally rapid!

Whenever Lu Ran returned to the city to rest, he would hide Night Charm in the deep mountains and forests.

To avoid losing her, Lu Ran would also leave the Divine Weapon·Silent Night Blade with her.

Between a master and a divine weapon, there naturally existed a spiritual connection, so there was no need to worry about losing each other.

By the fifth of June, that day had finally come when Lu Ran could leave that damned place!

"Phew..."

In the forest, Lu Ran leaned against a large tree and took a deep breath.

His face showed signs of fatigue, but his expression could hardly hide his joy.

Inside the God Demon Sculpture Garden, that Evil Sculpture of the Ghost General was buzzing and trembling!

It had already reached the River Realm·Fifth Rank two days ago.

Now, advancing to the next level meant entering the River Realm!

Beside him, Night Charm was diligently on guard, occasionally glancing at her master.

"Uh-huh~" After an unknown amount of time, Lu Ran finally opened his eyes and viciously stretched.

The Ghost General Evil Sculpture had reached River Realm·First Rank!

"Night Charm." Lu Ran, leaning against the tree, turned his head to look at Evil Demon.

Night Charm took long strides and quickly came over, awaiting his orders.

"I need to go back, and you need to come back too," Lu Ran said softly.

Night Charm, unable to understand complex human words, simply bowed her head lower as a sign of respect.

Lu Ran sighed deeply.

Now that his training was over and he was about to leave, he definitely couldn't leave Night Charm in the Demon Cave.

Once discovered, that would really stir up a mess!

An Evil Sculpture named Night Charm coming out of the General Tomb?

The whole world would go crazy!

The problem was, this Night Charm had been with Lu Ran for more than half a month and was trained quite well.

It was a pity to just recall her.

"Come back."

Lu Ran said softly, really wanting to say something like "Hard work."

But when he had summoned Night Charm last time, Lord Immortal Goat had severely reprimanded him.

Subordinates are servants, tools, beings formed from the energy of Lu Ran.

"Zi!"

The blade entered the flesh.

Moments later, Night Charm turned into wisps of mist, moving towards the Divine Power Pearl on Lu Ran's neck.

A soul quietly emerged and drifted towards Lu Ran, merging into his eyes.

Night Charm had returned.

From the body to the soul, everything belonged to Lu Ran.

"Snap!" Lu Ran slapped his forehead, feeling rather vexed.

Where could he get a space-storing type Magic Artifact?

With this concern on his mind, Lu Ran took up his blade and flew high towards Stone City.

...

In the afternoon, Lu Ran left the Demon Cave and returned to the military camp below Ji Zhu Mountain.

He immediately retrieved his stored items, put on his hat and mask, and quickly left.

Just then, a taxi arrived with passengers, and Lu Ran immediately jumped in after they alighted.

After instructing the driver with a simple "Airport," Lu Ran took out a power bank from his backpack, charged his mobile phone, and turned it on.

As expected, he saw some missed calls and many messages.

Most were from Little Yuanxi, and a few were from teammates.

Lu Ran didn't hesitate and directly opened Jiang Ruyi's chat.

Jiang: "Have you arrived? Have you entered the Demon Cave?"

Jiang: "Remember to eat and rest on time."

Jiang: "The results of our final graduation exam are out. You scored 99 points.

Since you didn't participate in the Children's Day activities, your university entrance exam score is 738.6 points."

Jiang: "It's on the official website, you are the national top scorer! Well done."

Jiang: "You've been reported on the news, everyone online is praising you, and mom and dad are so happy."

Jiang: "Tabby cat keeps sticking to mom and ignores me.

I secretly pinched its tail last night."

Jiang: "Wu Lie River University contacted me, all procedures are well handled."

Jiang: "Has it been tough recently?"

"Jiang" retracted one message.

Jiang: "I miss you."

Lu Ran's eyes softened as he watched the girl's flurry of messages, one after another.

Reading each line, Lu Ran could almost hear her gentle whispering.

There was a time when the Jiang Ruyi in his mobile phone was too aloof.

A simple "Hmm" would be sent from thousands of miles away, but now...

Lu Ran opened his contacts and dialed her number.

"Lu Ran?" The call was quickly answered, with a surprised voice on the other end.

"Miss me?" Lu Ran asked with a smile.

There was a moment of silence on the other end.

Lu Ran looked out the taxi window and prodded, "Huh?"

Her voice was soft and low: "Don't miss."

Lu Ran smiled, "The last message, you didn't pull it back in time, did you?"

At Jiang Mansion in Rain Alley City, across the water,

A girl in a white nightgown lay on the small bed in the bedroom, stubbornly pouting, not saying a word.

"Ruyi?" On the phone, that annoying voice came again.

Jiang Ruyi hugged the little tabby cat, gently pinching its soft cat ears.

"It was a mistake, don't be mad," Lu Ran said softly.

"Meow?" The little tabby cat curiously watched its mistress as if hearing something.

The fluffy little head leaned in, sniffing the mobile phone in the girl's hand.

Jiang Ruyi embraced the little tabby cat in her arms again: "Are you out of the Demon Cave?"

"Just came out, now heading to the airport."

"Did you complete the task given by Lord Immortal Goat?"

"It's more or less completed," Lu Ran replied softly in the taxi.

Now, he was equipped with Spirit Defense Techniques—Ghost General's Will!

He should earn further approval from Lord Immortal Goat.

Feeling the silence from the other end, Lu Ran asked, "Should I come home first?"

"Don't!" Jiang Ruyi immediately refused.

"Meow." The little tabby cat got startled and attempted to break free from the girl's soft embrace.

But Jiang Ruyi, quick with her hands, caught the tail of the little tabby cat.

"Meow~" The little tabby cat turned its head, its pitiful eyes gazing at its mistress.

Jiang Ruyi's movements were gentle as she embraced the little tabby cat again, pulling it into her soft arms.

The little tabby cat seemed to have become a substitute.

Lu Ran's voice came through the phone: "It's also good to go back; I can leave from Beijing, and the tickets are easier to sell."

Jiang Ruyi reproached herself in silence, quickly responding: "Just go straight to Cai Nan, don't come back."

Otherwise, I won't send you messages anymore."

"Yo? Learning to threaten now?"

"Make your pilgrimage a priority. Go as soon as possible; don't keep Lord Immortal Goat waiting."

"Hmm... alright."

"By the way, you are the national top scorer; the school, the city, and the Divine People Bureau all want to reward you, probably adding up to about two to three hundred thousand."

Lu Ran: "Keep it! I'm not home, just keep it for me."

"Go," Jiang Ruyi said with a laugh, spitting at Lu Ran through the phone, "The school knows you went on a pilgrimage; they said they'll wait for your return."

"How can I claim it for you? I'm not your family."

Lu Ran looked distressed: "This is awkward."

I was so focused on dealing with official matters with you, I forgot to register our marriage."

Jiang Ruyi: ???

After a moment of reflection, she understood what Lu Ran meant by "official matters."

Jiang Ruyi's cheeks flushed instantly, both embarrassed and annoyed, and she hung up the phone.

She pinched its tail lightly and whispered, "Bad guy."

Little tabby cat: "Meow meow meow?"

Far away in Xiao Yi City, in a taxi heading to the airport, Lu Ran laughed as he put down his phone.

He wasn't short on money.

But who would say no to more money?

It's just the rules of "Heavenly Pride" that are too restrictive.

Otherwise, with Lu Ran's current reputation, he could easily earn money by endorsing a couple of ads.

The influence of "Heavenly Pride" was truly immense!

Once Lu Ran steps onto the grand stage built by the official authorities of Da Xia, he represents the face of Da Xia Country, and there are many things he can't do.

Not only Lu Ran, but including his relatives and even Sun Zhengfang and Wei Long, who appeared on the screen, their behaviors were strictly regulated.

Thanks to Lu Ran being a high school student, "Heavenly Pride" offered him great protection.

In these months, other competing students had already been approached by "Heavenly Pride" to participate in various official events.

After Lu Ran starts university, it will probably be the same.

Hmm... at least there's money to be made.

"Buzz~"

The phone vibrated.

Lu Ran looked down and saw a WeChat message from Jiang Ruyi.

Jiang: "Next time you level up, remember to tell me."

Ran: "What, you're ignoring me before I level up?"

Lu Ran stared at his phone, waiting a long time with no response.

"Good fellow~" Lu Ran shook his head and chuckled.

Starting to ignore me now?

Actually, Lu Ran could understand Jiang Ruyi's mental state.

Back then, when she went on a pilgrimage to Yu Men Pass, Lu Ran also dared not contact her too frequently, fearing he might disturb her serene mind.

Suddenly, a call came through.

Lu Ran raised an eyebrow and answered immediately: "Yuanxi?"

"Eh? It actually got through?" A playful voice came from the phone's other end.

"Miss me?" Lu Ran asked with a smile.

"Brother!!"

"Oh my!" Ran Dog abruptly tilted his head, startling the driver in front.

Lu Ran's head was buzzing!

Not even during the Evil Sculpture's level-up had his brain shaken this much...

"What are you yelling for?" Lu Ran said irritably.

"You're scolding me." Qiao Yuansi spoke in a pitiable tone, playfully continuing, "Poor little Yuanxi~ Mom doesn't care, brother doesn't love.

All alone in a luxurious apartment, eating burgers daily... gulp."

Lu Ran: "..."

Why is she still swallowing saliva while she speaks?

Lu Ran threatened: "I'm hanging up, okay?"

"No, no, no." Qiao Yuansi giggled, "Brother, you're the top scorer!

That score you fetched, nearly 740 points, you almost maxed out!"

In this world, ordinary people exist; the maximum score for ordinary students' university entrance exams is 750 points.

If directly compared, Lu Ran's score was indeed a bit high.

Lu Ran: "How about you?"

"Definitely nailed it!" Qiao Yuansi laughed joyfully, "When school starts again, I'll be a university student at Beijing University!"

Lu Ran smiled broadly, sincerely praising: "Impressive, congratulations."

"You're the most impressive!" Qiao Yuansi's smile faded, her tone unusually serious, "I told mom, and she's so happy!"

Both mom and I are proud of you!"

"Hmm." Lu Ran lowered his head, softly responding.

Father, too, probably.

Chapter 312: Pilgrimage

To the south of the colorful clouds lies Yeyu City.

When Lu Ran set foot on this land, he could only feel that the sky was so pure.

Cloud after cloud looked like cotton candy, gently drifting above in the blue sky, giving Lu Ran an overwhelming urge to fly up and pinch them.

"Cang Mountain, Erhai, Yeyu Ancient City..."

Lu Ran stood outside Fengyi Airport, gazing at the distant mountains.

There were many beautiful sights here, sadly, Lu Ran had come alone.

Just then, a cloud on the horizon took the shape of a girl, and Lu Ran associated it with Jiang Ruyi.

Lu Ran vigorously shook his head, taunting himself quietly:

You're finished~

You've fallen in love.

Lu Ran took out his phone, aimed at the cloud above the distant mountains, took a photo, and then silently queued up for the bus.

The original statue of Divine-Immortal Goat wasn't located in the city center.

Unlike the statues of most gods, Lord Immortal Goat stood aloof from the noisy markets, perched in the deep forests to the north of Yeyu City.

Lu Ran got into a taxi and simply said "Luoxian Mountain," then bowed his head and fiddled with his phone.

He sent the photo of the "Cloud Girl" to Jiang Ruyi.

He also added a message: Does it look like her?

After sending the message, Lu Ran quietly awaited her reply.

Nothing.

The journey took nearly half an hour, and Jiang Ruyi still hadn't responded.

"Little Ruyi, such a cruel heart," Lu Ran murmured, raising his eyebrows slightly.

The last one to be judged so by Lu Ran was Yan Zhi.

So, you're really going to ignore me until I level up?

Lu Ran turned to look out the window, and as the vehicle approached Luoxian Mountain, he finally saw the Divine Sculpture itself.

Beneath the blue sky and white clouds, amidst the rolling mountains.

The towering Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture stood in silence, still with its benevolent smile and fists held respectfully together.

With the sunlight shining upon it, the wide white jade stone robe it wore was even more lustrously radiant.

Bizarre, dazzling, it was mesmerizing.

"Sir, we've arrived." The vehicle slowly came to a stop at the foot of the mountain.

"Thank you." Lu Ran scanned the QR code to pay for the ride and looked up at the mountain range.

It's said that a mountain is not renowned for its height, but for the immortals who reside in it.

Apparently, the name Luoxian Mountain was chosen by Lord Immortal Goat himself.

Lu Ran followed the path, quickly making his way into the mountain.

To his surprise, there were very few people he met on the way up.

Keep in mind, Yeyu City was a tourist city with a huge flow of visitors!

In this "live one day at a time, make money one day at a time" world, loads of people shared the same consumption views as the Deng family siblings.

And yet, under these circumstances, Luoxian Mountain still had few visitors.

It showed just how unpopular Lord Immortal Goat really was...

Come to think of it, the Immortal Sheep sect did not partake in wars.

You couldn't expect them to help or save anyone.

Instead, the Immortal Sheep sect required the protection of others!

Being Believers yet vying with commoners for protected slots...

That did require some nerve.

Moreover, with the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture standing here, causing strong energy fluctuations, it attracted hordes of Evil Demons, posing an even larger threat to the city.

Combining all these factors, it was no wonder the Immortal Sheep sect was disliked.

Even with Lu Ran's meteoric rise, he could not change people's views of the sect.

After all, people's opinions were not prejudices but harsh realities.

Since the broadcasting of "Heavenly Pride," a notion spread wildly online and also gained the recognition of most people:

"What is respected is Lu Ran the person, not the Immortal Sheep Believer."

Ever since Lu Ran became famous, mainstream media also reported extensively, imploring the audience to be rational.

Little Lu Ran was a one-of-a-kind existence.

Others definitely should not get carried away and join the Immortal Sheep sect.

"Luoxian Temple."

After a long climb, Lu Ran saw a mountain gate through the dense tree shadows in the distance.

He quickened his pace on the stone steps.

Lu Ran had passed three such gates before he finally arrived at the real Luoxian Temple.

"Goodness me."

Lu Ran stood outside the great gate, observing the vast grounds.

In the center of the courtyard was a large incense burner, still burning vigorously.

The number of worshipers around was sparse; it seemed likely that the incense was offered by the Immortal Sheep Believers themselves.

Wherever his gaze landed, whether it was the grounds or the buildings, it all showcased a simple style, with signs of slight dilapidation here and there.

Lu Ran had done his homework before coming, but he was still taken aback upon seeing Luoxian Temple for the first time.

Is this truly the dwelling of the Divine Sculpture?

Think of Lord Beifeng's Beifeng City or Lord Jian Yi's Jian Tianque!

Weren't they all situated in bustling cities on priceless lands?

Those ancient cities were bustling with excitement, with an endless stream of visitors.

Buildings within the city were grand and exquisitely constructed, with all sorts of amenities such as commercial streets and martial arts arenas.

Then look at Luoxian Temple!

Here, there were... um, mottled courtyard walls, a few buildings with an antique style, and within the halls, an Immortal Sheep Jade Carving.

And a grand courtyard with one large incense burner.

That's it.

You might not believe it if you tell someone.

This kind of environment somehow amused Lu Ran~

It turns out, when someone is utterly speechless, they might inexplicably laugh a little.

"Lord Immortal Goat, quite minimalist, eh?" he uttered, looking up at the towering Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture.

It was located deeper in the mountains; perhaps the temple had a hidden paradise inside.

Lu Ran walked into the courtyard, looking around, it was blatantly obvious who were Immortal Sheep Believers and who were tourists.

The Immortal Sheep Believers all wore the same uniform, a white practice attire.

They also seemed to be older, resembling the elderly you'd find in the park practicing Tai Chi early in the morning.

Not a single young person?

Lu Ran searched and searched but couldn't find a young Immortal Sheep Believer!

No wonder the Immortal Sheep sect was in decline.

Looking around, it was a sea of "glorious sunset red"...

"Young friend, would you like to offer incense?" An elderly voice called out.

Lu Ran turned to see an old man with white hair.

His respectful posture, holding his fists as if learning from Lord Immortal Goat, was clear.

He had a kind face and wrinkles piled upon it, looking to be in his sixties or seventies.

"Sure." Hesitating for a moment, Lu Ran nodded in agreement.

"Please, follow me." Upon hearing this, the old man's smile became even warmer.

He led Lu Ran to the left side of a great hall in the courtyard, where there was a long table piled high with various incenses.

A few elderly in Tai Chi attire were greeting the few worshipers that were there.

One old lady even held a payment QR code in her hand...

"These incenses must have different prices, right?" Lu Ran stood before the long table, carefully selecting.

Embarrassingly, this was the first time Lu Ran was offering incense to Lord Immortal Goat since he began his worship.

So, he planned to offer something decent.

The old lady said with a smile, "Young friend, the incense is free."

"Ah?" Lu Ran looked up at her.

The old lady smiled kindly, nodding, "The incense is provided for free by the temple, all as you wish, see for yourself."

While saying so, the old lady passed the payment QR code toward Lu Ran.

Lu Ran: "..."

"If the young friend is financially strained, there's no need to force it," chuckled the old man who had led Lu Ran there. "Sincerity is all that matters."

Lu Ran silently took out his phone and scanned the QR code.

He donated 41 yuan, and then chose the three incense sticks that seemed most pleasing to him.

Why 41 yuan?

represents the fourth strength realm for Believers: River Realm.

represents the lower rank: First Rank.

Don't be too greedy, this pilgrimage is sufficient if I can cultivate to the River Realm.

"Did you come here alone, young friend?" The kindly old man took full responsibility for guiding Lu Ran, accompanying him to offer the incense.

"Yep, alone," Lu Ran nodded.

"Are you here on vacation?" The old man led Lu Ran to the incense burner.

Holding the incense to the furnace, Lu Ran lit them while saying, "I'm here on a pilgrimage."

"Pilgrimage?" The old man paused.

In Luoxian Temple, the term 'pilgrimage' was only applicable to Immortal Sheep Believers.

And Lu Ran was obviously young!

This was indeed quite rare!

"Young friend, are you also an Immortal Sheep Believer?" The old man was quite surprised as he examined the youngster.

Yet with Lu Ran wearing a hat and mask, his face was obscured; only his eyes were visible.

"Yeah." Lu Ran nodded slightly, humble as well, "Senior, I am too."

The old man opened his mouth as if to form words, but after a long time, he didn't manage to say anything.

In the end, the old man only patted Lu Ran's shoulder with a sigh: "Ah..."

Lu Ran: ???

What are you sighing about?

Shouldn't you be happy to have fresh blood joining the Immortal Sheep sect, rather than lamenting?

This old man... hmm, seems quite conscientious.

As an Immortal Sheep Believer, the old man naturally wouldn't speak excessively or persuade Lu Ran to leave the sect.

But as a human being, he found it pitiful and regrettable to watch Lu Ran jump into what he considered a "fire pit."

If the young man before him had joined any other deity, he might have had a chance to change.

Following Lord Immortal Goat will only make you weaker.

On the long pathway of life ahead, you will be labeled a coward, subjected to endless ridicule and disdain.

Anyone, once they learn of your status, might bully or take advantage of you.

After all, there are no repercussions for such behavior.

Immortal Sheep Believers are expected to be forbearing, to always show kindness to others.

"I'm off to offer incense now." Suddenly, Lu Ran spoke, interrupting the old man's thoughts.

"Please." The old man's regret was evident on his face as he continued to lead Lu Ran to the incense burner.

The spacious square incense burner was sparsely visited by worshipers.

Lu Ran took his place, and through the swaying incense smoke, he saw an Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture sitting in the hall straight ahead.

But Lu Ran didn't offer to that one.

He looked straight up instead, towards the towering Divine Sculpture in the back mountains:

"Lord Immortal Goat, thank you for your grace in reshaping me, for your guidance and protection all this way.

May I live up to your expectations and gain your recognition soon.

Lord Immortal Goat, your disciple Lu Ran, comes to you in pilgrimage!"

With those words, he bowed three times.

Lu Ran stepped forward and inserted the three incense sticks into the burner.

"Om!!"

The ground suddenly trembled lightly, and everyone in the temple looked astonished, swaying on their feet.

"An earthquake?"

"Get down, everyone get... ah?"

"What's this?"

A pillar of light descended from the sky, enveloping the incense burner in front of the temple.

To be precise, it was enveloping the young man offering the incense.

The source of the trembling earth was also found—the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture itself!

"Is this... a blessing?"

"A Divine Blessing?"

"My heavens, this is a real Divine Blessing! A rare event in a decade..."

"That young man, could he be one of our Immortal Sheep Believers?"

For a moment, the uncles and aunts, grandpas and grandmas in Tai Chi attire all turned their gaze towards the youth in the light column.

"Who is he? Why is he favored by Lord Immortal Goat?"

"Ey! Isn't he that, that one..."

"Lu Ran? The genius of Da Xia?"

"Right, right, right, look at the two swords on his back! Could it be him?"

"Gods above! It's Lu Ran! It's our junior disciple Lu Ran!!"

Chapter 313: Body Tempering and Marrow Cleansing?

"Huh..."

Within the beam of light, Lu Ran trembled gently, his breathing carried a vibrato.

This was too embarrassing!

After all, being a Heavenly Pride, wasn't this just edging into being a live streamer?

Luckily, Lu Ran was wearing a hat and mask to hide his humiliation somewhat.

He buried his head low, his hands braced against the incense burner, striving to steady his stance.

Within the beam, streams of violent energy infused into Lu Ran's body, domineering to the extreme!

"Ugh~" Lu Ran closed his eyes tightly, making an indistinct sound.

His body was filled... completely filled...

Lu Ran had experienced Divine Blessings before.

But the small Divine Sculpture at home would only release more Immortal Fog, flowing towards Lu Ran's body, continually expanding his meridians.

Had Lu Ran ever experienced such a wild and forceful blessing?

Was this what a true blessing was like?

The energy infused into his body did not follow the conventional pathways, but surged like a great flood, overwhelming and unstoppable.

Lu Ran suddenly realized that this blessing was not just expanding his meridians, but was it completely transforming his Human Clan body?

Blood, flesh, skin, bones...

It felt very much like undergoing Bone Marrow Washing.

"Cough cough, cough cough." Lu Ran leaned on the incense burner, breathing in a nose-full of fragrant mist through his mask.

The originally quiet courtyard was suddenly filled with many people.

There were pilgrims, Immortal Sheep Believers, and many soldiers.

Under normal circumstances, the presence of the military was not common where the Divine Being itself resided.

Take Beifeng City, for example.

Rarely were there figures from Da Xia's official ranks under the feet of Divine Beifeng, not even the Demon Cave guarded by Lord Beifeng was managed by North Wind Disciples.

The fees paid by those entering the Demon Cave for their training were naturally given to the Beifeng Sect to better construct Beifeng City.

But within Luoxian Temple...

Hmm, it was indeed appropriate for the military to be stationed here.

How could the Immortal Goat Disciples have the capacity to guard the Demon Cave?

"Is it really Lu Ran?"

"It must be him, who else could earn such favor from Lord Immortal Goat?"

"The internet wasn't wrong, Lord Immortal Goat really dotes on the Junior Brother."

"Don't call him that for now, what if Lu Ran doesn't like the nickname? Don't make him upset."

"Everyone, quiet down, don't disturb Lu Ran."

The murmurs faded quickly, as the Immortal Sheep Believers dressed in Tai Chi garments voluntarily dispersed, advising the others present to be quiet.

The beam that descended from the heavens lasted for a full hour!

"Phew!"

Suddenly, a gust spread out from within Lu Ran.

The ash within the furnace scattered into the sky, a fog of ash spread wide.

Lu Ran pressed his hands firmly against the incense burner, his head spinning.

River Realm·Fourth Rank!

Lu Ran had ascended to River Realm·Third Rank on the fourteenth day of the fourth lunar month, taking just over two months.

Today was the sixth day of the sixth lunar month, meaning that this advancement took less than two months!

Another point: the difficulty of advancing from the second rank to the third rank is naturally different from advancing from the third rank to the fourth rank.

Lu Ran was supposed to spend more time and effort, but with the forceful intervention of Lord Immortal Goat, he was forcibly leveled up...

"Thank you, thank you, Lord Imm, Immortal, Goat, for the blessing."

Lu Ran, with barely any consciousness left, stuttered his thanks.

At the beginning of the Bone Marrow Washing, Lu Ran could still think, but now his brain was dizzy, his body feeble.

With a "plop",

Lu Ran, who had endured for an hour, finally collapsed to the ground at the end of the blessing, like a puddle of mud.

"Lu Ran!"

"Lu Ran?" The Immortal Sheep Believers quickly approached.

But at the next moment, everyone's expression changed and they stopped in their tracks.

Accompanied by a crisp sound, dual blades unsheathed behind Lu Ran, guarding his left and right.

Though the master was incoherent, the Divine Weapons were ever vigilant.

They too had enjoyed the Divine Being's blessing, filled with energy, and the twin blades even glowed faintly.

"Junior Sister Cheng." An elderly voice called out.

"Grandfather?"

"Go negotiate with the Divine Weapons, help Lu Ran up, and take him to the back mountain to rest."

"Okay." A woman parted the crowd, "Everyone, please make way."

She was a little over 1.6 meters tall, seemingly around 24 or 25 years old, also dressed in a Tai Chi garment, her hair in a bun.

Her demeanor was soft, her face gentle, looking at the pair of master-protecting Divine Weapons:

"Underneath the Divine Being, no one dares to harm Lu Tianjiao, please be assured."

Dawn Blade and Silent Night Blade floated around Lu Ran, their cold light sharp, the atmosphere formidable!

Such a scene filled the onlookers with immense envy.

One for the power of the Divine Weapons, two for the loyalty of the Divine Weapons.

Who dares harm Lu Ran?

He doesn't even need to act himself, with just these two Divine Weapons, he could probably bloodbath the Luoxian Temple...

And such a scene was also captured by many of the pilgrims.

Next to the Divine Weapons, the puddle on the ground... hmm, it's really a mess~

The woman approached step by step, her voice gentle, repeatedly persuading.

The pair of Divine Weapons finally flew out, expanding their defensive radius and allowing the woman to enter.

"Junior Sister Cheng, the ground is cold, help the Junior Brother up quickly."

"Junior Sister Cheng, don't move him yet, first check on Lu Tianjiao's condition."

The crowd was abuzz, but the Divine Weapons did not allow others to get close.

"Lu Tianjiao?" Junior Sister Cheng knelt down on one knee, carefully tapping on Lu Ran's shoulder.

Lu Ran did not respond at all, seemingly already unconscious.

Junior Sister Cheng looked up at the Silent Night Blade: "There are too many people here, can I help your master to the back mountain to recuperate, is that okay?"

Silent Night Blade floated silently.

"Hum~" Behind Junior Sister Cheng, Dawn Blade vibrated lightly.

Junior Sister Cheng immediately stood up, supporting Lu Ran's arm.

Seemingly frail, the woman was in fact a devout Believer, her physical condition far superior to ordinary people.

She picked up Lu Ran's arm, slung it around her neck, one hand supporting his waist, and quickly walked away.

"Phew~"

Dawn Blade and Silent Night Blade circled around the two, clearing the way ahead, preventing others from approaching.

The Divine Weapons paved the way, what a spectacle!

Junior Sister Cheng, feeling this novel experience, sneakily glanced at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran's face was covered by a mask, but Junior Sister Cheng could imagine his looks.

After all, she had seen his face on the internet far too many times.

Junior Sister Cheng never imagined that one day she would have the honor of supporting Da Xia's genius like this.

"Uh." Lu Ran's body trembled slightly.

The Divine Blessing had ended, but the subsequent effects were still there.

Was Lu Ran's physical body undergoing some changes?

Junior Sister Cheng quickly looked away, hastening her steps, heading towards the back mountain.

Behind her, hundreds of Immortal Sheep Believers closely followed, moving resolutely towards the back mountain.

...

The passage of time, the next morning.

Lu Ran woke up groggily, looking around in confusion.

Where is this?

Lu Ran was puzzled, observing the ancient-looking room.

It took a while for him to remember that he was in Luoxian Temple and his memory lingered at the moment right after receiving Lord Immortal Goat's blessing.

"Wow!"

Lu Ran propped himself up on the wooden bed, just as he started to sit up, he sensed something was wrong.

Vigorous energy filled his body, the sensation of power immense.

The bursting vitality delighted Lu Ran to no end, as if he had acquired a brand new body.

At 18, Lu Ran was already at an age where vigor and strength were at their peak.

But at this moment, Lu Ran distinctly felt that his physical fitness had ascended to another level.

Is this the power of an "authentic Divine Blessing"?

"Lord Immortal Goat?" Lu Ran called out softly, "Are you here?"

A deep voice echoed in his mind: "Too weak."

Lu Ran's face, previously full of joy, stiffened after hearing those words.

Immortal Goat: "Your flesh is frail and only withstood a moment's nourishment.

How pitiful, how sad."

Lu Ran: "..."

A moment?

Why do I feel like I stood in that beam of light for ages?

Not three hours, but at least two, right?

Lu Ran, confused and groggy, indeed had no concept of time. In reality, he had only bathed in the light for one hour.

The deep voice came again: "Your body of flesh and blood has been tempered by me.

Now your physical form is stronger, your meridians widened, your tendons and bones more resilient.

Your cultivation speed will also see a significant increase."

"Gulp." Lu Ran swallowed, unsure how to express his gratitude.

Every word spoken by Lord Immortal Goat was thunderous!

Take just "a stronger body," it encapsulates so much information, right?

And cultivation speed will increase too?

"Thank you, Lord Immortal Goat!" Lu Ran suppressed the surging emotions in his heart, his eyes filled with gratitude.

"Adjust your body and mind, stabilize your strength and realm. In a few days, I will arrange for you to enter the Demon Cave."

"Yes!" Lu Ran immediately replied, then remembered something, "Lord Immortal Goat, should I activate the Evil Mirror Demon Sculpture?"

The Demon Cave supervised by Divine Immortal Goat was not open to the public. The Evil Demon inside was of the Evil Mirror Demon race.

This race was quite rare and possessed an incredibly formidable technique—Mirror Flower Moon!

The effect of the Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon can be described in two words: Teleport!

The only downside was the strict conditions for learning the technique: Lu Ran needed to elevate to the River Realm before he was eligible to learn.

"Hmm, decide for yourself," the voice transmitted down, brief and succinct.

The Divine Being's tone was not harsh; upon closer listening, it seemed somewhat approving.

What else is there to say?

I must activate it!

With Lord Immortal Goat's attitude, this action was sure to receive further approval.

Lu Ran himself was very interested in the teleportation technique.

In the Demon Cave's General Tomb, Lu Ran had always wanted to find a Storage Bag or Storage Ring sort of Magic Artifact to keep Night Charm.

If he had a teleportation technique, Lu Ran could solve the problem himself!

When not using Night Charm, teleport her to a hidden corner.

When needed, simply pull Night Charm out again...

Wait a minute!

Lu Ran frowned slightly.

After all, the Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon was suited for the River Realm.

Did this mean that Lord Immortal Goat would wait for him to ascend to the River Realm before sending him to another world?

Hmm... that meant much more intense cultivation.

Lu Ran pursed his lips; he always thought that once he figured out the combination of "Paper Mache Man" and "scapegoat," Lord Immortal Goat would relent.

It seemed he needed to truly devote himself to cultivation.

Lu Ran raised his hands, clenched them into fists and then slowly relaxed, delicately feeling his transformative body.

Lord Immortal Goat had clearly stated that after the blessing, his cultivation speed would also increase.

"If I had known, I would have come here to receive the blessing earlier," Lu Ran muttered softly.

"Huh." A snort echoed contemptuously in his mind, "At this point, you can only withstand a moment's blessing.

Come earlier?

Did you want to bleed from all orifices, ruining your body?"

"I don't want that, I don't want that." Lu Ran was startled, shaking his head repeatedly.

...

Chapter 314: Luo Xian Residence

Lu Ran moved his body slightly, feeling the exuberance of his physique.

This sensation was limited to his immediate perception.

Lu Ran knew that in places he couldn't see, his blood, flesh, meridians, and bones had all been tempered.

Just the thought of it made Lu Ran feel incredulous.

He suddenly thought of something and asked weakly, "Lord Immortal Goat?"

There was silence in the room, no response in his mind.

Lu Ran asked himself, "This ability to bestow blessings, can I possess it, too?"

"Oh?" The telepathic voice descended again.

It was evident that Lu Ran's inquiry sparked a hint of interest in the god.

Lu Ran immediately said, "In my mind exists a God Demon Sculpture Garden, with nearly a hundred divine entities.

If I activate one of the Divine Sculptures, can I bestow blessings, too?"

"Difficult."

"Difficult?"

For some reason, Immortal Sheep changed the subject, "If the Domain of the Silent Night Blade is the same as other Divine Weapons, what would you do?"

Lu Ran's brows furrowed slightly as he uttered one word, "Seize."

In this context, the term "seize" didn't differentiate between active and passive; it was more about being involuntarily compelled.

Take Deng Yuxiang, for example.

She had no choice but to accept the summons!

The Night-slaying Great Saber was Deng Yuxiang's inseparable battle companion, a Divine Weapon that belonged solely to her and was her responsibility.

Deng Yuxiang herself was a proud and powerful Martial Artist.

From any perspective, Deng Yuxiang would not back down.

Once the Divine Weapon Domains overlapped, she could only compete with her opponent to see who was superior.

A low voice imprinted on his mind, "The ability to bestow blessings is possessed only by True Gods."

"True Gods?"

Immortal Sheep explained with unexpected patience, "The column of light that I brought down upon you, including the Divine Ruins you saw within North Wind City.

These abilities, rather than being inherently possessed by All Gods, are more like symbols of status."

Lu Ran was puzzled, "Symbols of status?"

Immortal Sheep spoke indifferently, "Whoever stands in that position possesses that power."

Lu Ran nodded thoughtfully, "I see."

Immortal Sheep continued, "The deities in your Sculpture Garden are all Fake Gods.

No matter how well you cultivate the Divine Sculptures within the garden, as long as they are not in their rightful place, they can only struggle to survive in your spiritual world."

"Fake Gods," Lu Ran mused silently.

It couldn't be a coincidence that Lord Immortal Goat suddenly mentioned the matter of Divine Weapon Domains.

Thinking it over, Lu Ran had a guess, "Lord Immortal Goat, I understand!

My Fake Gods, to become True Gods, must they seize something as well?

Something akin to the Divine Weapon Domains?"

"The child has potential," Immortal Sheep responded with satisfaction.

Lu Ran hurriedly asked, "What is it?"

Immortal Sheep replied, "Let's call it divine nature for now.

It determines how much power you can wield, how high your status can be."

"Divine nature..."

"Grow steadily, gain my approval, and you will gradually come to understand," said Immortal Goat.

"I understand," Lu Ran lowered his head.

Suddenly confronted with these secret truths, his mind was in chaos, and a sense of loss welled up inside him.

Immortal Sheep asked, "Why do you look like this?"

Embarrassed, Lu Ran said, "I was thinking that if possible, in the future, I'd help Jiang Ruyi temper her body.

Allow her to transform and quicken her Cultivation speed."

Immortal Sheep was silent for a long while before speaking, "The purpose of receiving Divine Blessing isn't just to speed up Cultivation."

Lu Ran was taken aback, "Ah?"

The low voice carried a hint of amusement, "The real purpose of transforming is to raise the limit of Cultivation."

Lu Ran's mouth formed an 'O'.

Raise the Cultivation limit?

Heavens...

Does it mean fundamentally improving a person's aptitude?

"Snap!" Lu Ran slapped his forehead.

Right!

His entire being had been tempered, essentially transcending the mortal flesh to a certain extent.

The heights he could reach, weren't they now even higher?

This was essentially "changing fate against the heavens"!

Taking Deng Yutang as an example, under normal circumstances, he would only be chosen by a Fifth-Class God, like Red Bandanna.

If Deng Yutang received a Divine Blessing before Worship God, thus greatly boosting his aptitude, wouldn't he be able to be taken in by a First or Second-Class God?

Theoretically, this should be the case!

Of course, practically, it wouldn't work.

After all, Lord Immortal Goat had expressly stated that if Lu Ran had come earlier, he would likely end up blessed with blood flowing from seven orifices and a damaged body.

Even Lu Ran, a strong being from the River Realm, was considered too frail by Lord Immortal Goat.

An ordinary person before Worship God would probably be blessed into dust...

Immortal Sheep's tone still carried a hint of amusement, "You love her deeply."

Lu Ran was startled!

He had never expected such words to come from a divine being's mouth.

Lu Ran organized his thoughts and said, "She is my most faithful companion, my most loyal battle companion."

After a pause, Lu Ran added, "I believe that in the future, she will also be my most devout Believer."

"Heh," Immortal Sheep chuckled lightly, seeming to see through Lu Ran's cautious thoughts.

Lu Ran scratched his head awkwardly.

He had thought that if he could activate a Divine Sculpture and gain the power to bestow blessings, he would certainly help Jiang Ruyi undergo Body Tempering and Marrow Cleansing.

Now that the dream was shattered, Lu Ran could only plead with Lord Immortal Goat on her behalf.

For Jiang Ruyi's sake, Lu Ran didn't mind sacrificing his pride.

He was clear about who would accompany him to the end.

Immortal Sheep spoke indifferently, "Jiang Ruyi is not like Chang Ying, nor like Si Xianxian.

The greed of the divine lots will eventually break the hearts of the Believers.

The atrocities of the fierce heavens will also slowly devour the lives of Believers.

Having led the two away from suffering, they will surely be grateful to you, having no choice but to devotedly worship you.

But why should Jiang Ruyi follow you?"

Lu Ran's expression was one of surprise.

When the names of people from the Human Clan came from the mouth of a god, Lu Ran felt an unreal sensation!

Immortal Sheep snorted, "Jade Talisman has treated Jiang Ruyi quite generously, why do you think she would leave the Jade Talisman Sect and follow you instead?"

Lu Ran bowed his head in silence.

Immortal Sheep continued, "Because of your past? Your personal charm?"

Just because of your so-called human emotions?"

Lu Ran remained silent, not responding.

Are human emotions truly so insignificant?

Lu Ran didn't believe so.

There are many ways to bind each other in this world, such as kinship, friendship, entanglements of interest, and so on.

Which is more noble, which mode is more lowly.

Putting aside emotions, which Lord Immortal Goat sneered at, Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi shared the same core.

Both were from the Human Clan, with a shared ultimate goal, a community of interests.

Yet at the same time, Lu Ran realized a serious issue:

Jade Talisman had not treated Jiang Ruyi unfairly!

Regardless of the complex relationship between Lu Ran and Jade Talisman, for Jiang Ruyi, Divine-Jade Talisman had never let her down.

Even though, in essence, Worship God is a transaction of interests between the Human Clan and the gods.

The gods provided the Human Clan with Cultivation Methods to resist Evil Demons.

Every day the Human Clan lived, they provided Power of Faith to the gods.

After death, they also dedicated their souls to nourish the Divine Stone Sculptures.

But...

"She will follow you," the deep voice suddenly came.

"Ah?" Lu Ran was startled, "What did you say?"

It seemed Immortal Goat didn't want Lu Ran to be troubled any further, his tone turning serious and devoid of amusement,

"She will eventually follow you."

Lu Ran was somewhat confused, the god's previous questions still echoing in his ears, and now, why the sudden change of heart?

He quickly asked, "Why?"

Immortal Sheep stated indifferently, "One day in the future, she will see the true nature of this world."

Lu Ran frowned, "The true nature?"

Immortal Sheep declared, "You are on the correct path, and I await the day you tell me the answer.

Similarly, when you uncover everything, you will also tell her."

Lu Ran opened his mouth, hesitated for a few seconds, and finally replied in a low voice, "Yes."

Immortal Sheep affirmed, "Jiang Ruyi may not be one of my followers, but she will stand by your side and assist you against this world.

Regarding the blessing, it's not impossible.

However..."

Lu Ran listened in silence.

The low voice imprinted on his mind, "Once you learn the Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon, able to deceive the heavens and bring her into this room, we'll talk."

Lu Ran said solemnly, "Thank you, Lord Immortal Goat, for your generosity!"

This time, there was no reply.

Lu Ran waited for a while, and realizing the god had left, he took a deep breath.

His feelings complex, he just wanted to catch a breath.

He crawled a couple of steps on the bed, pulled back the semi-transparent bed curtains, and surveyed the antique bedroom.

The wooden cupboard had exquisite carvings at the corners.

On the Eight Immortals table against the wall, there was a vase filled with beautiful flowers.

Not far from the wooden windows, there was also a dressing table...

He thought for a moment, still put on his shoes, and walked outside.

Stepping out of the bedroom, Lu Ran saw a small hall, also meticulously furnished.

On the other side of the hall, there was another room, perhaps a kitchen or study?

Lu Ran didn't check it out, but instead, he opened the wooden doors of the hall and saw the outside world.

The place where he had settled turned out to be a small, detached courtyard, with a fence wall over one meter high, covered with ivy, and adorned with flowers.

Stepping out of the courtyard, Lu Ran found the surroundings densely wooded, with a small path stretching into the forest, its destination unknown.

He turned his head and looked at the wooden plaque above the gate, which read three big characters—Luo Xian Residence.

Lu Ran was suddenly shocked!

This mountain was called Luoxian Mountain.

The temple was called Luoxian Temple.

And this small residence was actually called Luo Xian Residence?

Is this... really a place where I belong?

During his stupor, Lu Ran's gaze swept past the plaque, continuing to look up, and saw the back of the giant Divine Sculpture.

It turned out that this forested courtyard was located behind Lord Immortal Goat.

"Junior... um, Lu Tianjiao!" A voice suddenly called out.

Lu Ran turned to look and saw a young woman.

She had beautiful eyes, fair skin, and a bun atop her head.

This hairstyle, coupled with her white robes, gave her an air of a Taoist.

"You're awake." The woman's face beamed with joy as she carried a bamboo basket and pushed open the gate.

"Who are you?" Lu Ran scrutinized the woman, catching the aroma of food from the bamboo basket.

The woman stood firm, holding the basket in front of her: "My name is Cheng Rou, also a Believer of Immortal Sheep."

Lu Ran suddenly tilted his head slightly, as if sensing something.

After a short while, he spoke, "Rosy clouds said you were the one who brought me here."

Cheng Rou smiled and said, "Your Divine Weapon is very protective, not allowing others to approach.

It took me a long time to persuade it to let me help you up."

"Oh," Lu Ran smiled too, "No need to change the way you address me, 'junior brother' is fine."

Cheng Rou's eyes were bright and clear, her smile gentle, "Alright then."

...

Chapter 315: Overbearing CEO Sheep's Little Lu Ran

The azure sky was like a flawless wash, dotted with white clouds.

A gentle breeze blew through the mountains and forests, bringing the rustling sound of leaves, which was quite pleasant to the ear.

The same breeze also played with a few strands of the woman's hair, passing over her gentle smiling face.

"Little Junior Brother, are you hungry?" Cheng Rou asked as she held up a bamboo basket.

"Thank you, Senior Sister Cheng," Lu Ran replied without any pretense, truly famished.

"Just wait a moment," she said, turning towards a corner of the courtyard where there was a wooden table and two chairs.

She placed the basket on the table and lifted the cloth cover to continually reveal dishes.

Lu Ran's gaze lingered for a moment before he looked up at the sky, feeling it impolite to keep staring at the girl.

As Lu Ran looked up, he saw the clouds in the sky again, thinking they really looked more and more like cotton candy.

The sky of Yeyu City was truly beautiful.

Especially since Lu Ran came from Rain Alley City, from that forever smog-filled land.

This stark contrast made everything seem all the more unreal to him.

"Little Junior Brother?" The woman's voice came from behind, "Come eat."

"Okay," Lu Ran hurried over and took a seat.

Steamed buns with plain congee, a plate of soy-sauce beef, and a plate of stir-fried mushrooms.

Lu Ran didn't recognize the mushrooms but never expected them to be this delicious.

"Hehe~"

Cheng Rou, propping her cheek with her hand, watched with a grin as Lu Ran gobbled down his food.

To her, the young man before her did not seem like the same valiant youth from "Heavenly Pride".

Feeling a tad embarrassed, Lu Ran slowed down with the mushrooms and asked, "Senior Sister, whose residence is this estate?"

Lu Ran thought the master of this estate should be a highly respected Immortal Sheep Believer.

But on second thought, it didn't seem quite right.

Even if an Immortal Sheep Believer's status were high, they couldn't withstand the name "Luo Xian Residence"!

Cheng Rou shook her head and whispered, "Ever since it was built, no one has lived here.

We come regularly to clean and repair, but besides that, we aren't allowed near here."

Lu Ran looked puzzled, "No one lives here? Then why build it?"

She whispered back, "For such a long time, we too have been wondering who the master of this estate really is.

Until yesterday, when you arrived."

Lu Ran: "..."

Cheng Rou's lips curved into a slight smile, "Thanks to Little Junior Brother, yesterday, I received a divine message from Lord Immortal Goat.

It was my first time hearing a god's voice."

Lu Ran silently ate his mushrooms, not daring to interject.

He could communicate with Lord Immortal Goat at any time.

But for other Immortal Sheep Believers, communicating with a deity was undoubtedly a great divine blessing.

Cheng Rou continued, "Yesterday, I helped you to the Immortal Temple at the back mountain, intending to take you to our living quarters.

On the way, I heard Lord Immortal Goat's instructions, and so I brought you here."

As she spoke, Cheng Rou's smile deepened, "You didn't see it at that time, everyone's expression was quite marvelous.

It turns out this Luo Xian Residence was prepared for you."

Lu Ran silently finished a plate of mushrooms, not daring to comment.

"Do you like it?" Cheng Rou asked, a hint of anticipation in her eyes.

"Mhm," Lu Ran nodded immediately.

Cheng Rou was quite happy, "Next time, I'll bring more."

"Thank you, Senior Sister." Lu Ran looked up at the woman and thanked her with a smile.

"Rustle~"

A gentle breeze came, accompanied by the pleasant sound of leaves rubbing together, blowing through Lu Ran's cropped hair.

Cheng Rou watched the young man before her with a sunny smile and clear eyes, momentarily lost in thought.

Externally, he was Da Xia's genius.

Internally, he was the master of Luo Xian Residence.

Cheng Rou was not yet sure if Lu Ran realized what this estate really meant.

Perhaps...

He had already realized it but simply hadn't shown much of it.

"What is your level of strength, Senior Sister?" Lu Ran suddenly asked.

"Me?" Caught off guard, Cheng Rou immediately replied, "I am at the River Realm Fourth Rank."

"River Realm Fourth Rank?" Lu Ran was genuinely surprised, "That's impressive, you look so young?"

However, her response left Lu Ran completely dumbfounded.

Cheng Rou shook her head with a smile, "I am already twenty-seven years old; my eldest son is seven, and my daughter is four."

Lu Ran fell silent.

Just...already with two children?

The mountains indeed nourish people!

Looking at Cheng Rou's appearance, she seemed like a pure and innocent university student; who would have thought she was the mother of two?

Err... These days, being a university student and a treasure mother doesn't seem contradictory.

Cheng Rou softly said, "Little Junior Brother, shall I give you a tour of the Immortal Temple?"

"Sure," Lu Ran took another bite of his steamed bun.

Cheng Rou shared, "There are 556 permanent Believers in the Immortal Temple, most of whom are in the Mist Realm.

Over 200 have reached the Stream Realm, and 14 have reached the River Realm..."

Lu Ran quietly listened, he couldn't help but sigh internally.

Just over five hundred people sounded quite disheartening.

This was the place where the god Divine-Immortal Goat resided!

Only so few Immortal Sheep Believers?

And among those, only fourteen were in the River Realm?

Well... that's fine.

Such aptitude indeed suited the title of a Nine-class God-Immortal Sheep's follower.

Cheng Rou added, "There is one River Realm Believer."

"Oh?" Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly, "There is also someone in the River Realm?"

No sooner had the words left his mouth, did Lu Ran feel it was rude and hurriedly corrected, "No, I mean..."

"No problem," Cheng Rou said without any hint of annoyance, remaining gentle, "My grandfather is at the River Realm-Fifth Rank."

Lu Ran: ???

River Realm Fifth Rank?!

He had assumed that being in the early stages of the River Realm would have sufficed for an Immortal Sheep Believer, but out comes a powerful being at River Realm-Fifth Rank?

Was this...possible?

As a disciple of the Nine-level God-Immortal Sheep Sect, it meant that talent and aptitude were somewhat limited.

How could Grandpa Cheng reach the pinnacle of the River Realm?

Cheng Rou smiled at Lu Ran's astonished expression and explained, "It is said that grandfather also once received a blessing from the divine lord."

Lu Ran: "It is said?"

Cheng Rou nodded, "It was a very long time ago, long before I was born."

Grandfather has never directly confirmed it. When you've rested, you might talk to him."

Lu Ran said, "Since I'm awake, I'll go visit Grandpa Cheng in a while. Can you take me, Senior Sister?"

Lu Ran certainly wouldn't become arrogant because of favor.

Moreover, since Grandpa Cheng was also an Immortal Sheep Believer, he would naturally be an ally in the future.

"Sure." Cheng Rou's eyes gleamed warmly, truly appreciating this humble and polite junior brother.

Since the broadcast of "Heavenly Pride" and Lu Ran's dramatic emergence, Cheng Rou had realized one thing:

Lu Ran was extraordinary, not an ordinary Immortal Sheep Believer!

Like her grandfather, he was not weak in character or timid in conduct.

On the contrary, they were fearsomely resolute, like a sharp divine weapon!

"Senior Sister, shall we leave now?" Lu Ran finished the steamed bun in a few bites and looked up at her.

Cheng Rou quickly cleared the dishes, joking, "Let's go. I can only trouble Little Junior Brother to visit; after all, this is a forbidden place.

Except for me, the meal deliverer, no one else can disturb you here, not even grandfather."

Lu Ran: "..."

"Hehe~" Cheng Rou laughed and patted her forehead, "Sorry, you seem so well-behaved, unlike how you are in 'Heavenly Pride,' I just want to tease you."

Lu Ran rolled his eyes and followed his Senior Sister out of the estate.

The path through the mountain was quite walkable.

After a few minutes, they arrived at a fork in the road.

"Little Junior Brother," Cheng Rou pointed down the branching path, "This road leads to the cliff, and we've built a pavilion there for you.

You can meditate there without disturbance."

Lu Ran was at a loss for words, "I..."

Cheng Rou lifted her head, smiling at Lu Ran, "The view there is lovely, overlooking Cang Mountain and Erhai!"

Lu Ran pursed his lips, his myriad thoughts distilled into two words, "Thank you."

Lord Immortal Goat,

When scolding me, you're so fierce, and now you're giving me both property and land...

What's the difference between this and a domineering CEO?

Lu Ran couldn't help but remember when he first brought the Divine Shrine Divine Sculpture home, and the White Sheep Jade Carving suddenly grimaced, then gave a wicked smile.

That settles it~

The domineering Sheep CEO is confirmed.

By the way, since this place is forbidden, once I master the Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon, can I hide Night Charm inside Luo Xian Residence?

Thinking to himself, Lu Ran followed Cheng Rou as they moved forward.

After a long walk, they came upon a complex of buildings!

Indeed, Luoxian Temple wasn't just the dilapidated sight it seemed; beyond the back mountain, there truly was another world.

Lu Ran quietly marveled, looking at the ancient style of the buildings, feeling very much like he had entered a Taoist temple.

"Eh, Lu Tianjiao!"

"Lu Tianjiao has arrived..." Joyous voices followed one after another as a group of aunties gathered around.

More Immortal Sheep Believers watched from a distance, not daring to come forward recklessly.

One excited auntie with curly hair grabbed Lu Ran's hand, inspecting him and saying continuously:

"Good, truly good, our Immortal Goat Sect has a future! Tall and fair-skinned, and handsome too..."

Lu Ran felt odd.

This felt like being appraised by a mother-in-law.

"Liu Auntie, I'm taking Little Junior Brother to see Grandpa first," Cheng Rou hurriedly intervened.

Liu Auntie reluctantly let go, "Did you like the mushrooms? Auntie will pick more for you tomorrow."

"Delicious, delicious!" Lu Ran mimicked Lord Immortal Goat's gesture, claspng his fist in salutation again and again in gratitude.

His action seemed to have triggered something!

All the surrounding Immortal Sheep Believers immediately returned the gesture.

Lu Ran was startled!

From now on, he'd better not clasp his fist lightly.

In Luo Xian Mountain, this gesture was probably quite formal.

"Let's go," Cheng Rou whispered, quickening her pace.

Lu Ran stepped on the stone-paved road, walked past several buildings, and finally entered a large gate.

What lay before them opened grandly, paved with stone bricks.

"Every morning, after worshipping God, we will practice here."

Cheng Rou introduced as she led Lu Ran towards the edge of a grand hall.

Lu Ran looked up to see three big characters on the plaque – Immortal Worship Hall.

Inside the hall sat a Stone Sculpture of an Immortal Sheep.

In front of the Stone Sculpture on a prayer mat was an old man bowing his head in reverence.

Cheng Rou quickly approached and whispered, "Grandpa, Lu Ran has come to see you."

"Oh?" The elder turned his head to look.

Outside the hall, Lu Ran's eyes sharpened!

The elderly man was clothed in a white robe, layered over a white inner garment, with his hair pulled up into a bun, fastened simply with a wooden hairpin.

Although his hair was white, his spirit was vigorous.

His eyes were not muddled but rather bright and clear.

"Since Lu friend has arrived, why not first pay respects to the deity?" The old man stood up, gesturing towards the prayer mat.

However, Lu Ran kept looking at the elder, scrutinizing him closely.

Beneath the facade of an immortal's grace and a Taoist's wisdom, Lu Ran saw a sharp weapon!

A long spear?

No, not a spear! What was it?

The elder stood silently, not rushing Lu Ran to enter.

Cheng Rou appeared puzzled, about to say something when the elder raised his hand to stop her.

Lu Ran spoke out, "Is Grandpa Cheng a practitioner of the halberd?"

"Ha ha ha ha ha!" The elderly laughed heartily, stroking his beard, "As expected of the Master of Divine Weapon, young friend, what keen insight!"

Lu Ran's entire being was shaken.

This...this?!

You're telling me this is an Immortal Sheep Believer?

This totally sounds like an East Thunder believer, right?

Chapter 316: Lord of Fallen Immortals

"Junior, please," Grandpa Cheng motioned with his hand, inviting once more.

Lu Ran stepped into the Immortal Worship Hall, looking around.

The walls on either side of the great hall had numerous small holes gouged into them, totaling over a thousand.

In each hole sat a small Immortal Sheep Jade Carving.

They were made of the same type of white jade stone as the ones Lu Ran had brought home.

The Immortal Sheep Jade Carvings each had different poses and were lifelike, exquisitely crafted.

Placed within the vast Immortal Worship Hall, they resembled collectible figurines.

Lu Ran also realized something!

These Immortal Sheep figurines were not all pleasant and cheerful. Many had fierce and aggressive expressions!

The jade carvings on the left wall appeared normal, but those covering the right wall were all in battle stances!

This sight amazed Lu Ran.

Grandpa Cheng spoke, "Every aspect of Lord Immortal Goat's grace during our salvation has been documented by us."

Lu Ran nodded silently, thinking to himself, of course!

On his way here, Lu Ran had learned a bit about the situation from Cheng Rou.

Grandpa Cheng had a pleasant-sounding name—Cheng Yi.

Cheng Yi was the second son in his family, with four brothers: Cheng Ren, Cheng Li, Cheng Zhi, and Cheng Xin.

They were natives of Ye Yu City, Cai Nan Province and lived in a secluded mountain village.

Their peaceful lives had been disrupted by the arrival of the Evil Demon.

Just when everyone was hiding and living in despair, Lord Immortal Goat descended upon Ye Yu City.

From then on, the five Cheng brothers became followers of Lord Immortal Goat.

They were the first disciples of the Immortal Sheep sect and followed the divine Lord to resist the invasion of the Evil Demon.

Lu Ran came to a mat in front of the large Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture and worshipped, "Lord Immortal Goat, your disciple has witnessed your heroic figure.

Protect the Human Clan, drive back the Evil Demon.

It seems that in your time, you too were a fighting goat."

Cheng Yi: "..."

Cheng Rou gasped inwardly, her face full of worry as she turned to her grandfather.

Is this junior brother really worshipping God this way?

How dare he speak to the divine Lord like that?

Could something go wrong...

Unperturbed, Cheng Yi saw that the Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture remained silent and unblaming, so he said nothing.

Minutes later, Lu Ran slowly stood up and once again turned to look at the right wall.

With his hands clasped behind his back, Cheng Yi also looked at the "fighting goats" on the wall, sighing deeply:

"Back then, without the divine intervention of Lord Immortal Goat, our village would have been slaughtered by the Evil Demon.

Every movement, every pose of the deity, we remember vividly.

Thus, we have this wall."

Lu Ran silently nodded.

What could repay such enormous grace and virtue?

It's no wonder that someone as gifted as Cheng Yi would worship the Immortal Sheep all his life.

At the beginning of the divine descent, there was no distinction of ranks among the followers.

At that time, people were facing the crisis of extinction. Every divine incarnation was a lifeline for the Human Clan.

"Let's go, junior," Cheng Yi said, "Let's walk outside."

"Yes," Lu Ran said, taking one last look at the right wall before following Cheng Yi out of the hall.

The vast courtyard was empty, perfect for a stroll and talk.

After sending his granddaughter away, Cheng Yi walked with Lu Ran, asking:

"Junior Lu, are you getting used to living here?"

"Yes," Lu Ran replied immediately, "Thank you for taking care of me, Grandpa Cheng."

Cheng Yi waved his hand, "We're family, no need for formalities."

Lu Ran felt a stir in his heart.

Family, huh?

Indeed, with Lord Immortal Goat above, Lu Ran and every Immortal Sheep Believer were "family."

Lu Ran said, "Grandpa Cheng, I see that you have an imposing aura, sharp and distinguished from our fellow disciples."

"Heh," Cheng Yi chuckled, stroking his graying beard, "Lord Immortal Goat did indeed have less impact on me.

Perhaps because I am among the first generation of disciples, favored by the divine."

Lu Ran pressed his lips together, noting a key piece of information:

Divinities can actively choose whether to influence their followers with their personalities!

Thus, the disciples of Sword One need not adopt a cold demeanor, indifferently facing all things.

Thus, the Fierce Heavenly Believers do not need to be violently fiery, losing control and intelligence, hurting themselves and others!

These are all avoidable!

Damn it...

Lu Ran couldn't help but swear inwardly.

He remembered the first time he met Si Xianxian, when Sister Xian'er was extremely emotionally unstable.

Si Xianxian today could only be worse, since she worships daily, her self-control probably weakening further.

Only beside Lu Ran could she be a bit more lucid, slightly restrained.

"Ah..." Lu Ran sighed deeply, looking at the old man beside him.

Cheng Yi, a prominent figure of the Jiang Realm·Fifth Rank, clearly had exceptional talents.

Someone like Cheng Yi, perhaps, would have followed the Immortal Sheep only at the beginning of the divine descent.

If Cheng Yi were to worship decades later, given his talents, other divinities would surely vie fiercely for him.

The Immortal Sheep, merely a Nine-level God, would hardly get a chance to appear...

Cheng Yi's eyes gleamed with reminiscence, "Actually, Lord Immortal Goat was not as low-key back then."

"Oh?" Lu Ran instantly became interested, "Could Grandpa Cheng tell me more?"

Cheng Yi let out a long sigh, "In those chaotic, demon-filled times, without thunderous tactics, how could one deter the petty and evil?"

Lord Immortal Goat was swift as the wind, rescuing the populace from fire and water, guarding Demon Caves after Demon Caves, establishing safe havens.

Blessed by the divinity, we disciples followed in the tracks of Lord Immortal Goat's afterimage, fighting alongside and receiving divine teachings.

But..."

Lu Ran stayed silent, listening attentively.

Cheng Yi shook his head, "Once that chaotic and dark period passed, Lord Immortal Goat shed its ambition to conquer all directions.

It became humble and polite, low-key and gentle.

The Demon Caves it had once conquered, it willingly ceded to others, also admonishing its disciples to be kind to others, not to contend or fight.

As time went on, more and more followers left."

At this point, Cheng Yi, well into his years, had slightly moistened eyes.

It was hard for Lu Ran to imagine how heartbroken Cheng Yi must have felt as his comrades-in-arms left the Immortal Sheep sect one after another.

Cheng Yi stopped walking, looking up at the sky, "Those people said, Lord Immortal Goat had changed.

In today's world, without resisting, there's no way to survive. People had to leave to keep living.

I, however, believe that Lord Immortal Goat never changed.

It just had a compassionate heart, pitying all beings when the Human Clan faced life and death."

Lu Ran was silent, sketching out a period of flaming warfare through Cheng Yi's few words.

Also picturing the followers kneeling before the Divine Sculpture, begging for forgiveness from the divinity, crying as they left.

Cheng Yi sighed, "As the philosophy of Lord Immortal Goat spread, more and more people left, and fewer new people were willing to join the Immortal Sheep sect.

Forty years ago, the era of resistance that belonged to the Immortal Sheep sect was forgotten by the world.

Or perhaps, people never really paid attention.

In that era, the territories of Da Xia were full of battlefields led by divinities fighting alongside the Human Clan, all worthy of special mention.

Our battles merely took place in this remote and poor region, what influence could they possibly have?

I was about to forget that piece of history too, until..."

Cheng Yi suddenly turned, looking at Lu Ran, "Until the night of the 15th of the second month, when I saw someone.

A genius of Da Xia, a believer of the Immortal Goat."

Lu Ran paused for a moment, then bowed his fists in salute, "Fortuitous."

Cheng Yi stretched out his hand, correcting Lu Ran's gesture, "I heard that when you first worshipped at the God Worship Platform, it was Yan Zhi you called upon first?

Later, aside from Lord Immortal Goat, no other divinity appeared?"

Lu Ran, following the other's guidance, changed to right fist covered by left hand:

"Yes, thanks to Lord Immortal Goat's intervention, or else I would just be an ordinary person now."

Cheng Yi nodded lightly, saying, "Right hand on top, an ominous bow. Used for mourning, provoking, martial artists deciding life and death.

Left hand on top, an auspicious bow. Signifies good fortune and respect."

Lu Ran: "..."

So, on the way here, I was giving an ominous bow to all the elders?

Damn, I deserve to die!

"No worries, Junior Lu, your intentions were good," Cheng Yi returned the gesture, "You're still young, you can make many, many mistakes."

Lu Ran raised his eyebrows slightly, feeling there was a hidden message in those words.

Cheng Yi continued, "Junior, just tranquilize your mind and cultivate at the Luo Xian Residence, listening to the teachings of the divine.

Just let us know if you need anything."

Lu Ran paused for a moment, then said solemnly, "Thank you."

Since arriving at Luoxian Mountain, Lu Ran had felt nothing but kindness and care.

"If there's nothing else, I'll go and cultivate now," Cheng Yi said as they had made a full round back to the front of the Immortal Worship Hall.

Lu Ran was a bit taken aback.

Cheng Yi didn't inquire further, nor did he know how Lord Immortal Goat had instructed him.

Lu Ran thought for a moment, then spoke up, "Grandpa Cheng, I'd also like to visit Grandpa Cheng Li. Where might he be?"

The endings of the five Cheng brothers were quite different.

The eldest, Cheng Ren, died heroically.

The second, Cheng Yi, was the elderly man before him, now in charge of Luoxian Mountain.

The third, Cheng Li, was also cultivating on Luoxian Mountain.

The fourth, Cheng Zhi, had long left the Immortal Sheep sect to follow other divinities.

The fifth, Cheng Xin, had disappeared and was still unaccounted for, with no news of his death.

These brothers truly embodied the phrase "died, departed, scattered, each to his own destiny."

Cheng Yi once again bowed his fists in thanks, "I am grateful to Junior Lu on behalf of my third brother, but at this time, he is in closed-door cultivation, and we should not disturb him."

Lu Ran returned the salute, "Alright, I will visit Grandpa Cheng Li when he comes out of seclusion."

Cheng Yi looked at Lu Ran's gesture of clasping fists and a smile appeared on his face.

Wrinkles accumulated, showing genuine affection.

Affectionate he genuinely was.

But beneath that exterior, Lu Ran still saw a formidable battle halberd.

And this "battle halberd," grateful and loyal to Lord Immortal Goat,

Lu Ran knew clearly:

This halberd would become a powerful weapon in his hands during the future battles!

Lu Ran bid farewell and left.

In front of the Immortal Worship Hall, Cheng Yi stood quietly.

He watched Lu Ran's departing figure, his smile growing more sincere.

Lord of Fallen Immortals, welcome back to the mountain.

Chapter 317: Galaxy Bay

In the small mountain forest path, Lu Ran walked alone with his hands in his pockets, looking up at the clusters of white clouds.

This was only his second day at Luoxian Mountain, and he had already taken a liking to the place.

The clear sky, the gentle breeze.

And a group of enthusiastic tribespeople.

"Sigh~"

A gentle breeze caressed, tousling his clothes.

Lu Ran suddenly stopped, facing a fork in the road.

Senior Sister Cheng had said this path led to the cliff, where there was a pavilion?

Lu Ran thought for a moment, then headed down the fork.

Some minutes later, Lu Ran indeed came upon a cliff, and in front of it, a pavilion.

"Luoxian Pavilion."

Lu Ran read the three characters, dancing like dragons and phoenixes on the plaque.

In the rear mountain of the temple, he had seen a series of buildings, all carrying the "immortal" element, but none dared to use the name "fallen immortal."

But here, whether it was his mountain residence or this pavilion built for him, both bore the name "Luoxian."

"Ha," Lu Ran chuckled and shook his head, stepping forward.

It was a wooden pavilion, with a two-tiered roof and eight corners, intricately constructed.

It was clear that the Immortal Sheep Believers had put effort into it.

Lu Ran entered the pavilion, looked northward, and sure enough, he saw the beautiful Erhai.

To the west of Erhai lay the equally famed Diancang Mountain, arranged like a screen.

Lu Ran's gaze grew distant, his shoulder leaning against a pillar, silently taking in the view.

That beautiful scene inevitably made him think of someone.

His thoughts drifted further and further until they landed on a past conversation with Lord Immortal Goat:

"By what right do you think she will follow you?"

By your shared past?

By what you humans call 'emotions'?"

Each question jabbed sharply at his heart!

Lu Ran took out his phone from his pocket and opened WeChat.

Jiang Ruyi's profile picture was of a tall figure by the river under the night sky.

The moonlight was bright, casting a layer of serene silver light over her graceful figure.

The river's surface shimmered, and as the night breeze brushed by, it stirred her jet-black hair.

Lu Ran remembered every detail because he had taken this photo during an evening walk together.

Under the moonlight, Jiang Ruyi was undoubtedly a cold beauty.

Jiang Ruyi was just kind-hearted, often wearing a gentle smile on her face.

But as she grew, her figure became more graceful, and her face less youthful...

Her overall image was indeed elegantly aloof.

Especially when she quietly gazed at the river, lost in thought, that intangible sense of distance grew even more significant.

Lu Ran still remembered, after sneakily taking that picture, he had reached forward and taken her hand.

Only when she turned to look at him, her face breaking into a gentle smile, did he relent.

Lu Ran looked and looked, and typed out a string of text.

Ran: "Will we always be together?"

Right after sending it, Lu Ran's expression turned somewhat odd.

This statement...

Why does it look somewhat servile?

Before the phone screen dimmed automatically, a message popped up in reply.

Jiang: "What's wrong?"

Lu Ran raised his eyebrows slightly; she had made it clear that she wouldn't respond to messages until after his advancement.

The "Cloud Girl" he had sent her before was still sitting there, unacknowledged.

And yet, she replied instantly this time?

Thinking it over just as he was about to craft his response, another message appeared.

Jiang: "Don't overthink, focus on cultivating."

Lu Ran's fingers paused, he wanted to say he had already advanced, but suddenly his heart filled with turmoil, and his thoughts drifted again.

Lord Immortal Goat had said that once she recognizes the true nature of the world, everything would become clear.

So, what exactly is the true nature of this world?

Lu Ran looked up, gazing into the distance at the verdant Diancang Mountain under the midsummer sun.

After a while, Lu Ran finally came back to his senses, "Indeed, don't overthink, focus on cultivating."

He moved to the center of the pavilion, sat down cross-legged, and slowly closed his eyes.

Inside Luoxian Mountain, Divine Power was rich.

In no time, wisps of Immortal Fog began to float around Lu Ran's body.

The body tempered and marrow cleansed indeed was extraordinary!

His meridian channels were broad and particularly unobstructed.

Whether it was the speed of absorbing Divine Power or the speed of solidifying the mist into streams, both had greatly increased!

If his body were compared to a container, it could now hold much more Divine Power than before.

Lu Ran immersed himself completely, relishing the transformed body.

He sat there the entire day.

As the sun set and the stars moved across the sky, he deeply enjoyed the wonderful sensation of cultivating and improving.

His body could no longer contain more energy, yet he still diligently absorbed Divine Power, cycling it through himself.

This was certainly not futile.

Lu Ran continued nourishing his body, expanding his meridians, and striding toward a higher rank.

Until the birds in the forest chirped and the horizon began to glow with dawn.

Lu Ran felt a hint of fatigue and finally opened his eyes.

His dark pupils still shimmered, not yet faded.

Cultivating under the Divine was indeed doubly effective!

"Uh-ah~~~"

Lu Ran gave a fierce stretch, accompanied by several crisp bone sounds.

He got up and approached a bench inside the pavilion, picking up his phone to check the time.

As the screen lit up, he saw a notification for a message.

Lu Ran opened it, discovering it was from her, sent last night.

Jiang: "Yes, forever."

Those four simple words anchored Lu Ran.

He stared at them for a long time, his face breaking into a happy smile as he stepped out of Luoxian Pavilion.

...

Three days later, fully armed, Lu Ran followed Senior Sister Cheng down the mountain.

Naturally, the destination was the Evil Mirror Demon Cave.

However, the military camp guarding the cave was not on the surface, but inside the mountain.

The statue of Lord Immortal Goat stood firmly on the mountain.

Since the Evil Mirror Demon Cave was not open to the public, there were no reception issues and the entrance to the military camp was somewhat hidden.

If it weren't for his senior sister's guidance, Lu Ran might have had to search halfway up the mountain...

"Little junior brother, be careful," Cheng Rou stood outside the military camp gate, watching Lu Ran's back.

"Uh-huh, don't worry, senior sister."

Cheng Rou's face showed concern, continuously waving goodbye, "Come back soon, I'll make your favorite mushroom soup."

Lu Ran paused, turned his head to look at the gentle senior sister, and nodded with a smile.

"Mr. Lu, what a pleasure to meet you!"

A male soldier strode over, reaching out his hand to Lu Ran while introducing himself, "My name is Li Zhen, and I'm the overall person-in-charge here."

"Hello." Lu Ran shook hands with him, looking at the erect middle-aged soldier, "And thank you for helping guard the Demon Cave and watch over the Immortal Temple."

"No need for thanks, that is our duty," Li Zhen smiled.

He could tell the perspective from which Lu Ran was speaking.

Li Zhen was very polite to Lu Ran.

Firstly, because Lu Ran was Da Xia's genius, and secondly, because he was a favored disciple of Divine-Immortal Goat!

Ever since Lu Ran settled in Luoxian Mountain, the military had conducted a series of investigations, receiving an important piece of news!

Lu Ran had moved into Luo Xian Residence!

Upon hearing this news, everyone knew, the master of this mountain had returned.

Within Da Xia, the areas under Divine are quite special.

For instance, North Wind City, and likewise Jian Tian Que.

Indeed, two ancient cities stand within Ice City and Beijing, but the ancient city areas are firmly controlled by Divine disciples, beyond the full authority of the officials.

This too is a product of a special era.

It just happens that the Immortal Sheep sect lacks the strength to guard the Demon Cave, thus the military could station themselves in Luoxian Mountain for control.

Because of this, the relationship between Lu Ran and the military here was somewhat delicate.

If one day, Lu Ran decides to take over this Demon Cave with the support of Divine-Immortal Goat, the military is very likely to withdraw from this mountain.

After all, the Immortal Goat is a deity.

Regardless of its reputation, the one who truly suppressed the Evil Mirror Demon Cave was the Immortal Goat itself.

"Captain Li, I'll go in by myself later," Lu Ran proceeded with Li Zhen, "Don't worry."

En route, Senior Sister Cheng had already introduced Lu Ran to the leader of this military group.

She said, Captain Li Zhen was a good person, the troops were highly disciplined, helping the Immortal Sheep sect drive away many people with ill intentions.

As is well-known, most Immortal Sheep Believers are meek and submissive.

Anyone could bully them, leeching off them.

The Immortal Sheep Believers mostly endured, giving way as much as possible, without resisting.

Of course, if the troublemakers completely turned the sky upside down, forcing Mr. Cheng, who was meditating in the rear mountain, to intervene, then that was another matter.

In any case, this troop had guarded Luoxian Mountain well, and Lu Ran naturally had a very good impression of Captain Li Zhen.

"Sure," Li Zhen didn't insist, but warned, "Please be careful, Mr. Lu.

We look forward to seeing you shine again in 'Heavenly Pride' on August 15th!"

"Thank you." Lu Ran responded softly.

The military camp inside the mountain was like a secret underground research facility, with soldiers swiping through multiple security gates, ultimately leading Lu Ran to a spacious ground.

Huge stone columns descended from the roof, directly plunging into the Starry Sky Curtain below.

The columns had spiral staircases built on them, but Lu Ran didn't walk down.

He drew the Dawn Blade and plunged straight down.

"Whoosh!!"

Lu Ran dived into the Starry Sky Curtain, feeling the light dim around him.

He continued to fall, looking around.

Beneath his feet, there was another Stone City, with torches flickering, yet without a path of torches.

The Demon Cave's forest was dense, rumored to contain many lakes.

With a "thud" sound.

Under the soldiers' watchful eyes, Lu Ran landed steadily.

Looking up, his heart trembled.

The night sky shone brilliantly like a ribbon with a strange luster, spanning the entire night sky.

It dazzled Lu Ran!

Other Demon Caves also had starry skies, but where could you find such a fantastically colorful Milky Way?

No wonder the Evil Mirror Demon Cave was called "Galaxy Bay."

It was too beautiful.

If only the Evil Mirror Demons could be as foolish as the bamboo spirits, then this Demon Cave would probably be developed into a recreational and vacation haven!

Lu Ran stood silently for a long time, his blade slanting toward the night sky.

Evil Mirror Demon, Mirror Flower Moon...

Chapter 318: Demon Name Evil Mirror

The galaxy was like satin, with flowing light filled with vibrant colors.

Lu Ran wielded a blade amid the night sky, his gaze continuously sweeping over the mountains and forests below, searching for lakes among the hills.

The Evil Mirror Demon Clan, like the Night Charm Clan, were also fond of playing in water.

Most lakes in Galaxy Bay were man-made, and the military regularly cleaned them up, slaying the Evil Mirror Demons frolicking in the lakes.

"Hm?" Lu Ran's eyes narrowed, as if he saw something, and he immediately plummeted toward the woods.

He didn't see the lake first, but the demon!

Lu Ran landed behind a large tree, revealing half of his face, secretly observing what lay ahead.

But this view directly stunned Lu Ran!

Because the Evil Mirror Demon had already discovered him.

Not with the naked eye, but with the use of an ancient bronze mirror!

Lu Ran sidestepped one pace, stepping from behind the tree, fully aware there was no further need to hide.

Indeed, the Evil Mirror Demons did not fall for sneak attacks.

Their Ancient Bronze Mirrors could reflect all living creatures within a certain range.

"Hm?" A woman's voice came from several dozen meters away.

She turned her head to look over, her brows slightly furrowed.

Well now~

Lu Ran's heart trembled; such a beautiful Evil Mirror Demon!

She resembled a woman of the Human Clan with a pair of golden-red pupils, and below her eyes ran a black line, like a trace of tears.

Willow eyebrows, cherry lips.

Slender wrists adorned with thin gold bracelets, and beautiful golden earrings dangled from her earlobes.

Long jet-black hair tied behind her head, with additional golden hair accessories.

Every aspect effortlessly exhibited her elegance and detail.

What left onlookers utterly astounded was her attire – a deep green low-cut long dress.

The low-cut dress was exceptionally glamorous, revealing large expanses of her snowy-white skin.

In her delicate jade hands, she also held an Ancient Bronze Mirror.

As Lu Ran emerged from behind the tree, the slightly blurred image in the mirror switched from Lu Ran's back to her own profile.

Evil Demon·Evil Mirror Demon!

Lu Ran murmured to himself, "What an enchanting little demon."

To this day, he had seen far too many beautiful Evil Demons, time and again hammering at his mortal heart.

The regal Yan Zhi, the mysterious and aloof Night Charm;

The seductive Tangled Silk Shadow, the noble and pure Jade-faced Snake...

Now seeing the Evil Mirror Demon, four words popped into Lu Ran's head – offspring of nobility.

She was like a daughter of a wealthy family, brimming with nobility and exquisiteness.

Such a demon was not suited for the battlefield, better to be taken out to attend evening banquets and the like.

Absolutely high profile!

"Hehe~" The sound of the Evil Mirror Demon's giggling was crisp and melodious, like a silver bell.

Her delicate hand glided, and the Ancient Bronze Mirror, larger than her face by two sizes, floated beside her and faced towards Lu Ran.

Evil Technique·Illusion Realm Three Thousand!

Lu Ran stood silently by the tree, looking at the slightly blurred figure of himself in the Ancient Bronze Mirror.

second, 2 seconds, 3 seconds... 10 seconds!

"Hm?" The Evil Mirror Demon blinked, her face showing surprise.

She pinched the edge of the bronze mirror with her slender fingers, turned it to check the mirror, then glanced at the unmoved Lu Ran.

A trace of doubt rose in her beautiful golden-red pupils.

Why isn't this person reacting?

Lu Ran pursed his lips and smiled, giving her a classic expression.

Little demon, you want to confuse my mind?

What a joke!

Mighty Lu Ran, with the Evil Technique-Ghost General's Will by my side!

Even if I were to walk naked through a subway security check right now, the detectors would go off like crazy!

For my will is as firm as steel!

"Crack~"

Lu Ran took a step forward, snapping the twig underfoot.

Hearing the sound, the Evil Mirror Demon immediately snapped back to reality and quickly backed away.

"Whoosh~"

In an instant, two more Ancient Bronze Mirrors floated out, surrounding the Evil Mirror Demon on either side.

Evil Technique·Mirror of Sin!

She put aside her playful demeanor, kept stepping back, warily watching Lu Ran.

Simultaneously, Lu Ran's figure was reflected in all three bronze mirrors.

Lu Ran stopped in his tracks and turned to the leftmost mirror.

A hand reached out from within the mirror, gripping the edge.

That was... Lu Ran!

More accurately, it was a mirror image of Lu Ran!

Evil Technique·Mirror Puppet Shadow!

Lu Ran couldn't help but raise his eyebrows slightly, marveling at the magic of Evil Technique.

The ancient bronze mirror was only slightly bigger than a face, but the puppet shadow managed to squeeze out of it.

The puppet's size and stature were identical to Lu Ran's, even his appearance and clothing were the same.

Incredibly, this puppet even wielded a Dawn Blade?!

"Heh," Lu Ran scoffed coldly, a mist swirling around his feet.

The puppet, expressionless, instinctively raised its blade to block.

Snap! A crisp sound!

The counterfeit Dawn Blade, chopped in two by the genuine one.

"Plop," a soft sound.

The counterfeit Lu Ran was beheaded on the spot by the genuine one, dissipating into wisps of blue smoke.

"Ah!" The Evil Mirror Demon seemed quite annoyed, her fair cheeks flushing a tint of red.

Clearly, she was dissatisfied with the performance of her puppet shadow.

As she frowned in anger, raised her delicate hand, and pointed towards Lu Ran.

Instantaneously, another two puppet shadows emerged from the mirrors.

Lu Ran paid no heed to the shadows; he eyed the retreating Evil Mirror Demon and immediately summoned with his left hand, a black banner appearing out of thin air.

The flag fluttered wildly without wind.

Ghost General Evil Technique·Ghost General Banner!

In an instant, a half-transparent black dome spread out.

"Don't leave," Lu Ran murmured softly.

"Huh?" The Evil Mirror Demon's retreating steps halted.

She had nowhere to retreat, her back against a black dome.

She turned to look and placed one hand on the black dome; despite several attempts, she could not push open the transparent "black wall" no matter what she tried.

"Ah!" The Evil Mirror Demon immediately gave an order.

From the furthest left mirror, another puppet emerged, rushing towards its master.

With a fake blade in hand, the puppet furiously hacked at the black dome.

As the "ding ding dang dang" sounds echoed in the distance, Lu Ran had already dealt with the other two puppet shadows.

"Only a tiger in form but not in spirit."

Lu Ran snorted coldly, twirling a knife with his hand and turning his head toward the Evil Mirror Demon.

"Ah!!"

The Evil Mirror Demon stamped her foot in anger, recognizing that the puppet could not break the black wall, and her expression grew even angrier.

Without her saying a word, Lu Ran could guess her meaning—useless thing!

Lu Ran shouted angrily, "What are you yelping about?"

The Evil Mirror Demon's pretty face turned pale with fear, turning her head to look at Lu Ran.

That shout of Lu Ran was imbued with the Evil Technique-Ghost General's Might!

This battle roar had the capability to intimidate all beings!

Fortunately, the Ghost General's Banner stood firm, with wisps of black smoke drifting within the dome.

And this black smoke could stimulate the Evil Mirror Demon's desire to kill.

In objective terms, it balanced the panic in the Evil Mirror Demon's heart.

But here was the problem!

Lu Ran was not just the master of Ghost General.

He was also an Immortal Sheep Believer!

The moment the Evil Mirror Demon looked over, Lu Ran had already initiated Divine Technique-Immortal Pupil!

This technique could amplify the fear in the enemy's heart.

And it was effective only when the enemy was already fraught with terror.

The might of Ghost General plus Immortal Pupil was simply a perfect match!

Lu Ran was different from Ghost General.

The latter's roar was like a one-hit deal.

Lu Ran's roar was like a cannonball that blasted a crack in the dam, while Immortal Pupil was like the relentless torrent of a flood!

"Ugh! Ugh!!"

The Evil Mirror Demon's eyes widened in shock, instinctively wanting to flee backward, but she had nowhere to go.

In panic like this, she had forgotten how to cast spells.

Lu Ran, with a pair of sinister horizontal pupils, stepped forward towards her.

The only remaining puppet shadow, seeing the enemy approaching, immediately switched targets and charged at Lu Ran.

"Ding!"

Lu Ran casually tossed a blade, and a Yanyue Blade shot forward.

Lu Ran didn't know how to use a Yanyue Blade.

Though it was also called a blade, it was a polearm weapon, very different from the Tang Blade that Lu Ran wielded.

However, Lu Ran used the Yanyue Blade like a throwing knife, quite easily.

"Ding!"

The puppet, still expressionless, seemed to lack emotions.

He promptly raised his blade to block, flicking the Yanyue Blade aside.

Just as the puppet deflected the larger blade, the Dawn Blade that followed closely behind swept out a half-moon arc.

The puppet performed a 'back bridge' move, leaning backward to fall.

It was apparent that it genuinely inherited some of Lu Ran's movement techniques and martial skills.

Alas, as the Dawn Blade passed by, the Silent Night Blade arrived.

"Plop!"

The Yanyue Blade distracted, the Dawn Blade chased, and the Silent Night Blade delivered a fatal blow!

Lu Ran continued walking towards the Evil Mirror Demon without a single pause in his step, and the puppet beside him had already shattered into a wisp of blue smoke.

"Ugh! Ugh..."

The trembling figure of the Evil Mirror Demon, her back pressed firmly against the black wall.

Her face filled with terror, watching Lu Ran closing in, and staring at his cold horizontal pupils.

"Ugh!" The Evil Mirror Demon suddenly hugged her head with both hands, slumped to the ground, curled into a ball, not daring to look at Lu Ran anymore.

Fear flooded the Evil Demon's heart.

This Evil Mirror Demon's mental defenses were breached, forgetting her Evil Techniques, only left weeping and begging for mercy.

"Ah!" The Evil Mirror Demon shuddered violently.

Because a hand had landed on her wrist, forcibly opening her covering palms.

The next moment, a warm hand grasped her chin, lifting her face up.

"Hisss..."

Lu Ran took in a cold breath.

He leaned down, holding her chin, looking at the soul-stealing demon before him.

Like a pear tree in bloom beset with rain, she inspired pity.

The Evil Mirror Demon's eyes filled with dread, eyes rimmed red, hot tears flowed down her naturally tear-marked cheeks.

The broken sorrow in her expression could evoke compassion in anyone.

Too bad, what she encountered was a man of steel!

Lu Ran could bring himself to slay even Yan Zhi, let alone you, an Evil Mirror Demon?

You of noble status,

how could you compare to her peerless grace and beauty?

In this world, aside from the Ghost Moon Fox Clan, who could cause Lu Ran heartbreak?

Of course, now Lu Ran had ascended to become the Lord of Ghost General, accompanied by the Ghost General's Will, even the Ghost Moon Fox couldn't trouble him anymore.

"Come with me."

Lu Ran spoke softly, his fingers caressing her delicate skin, wiping away the trails of tears.

"Ugh~" The Evil Mirror Demon looked tearful, her hands gripping Lu Ran's wrist, gently shaking her head, pleading in desperation.

"Slap!" Lu Ran grasped the returning Silent Night Blade, placing it against the Evil Mirror Demon's chest.

He had been killing in Rain Alley City for a year now.

His heart was as cold as the rain there.

"Come home with me."

Lu Ran, gripping the Silent Night Blade, slowly pushed it into the Evil Mirror Demon's chest.

The Evil Mirror Demon's eyes gradually widened, feeling the chill of the blade inch by inch piercing her heart.

As her body ceased trembling, Lu Ran nodded silently to himself.

Hmm... that's acceptable.

I'm truly beginning to have the demeanor of an Evil Sect Master.

Chapter 319: Enchanted and aggrieved

Lu Ran quietly watched the Evil Mirror Demon, witnessing her golden-red eyes gradually fade.

A stunning demoness, dying swiftly and decisively.

Lu Ran's blade was cold, and so was his heart.

Only the tempting body at his feet still held some residual warmth.

Lu Ran's right hand slowly withdrew the blade, trying to pull his left hand away, but he found her hands clutching tightly to his wrist.

In his palm, her picturesque face was still warm, and tears continued to dampen his fingers.

Lu Ran: "..."

Miss, don't mess with me.

I'm made of steel, the kind that can't even get through security checks!

Once one understood the nature of Evil Demons, no matter what form they took, one would not waver in their heart dedicated to demon-slaying.

"Pfft~"

The Evil Mirror Demon quietly shattered, turning into strands of blue smoke.

Lu Ran silently raised the Divine Power Pearl at his neck, absorbing the wisps of mist and collecting the Dead Soul of the Evil Mirror Demon into his pupils.

"Sigh~"

With a casual wave, the steadfast flag of the Ghost General behind him disappeared.

He vigorously shook his head, dispelling the cluttered thoughts from his mind.

The Evil Mirror Demon Clan and the Tangled Silk Shadow Clan shared the same problem:

They're too damn human-like!

But in Lu Ran's case, there was another key difference: from a distance, he could already smell the "Ghost Energy" on the two women.

Lu Ran stood there, hesitating for a moment before lifting his right hand.

Presently, he had activated a total of six Evil Sculptures.

Among them, the Evil Dog, Night Charm, and Ghost General were all River Realm First Rank.

This trip to Galaxy Bay, Lu Ran was bound to carry a River Realm·Evil Mirror Demon Sculpture back to Luoxian Mountain.

Since he planned to train here for a long time, it might be better to create some Evil Demon minions early.

"Divine Power shapes its body, Source Energy constructs its soul."

Murmuring the incantation, a surge of energy swirled in his palm.

In no time, a tall and imposing soldier materialized in front of Lu Ran.

He was over two meters tall, robust with a dark helmet and armor, impressive from all angles!

River Realm·Fifth Rank Ghost General!

"Hmm!" The Ghost General let out a deep nasal sound, exuding an aura of authority.

Despite being armored, he still faced Lu Ran, respectfully kneeling.

Lu Ran ignored the Ghost General and continued crafting Evil Demons.

It wasn't a waste—when it came time to reclaim them, both the Divine Power Lu Ran had expended and the foundational strength used by the Evil Sculpture could be regained with interest.

Soon, another Evil Demon descended in front of Lu Ran.

River Realm·Fifth Rank Night Charm!

However, when Lu Ran wanted to create an Evil Dog minion, he hesitated.

Lu Ran was confident he could create a loyal dog.

The problem was, the Evil Dog Clan had low intelligence and poor self-control, making them easy to expose.

Hmm... better not.

Having Ghost General and Night Charm was enough, adding a dog would make it a "Dog-Man-Woman" team...

When the Evil Dog Sculpture advanced to the Sea Realm, able to create a River Realm·Evil Dog, he would summon it then.

River Realm·Evil Dog, at the very least, would be smarter and understand commands better.

"Stand up, let's go."

Lu Ran summoned the two demons to march ahead, searching for Evil Mirror Demons while deftly instructing them on their commands.

The Ghost General's clan had a natural restraint against the Evil Mirror Demons, after all, they possessed the Ghost General's Will.

The Night Charm Clan wasn't afraid of Evil Mirror Demons either!

Night Charm didn't have Spirit Defense Techniques, but her face was covered with a black veil, shielding her eyes, totally blind to the mesmerizing mirror.

The trio moved through the woods, hunting for the Evil Mirror Demon Clan.

Sniff~

Without the Evil Dog, Lu Ran had to play the part, constantly twitching his nose's tips.

Suddenly, a crisp laughter echoed, stopping Lu Ran in his tracks.

Both the general and the charm halted silently.

Honestly, if there were an Evil Dog at their side, it would probably be barking furiously towards the direction from which the laughter came.

"Ho?" After a moment, Lu Ran slightly raised an eyebrow.

Quite a few little demons, eh?

Lu Ran changed direction, stealthily making his way.

"Hehehehe~"

The laughter grew clearer, and Lu Ran licked his lips, hiding behind a large tree.

When it came to peeping, he was a seasoned pro.

What he saw next twisted his expression into something odd.

In the lush forest in the distance lay a crystal-clear lake.

Under the brilliant reflection of the Galaxy, the surface of the lake shimmered with stunning beauty.

Several Evil Mirror Demons were frolicking in the water.

Clearly, they were strong swimmers, moving through the water gracefully like agile fish.

Their delicate jade hands occasionally splashed the water, and under the star-strewn sky, droplets glittered like beautiful pearls with an odd sheen.

"This?" Lu Ran's expression grew even more peculiar.

One demon, two demons, three demons... seven demons!

Crap!

Have I become "The Second Brother"?

The thing is, "The Second Brother" had the ability to transform into a fish, enjoying bliss among the seven goddesses.

But I can't turn into a fish...

Hmph, quite frustrating.

Lu Ran pointed with his blade: "Kill."

Without a word, Night Charm raised her palm, and eight Night Charm Blades burst forth.

Ghost General, not to be outdone, charged forward while flinging his Yanyue Blade like a throwing knife.

"Yah!"

"Yah!!" The Evil Mirror Demons suddenly roared out, swiftly summoning Ancient Bronze Mirrors.

Perhaps they were too immersed in their fun earlier, they hadn't used the Evil Technique-Mirror of Sin, and thus hadn't noticed the approaching enemy.

With a "crack", a crisp sound.

By the lake, an Evil Mirror Demon instinctively summoned the Evil Mirror to block the attack, only to have it directly pierced by the Night Charm Blade!

The chain of Night Charm Blades, incredibly fast, didn't give the opponent any chance to retaliate, piercing through the bronze mirror and directly into the head of the Evil Mirror Demon.

In an instant, blood sprayed wildly, throwing the lake into chaos!

The Evil Mirror Demons swiftly retreated, mirrors scattering all around.

Then, several Ghost Generals and Night Charms emerged from the mirrors.

What followed left Lu Ran utterly dumbfounded!

He had thought this was going to be a rousing battle.

However, what he didn't expect was the Ghost Generals and Night Charms, emerging from the mirrors, all fell into the lake...

What should have been a battlefield of life and death instead took on a comical shade.

And Lu Ran's servant, the Ghost General, also paced by the lakeshore, continuously throwing long knives at the Evil Mirror Demons.

It's unclear whether he couldn't swim or simply didn't want to enter the water, but he just remained on shore disrupting the enemies.

Night Charm... forever the god!

She placed a layer of storm under her feet and rushed across the lake's surface.

Her pair of blades wildly chopped around, her graceful figure shimmering under the galaxy, ghostly in appearance.

The Evil Mirror Demons indeed were good swimmers, but how could they compare to Night Charm, who moved as if on flat ground?

In the blink of an eye, two Evil Mirror Demons had been slain by Night Charm.

The remaining four Evil Mirror Demons scrambled haphazardly, two diving to the bottom of the lake, the other two climbing ashore.

"Hmm!" The Ghost General had already circled to the other side of the lake and finally found his opponents.

A flag was planted, trapping two Evil Mirror Demons within it.

Night Charm went berserk!

She charged headlong, splitting into three just before striking the barrier.

"Buzz!!"

Two Night Charms landed outside the barrier, while the third directly flashed inside.

"Hiss!" Night Charm hissed, switching her main body, entering the battlefield alone.

She casually raised her hand, and a fierce wind arose.

"Boom! Boom! Boom..."

The two Evil Mirror Demons, along with several mirrors, all crashed against the barrier.

The Ghost General wasn't spared either!

The rushing Ghost General was also toppled by the fierce wind, his shoulder crashing heavily against the barrier.

Ghost General: "Hmm?"

No!

Aren't we on the same team?

Lu Ran: "..."

Truly worthy of Night Charm!

Certainly the arch-rival of Second-class God·North Wind.

Previously, when Lu Ran took Night Charm alone to fight enemies, he hadn't felt much.

But now, paired with the Ghost General, Night Charm's strength was fully evident.

The mighty Ghost General, with peerless martial skills and rich combat experience, found he simply couldn't intervene.

Night Charm's blade was fast, her movement speed was fast, her combat rhythm even faster!

Lu Ran looked on at the imposing general, feeling somewhat sorry for him...

"Yah!" The Evil Mirror Demons let out shrill screams, using mirrors as shields against the wind blades, while swiftly conjuring phantom shadows.

The Ghost General suddenly perked up!

At least he could join the battle now.

"Hmm!" Just as the Ghost General dashed forward with his knife, another violent gust swept over.

Lu Ran widened his eyes.

Can you play like this, too?

Learned it, learned it!

Night Charm reached forward with one hand, continuously deploying the Evil Technique·Night Wind Assault!

The Evil Mirror Demons and their phantoms were all blown against the barrier, unable to move under the relentless wind.

Under the galaxy, within the dark barrier.

Night Charm swiftly darted back and forth, blades slashing directly at the enemies!

Several Night Charm Blades, like shadows following their form, furiously stabbed at the foes!

In no time, two Evil Mirror Demons had fallen.

"Hiss..." Night Charm hissed low, her right hand naturally dangling down, blood still dripping from the blade tip.

She paid no heed to the corpses beneath her feet, nor to the Ghost General.

Night Charm retraced her path, returning to the front of the barrier, her body trembling and again splitting into three.

The massive and towering Ghost General, silently squatting by the lake, not uttering a word.

It was unclear whether he was waiting for possible enemies to appear, or just brooding silently...

Chapter 320: Voyeur Divine Technique

Since the addition of Night Charm, Lu Ran's efficiency at slaying enemies had skyrocketed!

Within a mere hour, Lu Ran had activated the Evil Mirror Demon Sculpture, and advanced it to Mist Realm·Third Rank.

From then on, Lu Ran had also acquired two new Evil Techniques:

The first was the Mirror of Sin, and the second was the Connection Mirror.

Evil Technique·Mirror of Sin was the most fundamental technique, innately lacking any powerful effects.

It was simply an ancient bronze mirror.

However, all subsequent mirror-type techniques of the Evil Mirror Demon Clan needed to be built upon the foundation of the "Mirror of Sin."

Evil Technique-Connection Mirror, on the other hand, was an immensely impressive Evil Technique!

It had the power to locate people and objects!

It's worth mentioning that the "people" and "objects" here must possess energy fluctuations.

Ordinary people and mortal items could only appear as associated entities within the Connection Mirror.

Only the likes of Human Clan believers, Evil Demons, Divine Power Pearls, and Demon Crystals could be the main focus.

"Phew~"

Lu Ran casually waved his hand, and with a surge of energy, an exquisite ancient bronze mirror appeared in his grasp.

The mirror was no small item, its size exceeding his face by twice.

"Mirror, mirror, tell me, who is the most handsome man in the world?"

Lu Ran lifted his hand, and the Mirror of Sin floated up and positioned itself in front of him.

In the mirror, Lu Ran's somewhat hazy face reflected back at him.

"Confirmed," Lu Ran nodded to himself.

Night Charm: "..."

Ghost General: "..."

With a thought, Lu Ran transformed the nature of the Mirror of Sin.

Although its appearance remained the same, it had already morphed into the second Evil Technique-Connection Mirror!

In an instant, Lu Ran's reflection appeared in the mirror.

Along with him, the two Divine Weapons he carried on his back were all displayed in the mirror.

"Tsk tsk~" Lu Ran couldn't help but inwardly marvel at this amazing ability.

He was standing right in front of the mirror, yet the reflection showed his back?

Lu Ran turned his head to look behind him, but found nothing there.

The probing range of the Fog Grade-Connection Mirror centered around Lu Ran, encompassing a radius of a hundred meters.

As the technique's grade advanced, the probing range would also continually increase.

"Next." With a slight thought, like scrolling through a smartphone, Lu Ran swiped upwards with his finger.

The image in the mirror instantly changed, and the graceful figure of Night Charm appeared within it.

Lu Ran thought again, and the reflection in the mirror promptly switched to that of the Ghost General.

But just by looking at the silhouette, how could one determine the target's exact location?

Lu Ran closely linked with the Evil Mirror Demon Sculpture within the Sculpture Garden, jointly casting the spell and continuously adjusting.

The camera angle gradually widened!

The figure in the mirror shrank, and the mountainous landscape where the Ghost General was started to emerge.

Alas, the technique was only of Fog Grade; the level was too low. Even when the camera zoomed out to its limit, pinning down the Ghost General's exact location was difficult.

Well... no problem!

Upgrade the Evil Sculpture, raise the grade of the Evil Technique.

"It's really like a smartphone now," Lu Ran licked his lips.

There might even be pinch-to-zoom functionality...

Lu Ran was thoroughly enjoying himself when suddenly, he realized a serious issue!

Isn't this an invisible camera?

Shameless voyeurism, the kind without any boundaries!

In the future, when I'm at home, won't I be able to see everything the people in the whole building do in secret?

As long as you are a believer with energy fluctuations, I can livestream it for you!

"How incredible!"

Lu Ran grinned.

It's a pity that this technique has a probing range. If it could reach from the heavens to the earth, wherever I wished to look, that would be great.

Hmm... that's not quite right either.

Then there would be just too many targets, more than one could sift through in a lifetime.

This technique probes for the existence of people and objects within a certain range.

It doesn't let you name an individual and precisely locate that person or object through the mirror.

The two are fundamentally different.

"Let's go on," Lu Ran said as he beckoned, and the Mirror of Sin drifted into his palm.

Not to mention that Basic Technique·Mirror of Sin is of no use; at the very least, it gave Lu Ran the illusion of "controlling objects with his mind."

Using this mirror as a serving plate, carrying tea, or presenting dishes, that would be quite nice too~

Life hacks +1!

Lu Ran casually lifted his hand, and the exquisite Mirror of Sin floated by his face, accompanying him as he advanced.

With this technique in hand, combined with Lu Ran's dog nose, locating the enemy just got a lot easier.

The two techniques the Evil Mirror Demon Clan adapted to at the Stream Realm were not too appealing to Lu Ran.

One was the Soul Hooking Mirror, and the other was Illusion Mirror Three Thousand.

Evil Technique-Soul Hooking Mirror was the most useless.

It could suck dead souls into the mirror, capturing them for the Evil Mirror Demon Clan to torture and play with.

This technique was purely to satisfy the sadistic desires of the Evil Mirror Demon Clan.

Whenever Lu Ran encountered dead souls, he would send them directly to the God Demon Sculpture Garden or let Magic Artifact-Rebirth Coin have its share.

He had no idle interest in imprisoning and tormenting the spirits of Evil Demons.

As for Evil Technique-Illusion Mirror Three Thousand...

It was passable.

Once people looked in the mirror, they would suffer a mental shock and then fall into a beautiful Illusion Realm, unable to extricate themselves.

The so-called "Three Thousand" was a fictitious number.

Countless beings, each unique, will likely see different scenes in the mirror.

This technique shared some clever similarity to the Evil Technique·Chasing Moon Eyes of the Ghost Moon Fox Clan.

The so-called Illusion Realm was jointly established by the caster and the victim.

What you see is what you most desire!

The difference is that the Ghost Moon Fox Clan carries their own agenda, liking to play bait-and-switch.

The Evil Mirror Demons don't deal with all that love and affection.

You freakin' watch what you want, none of that is my concern.

What I want is to butcher your body and torture your soul!

As for that sincere heart of yours?

Hmm... I'll just gobble it down while it's hot.

And the two Evil Techniques the Evil Mirror Demon Clan adapted to at the River Realm were both decent!

One was Mirror Puppet Shadow, and the other was Returning Dust Mirror...

"Huh?" Lu Ran suddenly snapped out of his thoughts!

He swiftly turned around, looking at a spot not far away.

At the same moment, Night Charm tensed up, flinging down her hands, each now gripping a Night Charm Blade.

The Ghost General sidestepped, hands wielding the Green Dragon Yanyue Blade, positioning himself in front of Lu Ran.

Lu Ran's eyes narrowed slightly as he saw a giant mirror subtly appear amidst the woods dozens of meters away.

This one was large enough to be a full-length floor mirror!

The very next moment, a pair of slender jade hands reached out from the mirror, grasping the edges.

"What the...?"

Lu Ran's heart jolted, recognizing this as Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon.

Is this an Evil Demon... from the River Realm?

"Phew~"

The image in the Mirror of Sin by Lu Ran's side suddenly shifted, revealing a delicate and pretty face.

At the same time, in the distant floor mirror, a beautiful visage emerged.

"Hehe~" The Evil Mirror Demon curved her lips into a captivating arc.

She stepped forth, her golden-red eyes curiously scrutinizing the master and his two servants.

The probing range of Lu Ran's Fog Grade·Connection Mirror was a hundred meters in all directions.

But the probing range of the River Grade-Connection Mirror was an astonishing five hundred meters!

This meant that the Evil Mirror Demon had found Lu Ran before he could get to her!

The question was, Lu Ran hadn't ventured deep into the Demon Cave.

How could there be a River Realm Evil Demon here?

Damn...

Being able to teleport sure was remarkable, wasn't it?

"Attack!" Lu Ran cried out.

People might not believe it when said, but Lu Ran's first thought upon seeing the River Realm-Evil Mirror Demon wasn't fear or flight, but...

She must not be allowed to escape!

The Evil Mirror Demon clan was clever by nature. Now that she had seen Lu Ran with two Evil Demons, if she were to go back and report, it would be serious trouble.

No, after this battle, he'd have to take in the Ghost General and Night Charm.

Evil Mirror Demons had the ability to teleport, greatly nullifying the factors of area and position.

Fortunately,

The inherent savagery of Evil Demons couldn't be changed.

After locating Lu Ran, her overwhelming desire would surely drive her to hunt and feed immediately.

"Meh~~~"

After issuing his order, Lu Ran let out a shout, trying to capture the attention of the Evil Mirror Demon.

But his call instead fired up Night Charm!

"Hiss!" Night Charm, darting forward rapidly, suddenly spun around to look back.

Without any Spirit Defense Techniques and as if reflexively, she flung her blade at Lu Ran.

"Hmm?!"

The slower-moving Ghost General naturally found himself between Night Charm and Lu Ran.

He swiftly swung his blade, deflecting the wind blade and shielding his master from Night Charm's strike!

Loyal and devoted, the Ghost General!

Of course, whether the Ghost General had acted or not, Lu Ran would not have been taken down.

He was aware of Night Charm's attack and dodged in time.

"Yah!"

The Evil Mirror Demon let out a shriek, her attention completely caught by the bleating sound.

With a wave of her hand, she summoned four bronze mirrors, each with figures moving within them.

Evil Technique-Mirror Puppet Shadow!

In a flash, two Ghost Generals, one Night Charm, and one Lu Ran all crawled out from the mirrors.

"Yah!"

The Evil Mirror Demon screamed in surprise, raising her hand reflexively to block.

Lu Ran cut through the confusing battlefield, teleporting next to the Evil Mirror Demon.

And his Dawn Blade was brutally brought down towards the Evil Mirror Demon's head.

"Clang!!"

The piercing sound was particularly grating!

The Evil Mirror Demon wasn't struck on the arm; in her hand appeared a mirror.

Evil Technique-Returning Dust Mirror!

This defensive technique boasted exceptional defensive power.

What was more frightening was that this Returning Dust Mirror could absorb the enemy's attacks!

Any technique absorbed into the mirror would be transformed into pure energy, turning into wisps of dust.

Worth noting is that the moment the Returning Dust Mirror appeared, one of the four distant mirrors instantly disappeared.

The River Grade Mirror of Sin only allowed four mirrors to exist at the same time.

If there was an extra one here, naturally, there would be one less elsewhere.

"Hmph!" The Evil Mirror Demon grasped the Returning Dust Mirror, and as she flew backwards, she ferociously flapped it towards Lu Ran's face.

Truly like a spoiled princess!

Raising her hand to slap someone's face...

On this battlefield of life and death, such a fighting style was indeed very magical.

Clearly, the Evil Mirror Demon clan wasn't proficient in close combat.

She would use mirrors to bewitch enemies, directing her servants to trample upon her opponents.

A princess's body, pampered and precious, with underlings to do everything; why bother lifting a finger herself?

But Lu Ran had bypassed all her servants, penetrating her defenses straight to the core!

"Clang!"

Lu Ran's blade deflected the Returning Dust Mirror and pressed forward.

Not good at close combat?

Heh, running into me, you're rather unlucky.

I'm known as Ran the Fierce!

My main tactic is relentless pursuit, an ever-present shadow!