

## Summit of the Old Gods

### #Chapter 32 - 021 Moon Watching - Read Summit of the Old Gods Chapter 32 - 021 Moon Watching

#### *Chapter 32: 021 Moon Watching*

That night, Lu Ran had too much fun.

His bedroom was too small to contain the joy in his heart, so he simply climbed out the window and shuttled back and forth on the pedestrian paths and lawns within the neighborhood.

In the drizzling rain, successive hissing sounds came!

Trails of Immortal Fog outlined Lu Ran's movement path.

Not until he had exhausted most of the Divine Power inside his body did Lu Ran stop, watching as his pair of white mist-formed sheep's legs gradually dissipated.

"Awesome~!"

Lu Ran wiped his drenched face vigorously and shook his head hard.

He had not felt this wild in a long time.

As he reflected on this, he crossed the lawn and climbed back into his small bedroom window.

"Phew..." Soaked to the bone, Lu Ran slumped onto the floor, exhaling deeply.

With such Divine Technique at his disposal, he gained another asset for the battle to defend the city tomorrow!

Thinking of this, Lu Ran suddenly realized that Lord Immortal Sheep was extraordinarily indulgent towards him.

The original intention of creating Divine Technique·Immortal Hoof was for the believers to stay away from danger and avoid disputes.

Deities certainly allowed believers to practice Divine Techniques, but just now, Lu Ran had exceeded mere practice and was purely indulging in joy.

With this thought, Lu Ran stood up and went before the shrine: "Thank you, Lord Immortal Sheep!"

The Immortal Sheep Jade Carving was gleaming white, silent and still.

After a moment's thought, Lu Ran asked, "Tomorrow, I will inevitably use this technique to confront the Evil Demon Clan directly in battle, not to flee. I hope for your approval."

"Afterward."

At long last, the usually unresponsive Lord Immortal Sheep finally delivered a message.

Lu Ran immediately perked up: "Afterward?"

"Not just tomorrow, afterward."

Lu Ran clenched his fists—just the response he had expected!

From the very beginning, the attitude of Immortal Sheep was to encourage Lu Ran to fight, never suggesting he avoid confrontation or show cowardice!

This was evident from the special Divine Technique·Desolate Sound that Immortal Sheep had taught him.

Lu Ran clasped his hands together and said solemnly, "Disciple will strive hard to make the sect of Immortal Sheep shine brilliantly and not let you down!"

"By the way." Something else came to Lu Ran's mind; he hurriedly asked, "Divine Technique·Immortal Hoof, is there any special way to use it?"

If he could produce something like the Voice of Compassion from Divine Technique·Desolate Sound, wouldn't that be a windfall?

The room was silent.

Lu Ran waited patiently, but no response came for a long time.

No special version then?

Lu Ran felt slightly disappointed but dared not voice his frustration.

It was all because the mysterious and imperious Lord Immortal Sheep had brought too many surprises these days, truly spoiling him.

Lu Ran spoke no more; he sat cross-legged in front of the shrine, absorbing the Divine Power from the universe, fully preparing for tomorrow's battle to defend the city.

It rained all night,

and Lu Ran, accompanied by the pitter-patter of light rain, stayed awake through the night.

Until the early morning of the next day, a deep and long alarm sound rang again in the city:

"Woo~~~"

Lu Ran opened his eyes, his pupils especially bright, with energy visibly circulating within them.

He stood up, his body surrounded by strands of fog, and went to the window.

Dark clouds hung overhead, the rain unceasing.

Judging by the weather, the moon was unlikely to appear tonight.

Lu Ran sighed inwardly as he reached for the Stream Divine Skill·Divine Power Pearl hanging around his neck, feeling the full store of Divine Power within.

These days, every time he practiced before the shrine, he would channel Divine Power into the pearl, all for this fifteenth day of the lunar month.

"Woo~~~"

The alarm continued to echo in the city, unrelenting.

Lu Ran wasted no more time, went to wash up, and then hurried to his parents' bedroom to ask for his father's Dawn Blade.

Ten minutes later, clad in a black raincoat and carrying the Dawn Blade wrapped in cloth, Lu Ran stepped onto the empty streets.

Inevitably, he became the center of attention along the way.

Especially as he passed through residential areas, curious citizens always appeared on the balconies and behind the windows of each household.

\_some even shouted at Lu Ran, urging him to hurry home and not wander around.

Yesterday, ordinary people could still go out shopping, but today it was completely forbidden!

Despite the earnest encouragement from the citizens, Lu Ran did not reply, only feeling deeply moved.

Once, he had also been among these citizens, powerless and could only pray for divine mercy to endure this night of the fifteenth.

Back then, Lu Ran didn't even qualify to stay at home!

Because only if your home enshrined a Divine Sculpture could you remain indoors.

Whether consecrated by yourself or a relative, you could kneel devoutly before the shrine and seek a night of peace.

But now, everything had changed.

Lu Ran had become a believer, possessed Divine Techniques, and even had the courage to brandish his blade at the Evil Demon Clan.

This feeling...

"Phew." Lu Ran took a deep breath, holding the Dawn Blade tightly, and looking out at the rain-drenched streets.

It had been seventeen years,

and it was finally his turn to take the stage.

...

When Lu Ran arrived at the school, the playground was already buzzing with activity. Most students were wearing raincoats—it seemed everyone had the same idea, as no one could fight while holding an umbrella.

"Brother Lu!" From a distance, Deng Yutang waved his hand.

The problem was he was also holding a red headband, making his gesture to beckon others over seem a bit odd.

"Brother Lu, are you in a bad mood?" Deng Yutang asked, looking at Lu Ran's stern face.

Tian Tian stood behind Jiang Ruyi, peeking out with half of her face, curiously looking at Lu Ran.

"It's nothing." Lu Ran shook his head.

On his way to school, he had taken another trip to the banks of Wu Lie River, hoping to give himself and his cat another chance.

But fate was not on his side.

At this moment, Lu Ran's arms still only held a blade, no tabby cat.

I hope it survives the night.

"What's wrong?" Jiang Ruyi looked at Lu Ran, a hint of concern flashing in her eyes.

"Really, it's nothing!" Lu Ran said casually, turning his eyes to Deng Yutang, and complaining, "Next time you call me, don't wave a handkerchief."

It makes me look like a pimp~

Deng Yutang promptly handed over the red headband: "Here!"

Lu Ran: "Huh?"

"It's for you." Deng Yutang smiled, "Last time, didn't you say you wanted to try wearing it?"

"Hehe~" Lu Ran suddenly was not averse anymore, "I'm rather embarrassed!"

Despite his words, Lu Ran smoothly took the red headband.

Jiang Ruyi watched him with an expression of speechlessness while Tian Tian giggled quietly.

"Ha ha!" Deng Yutang laughed loudly, quite proud as he looked at Jiang Ruyi, "You've lost the bet, Captain Jiang!"

Jiang Ruyi nodded helplessly, accepting the two red headbands handed over by Deng Yutang: "Thank you."

"The bet was what?" Lu Ran was quite puzzled.

Deng Yutang: "I prepared one for each member of our team, and the captain said they were too valuable to accept.

Later, we made a bet that if you took one, she would too."

Lu Ran felt a bit awkward and quickly changed the subject: "By the way, Mr. Deng, what does your sister do?"

Deng Yutang: "She's part of the Moon Gazer squad, affiliated with the Divine People Bureau, working at the city bureau in Yunshan City."

Rain Alley City was a county city, and the prefecture-level city in charge of Rain Alley was Yunshan City.

With a population in the millions there, it also housed the Divine Sculpture of the Seven-class God-Witch Crow.

"Divine People Bureau, Moon Gazer squad." Lu Ran understood.

So Deng's sister was an official!

That explained why she appeared by the Wu Lie River, and why she was so nosy.

The Divine People Bureau of Da Xia was a law enforcement agency.

Unlike ordinary police departments, the Divine People Bureau was specifically aimed at the believer community, primarily responsible for combating crimes among believers, etc.

The Moon Gazer squad was an internal organization of the Divine People Bureau, and those belonging to this department were collectively called "Moon Gazers."

The moon phase "Moon Gazer" is another name for the full moon.

In the lunar calendar of Da Xia, every day's moon phase has a corresponding name, and "Moon Gazer" specifically refers to the fifteenth day of the lunar month.

Every fifteenth night,

the Moon Gazers were the city protectors most relied upon by the citizens and the most trustworthy.

"Why suddenly bring her up?" Deng Yutang was puzzled.

On the side, Jiang Ruyi let Tian Tian wind a red headband around her arm, her beautiful eyes giving Lu Ran a subtle glance.

"Just asking, nothing special." Lu Ran muttered quietly, sighing in his heart.

Big Nightmare was actually a public official and a law enforcer for believers!

Trying to spank her would be extremely difficult.

It might even

land me behind bars...

"What's her name?" Lu Ran inquired further, "Be more specific."

"Deng Yuxiang, the 'yu' from 'pure jade,' and 'xiang' from 'Xiaoxiang' region."

"Oh." Lu Ran scratched his head, not surprisingly, catching the raincoat's hood.

He had indeed called her name wrong.

"Why do you keep asking about her?" The typically brave Deng man felt a rare panic.

Lu Ran: "Just curious, why are you nervous?"

Deng Yutang's expression turned odd: "I know in others' eyes, my sister is beautiful, strong, and wealthy..."

But Brother Lu, listen to my advice, don't mess with her!"

"Me, mess with her?" Lu Ran grinned.

Sure, your sister is drop-dead gorgeous and uses money like it's nothing to wipe her nose.

But she specializes in handling believers like myself!

With such a perfect match in professions,

why would I walk into the lion's den?

"Brother Lu, I've always treated you as a brother!" Deng Yutang put his arm around Lu Ran's shoulder.

Lu Ran: "..."

I don't want to be your brother-in-law.

Besides, my petite frame can't handle her huge... sword!

"Alright, Sister Ruyi." Tian Tian finished tying the red headband, whispered.

"Mhm." Jiang Ruyi responded in a low voice, casually playing with the butterfly knot on her arm.

Tian Tian eagerly awaited for her counterpart to tie the headband for her.

However, Jiang Ruyi just fiddled with the knot and ignored the girl.

Tian Tian opened her mouth but ultimately didn't speak, silently placing her headband in her pocket.

Meanwhile, Deng Yutang was still earnestly cautioning: "Brother Lu, don't jump into the fire pit!"

"You've misunderstood." Lu Ran explained helplessly, "Yesterday during my training, it happened that your sister was patrolling, and then..."

"Then what?"

"Then your sister beat me up!" Lu Ran's face showed discomfort, "I didn't want to mention it, it makes it seem like I'm complaining."

"I see." Deng Yutang sighed in relief, "Then what's there to hide? Complaining to me is useless."

"I wouldn't dare... cough."

Lu Ran: ???

What happened to the fearless believers in red headbands?

Jiang Ruyi came back to her senses and looked down at the silent Tian Tian: "Where's your red headband?"

"In, in my pocket." Tian Tian whispered.

"I'll tie it for you."

"Oh, okay." Tian Tian's gloom immediately lifted, revealing a smile as she hurriedly took out the headband.

"How did she beat you?" Deng Yutang continued to probe.

"Don't mention it, your sister is a follower of the North Wind blade technique, and you didn't even tell me!"

Lu Ran sighed, still muttering: "She got me, looking everywhere for the cat..."

Deng Yutang: "What?"

Lu Ran waved his hand, not wanting to continue.



"Ha ha!" Deng Yutang laughed loudly, "My sister indeed doesn't know her own strength, but after beating someone, she always offers some pointers.

Brother Lu, didn't she teach you a few tricks?"

A thought crossed Lu Ran's mind as he looked at the red headband in his hand.

Yesterday, Big Nightmare indeed opened a new world for him:

She repeatedly reminded Lu Ran to listen to the wind's voice, not just to look at the world with his eyes.

"She did teach me something." Lu Ran, holding the headband, folded it into a long strip and tried to cover his eyes with it.

Deng Yutang watched for a long time, still puzzled: "What exactly did my sister teach you?"

"Don't you see?" Lu Ran, with his eyes covered, carefully listened to the noisy surroundings.

Deng Yutang looked at Lu Ran with confusion.

It must be said, wearing the headband over his eyes did look kind of cool!

"I get it!" Deng Yutang's eyes lit up, "She taught you to cosplay a ninja turtle?"

Lu Ran: ???

You really watch a variety of things, huh?

*Chapter 33: 022 It feels like yesterday*

"Lu Ran."

"Uh?" Lu Ran put down his red scarf and turned his head to look at Jiang Ruyi.

She wore a white raincoat, which complimented her fair and pretty face, pure and tranquil in appearance.

The girl asked, "Did you advance?"

Lu Ran smiled, "What do you think?"

Wasn't this scene just like a few days ago?

Jiang Ruyi rolled her eyes at Lu Ran with a mix of annoyance and amusement, "Who cares to know."

His proud and confident demeanor made everyone guess the answer.

"Hehe." Lu Ran grinned.

You dare to use chopsticks at my feast? I'll pull out the plastic bag again!

Sorry folks.

Here I go again!

"Alright!" Deng Yutang shouted loudly, catching Lu Ran off guard, "Immortal Hoof has learned it too, right?"

Lu Ran nodded confidently, "Don't worry."

Deng Yutang felt assured, Brother Lu truly met the expectations.

Seeing his comrade advance again filled Deng Yutang with envy and a bit of pressure.

But his happiness was greater, after all, the stronger Lu Ran was, the higher the survival chances for the whole team!

Especially now that he had acquired Divine Technique-Immortal Hoof, Lu Ran could move faster, better coordinating the entire team, helping everywhere!

"So impressive." Tian Tian looked up at Lu Ran, her mouth slightly open in awe.

Lu Ran, seeing Tian Tian's adorable expression, couldn't help but reach out and pat her head.

Although everyone was of the same age, the gentle and cute Tian Tian always seemed like a little sister?

"Hmm." Tian Tian bowed her head, her cheeks flushed red, not daring to dodge.

It was Goddess Jiang who mercifully rescued her subordinate by pulling Tian Tian behind her, blocking her petite figure.

"Everyone, assemble by team number, line up!" A male teacher on the podium commanded loudly with a microphone.

The playground was chaotic, and the teacher's voice continued, "Today, you'll participate in a city defense operation, protect this city!"

Amidst his lengthy speech, the students formed their lines.

The atmosphere on the playground grew solemn and more oppressive.

Compared to the last assessment in Evil Dog Village, this city defense was undoubtedly a hundred times more dangerous!

As the previous class advisor Li Yanzhu had mentioned, today there were no weak Evil Demons selected by soldiers for the students to practice on.

Tonight,

A slight mistake could really be deadly!

"Attention!" the male teacher shouted, "I'll call the numbers of the teams, come up to the podium in order,"

Deng Yutang suddenly said, "I think I saw my sister."

"Oh?" Lu Ran looked far away, searching for Big Nightmare's figure.

True enough, amidst the dark raincoats, he spotted a bright yellow figure.

"Your sister holds quite a high position, huh?" Lu Ran whispered behind Deng Yutang.

In front of the podium, a group of Moon Gazers stood neatly lined up with Big Nightmare standing alongside five others at the side of the formation.

Deng Yutang shook his head, "She only started working a few months ago, couldn't have much of a rank."

Lu Ran raised his eyebrows slightly, so her position here is because she's from the city bureau?

Quite possibly.

Even if in Yunshan City's Divine People Bureau, Deng Yuxiang was just a pawn, here in Rain Alley City, she was a representative from higher authority.

"...Team 33!"

"Team 57!"

"Team 98!"

"Here!" Deng Yutang instinctively responded loudly.

In the gaze of other students, the four of them quickly crossed the lines and came to the podium.

"You ten teams each have a Moon Gazer leading, carrying out tasks at the West District Gymnasium," the male teacher solemnly said, "From now on, follow all arrangements by the Moon Gazers!"

As he spoke, men and women in black raincoats came to stand before each team.

The Moon Gazer leading team 98 was a middle-aged man, looking quite amiable.

"Let's go." The man spoke first, waving at the four of them.

Deng Yutang took the lead and followed.

As they passed by the side of the podium, Deng Yutang greeted, "Sis."

Before, Deng Yutang's voice had been booming; now, he seemed unwilling to speak but dared not to remain silent.

Lu Ran, however, waved broadly, "Hello, sister!"

"Hmm." Deng Yuxiang didn't pay much attention to her brother, but scrutinized Lu Ran from top to bottom.

She slightly nodded her head in a sweeping gesture, rather dashing, "Little Lu Ran, just don't die."

"I wouldn't have said you're my sister if not." Lu Ran straightly held up a thumb, "Really caring, aren't you!"

"Hehe~"

"Ha ha." For a moment, several colleagues from the city bureau burst out laughing.

"You kid." Deng Yuxiang also laughed and scolded, "Get lost now!"

Deng Yutang: "..."

Originally reluctant to greet, Deng Yutang suddenly felt left out.

What's happening to me?

I've always avoided her at all costs, what's the deal today...

Lu Ran didn't speak again but raised an eyebrow, his expression inquiring.

Deng Yuxiang quickly caught on to what Lu Ran was asking.

Her smile slightly faded and she gently shook her head.

"Alright then." Lu Ran sighed internally and followed the team as they left.

"Is Little Deng your sister?" the Moon Gazer leader looked at Lu Ran.

"His." Lu Ran patted Deng Yutang on the back, "If she were my sister, I wouldn't have survived to this day."

The Moon Gazer's expression turned peculiar as he looked at Deng Yutang.

Deng Yutang could only nod.

Might be my sister, although... she doesn't seem to know me very well, but she should be.

"Sir, how should I address you?" Lu Ran continued.

The man introduced himself, "Zhang Feng, just call me Brother Zhang.

I'm from the Rain Alley City's Divine People Bureau·Moon Gazer Team, a Sword Lotus believer."

Jiang Ruyi turned to the girl beside her and whispered, "Ran into a fellow brother."

*Chapter 34: 022 Feels like yesterday\_2*

Tian Tian looked curiously toward the fellow Believers, but unfortunately, just at that moment, Zhang Feng's expression turned serious, "From now on, until the task is over, you must obey orders! This guard duty is no child's play; you must take responsibility for your own lives."

"Yes!"

"Yes." The responses from the others were also serious.

Ten squads boarded the Divine People Bureau's coach bus, driving along the deserted streets toward the stadium in the western district.

There were many shelters in Rain Alley City, and Lu Ran was quite familiar with the stadium in the western district.

Even last month on the fifteenth day of the lunar calendar, Lu Ran had spent the night there.

As the vehicle turned into the stadium road and he saw that circular building from a distance, Lu Ran couldn't help but feel a sense of unreality.

On this day last month, he had already been inside the hall, lying on the bed, bored, scrolling through his mobile phone.

At that time, his mother would still call amidst her busy schedule to encourage and comfort him a little.

But now...

Lu Ran subconsciously reached into his pocket.

Sure enough, he had forgotten his mobile phone again.

It really was a case of having the Immortal Sheep and forgetting one's mother.

Moreover, since becoming a Believer, he had been training day and night, and hadn't contacted his little sister for a long time.

In the two years since leaving Beijing, every fifteenth day of the lunar calendar, the siblings would always text each other to chat about recent events.

Compared with Lu Ran, his sister had a much better environment for spending the night; she could stay at home, in front of the Divine Sculpture-Sword One offered by their mother, passing the time peacefully.

"Do you guys have your mobile phones?" Lu Ran asked.

Deng Yutang shook his head, while Tian Tian in the backseat hurriedly rummaged through her bag and handed over her phone, "Here."

Her phone case was a cute pink cartoon rabbit.

Lu Ran took the phone and then handed it back, "Password."

"Oh oh." Tian Tian extended her small hand, tapping the screen repeatedly.

Lu Ran accidentally caught sight of it, "0607, is that your birthday?"

Tian Tian quickly withdrew her hand without making a sound.

Lu Ran: "Why didn't you say so earlier? We could have celebrated it for you!"

"June seventh." Deng Yutang pondered, "If that's by the lunar calendar, wouldn't that have been the day we formed the team?"

On hearing this, Tian Tian turned to look out the window, no longer daring to look at the others.

Jiang Ruyi was perceptive and intelligent, seemingly understanding something.

"It might also be her bank pin, don't ask anymore." Jiang Ruyi intervened in a timely manner, placing a hand on Tian Tian's back.

As she gently rubbed Tian Tian's back, her tense body gradually relaxed.

Jiang Ruyi, with a smile in her eyes, looked at the young girl sitting next to her.

She was just a bit shy and not good at expressing herself.

She must also have many worries hidden in her heart.

A few minutes later, the coach arrived at the grand stadium and came to a stop in front of the gymnasium.

"Everyone, off the bus!"

A voice called from ahead, and Lu Ran quickly sent off a message, then followed the crowd down from the bus.

Under the curtain of rain, the stadium was silent.

The green turf, basketball, tennis, and other courts were all empty.

"Let's get familiar with the surroundings," Zhang Feng called to the four, leading them into the gymnasium.

Inside and outside the building were worlds apart.

The lights inside the gymnasium were bright, with likely thousands of people!

Rows and rows of single beds were neatly arranged, clearly divided; the citizens mostly stayed on their own beds playing with mobile phones or watching tablets.

There were also small groups gathered together, playing cards and bragging to each other in hushed tones.

The sporadic laughter that filtered through now and then also relieved the oppressive atmosphere.

Why were the people in the hall consciously lowering their voices?

Because at the intersections of the beds, there were many small shrines, and in front of each shrine on the prayer mats, sat a Moon Gazer, kneeling.

At a glance, within the vast space, there must have been three to four dozen small shrines.

In the shrines were small sycamore trees.

Six-class God·Bi Wu!

It's a typical plant-type deity, and the characteristics of the Divine Technique of the Bi Wu faction specialized in defense and healing.

"We're back, huh."

Lu Ran muttered under his breath, feeling as if he had just been there the day before.

"Thirty beds across, thirty beds down, children included, a total of a thousand citizens," Zhang Feng said softly, guiding the team through the beds.

"Remember the layout inside the gymnasium; watch the gaps between the beds."

"Although your guard points are not inside the gymnasium, if necessary, we might come in at any time..."

As the squad moved through, some citizens gave them friendly glances.

The identity of Lu Ran and the others was obvious, as they carried weapons with them and were led by Moon Gazers.

There were also some citizens who weren't so friendly to this group of young people.

"Call the landlord!"

"I'll bid!"

Not far to the right front, a Bald Brother was comfortably lying on a bed, playing landlord on his mobile phone.

When he realized someone was approaching, he glanced up, his gaze sweeping over Lu Ran and the rest.

Especially after seeing the petite and delicate Tian Tian, the Bald Brother, with a face full of flesh, openly glared at the girl with an unmistakable look of annoyance!

"Do you know him?" Jiang Ruyi asked with slightly furrowed brows.



Tian Tian silently shook her head.

The sudden malice seemed unprovoked but did have some reason behind it.

In the eyes of some, young Believers like Lu Ran were extremely unreliable!

In a real crisis, these Believers might be more flustered than ordinary people!

And since Believers as a group had physical qualities surpassing normal humans, if they panicked, they could cause even greater chaos.

It would be better if these rookies considered themselves ordinary and sought protection alongside everyone else under the Moon Gazers!

The problem was, generation after generation of young Believers needed to be trained and matured, and a first-time guard duty was inevitable...

It was only because Bald Brother was at the mercy of others and the squad had a Moon Gazer leading them that he hadn't already spoken out.

"Lu Ran?" Jiang Ruyi stopped in her tracks because Lu Ran had stopped ahead.

Bald Brother looked unkindly at Lu Ran, who had halted before him, "What are you looking at?"

What about Believers?

A bunch of little rascals, keep your distance and don't get assigned to my area!

Yet, Lu Ran pointed to the bed and said, "Last fifteenth, I slept on this very bed."

Bald Brother sat up, "What are you implying, that you've claimed this bed and no one else can sleep in it?"

But surprisingly, Lu Ran suddenly lifted his head and pointed upward:

"Around ten o'clock that night, I watched as a Soul-splitting Demon showed its head right there, right over there!"

Bald Brother: ???

Lu Ran then pointed towards Bald Brother's feet: "If it weren't for the swift action of the Moon Gazer, that Soul-splitting Demon would have landed right at the foot of my bed!"

"Damn it!" Bald Brother quickly retracted his feet, "Little bro, you better not scare me, my heart can't take this..."

"Your cards are amazing!"

"Hurry up, I've been waiting so long the flowers have wilted~"

Voices emanated from the mobile phone.

Bald Brother's fleshy face almost turned pale with fright, "If you fancy this bed so much, bro, I'm willing to swap, is that okay? After you're tired from standing guard tonight, you can rest here, I'll leave now!"

"Calm down, sir!" Zhang Feng immediately came back and pushed Bald Brother back down onto the bed, "Registered beds cannot be casually changed. Don't panic; the Evil Demon Clan don't appear in fixed locations. There are many Divine Sculptures in the gym and plenty of Moon Gazers guarding; we will surely protect you, please rest assured."

Lu Ran nodded emphatically, "Exactly, no pain, no gain! At that time, before I even had a chance to shout, it was already taken care of."

Bald Brother: "..."

After calming down Bald Brother, Zhang Feng turned to look at Lu Ran, "Having some psychological shadows is inevitable. But you are different from before; you must learn to face it head-on, rather than continuing to live in fear."

Lu Ran looked up at the ceiling, his eyes bright and spirited, "Zhang Feng misunderstood."

Zhang Feng: "Oh?"

Clutching his Dawn Blade wrapped in cloth, Lu Ran looked toward where the Soul-splitting Demon had appeared, "I have no fear. On the contrary, I hope to encounter it again tonight. And kill it with my own hands!"

"My mother's mother and my grandmother! Oh, my!"

Bald Brother sprang to his feet, his face sorrowful, "Swap, we must swap this bed!"

"Just stop talking!" Zhang Feng hurriedly pushed Lu Ran and quickly walked away.

### *Chapter 35: 023 Rainy Night Killings*

At dusk, the sports arena's west gate.

The small squad of people, either standing or sitting, were guarding the steps in front of the gate.

No one in the team had spoken for a long time, everyone was waiting quietly, watching as the sky gradually darkened.

"Don't be nervous," Zhang Feng leaned against the wall, naturally sensing the heavy atmosphere within the team.

He said to comfort them, "There are many guards around, and inside the hall, a large number of divine statues stand guard.

If a member of the Evil Demon Clan appears, you just need to follow my orders."

Indeed, Lu Ran and his friends were believers, but as greenhorns, how could they single-handedly take on a challenge?

As Zhang Feng said, there were many standing guards around.

Unless they were extremely unlucky and an Evil Demon attacked them head-on, it wouldn't be the squad members' turn to take action.

This night guard duty was truly meant to initiate the novice believers, to transform their mental state, and so on.

It was not really about letting these students risk their lives.

"The Rain Alley City is just a small county town with not many people, and there is only one avatar statue of the deity located on the outskirts," Zhang Feng continued.

"For many years, there have seldom been powerful Evil Demons descending upon our area."

Lu Ran: "..."

The more he heard these comforting words, the more they sounded like a flag was being set up, didn't they?

"You are the first of this session," Zhang Feng changed the subject.

"Yes," Jiang Ruyi nodded gently, gazing into the distance.

Outside the west gate was an open space, beyond which lay shrubbery and an iron fence. Outside the fence, there was a road lit by street lamps.

The dim yellow light made the fine drizzle clearly visible, resembling a curtain of water.

"As long as you safely get through tonight, your score won't be bad," Zhang Feng whispered.

Deng Yutang suddenly spoke up, "I see that the student squads who arrived later have all been assigned inside the shelters, only we are guarding outside?"

Zhang Feng nodded and said, "The inside of the building is naturally safer than the outside.

Only the teams ranked in the top ten have the honor of being stationed outside the various shelters.

Therefore, if you can get through the night safely, your base score will be much higher than the other squads."

Deng Yutang understood and requested, "Brother Zhang, if low-ranked Evil Demons attack, let us have a try at handling them."

Just having a base score was not enough to get a good grade.

Before they set off, everyone had learned that Zhang Feng was a River Realm·Second Rank Sword Lotus believer.

River Realm!

Truly, the Moon Gazers who guard the city have high ranking realms.

Mist, Stream, River, Sea...

For the believers, the River Realm was a watershed, signaling the mark of a strong warrior!

Lu Ran had impressively jumped two levels in half a month, reaching the Mist Realm·Third Rank.

One must know that within Da Xia, at least half of the believers would forever be stuck in the Stream Realm!

They spent their whole lives unable to cross the threshold, unable to enter the "River Realm's" gate.

The words "watershed" definitely carried weight!

When a believer reached the River Realm, their use of Divine Power would take a qualitative leap.

Believers of the River Realm could concentrate Divine Power into currents of water and then externalize it, allowing it to wrap and flow around their bodies.

This "water flow armor" was akin to a Life-saving Talisman, and also your capital for storming into the enemy's ranks!

If you already possessed a defensive Divine Technique, then it was even better.

One extra layer of armor meant you essentially had an extra life in certain situations!

"Guarding the city is no child's play," Zhang Feng once again stressed, "I know you want to achieve good results, but the premise of everything is to follow orders.

Otherwise, I'll deduct points from you."

"Understood," Deng Yutang said reluctantly, nodding his head.

Last time in Evil Dog Village, it was the military instructors who graded them, but this time, the Divine People Bureau's Moon Gazers were judging.

To the side, Lu Ran's voice could be heard, "This time, the school's ranking rewards are weapons, Mr. Deng."

Deng Yutang: "What about it?"

Lu Ran joked, "The Heavenly Star Spear in your hand is worth a million. Would you even care about a reward from the school?"

Deng Yutang looked at Lu Ran sitting on the steps, shrugged nonchalantly, and replied, "I'd play with it."

Lu Ran nodded seriously, "So, graciously accepting the measly fruits the lousy school offers us?"

"Hehe~" Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but let out a light laugh.

"Brother Lu, your words are unjust!" Deng Yutang laughed as well, "Did you take first place for the reward?"

Lu Ran nodded, "Yes."

Deng Yutang tilted his head, with a big question mark appearing above it.

After being stumped for a long time, he finally said, "No, you and I do it for the honor!"

"Right," Lu Ran was persuaded and changed his tune, "for the honor too."

Deng Yutang: ???

Too?

"Stop teasing him," Jiang Ruyi said with a soft laugh.

"Oh," Lu Ran extended two fingers, slowly stroking the cold blade.

He wouldn't replace his Dawn Blade, of course, but if he got another blade...

Could he try dual-wielding?

"Woo~~~"

Suddenly, a deep horn sound abruptly rose, slicing through the long night.

Lu Ran slowly stood up, following the sound, gazing into the north.

Unfortunately, the distance was too far, even though the lights from the street and buildings were bright, he couldn't see anything.

He simply sensed that the night rain was getting heavier.

"Has it begun?" Deng Yutang gripped the Heavenly Star Spear tightly.

"Ah!"

"Help, Evil... Evil Demons ah!"

"Aaaaah!" Quite abruptly, a series of screams came from the sports arena behind them.

The sound was piercing, causing everyone to instinctively turn around and look toward the arena.

"Hold your posts!" Zhang Feng shouted sternly, "You are expressly forbidden to act on your own and leave your posts without orders."

As the screams continued inside the building, Lu Ran could only imagine, delineating a chaotic scene from within.