

Old Gods 351

Chapter 351: Land of the Cursed

"Bro, you smell so good~"

Lu Ran: "..."

What kind of remark was that!

Cradled in his arms, Qiao Yuanxi lifted her head, her eyes curving into two crescents as she smiled:

"It smells like Sister Ruyi."

With that one sentence, she managed to make Lu Ran's face turn red.

"Off, off, off." Lu Ran pushed Qiao Yuanxi away promptly.

Was that the fragrance of your Sister Ruyi?

That was the aura of Luoxian Mountain, the fresh scent of the forest flowers and grass, alright?

Shouldn't say it, but it indeed smelled good.

"Why didn't Sister Ruyi come back?" Qiao Yuanxi asked with curiosity.

"You text her every day, and you're asking me?" Lu Ran huffed.

Guan Yiren: "Yuanxi!"

"Got it, got it!" Qiao Yuanxi grabbed Lu Ran's wrist, pulling him to take a seat.

No sooner had they sat down than Little Yuanxi started up again, her mouth rattling off like a machine gun:

"Bro, you've got to try the fish pot from Wang Ling's house, it's so tasty!

And this purple perilla chicken stir-fry...nah, let's start with the roast duck instead!

I'll wrap one for you~"

As she spoke, Qiao Yuanxi picked up a thin lotus leaf pancake.

Lu Ran's gaze softened significantly as he watched his little sister, suddenly feeling like she had grown up.

So caring now.

Before, she'd only ever fed me pieces of soggy lettuce and greasy crumbs from burgers...

Suddenly, the room plunged into silence.

Lu Ran realized what was happening and swept his gaze over everyone: "Come on, eat, don't act like I'm the host.

Quick, quick, quick, don't be shy."

"Ha Ha!" Niu Zhengzheng laughed heartily, picking up his chopsticks and heading straight for the beef.

Guan Yiren also picked up her chopsticks, symbolically grabbing a slice of winter bamboo shoot.

Meanwhile, Qiao Yuanxi placed cucumber strips on the pancake, spread sweet bean paste, finally wrapping the duck meat, and held it out towards Lu Ran's mouth:

"Here, ah~~~"

Qiao Yuanxi paused mid-sentence with a strange expression, "Bro, you've gotten so skilled?"

Lu Ran looked puzzled: "What do you mean?"

Qiao Yuanxi: "You can eat through the mask?"

Lu Ran: "..."

He immediately removed his hat and mask.

For a moment, the room grew quiet again.

Qiao Yuanxi, holding the lotus leaf roll, was frozen in action, staring blankly at Lu Ran.

After a moment of silence, Lu Ran put his hat back on, pulling the brim a little lower.

After advancing to the Jiang Realm, each individual's demeanor was different.

Chen Jingjing, seated beside him, undoubtedly belonged to the category of fairy-like elegance.

But compared to Lu Ran, who had just emerged from Luoxian Mountain...

She indeed paled in comparison.

This was even after Lu Ran had reined in his own brilliance!

Lu Ran had reasons for not letting Jiang Ruyi leave the mountain.

"Delicious." Lu Ran leaned forward, took a bite of the lotus leaf roll, and mumbled with his mouth full.

"Let's eat." Chen Jingjing's gaze shifted away from Lu Ran's side profile to stabilize her emotions, "Lu Ran's train is at one in the afternoon."

"Ah!" Qiao Yuanxi's eyes blinked rapidly as she looked at Lu Ran.

She suddenly reached out and stuffed the remaining half of the lotus leaf roll directly into Lu Ran's mouth.

Lu Ran: "Mmm."

"It's fine, Sister Jingjing, we're not afraid of being late," Qiao Yuanxi said with a smile, "we'll just cancel the train ticket, drive, and go with brother."

Lu Ran: "Hmm?"

In fact, he had already realized that the meeting wasn't just for old time's sake.

Hadn't Guan Yiren just said there was something to discuss?

Qiao Yuanxi, supporting her cheek with one hand, tilted her head to look at Lu Ran's fair and handsome face under the brim of his cap:

"Bro, this fifteenth, we want to go with you to protect Rain Alley, okay?"

Lu Ran, unceremoniously, pushed her face away.

I just said you've grown up,

but have you grown into a hooligan?

He lifted his eyes toward Guan Yiren: "School assignment?"

Guan Yiren silently lowered her head to nibble on the bamboo shoot, not even looking at Lu Ran.

Wang Ling suddenly spoke: "Heavenly Pride, it was me who wanted to go. My teammates are accompanying me."

Lu Ran picked up a pancake and started rolling the roast duck: "What's the point of going to that little place?"

Even as he said this, he had his suspicions.

Was this person using Little Yuanxi's relationship to find him because he wanted to get on "Heavenly Pride"?

To gain fame as a photographer?

The influence of "Heavenly Pride" was enough to give anyone a boost.

For these growing, developing college students, the benefits that "Heavenly Pride" could bring were undoubtedly huge.

For instance, enhancing personal influence in school, society, being valued by Beijing University, being regarded by sects, and so on.

All of it could be a stepping stone for personal development and takeoff.

Wang Ling glanced at Guan Yiren, and seeing her nod slightly, he began to speak:

"There may be trouble in Rain Alley City this fifteenth."

Lu Ran paused while rolling the duck meat, then resumed as if nothing happened: "The night of the fifteenth in Rain Alley City, it's rarely peaceful."

Guan Yiren suddenly said: "Get to the point."

Wang Ling pondered for a moment, then spoke: "Heavenly Pride, an elder from my family has been asked to stay in Rain Alley City."

Upon hearing this, Chen Jingjing's expression grew grave.

Lu Ran also frowned.

Damn!

Is Rain Alley really cursed?

The fifteenth is coming, and Rain Alley City even needs outside powers to take up positions?

Lu Ran still remembered back in September, the fifteenth last year, when he saw Martial Artist believers flying through the sky unintentionally.

And that night, a Demon Lord descended upon the city.

Moreover, it was the Sea Realm Demon Lord·Yin Flower!

Wang Ling continued: "This uncle of mine is a Gun Corpse Believer, just like you, he's from the Jiang Realm."

Hearing this, Lu Ran felt a sense of relief.

It seemed it wasn't as bad as a Demon Lord coming from the Sea Realm?

"Here." Lu Ran wrapped the lotus leaf pancake and offered it to Qiao Yuanxi's mouth.

"It was really for me after all!"

Qiao Yuanxi was thrilled, biting into it with an "awoo."

Her cheeks puffed out adorably.

You could even pass for a pufferfish without being angry~

Wang Ling: "Heavenly Pride, as you know, the powers assigned to each town by the Human Clan are targeted."

Lu Ran finally turned to look at Wang Ling: "Do you mean the Evil Spear Emperor is coming?"

When Evil Demon·Yin Flower attacked last time, why was the Human Clan Great Power stationed in Rain Alley a Martial Artist believer?

Because the Martial Artist sect had been longstanding enemies with the Yin Flower Clan!

Why the Human Clan had been prepared in advance, the source of the information, or the result of calculation, divination or other methods, that was a different matter.

Similarly,

The Gun Corpse sect and the Evil Demon·Evil Spear Emperor Clan were also mortal enemies.

Hence, Wang Ling's reference of "targeted deployment."

Human Clan believers can receive rewards from their gods when they slay their greatest adversaries!

The more enemies you kill, the more you win your god's favor.

Not to mention the huge blessings like "Divine Blessing."

Even just the chance for Wang Ling to present his merits and exchange a word with the god, to leave an impression on Elder Gun Corpse, would be wonderful.

"Wang Ling." Guan Yiren reminded him softly.

At this moment, Wang Ling, questioned by Lu Ran, his face stiffened.

To put it accurately, it was Lu Ran's gaze...

Lu Ran smiled apologetically and pushed down his cap's brim a bit more.

"Sixty to seventy percent," said Wang Ling quickly, becoming serious.

"Sixty to seventy percent," Lu Ran repeated with a heavy sigh.

The sworn enemy of a First-class God wasn't to be taken lightly.

The strength of the Evil Demon·Evil Spear Emperor was beyond doubt.

Once again, Lu Ran's old problem emerged; he didn't want Qiao Yuanxi to face danger.

Like the time they went to Night Charm Demon Cave for training, Lu Ran really wanted Little Yuanxi to go back.

Lu Ran spoke: "Rain Alley is small, and its various facilities and believer support aren't complete, can't compare with Beijing.

Surveillance, medical treatment, logistic support, and everything...

In short, if you are going there for a mission, you'll need to adapt well."

Guan Yiren spoke gently, a rare long sentence: "Our team has decided to guard Rain Alley City this fifteenth.

Since you've always been stationed in Rain Alley, we wanted to let you know."

Beside the girl, Niu Zhengzheng, who was devouring his food, suddenly paused: "What? Why are you kicking me?"

Guan Yiren: "..."

Niu Zhengzheng wasn't too slow on the uptake and immediately understood: "Ran Bro, Wang Ling is our teammate!

He stumbled upon this piece of information and insisted on seizing the opportunity. Our team has got to back him up."

Qiao Yuanxi nodded in agreement.

She believed that if the roles were reversed and it was her instead, her three teammates would go to every length as well.

Lu Ran looked at his sister; though he felt helpless, he couldn't really object:

"Fine, I'll accompany you guys."

"Ha ha! There we have it!" Niu Zhengzheng laughed loudly, his voice resembling a cracked gong, "With us together, aren't we invincible?"

Guan Yiren facepalmed.

Qiao Yuanxi said, "By the way, bro, being a Jiang Realm Great Power, you must have other tasks, right?"

Lu Ran shrugged: "I'm participating in 'Heavenly Pride'. I can't stay on the top floor of Wu Lie Building all the time.

Besides, if you return to Rain Alley, shouldn't I be with you every step of the way?"

"Hee hee~" Qiao Yuanxi flashed a happy smile, "You're the best to me, brother!"

Lu Ran scoffed.

The best again?

Wasn't I just foolish and cold-blooded?

"Let's get one thing straight," Lu Ran's gaze swept across everyone, "accompanying me on a mission means you'll be on 'Heavenly Pride'.

Every one of your moves will be exposed, watched frame by frame by the audience.

'Heavenly Pride' can amplify your strengths, but it can also magnify your weaknesses tenfold."

Wang Ling immediately said: "Don't worry, Heavenly Pride. We understand!

We are loyal fans of 'Heavenly Pride' and have indeed been studying your combat skills."

Niu Zhengzheng grinned, utterly unconcerned: "To be on a mission with Ran Bro again, haha!"

Wang Ling looked at his teammates, who one by one picked up their glasses: "Having Heavenly Pride lead our team in dealing with this special event ensures our safety.

We can't thank you enough now, but in the future, we will."

Lu Ran also picked up his glass: "You're too kind. You are Little Yuanxi's comrades-in-arms, naturally, you are mine.

Having a strong team to guard Rain Alley City is something I should be thankful for."

Wang Ling, facing the beyond-ordinary and humbly cordial Da Xia No.1 Heavenly Pride, couldn't help but feel deeply moved.

Setting aside all other factors, this was a Jiang Realm Great Power, engaging in a friendly exchange with him.

In that moment, Wang Ling's respect was clearly etched upon his face.

He substituted tea for wine, filled his cup, and felt extremely fortunate.

It wasn't in vain that his family had made so much effort to connect him with this team.

Guan Yiren, Niu Zhengzheng, Qiao Yuanxi...

The backgrounds of these three individuals, each more terrifying than the next.

Only Qiao Yuanxi didn't belong to the "big clan" category, with her family comprising just three people.

Yet the other two,

One being the Jinghong Peak Master of the Sword One sect.

The other, the awe-inspiring First Heavenly Pride of Da Xia!

What teammates those were, just try managing them!

As long as he didn't screw up, would those rotten garlic heads have a chance at the future family head position?

Chapter 352: Lu's Yuanxi

After dinner, everybody got into a large G SUV.

It was clear that Wang Ling put a lot of thought into it; there were two nanny cars waiting outside the restaurant.

He had prepared two cars, probably for Lu Ran.

It's quite normal for a Jiang Realm Great Power to enjoy solitude and peace.

Son of Wang probably didn't expect Lu Ran to be so amiable!

In order to interact more with Lu Ran, Wang Ling didn't use his family's driver and chose to drive himself.

Lu Ran was courteously offered the front passenger seat by everyone.

Without a word, Lu Ran had the tall and burly Niu Zhengzheng take the front passenger seat.

Did you think you could sit in the back and squeeze next to my sister?

Dream on!

It wasn't until they had left Beijing and gotten onto the highway that Lu Ran suddenly realized something.

If Brother Soul is driving,

Doesn't that turn our car into a hearse?

Hmm...

In the beginning, when Lu Ran rode in Sister Yuxiang's Panamera, he was amazed at how wealthy the rich heiress was.

Back then, he hadn't fully disconnected from ordinary society.

Now, as he rode in an even more expensive top-tier G SUV, he felt nothing.

He had already embarked on a path that reached to the heavens; how could he focus on trivial matters like mansions and luxury cars?

Besides,

No matter how expensive a mansion is, could it compare to the price of Luoxian Mountain?

No matter how expensive a luxury car is, could it be more costly than a Divine Weapon?

Even, Lu Ran could own a Demon Cave-Galaxy Bay...

Unfortunately, the trip to Luoxian Mountain this time didn't go as planned.

Lu Ran only got to watch the flowers and sunset with his fiancée instead of accompanying her to see the starry sky that stretched across the night.

"Sister Ruyi has also advanced to the Jiang Realm, that's impressive."

Qiao Yuansi was sitting in the middle of the back seat, leaning against Guan Yiren as usual.

She turned her head to look at Lu Ran on the other side and whispered, "I miss her."

Lu Ran looked at the receding landscape outside the window, "We'll see how it goes. On the fifteenth day of the first lunar month, I'll try to bring her back to celebrate your birthday."

"Really?" Qiao Yuansi's eyes lit up.

"Yep," Lu Ran nodded.

Of course, it's true. After spending your birthday with you, I should be leaving.

No fixed return date.

Qiao Yuansi then asked, "By the way, bro, how far have you guys gotten?"

Lu Ran thought for a moment, "Discussing marriage."

"Wowwowwow~~~" Qiao Yuansi was full of excitement, letting out a cheerful shriek.

Lu Ran: "..."

Did she just get electrified?

Suddenly, Qiao Yuansi turned into a parrot, bobbing her little head, "Discussing marriage~"

Lu Ran was speechless.

A dark strain flashed across his face with a hint of red.

He thought he had thick skin, but since meeting Little Yuanxi, his face had turned red twice.

Lu Ran also fancied himself good with words.

But this sister...

Her little mouth was equally talented!

Guan Yiren looked at the mischievous Little Yuanxi with a touch of indulgence in her eyes.

She glanced covertly at Lu Ran.

Their first meeting was in the Soul-splitting Demon Cave, where her attitude shifted from doubt to affirmation.

The second meeting occurred in the Night Charm Demon Cave.

Her attitude evolved from acceptance to admiration and praise.

Now, upon this reunion, her heart held nothing but respect.

Lu Ran's level of excellence had far exceeded her expectations.

Too bad the good man is taken, and he's with his childhood sweetheart.

The noble and aloof disciple of Sword One had his own dignity and pride, naturally not indulging in any melodramatic acts.

Driven by emotion, stopped by propriety.

Everything as Wang Ling said, being able to meet him was already a fortune of three lifetimes.

Just admiring him from a distance, watching him ascend step by step in his career, was also a fortunate part of her life.

Unfortunately, Lu Ran also turned his head at that moment.

As their gazes met, Guan Yiren's eyes flashed with panic, and she immediately averted her gaze.

Lu Ran: "..."

Oh come on, sister cool.

Don't make a scene!

Being comrades is fine, but anything beyond that is out of the question!

However, in the future, he might try to convert her into a Ran Sect Believer?

The few teammates of Little Yuanxi didn't just represent themselves but huge underlying connections.

Lu Ran didn't think having a River Realm Great Power like Cheng Li under his command meant he could afford to look down on the human world.

On the contrary!

Those people might lead to some ancient monsters!

Anyone who's read a fantasy novel knows:

Old creatures are the most terrifying!

Little Yuanxi sharing life and death with her teammates was indeed a solid connection.

Wang Ling spoke softly, "Lu Tianjiao..."

"That's too polite a title," Lu Ran casually said, "If we're the same age, I'm actually older than you by birthday."

Wang Ling chuckled, "Oh? I'm born in the first lunar month."

Lu Ran looked out the window, "I too am born in the first lunar month, on the seventh day."

Wang Ling followed up eagerly, laughing, "Then you indeed are older... so, Brother Ran?"

"Smack!"

Niu Zhengzheng slapped Wang Ling on the back of his head, shouting in a hoarse voice, "Are you really comparing?"

You should call him Brother Ran no matter what! I do!"

Wang Ling: "..."

Guan Yiren frowned lightly, "He's driving."

Qiao Yuansi whispered, "My brother is so strong, we probably wouldn't die even if the car flipped."

Lu Ran: ????

Wang Ling spoke, "Being born on the seventh is great, it's 'Human Day.'"

A bit embarrassed, Niu Zhengzheng engaged in the conversation to ease the awkwardness, "What's Human Day?"

Qiao Yuansi giggled, "The seventh day of the first lunar month is Human Day, also known as Victory of Humanity Festival. According to legend, it's the birthday of the human race."

"Wow?" Niu Zhengzheng rubbed his head, "That's a great birthday, the birth of the human race."

Lu Ran was truly impressed.

Was that really my choice?

It was a collaborative decision made by mom and dad!

Amidst laughter and chit-chat, after several hours, the vehicle arrived at Rain Alley City.

The Lu siblings were dropped off at the base of their apartment building, and after arranging the next day's plans, Wang Ling drove away.

Lu Ran didn't need to worry about their accommodation; it had all been arranged in advance before the team decided to station in Rain Alley City.

"It's been so long since I've been back!"

Qiao Yuansi hugged Lu Ran's arm, looking at the apartment building in front of her.

Lu Ran was carrying Little Yuanxi's suitcase in one hand and said with a smile, "You were just a few years old when you left, do you still remember this place?"

"How could I forget?" Qiao Yuansi said, though she indeed had few memories.

When their parents divorced, Lu Ran was 5 and Lu Yuanxi was 4.

Though it's only an hour's high-speed train ride from Beijing to Rain Alley City,

It took more than ten years for Lu Yuanxi to make that short journey.

Of course, her return to this place wasn't just for the old house but for a person.

If not for Lu Ran's persistence with this place, she, the heiress from Beijing and the Qiao family, possibly never would have come back here.

Now, Lu Yuanxi stood in front of this building once again.

However, she was now the nearly 18-year-old Qiao Yuansi, a pampered young lady.

"Dad is so cold, not even inviting me over to play," Qiao Yuansi muttered quietly.

Lu Ran paused mid-step.

Qiao Yuansi, feeling panicked, clung tighter to Lu Ran's arm, "Bro~"

She wanted to say something but didn't know how to express it.

Lu Ran remained silent for a moment, then chuckled, "You're having such a good time in Beijing, he probably feels ashamed to bring you back to this small place."

Or perhaps, was it because mom stopped him?

Lu Ran suddenly remembered, this wasn't Qiao Yuansi's first time coming back to Rain Alley after over ten years.

Back then, she and her mom came for their father's memorial service.

However, that time, Qiao Yuansi didn't return to this family home.

"Let's not talk about this anymore." Qiao Yuansi felt guilty for her lack of filter.

Without thinking, she hugged Lu Ran's arm even tighter.

The moods of ordinary people need to be interpreted through observation.

But a Jiang Realm Great Power is different!

If Lu Ran's personal emotional fluctuations were too intense, they could directly affect the surrounding atmosphere.

This also objectively illustrates that the higher the strength realm of the human race, the closer their connection with the universe.

"Why are you hugging so tightly, I need to get the keys," Lu Ran said helplessly.

"Mm." Qiao Yuansi didn't alter her actions, seemingly afraid to let go.

Nevertheless, Lu Ran managed to open the door with one person hanging off his side.

As the security door opened, so seemed to open Qiao Yuansi's door of memories.

In the living room, there appeared to be two young children's ethereal forms, chasing and playing.

"Change shoes."

Lu Ran said softly, and Qiao Yuansi finally let go of his arm.

"Wear your Sister Ruyi's shoes," Lu Ran picked up a pair of women's slippers and instinctively squatted down to change her shoes.

He had already replaced one shoe before he realized!

The shoes indeed belonged to Ruyi.

But she wasn't here!

He looked up, met Qiao Yuansi's mischievously smiling face.

Her long eyelashes fluttered, smile beaming, "Having a girlfriend makes you different, huh? You're so caring now?"

Lu Ran rolled his eyes, resignedly continuing as he untied her Martin boots' laces,

"Your Sister Ruyi met our mom only once and took over this glorious tradition."

Qiao Yuansi's cheeks radiated joy, reveling in her brother's tender actions, "So if I refuse to change, I'd just stand there?"

Lu Ran huffed.

Qiao Yuansi playfully said, "I want that too~"

"You wish!" Lu Ran stood up and walked away, leaving the suitcase by the door.

"Hmph!" Qiao Yuansi wrinkled her little nose, stepping inside the house, looking around.

The furniture was new but arranged in the same positions.

Memories were easier to conjure.

"Bro!!"

"What's wrong?" Lu Ran appeared at the bedroom door, looking at the young girl.

Qiao Yuansi pointed with her slender jade finger towards a window in the living room, "I remember now, you stole my candy there!"

Lu Ran remembered briefly, his face reddened, but he retorted,

"You were just a four-year-old kid, wouldn't eating too many sweets hurt your teeth?"

Qiao Yuansi was shocked, "How old were you then? Weren't you just five?"

Lu Ran ducked into the bedroom, too embarrassed to say more.

It was somewhat shameful.

Qiao Yuansi pouted but eventually made her way to the master bedroom.

Back then, she had special privileges; she could sleep with her parents, unlike Lu Ran, who was relegated to the smaller bedroom.

Sleeping on a small bed, under a small blanket.

Vulnerable, pitiable, helpless... stealing candy to eat.

"It looks different, where's mom and dad's wedding photo?" Qiao Yuansi stepped into the master bedroom.

"I'll sleep in this room with your Sister Ruyi," Lu Ran pondered for a moment, then said, "For the next few days, you sleep here."

Qiao Yuansi plopped onto the large bed, "Is that alright?"

Lu Ran answered, "The smaller bedroom has the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture; it's not suitable for you to stay there."

"Oh, right!" Qiao Yuansi leapt up.

Lu Ran immediately stepped aside to clear the way, watching as Qiao Yuansi hurried to the smaller bedroom.

When he reached the smaller bedroom's door, he saw Qiao Yuansi kneeling before the shrine:

"Sorry to disturb you, Lord Immortal Sheep.

Thank you for always looking after my brother, for loving and protecting him..."

Lu Ran leaned against the door frame,

Watching her as she pressed her hands together in sincere prayer,

Listening as Little Yuanxi expressed gratitude on his behalf, asking the divine powers to continue their protection.

It seemed...

She was even more heartfelt than when worshiping the Divine-Lantern.

Gradually, a gentle smile appeared on Lu Ran's face.

Little Yuanxi,

In the future, there should also be a place for you among the myriad gods and demons.

I hope, as your brother, I am capable,

Rather than meeting a shattered fate.

Chapter 353: The summit of Martial Valor

The sun and moon revolved, and it was a clear morning on the fifteenth.

Inside the Lu residence,

Qiao Yuansi tiptoed out of the master bedroom, looking like a thief.

Her delicate bare feet made no sound, as she didn't even wear slippers for fear of making noise.

The mischievous smile on the young girl's face was irrepressible as she quietly approached the door of the small bedroom and gently turned the doorknob.

She had already imagined the scene where her brother would be startled and jump up...

"Ah!" Qiao Yuansi got a shock herself and hurriedly stepped back.

Had an eye just appeared from the crack of the door she just opened?

Early in the morning,

Why was someone still guarding the door?

"You scared me to death!" Qiao Yuansi puffed her cheeks angrily.

She had turned into a little pufferfish~

Lu Ran hummed softly to himself,

"Little lantern, how ridiculous."

He certainly hadn't been waiting there on purpose.

It was mainly because Lu Ran's ears were too sharp...

Even the Demon Lord of the River Realm couldn't bother me,

And you, a little lantern from the River Realm, think to surprise me with an attack?

"Go wash up, I'll make breakfast," Lu Ran glanced at Qiao Yuansi's attire and then averted his eyes.

Qiao Yuansi probably hadn't brought enough clothes to change into.

Currently, she was wearing a silk nightgown that belonged to Jiang Ruyi.

The problem was, Qiao Yuansi was shorter than Jiang Ruyi.

The nightgown that reached to the calves on the beautiful Ruyi, was already past Qiao Yuansi's ankles...

"Hmph!"

Qiao Yuansi wrinkled her nose at Lu Ran and, flicking her ponytail, turned and ran to the bathroom.

Lu Ran knocked his forehead frustratingly.

Darn it,

She reminded him of her again.

Also, with Little Yuansi being so mischievous, how could he not worry?

"Rosy clouds."

"Buzz~" On the wall, the Dawn Blade quivered lightly.

Lu Ran commanded, "Trouble you tonight to watch over her, just like last time at the Night Charm Demon Cave."

"Buzz!" The Dawn Blade trembled more emphatically, as if accepting a military order.

Lu Ran moved to his computer desk and casually picked up the Heavenly Star Saber.

"Tonight, I'll take Silent Night and you into battle with me," Lu Ran spun the saber.

The Heavenly Star Saber was silent, obviously not yet sentient.

The question loomed!

How to nurture a divine weapon?

Answer: Start with a name!

Lu Ran put down the weapon and headed straight to the kitchen.

As he prepared hot milk, fried eggs, and toast, his mind was full of the Heavenly Star Saber.

What would be a good name?

As the siblings were having breakfast, Qiao Yuansi noticed Lu Ran's preoccupation and immediately asked him about it.

When she heard about her brother's trouble with names, she burst into laughter.

Qiao Yuansi: "That's it?"

Lu Ran: "..."

"You wait, I'll casually come up with ten for you!" Qiao Yuansi said as she left the kitchen.

Watching her energetic departure, Lu Ran felt quite helpless.

When the girl returned, she held a cellphone in her hand,

Flipping through a fantasy novel and muttering, "Oh, my foolish brother~

You better listen good!

Chaotic Cloud! Soaring Illusion! Startled Rainbow! Obscuring Sun! Heavenly Punishment..."

"Stop, stop, stop!" Lu Ran quickly gestured with his hand, "Let's eat first."

Goodness~

Those names, truly, each was more domineering than the last.

Qiao Yuansi muttered, "I haven't even reached ten yet."

Lu Ran helplessly explained, "When I name the saber, it has to link with the Divine Weapon Domain.

Once the name is set, its growth path may also be set. Can't be reckless."

Qiao Yuansi kept looking at her cellphone, suddenly raising her head, her pretty face serious, word by word,

"Eight! Directions! Annihilation!"

Lu Ran was stunned.

No! What are you doing?

Your brother has a God Demon Sculpture Garden, and even I'm not that ruthless?

Eight Directions Annihilation?

If you stretch the meaning of Eight Directions, it seems you might also imply "all under heaven."

"How about it?" Qiao Yuansi was quite excited. "Tianchen Steel is top-notch material in Da Xia!

It's so hard and sharp, its destructive power so strong, it should be Eight Directions Anni... Mmm!"

Lu Ran stuffed a piece of toast into the pouting girl's mouth.

Qiao Yuansi, still with wide eyes, looked expectantly at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran added a fried egg to her plate: "I'll think about it some more."

Actually, he had some ideas.

He wanted to link this saber to the Divine Ruins.

Not only to pass the challenge in three months, but he also thought of using the saber's help to triumph mightily in the world beyond the Divine Ruins.

Then his sister comes up with "Ten Directions"!

Prestige jumped up just like that~

After breakfast, Lu Ran was washing dishes in the kitchen.

Suddenly, from the living room couch, his sister yelled, "Aiya!"

"What's wrong?"

"I missed something!" Qiao Yuansi, holding her cellphone, ran over, "I just found a proper term, Ten Directions Annihilation!"

Lu Ran: "..."

How did two more directions suddenly appear?

"It's a Buddhist term... Eh?" Qiao Yuansi looked at the caller ID on her screen and promptly answered, "Hello?"

Lu Ran, with his sharp ears, heard Wang Ling's voice on the other end.

"Okay! In ten minutes, we'll head out," Qiao Yuansi hung up the phone, "Brother, hurry up with the dishes, I'm going to change clothes!"

Saying this, Little Yuanxi dashed away like a whirlwind.

Lu Ran shook his head and smiled.

Indeed, the name of the saber is very prestigious.

But you also need to consider my Divine Weapon Domain!

Do you mean to say I need to annihilate all ten directions before the Heavenly Star Saber can advance to a divine weapon?

That's nonsense!

Ten minutes later.

The siblings, both dressed in sleek black battle attire and carrying their weapons, left their home.

Today's Rain Alley City enjoyed rare good weather, with no wind or snow.

In front of the apartment building, a large G car was conspicuously parked there, reflecting the grand style of the young masters from Beijing.

Normally on the fifteenth, Lu Ran would have walked.

But today was indeed special; Lu Ran's mission location was not in the West River area but at the City Center Square.

"Morning, Ran brother, Yuanxi," Wang Ling, looking out the car window, greeted them cheerfully.

"Is Yiren sister not coming?" Qiao Yuansi quickly got on the car.

Wang Ling: "Yiren and Old Niu are waiting for us at the Wu Lie Building."

These past two days, the trio from Beijing had been staying in the Wu Lie Building and had already familiarized themselves with several blocks near the City Center Square.

As Lu Ran got into the car, Wang Ling said, "By the way, brother Ran."

"Hmm?"

"My uncle is somewhat aloof, completely immersed in cultivation and not good at interacting with people. You might meet him, so I want to apologize in advance..."

Lu Ran smiled, "Your uncle is a comrade-in-arms, a senior, don't worry."

This Wang Ling, truly a meticulous person.

"Alright~" Wang Ling hit the gas pedal and the car drove out of the complex.

The journey was smooth, and the Moon Gazer team they encountered along the way, recognizing the license plate from Beijing, did not stop them.

Probably, they were already notified.

"Brother, how are you considering?" Qiao Yuansi looked at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran said, "Forget about ten directions or eight directions, let it be Eight Desolates."

"Eight Desolate Annihilation?" Qiao Yuanxi blinked.

Lu Ran nodded.

"Eight Desolates" also implies all directions, "all under heaven."

"Eight Desolates" can also denote some remote places.

For Lu Ran, the world behind the Divine Ruins was a distant place.

...

Soon, the vehicle arrived east of the Wu Lie Building and entered the parking area.

Everyone got out of the car in succession, and the Moon Gazer soldiers stationed in front of the building actually saluted Lu Ran.

"Lu Heavenly Pride!"

"Lu Heavenly Pride!"

The robust voices made Lu Ran a bit embarrassed.

This was an honor Lu Ran had never experienced before, but he was undoubtedly deserving of it.

On one hand, he had been promoted to the River Realm.

On the other hand, he had always fought valiantly for Rain Alley City, saving countless soldiers and civilians' lives.

He definitely deserved it!

Lu Ran was not military or police and did not have the corresponding status to return the salute, so he instead adopted the Immortal Sheep Sect's etiquette and cupped a fist towards the soldiers.

One of the Moon Gazer members continued respectfully,

"Captain Ge instructed that when Lu Heavenly Pride arrives, please come to the top floor for a talk."

"Alright." Lu Ran turned to look at Qiao Yuansi, "Do you want to come see?"

Qiao Yuanxi waved her hands quickly, "Nope! I'm going to find Yiren sister."

The youngsters from Beijing, though they could stay in the Wu Lie Building, did not have the privilege to enter the top floor.

"I'll be right down."

Lu Ran said casually, nodded to Wang Ling, and followed a Moon Gazer member through the main building entrance.

As he moved step by step, Lu Ran's gaze lingered slightly at a pillar on the first floor.

It had been cleaned spotlessly,

No more fresh blood on the ground,

No more mangled corpse of Hu Dingtian.

Suddenly, Lu Ran understood something.

Why some elderly can sit for an entire afternoon without moving.

Because they have experienced too much.

Wherever they look, they see memories.

The elevator reached the 68th floor, and Lu Ran stepped in.

Inside the vast space, many figures were busily engaged.

Many workstations, many phones and computers, and a wall filled with large screens.

On them were countless small squares, surveillance feeds from various parts of Rain Alley.

Was this the command center?

"Little Lu is here," Ge Bin spoke up and came forward to meet him.

One sentence made many people stop their tasks and look toward the elevator.

Gradually, the entire vast hall quieted down.

Countless fervent gazes fell on Lu Ran.

The soldiers silently welcomed another great power of the River Realm stepping into the very top floor of Wu Lie Building in Rain Alley City.

Unlike other external powers from the River Realm.

Lu Ran was from Rain Alley.

Born here, grew up here.

Fought here, step by step, he had reached this place.

Ge Bin: "Come, let me show you around."

Lu Ran habitually lowered his hat brim, "Sister Yuxiang said she particularly likes to look out from one spot."

Ge Bin smiled and pointed to a large floor-to-ceiling window far away, "Right there."

"Is the view good from there?"

"Yes, you can see the Wu Lie River."

Lu Ran nodded and walked over.

Through the large window, the desolate cityscape was fully visible.

Using his Extreme Vision, he followed the Wu Lie River to the abandoned neighborhood on its bank.

Looking down, Lu Ran took out his phone and dialed a number.

A few seconds later, a familiar female voice came through, "Little Lu Ran?"

"Guess where I am? Here's a hint, a place you've once stood."

The woman chuckled lightly, "On the bank of the Wu Lie River? You've asked me this before."

Lu Ran: "Not there."

A moment of silence on the other end, and then a surprised voice came, "Wu Lie Building? Have you been promoted to the River Realm?"

Lu Ran's lips curled slightly, "Eight days ago."

Not waiting for a response, Lu Ran continued, "You didn't lie to me. From here, looking down, people are indeed too small to see clearly."

The woman chuckled again, "Little Lu Ran, did you call me just for this?"

"As long as you didn't lie to me," Lu Ran, stubborn, abruptly hung up the phone.

You've been away from Rain Alley for too long.

Maybe, I just wanted to stabilize your mind.

Maybe, I wanted to bring you here, to reminisce.

"Step forward a bit more."

"What?" Lu Ran turned his head and saw Liu Yunlan.

Liu Yunlan, smiling, "Your sister was very carefree, liked to lean sideways against the window."

Lu Ran also smiled, "She really is unconventional."

While saying this, Lu Ran's body honestly followed.

He took a step forward, leaning sideways.

He wanted his gaze to reach far, to look at this city that had suffered so much.

Unexpectedly, at the window, Lu Ran saw his own transparent face.

Quite a Deng Yuxiang!

It had to be you!

Stepping atop this pinnacle of Wu Lie,

You looked, and it turns out you saw yourself!

Chapter 354: Treat others as human beings

Lu Ran looked at the image on the window for a long time.

When he came back to his senses, he was startled to find that Liu Yunlan was still standing not far behind him.

The deputy director of the Divine People Bureau of Yunshan City was waiting quietly...

Hmm, I must be quite the figure.

Feeling the glances from the soldiers around him, Lu Ran felt a bit embarrassed: "Aunt Liu."

"Clack, clack, clack."

The sound of high heels entered his ears.

Liu Yunlan, with her hands behind her back, took a few steps forward.

Lu Ran suddenly worried whether she would pull out a pair of handcuffs from behind...

After all, Liu Yunlan was wearing a uniform!

The attire of a Divine People enforcer wasn't too different from a police uniform, solemn and sacred, exuding an oppressive aura.

She had a slender figure, simple hair bun at the back of her head, and was indeed a middle-aged aunt, but there was a commanding presence in her demeanor.

Perhaps because they were of the same major realm, Liu Yunlan was not afraid of crushing Lu Ran, so she didn't restrain her aura.

Lu Ran was naturally gentle and humble.

Now, with Director Aunt at his side, he became even more well-behaved.

Lu Ran didn't know why he was afraid.

In any case... well, Lu Ran would also get nervous when meeting his homeroom teacher.

"Life Disciplined People of Daxia"

"The recording and communication equipment, Auntie has placed on the first floor for you."

Liu Yunlan stood alongside Lu Ran, looking down at the city filled with towering buildings, and continued:

"You want to participate in 'Heavenly Pride', but the top floor of Wu Lie Building is a work area, where filming is not allowed."

Lu Ran nodded immediately: "I understand, I won't stay here tonight, I will go down in a bit."

Liu Yunlan turned her head slightly, regarding the famous genius of Da Xia with her gaze.

She suddenly felt that it was the right choice to meet with Lu Ran early and have him call her "Aunt Liu."

Back then, Lu Ran wasn't Da Xia's number one Heavenly Pride.

What's more important was that back then, Lu Ran was still in the River Realm.

If it were now...

Liu Yunlan wasn't sure whether she would dare let him call her "aunt."

Lu Ran's meteoric rise was too ferocious!

Eight days ago,

Lu Ran ascended to the River Realm by the Wu Lie River, and his demeanor then had already amazed Liu Yunlan.

Now, just a mere eight days later,

when Lu Ran stood before her once again, he had undergone another transformation?!

Liu Yunlan's beautiful eyes sparkled continuously.

Indeed, even within the River Realm, degrees of nobility and respect could still exist.

Lu Ran avoided eye contact.

Man, this is awkward!

In the command center's solemn atmosphere,

under Director Liu's gaze, Lu Ran was already recalling all the misdeeds he had done in his life.

Not many, but deadly ones!

Even the God Demon Sculpture Garden alone was enough for Lu Ran to die ten thousand times.

"Your mentality has been well maintained," Liu Yunlan quietly commended.

Lu Ran looked out the window, observing the Moon Gazers on the streets, indeed as tiny as ants:

"I always remember the advice given by the Bureau."

"Hm?"

"Consider people as people."

"Hehe." Liu Yunlan chuckled and nodded, "Little Lu, while you still listen to what your Auntie says..."

Lu Ran interrupted: "Aunt Liu, regardless of strength level, you are a Divine People enforcer protecting the Rain Alley.

I respect you very much, and I take what you say to heart."

Hearing this, Liu Yunlan smile grew, quietly examining Lu Ran's profile.

After a long while, she advised: "Your achievements in the future will definitely not be just in the River Realm.

It's like the position you are in now.

The people in your eyes are destined to become increasingly insignificant.

So insignificant that their joy and sorrow, ideals, connections, and even lives will be meaningless to you."

"Will they?" Lu Ran frowned slightly and adjusted the focus of his eyes to look at the floor-to-ceiling windows in front of him.

So,

were Deng Yuxiang's eyes filled with only herself?

"Most likely they will." Liu Yunlan sighed softly, "I also hope that you can always maintain your humanity and original intent.

If you can't, just think of the law.

There will always be a stronger Divine People enforcer to make you pay for your actions."

Lu Ran just laughed: "Is there a possibility that I am the enforcer you're talking about?"

His joking words expressed his attitude.

Liu Yunlan was briefly taken aback, then she said with a smile:

"Well then, shall Auntie fetch you a uniform now?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Don't mess around, Aunt.

The kid just started his freshman year...

"Hehe~" Liu Yunlan reached out and patted Lu Ran's shoulder, "Let's go, Auntie will take you on a tour around here."

Liu Yunlan turned and left, her high heels clicking.

Lu Ran adjusted his mask and pressed down his cap brim, quietly following behind her.

The command center was huge, and Liu Yunlan gave a detailed introduction.

Wherever they went, people stood upright and saluted respectfully.

There was an exception though.

On the building's outer platform, Lu Ran saw a person sitting serenely.

A person devoid of life.

Wang Quan!

Wang Ling's uncle, a man under thirty who nevertheless appeared to be decrepit.

This is too much like the "Spear Emperor"!

The image of the Divine-Spear Emperor was that of an old man.

Lu Ran had seen the vague shadow of the Spear Emperor online.

As one of the only four First-class Gods of Da Xia, Spear Emperor's status was extraordinary, and his power was boundless!

However, his appearance and attire were not as flashy as other gods.

Spear Emperor had white hair and a disheveled beard, wore coarse hemp clothes, and held a rusty spear in his hand.

He had a serious, wrinkled face.

He looked just like a stubborn old man~

The Wang Quan in front of him had a young face, but his demeanor was very vicissitudinous.

He wore a black brocaded robe, simple yet exquisite in design, had scruffy facial hair, and kept a medium-length hairstyle.

What surprised Lu Ran more was the turbid look in Wang Quan's eyes.

If he had to judge based solely on Wang Quan's eyes, Lu Ran would really think this was an old man on the brink.

It was quite miraculous.

"Little Lu," Liu Yunlan introduced, "This is Mr. Wang Quan, who came all the way from Beijing to help us guard the Rain Alley."

"Mr. Wang, hello," Lu Ran said, looking at the man who was silently drinking before a small table.

His nose was sensitive; even on the building's outdoor platform, he could smell the scent of liquor.

Wang Quan turned his head, his movements sluggish as if weighed down by age.

His murky eyes fixed on Lu Ran for a long time without moving.

Perhaps it had been a long time since he had spoken.

The weather in the tenth lunar month was quite cold.

The atmosphere on the small platform was even colder.

Lu Ran was mentally prepared, for on his way here, Wang Ling, his big nephew, had already apologized on his uncle's behalf.

"Don't die."

Wang Quan spoke coldly, withdrew his scrutinizing gaze, and picked up a small wine gourd about the size of a palm and took a gulp.

Proud!

He was truly proud!

Strictly speaking, in terms of temperament, Wang Ling was an exception.

Because Divine-Spear Emperor was nothing but a proud, troublesome old man.

Or maybe it's that Wang Ling didn't have the capital to be arrogant in front of Lu Ran and his teammates, hence his smooth demeanor.

"Okay," Lu Ran smiled, feeling a sense of déjà vu with those words.

He had told Uncle Red Scarf·Chen Jing not to die on several occasions.

He never thought that one day, someone would throw those words back in his face.

Wang Quan, oh Wang Quan,

Don't fall into my hands tonight.

Otherwise, I'll toss these words right back at you!

"Let's go, Little Lu," Liu Yunlan softly patted Lu Ran's back as if to comfort him.

Lu Ran turned and strode away, casually saying: "Aunt Liu, is our Bureau so tight on funds?"

Liu Yunlan didn't understand: "What?"

Lu Ran: "You just let him drink dry?"

Could you not have given him some peanuts or fried fish to go with it?"

Wang Quan: "..."

He had been expressionless, but at these words, the corner of his mouth twitched.

Liu Yunlan's face showed a hint of annoyance, but she lightly patted Lu Ran's shoulder again: "Let's go."

Though it seemed reproaching, her attitude had become more affectionate.

Liu Yunlan hadn't heard such playful words for a long time.

Whether as a director or a Jiang Realm Great Power, everyone behaved with utmost reverence around her.

Even her own children were very formal in front of their mother.

Now that Lu Ran had spoken up, it reminded Liu Yunlan of the past, stirring up much "humanity."

In this world,

perhaps Lu Ran was the only young man who dared to joke with both Liu Yunlan and Wang Quan.

"Alright, Aunt Liu, I'm going to get my equipment," Lu Ran said.

Liu Yunlan hesitated for a moment, then followed Lu Ran into the elevator: "I'll take you."

"No need, Aunt Liu, stay here and take charge," Lu Ran insisted.

"I'm taking you," Liu Yunlan still swiped her card and closed the elevator doors, "Little Lu."

"Hm?"

"Mr. Wang Quan is a believer of the Spear Emperor; among those few friends of yours from Beijing, there are also followers of the Spear Emperor, you understand what I mean."

Lu Ran: "Evil Spear Emperor."

Liu Yunlan said "It's only a possibility, don't talk nonsense in front of the cameras," and then fell silent.

Not until the elevator reached the first floor did Liu Yunlan finally say: "Come for breakfast at the outdoor restaurant on the eleventh floor tomorrow morning."

"Okay, Aunt Liu."

Lu Ran bid farewell and took the equipment handed to him by a Moon Gazer staffer.

As he put on the headset and walked out the main building entrance, his teammates immediately approached.

"Bro~"

"Ran Bro!"

Lu Ran nodded with a smile, then saw Qiao Yuansi suddenly leap in front of him, spinning halfway around.

Behind her back, the Dawn Blade followed closely.

"Hehe~" Qiao Yuansi reached up to her shoulder and grabbed the hilt of the Dawn Blade, "Quick reflexes!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Dawn Blade: "..."

"Ran Bro, did you meet my uncle?" Wang Ling asked apologetically as he stepped forward.

Lu Ran: "Your uncle seems to have something on his mind."

Wang Ling was confused: "Huh?"

Lu Ran said with a smile: "Two hundred meters high, the wind isn't weak at the top of the building!

Your uncle is up there drinking in the northwest wind."

Wang Ling was clearly stumped: "Uh."

Guan Yiren snickered with a thawing frostiness, but soon resumed her ice-cold demeanor.

Lu Ran patted Wang Ling's shoulder: "If I get the chance tonight, I will meet with your uncle and help ease his worries."

Wang Ling opened his mouth, full of words he didn't dare to say.

Lu Ran was unaware that his live broadcast room was now in complete chaos!

The barrage went wild:

"Who are all these people?"

"Where is Ruyi sis? Ran, my Ruyi sis!"

"Is this sister a fairy? Is she interested in Ran Shen? She was cold all this time, but she smiled when she saw Ran!"

"Who is this pretty girl? What does she mean by calling him bro?"

"Oh my? She's even hugging Ran's arm now? Wow, she looks so sweet and cute when she smiles!"

"@Jiang Ruyi!! Where are you? Your home is being robbed!"

"Ahhh! My year-long pursuit of a sweet drama, and I wake up to BE?"

Chapter 355: nights, still long

Netizens naturally have their ways, and Qiao Yuansi's information was not hard to find.

Even Little Yuanxi was once reported on under the title of "Genius Girl."

At 16, she successfully Worship God!

Third-class God·Lantern Believer.

Later, she was admitted to the top academic institution in Da Xia—Beijing University.

Lu Ran's... biological sister!

Sister?

And a biological one at that?

This is big news!

Lu Ran's information had already been thoroughly dug up, and now, family members were matching up.

From this moment on, the live-streaming room that wailed to the skies abruptly changed its tone!

Just a second ago, people were still calling Lu Ran a "scumbag" and "Ran dog".

The next second, the barrage in the live-streaming room was all "Great Uncle," "Sorry Brother-in-law," "Big Brother Ran"...

Cheering enthusiastically.

Of course, there were still people holding grudges against Guan Yiren's appearance, eager to try.

Cursing Lu Ran for delaying a beautiful woman.

Disciples of Sword One should be aloof, like an iceberg, like a goddess, devoid of emotions.

And you made her laugh?

Ran dog, you really deserve to die!

Having Jiang Ruyi, you still went on to set fire to another's heart...

Lu Ran was unaware of these, only feeling a buzzing in his pocket.

"Wait a moment." Lu Ran nodded to the others and walked to the side to answer the phone, "Sister Xian'er?"

"Lu! Ran!!"

Lu Ran suddenly tilted his head, the girl's irate voice causing his head to ache.

He frowned, "What are you yelling for?"

At these words, Si Xianxian became even more irate: "I thought the teammates in 'Heavenly Pride' were fixed!

They can carry out missions with you! Why can't I?"

Lu Ran: ???

You didn't say you wanted to join 'Heavenly Pride'!

Lu Ran firmly rebutted, which set Si Xianxian off even more!

She yelled furiously, "You do the math, you do the calculation! How long has it been since you last looked for me?"

Si Xianxian exploded, and so did the live-streaming room.

No matter how angry the female voice was, people could still tell it sounded pleasant.

Added to these resentful yet aggrieved words, it was very evocative.

Was Lu Ran merely a scumbag?

He was outright heartless!

"Ran dog, can you even be considered human?"

"Sister Xian'er? Tsk tsk, just by the name, I bet she's prettier than Jiang Ruyi!"

@LoveWritingCultivation: "Some break up 8 times, some have been in love 5 times, some have been single all their lives [smile.jpg]"

"Damn, did we get an unexpected bonus?"

"How many 'good little sisters' do you have..."

Fortunately, Si Xianxian shot back:

"You don't look for me, and Ruyi tells me to stay put every day, neither of you takes me out!"

Nobody wants me! I freaking... might as well die!"

"Alright, alright." Lu Ran felt a headache coming on, "I'll call you tomorrow."

"Really?" Si Xianxian's voice softened considerably, sounding quite pitiful.

If it had been an ordinary girl capitulating like this, maybe it wouldn't have meant much.

But who was Si Xianxian?

A follower of the Fierce Heavenly believers!

For her to go from extremely irate to this soft...

It was nothing short of a miracle!

Lu Ran was indeed very busy, even with his biological sister Qiao Yuansi, only managing to chat once or twice a month.

However, Jiang Ruyi and the others maintained constant contact.

It seems Goddess Jiang hasn't neglected to "train" Sister Xian'er...

Lu Ran confirmed, "Yeah, if all goes well, I'll call you tomorrow."

Si Xianxian complained, "Don't jinx it; of course, everything will go smoothly for young master!"

"Borrowing your good luck then." Lu Ran chuckled, shaking his head and hanging up.

Thinking about it, since worshipping God in the lunar month of June until now, he hadn't looked for Si Xianxian.

Poor Lie Tian Girl,

She must have been really bottled up, huh?

This was a future believer of the Ran Sect, known through and through, and so obedient to both him and Jiang Ruyi.

He really should pay her some attention when he has the time.

Lu Ran approached his teammates, "Let's guard the square and take another stroll around the nearby streets while it's still daylight."

Naturally, no one objected, and Niu Zhengzheng, carrying a big axe, led the way.

For a brief moment, Lu Ran thought he saw Chang Ying~

Hold on!

Doesn't Chang Ying like brawny, beefy men?

Back in the day, Chang Ying made it clear to Lu Ran that she wasn't into his type.

Almost made Lu Ran die laughing!

Like I'm blind, like I'd be into you!

If I really liked that type, I'd summon a Barbaric Woman myself, wouldn't I?

Isn't she darker and bigger... uh, wilder and has longer legs than you?

Chang Ying also said something about living life once, and who knows when it might end, so she must find someone she truly likes.

So, should he pass on Niu Zhengzheng's contact information to Chang Ying?

Hmm... If these two behemoths combined, wouldn't they produce some talent-exploding monster?

As soon as the child is born,

it's likely to be reserved by a First-class God·Monk, right?

At the very least, they'd slip down to Second-class God·West Desolation Sect, wouldn't they?

Of course, they might just join the Ran Sect~

Caught up in his thoughts, Lu Ran felt his pocket vibrate again.

It wasn't a call, but a message.

Opening his phone, he saw that Jiang Ruyi had sent a message.

Jiang: "I've already scolded her, you focus on preparing for battle, protect your little sister. Turn off your phone, report back tomorrow safely."

Ran: "(~3~)♡"

The live-streaming room exploded again!

Lu Ran looked at his phone, and the camera mounted beside his head naturally captured the phone's screen.

"Scoundrel! You sure know how to create show effects, I'm freaking out!"

"I knew it, don't guess blindly, they are fine."

"Who? Who dares to insult my great uncle? Are you rebelling?"

"Just joking around, teasing Ran dog is enough, after all, this is Da Xia's number one pride! Rumor-mongering and slandering will really get you jail time~"

"Why does Ran Shen always wear a hat and mask?"

"What are these people even doing? Wearing cameras, why does no one dare look at Ran Shen? Don't they know who the main character is?"

Lu Ran was unaware of the stir in the channel.

He also didn't know that just by donning his equipment, he had taken countless viewers on an emotional roller coaster.

It's just lucky, the Heavenly Pride rankings don't involve internet scoring...

From dawn to nightfall.

Lu Ran followed the team from behind, walking the area around the square over and over again.

Central Square, easily accessible from all directions, is hard to defend.

But it lived up to the setup of this elite team.

Aside from Little Yuanxi being at River Realm·Fourth Rank, the other three were all at River Realm·Fifth Rank!

To be frank, Guan Yiren, Wang Ling, and others were also qualified for the Heavenly Pride.

It was only natural that Yuansi's mother selected top-notch teammates for her.

"It's almost time." Wang Ling checked his watch and looked up at the sky.

Guan Yiren softly said, "Yuanxi."

"Yes!" Qiao Yuansi understood and grabbed with a small hand.

An exquisite eight-faced lantern quietly came together.

Divine Technique·Miao Fire Cage!

Qiao Yuansi held the handle and gently pushed it upwards.

The Miao Fire Cage floated into the night sky and swiftly transformed in nature, becoming a Divine Technique·Bright Fire Cage.

Suddenly, a golden-red protective barrier cloaked everyone.

Lu Ran suddenly looked up and saw a gaunt figure appearing not far away in the air.

Evil Demon·Ghostly Eyes!

Lu Ran used Sound Positioning, guided by the hoarse roar of Ghostly Eyes, to lock onto the enemy.

The young masters and young ladies of Beijing also locked onto the enemy at the first instant.

Because the Ghostly Eyes was also clad in a golden-red protective barrier as it appeared.

Even amidst the neon lights of the square,

that golden-red barrier was too bright!

Qiao Yuansi's defensive technique turned into a "marking" skill, with an extraordinary effect!

"Whiz~ whiz~"

Guan Yiren raised her hand slightly, slender fingers pointing toward the Evil Demon, sending out a rapid stream of flying swords.

Instantly, the protective barrier was shattered.

Blood holes were punctured in the head, torso, and other vital parts of the Ghostly Eyes.

Whether it was a Ghostly Eyes, Red Eyes, or Purple Eyes didn't matter.

It didn't even have the chance to land before it was destroyed.

The follower of Sword One, coming to a small place like Rain Lane, was naturally a sign of condensation and talent.

Probably only special events could prevent this Beijing young lady from randomly slaying.

A few minutes went by, swords flew across the square.

Guan Yiren gently waved her fingers, one after another, the Evil Demons died under her sword.

Lu Ran could sense that this team was quite uncomfortable!

Both the level of the Evil Demons and the frequency of their appearance were frustratingly low compared to Beijing...

In the middle of the square,

Niu Zhengzheng, Wang Ling, and Qiao Yuansi were all standing there like fools.

Including Lu Ran, who became a mere decoration.

Guan Yiren seemed to have the vibe of a "high-level boss slaughtering in the newbie village."

Because she was standing too, and eventually stopped even moving her fingers.

Guan Yiren just occasionally turned, her gaze directing the flying swords to slaughter the Evil Demons.

Lu Ran was happy to take advantage, standing still, absorbing the souls of various Evil Demons.

Suddenly, Guan Yiren turned to Lu Ran, hesitant to speak.

In the frame, Qiao Yuansi clung cutely to Lu Ran's arm, seemingly very secure.

Lu Ran was still wearing a mask, with the brim of his hat pressed down low, so not even his eyes could be seen.

Guan Yiren wasn't sure if she should continue clearing the minions.

After all, Lu Ran was still participating in "Heavenly Pride"!

Could he afford to keep just standing there, risking falling out of the rankings?

If so, her sin would be huge!

Whether netizens would forgive her was not Guan Yiren's concern.

The key was, how would she face the pride of Da Xia in the future?

Lu Ran noticed the girl's gaze and whispered, "Fight normally, in line with your squad's usual style."

The night has only just begun.

Don't forget, this is Rain Lane, the so-called cursed land.

It will equally educate every proud person."

Guan Yiren slightly arched an eyebrow, a faint smile appearing on her face.

You're... not angry, that's good.

Guan Yiren lifted her eyelids, seeking out the enemies marked by the golden-red light, continuing to slaughter.

"Ding~ Ding~ Ding!"

Finally, there was an Evil Demon that wasn't instantly killed—a Grinning Demon!

It wore a bamboo hat and was draped in straw, its body suddenly petrified, successfully deflecting a barrage of flying swords.

At last, a River Realm Evil Demon had arrived!

Although it was not a top contender, it finally gave the teammates a chance to move.

Guan Yiren sighed in relief, commanding her flying swords elsewhere, and called out a name, "Wang Ling."

"Present!" Wang Ling responded instantly, grabbing his spear and charging forward.

The stone aspect of the Grinning Demon didn't last long.

Lu Ran pinched the brim of his hat, lifting it slightly, just in time to see Wang Ling shrouded in mist.

"Whoo!"

Wang Ling was twenty to thirty meters away from the Grinning Demon.

But his figure disappeared suddenly, leaving only the mist behind.

When he reappeared, he was already behind the Grinning Demon, and his spear pierced through the enemy's head.

His timing was so precise, and his attack so swift that it impressed Lu Ran.

Spear Withering Divine Skill·Cloud Piercing Shadow!

A First-class God follower, not one for jokes.

The Spear Withering school was also a rare school in Da Xia's divine sects, possessing the Instant Teleportation Technique!

Lu Ran softly said, "Your new teammate isn't bad, very precise in timing control."

"Hmm." Qiao Yuansi hugged Lu Ran's arm tightly.

She had imagined countless times defending the city at fifteen alongside her brother.

Everything was as she expected.

Just like on every Lunar New Year's fifteenth day, on her birthday:

The security her mother could provide, her brother could also provide!

As for the sword cultivator clearing minions, the spear cultivator darting around, and the silly old bull still standing...

They're just so-so.

Brother is the most powerful!

My foolish and cold-hearted brother~

Even though you didn't do anything, how can you make me feel so safe?

Qiao Yuansi tilted her head lightly, leaning on Lu Ran's arm.

Warm at her side, and the rosy clouds at her back warmed her too.

Ah, so happy~

Chapter 356: Doggy, you've changed!

The night grew thicker, the battle ever fiercer.

As time passed, the frequency of the Evil Demons appearing in the world increased, and the intensity on the battlefield surged dramatically.

The command gradually tilted toward Qiao Yuansi's head.

Because Guan, Niu, and Wang formed an equilateral triangle with their positions, surrounding the Lu siblings in the center.

The plaza area was accessible from all sides, easy to attack but hard to defend.

The three generals, naturally, each defended one side.

Lu Ran was slightly dazed.

During the college entrance examination night, he and his squad had faced the enemy in the same manner.

At that time, Jiang, Chang, and Deng formed the triangle, with Tian Tian sitting in the center.

At this moment, looking around, Lu Ran felt a strong sense of the team "updating and iterating."

The combat power of Guan, Niu, and Wang was much, much stronger than that of Jiang, Chang, and Deng...

"Watch the formation!" Qiao Yuansi rarely serious, commanded in her delicate voice.

"Yes!"

From a distance, Wang Ling responded properly.

He retreated several steps, leaving behind a faint mist where he had been.

When Wang Ling reappeared, he had retreated more than ten meters and continued to move back.

While strolling leisurely, Wang Ling suddenly thrust his spear to the left front!

Spear Withering Divine Skill-Cloud Cutting Spear Technique!

"Clang! Clang! Clang..."

In an instant, countless spears converged into a torrent, hammering at the Evil Demon!

These spears, clearly made of mist, emitted the sound of steel clashing, chilling and thrilling to the ear.

The poor Bamboo Demon Clan.

Despite their large numbers, they were all swallowed by the "spear torrent."

Riddled with holes, wood chips flying everywhere.

At this point, Wang Ling, retreating for the third time, returned to his position as per the commander's order.

His poise in every move earned continual admiration.

It's no wonder the followers of the First-class God are always envied by others.

Look at Gun Corpse Believers·Wang Ling!

Then look at Sword One Believers·Guan Yiren who slaughters all around!

So-called "high and low, noble and humble," at the moment of Worshipping God, was already decided.

Or should it be said, from the moment of birth, one's destiny is already set?

What was more heart-wrenching for the audience...

Niu Zhengzheng, being such a character, as a disciple of the Second-class God·West Desert, would be the absolute core strength in any team!

The ace of aces!

But in this team, Niu Zhengzheng appeared too "simple."

He was burly and fierce, his axe whirling fiercely with an air of a man who could hold the pass alone.

But that seemed to be all.

After all, Niu Zhengzheng's counterparts,

were the elusive, spear stream-like Wang Ling;

were the sword-wielding, enemy-slaying Guan Yiren.

Such scenes, naturally presented to the audience through cameras.

People had long been accustomed to the configuration of Lu Ran, Jiang Ruyi, Sun Zhengfang, and Wei Long.

And now, looking at this team, they were overwhelmed:

"This... what the hell?"

"Stealing the show, aren't they? Are they stealing the show?"

"Worthy of being an elite team from the top institution, so damn impressive, a slap in the face with awesomeness!"

"This is what a top-tier team looks like! In Beijing University, this team is known as the 'first echelon of Jiang Xia'!"

"As expected, coming to Rain Alley City was indeed a waste of their talent."

"Woohoo~ Sister Yiren is so sublime and cool, don't step on the Straw Demon, step on me..."

"Honey, quick give my uncle an order! Stop hugging him, or we'll lose all our points!"

"Ran Shen is so warm! Sister wants to hug, let her hug, he doesn't care about anything else."

"Hmph, wait until the points are distributed, you'll have your turn to cry!"

In fact, Lu Ran was also killing enemies.

He dispatched the Dawn Blade and Silent Night Blade to patch up the leaks and maintain the stability of the triangle.

"Bullhead! Bullhead!" Qiao Yuansi suddenly shouted, "Northeast corner of the plaza, a Barbaric Woman! Go, now!"

While speaking, Qiao Yuansi shook Lu Ran's arm: "Bro~ go cover Bullhead's position."

The clingy Little Yuanxi,

finally let go of her brother.

"Okay." Lu Ran immediately recalled the Dawn Blade, signaled it to guard Qiao Yuansi, and then strode toward Niu Zhengzheng.

"Haha, Brother Ran! Thanks, man!"

Niu Zhengzheng smashed his axe into the ground.

With a "boom," the earth trembled, and the plaza's stone tiles cracked in all directions.

West Desolate Divine Skill·Shattering Eight Desolates!

A group of Evil Dogs that surrounded him and nipped at him were immediately blasted away.

Niu Zhengzheng ignored the Evil Dogs and charged straight toward the Barbaric Woman.

The Barbaric Woman Clan was a sworn enemy of the West Desolate sect!

Killing one was rewarded!

"Arf!"

"Arf! Arf!!"

Furious beyond measure, the Evil Dogs wouldn't allow Niu Zhengzheng to withdraw from battle?

"Baa~"

Suddenly, a weak bleating sound diverted the attention of the Evil Dog Clan.

The sound was faint, imperceptible to all other beings on the battlefield.

But these fine dogs had ears that were sharper than any!

Suddenly, 7 or 8 Evil Dogs turned their heads toward Lu Ran.

Two of them, red-eyed and reckless, directly pounced.

Lu Ran held the Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade (Heavenly Star Saber), continued advancing at the same pace, and flung a swing of the blade before him.

Flowers of blades on the inside and outside, smooth as drifting clouds and flowing water.

The inner blade flower decapitated one dog, the outer blade flower ripped through the body of another.

Lu Ran kept moving forward!

Successive strikes of Evil Technique·Evil Tooth fell on Lu Ran, but couldn't even scratch the Jiang Pin·Water Armor's defense!

Lu Ran didn't even feel it.

Two dog corpses split before him, landed heavily and slid across the ground, dragging long trails of blood.

"Baa~"

Inside the mask, a faint bleat was heard again.

The Evil Dog pack was tightly controlled, with no chance for fear or escape, only a desire to tear Lu Ran to pieces.

Lu Ran marched forward, confronting the pack.

For a moment, there were cries of agony, and dog meat flew about.

Eight Desolates Annihilation?

Lu Ran stood in the center of the dog pack, and indeed, the Evil Dogs in all directions were annihilated.

"Big brother is amazing!"

From not too far away, Qiao Yuansi's voice was brimming with vigor.

It seemed entirely out of place compared to this horrifying, bloodthirsty night.

"Just focus on commanding," Lu Ran casually remarked, shaking off the blood from his blade.

This Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade,

to slay merely dogs...

Lu Ran suddenly understood why the Jiang Realm Great Powers were stationed at the top floor of the Wu Lie Building, instead of leading teams to battle in the city.

Indeed, it felt like a humiliation to lower one's status.

The problem was, the more the Human Clan's powers killed, the safer the other Moon Gazers were!

Hmm... truly conflicting.

Better use the concept of "sitting in the army, defending the whole city" as a fig leaf.

Lu Ran tried to dispel this sense of humiliation.

Lest it affect his state of mind.

Compared to the other Human Clan's powers, Lu Ran had a natural advantage.

After all, the path for Lu Ran to climb higher was dependent on Rain Alley City's existence.

From this perspective, even if he were of the Sea Realm, patrolling around the city and squashing ants with each step could be justified.

"Ah ah ah ah!"

A sudden angry female voice drew Lu Ran's attention.

He turned his head to look at the northeast corner of the plaza, only to see dust and sand filling the air.

Barbaric vs West Desolate!

Foeman met, their eyes blazing with hatred!

It was clear that this Barbaric Woman was of no low status, as she wielded a River Realm·Third Rank Barbaric Evil Technique—the Wilderness Desert Sea!

The Barbaric Woman,

indeed deserved the nickname "The Great Chang Ying"!

Seductive and wild~

She lifted one long leg, stomping down hard with her combat boot.

"Pfft!!"

Countless grains of sand churned out from under her feet.

The sand became like a sea, surging in all directions, but mainly charging straight ahead.

"Child's play!"

Niu Zhengzheng roared, stomping his foot to the ground as well.

West Desolate Divine Skill·West Desolate Sand Sea!

Who says the West Desolate followers are simple?

It's just that they haven't met the right opponent yet.

Niu Zhengzheng's feet, too, stirred up billowing sand, the desert sea roiling.

Two waves of sand, like ocean waves, fiercely collided with each other.

Both sides locked in a relentless struggle.

"Ah ah ah!"

The Great Chang Ying, roaring with rage, swung her battle axe fiercely forward.

And it was a series of swings!

Barbaric Evil Technique·Sand Blade!

Arcs of blades made of fine sand and gravel, forcibly sliced through the waves of sand and aimed straight for Niu Zhengzheng.

Niu Zhengzheng marched forward, with no intention of dodging.

Just as the sharp blade arcs were about to cleave into him...

West Desolate Divine Skill·Western Wilderness Body!

In a mere instant, Niu Zhengzheng transformed from a human body of flesh and blood into a body of sand.

A body made of sand?

It sounded so soft and fragile.

But it was not!

Divine Technique·Western Wilderness Body, in terms of defensive power, could even compare to the Martial Monk Divine Skill·Dharma Protector Golden Body!

"Screech! Screech! Screech..."

A series of sharp axe blade arcs, time and again slashed at Niu Zhengzheng, leaving behind marks.

After seven strikes, the moment the Barbaric Woman paused, Niu Zhengzheng's body of sand exploded.

Countless grains of sand scattered in every direction, and his physical body reemerged!

He stomped, and with the axe in hand, he cleaved at the Barbaric Woman:

"Hahahaha! Kill!!!"

His boisterous laughter matched the wild chuckles of the Barbaric Woman Clan perfectly.

Seeing this, Lu Ran couldn't help but inwardly sigh.

If only the Moon Gazer squad of Rain Alley City were disciples of first and second-class gods.

Ha,

what a dream.

Lu Ran sighed again; Little Yuanxi's team was notable even within Beijing University.

Each of the teammates shone brightly.

Such Heaven's Chosen, why would they come to the small and broken Rain Alley, to be just another ordinary Moon Gazer.

"Brother!"

"Lu Ran!" Qiao Yuansi and Guan Yiren called out one after another.

"It's nothing." Lu Ran raised his left hand, grabbing the descending hoof firmly.

He was indeed watching the "Double Desolates Showdown."

But how could Lu Ran not react to the Soul-splitting Demon charging at him?

The Soul-splitting Demon was huge, majestic, and powerful.

The hoof it raised and was about to stomp down seemed laden with a thousand pounds of force!

However...

Lu Ran just raised his hand and effortlessly caught the hoof.

Visually, it was explosive!

The three-meter-long barbaric bull was weighty.

The frail and thin human figure seemed so weak and small in comparison.

But the enormous Soul-splitting Demon was caught by the leg and couldn't stomp down another half inch.

"Moo! Moo~Moo Moo!!"

An ugly, ferocious cow face appeared on the screen, bellowing in frustration.

Watching it, people were filled with dread!

They also witnessed as Lu Ran plunged his blade into the bull's belly and cut upward.

The scene was bloody and gory.

The mighty Evil Demon carved open.

The weak Human Clan, nonchalant.

The barrage of comments in the stream briefly thinned then surged wildly:

"This... this is too domineering!"

"He's turned into a different person, my sister can't take it!"

"Isn't he a changed man? Wake up, friends! Ran Shen is already a Jiang Realm Great Power!"

"In reality, I'd kneel before you and revere you as Ran Shen, but this is the internet, where everyone is of the Sea Realm. You still need more training."

"Doggy, you've changed. You're no longer the scattered Ran who dodges everywhere and runs around in disgrace..."

"Brother~ stop killing the cows, woohoo~ kill me~~~"

Chapter 357: Goodbye, Mom

The young ladies and gentlemen of Beijing had gone mad with killing.

Lu Ran was having a blast!

He was milking the working class dry, the kind that bloated the mind and gut~

For others, slaying evil demons was about reducing threats and accumulating combat achievements.

But for Lu Ran,

The dead demons were all spritely souls!

The central square was already well-connected, and with the Bright Fire Cages constantly floating in the night sky, they cast a bright glow on both humans and demons.

Such a dazzling sight, how could it not attract more demons to battle?

Lu Ran even, through an invisible earpiece, notified the Moon Gazers in several neighborhoods nearby:

Don't hold back, let all the demons come here!

The gifted students from Beijing University were genuinely there to warm hearts, not to do a show project!

Lu Ran wasn't a leader of the Divine People Bureau, but within Rain Alley City, Lu Tianjiao's prestige was sky-high!

It wasn't an exaggeration to say he had a "call and they would come" level of influence.

Moreover, the command center had also issued orders, requesting all troops to coordinate with Lu Tianjiao in combat.

With that, the pressure on the Moon Gazer squads drastically decreased!

They were still fighting, only now, they allowed the demons to be drawn to the square, no longer pursuing or encircling them.

Lu Ran enjoyed himself even more~

Souls after souls stacked up and crazily rushed into Lu Ran's eyes.

In Lu Ran's mind, the Soul Splitting Demon Evil Sculpture buzzed and trembled again.

"Tsk, another promotion."

Lu Ran murmured to himself as the Soul Splitting Demon Evil Sculpture advanced to River Realm·Fifth Rank!

Sadly, the Soul-splitting Demon Clan had no grand skills to learn after reaching the River Realm.

Just like the Evil Dogs, half a dozen of one and six of the other.

As outstanding as the Lantern Sect~

If the Evil Sculpture reached the River Realm, Lu Ran could indeed create Soul Splitting Demon underlings.

But Lu Ran already had powerful servants like Yan Zhi, Night Charm, and Ghost General.

Summoning a Soul Splitting Demon seemed a bit superfluous?

Hmm... maybe lend it to Ghost General for a ride?

Riding a horse and riding a bull,

Aren't much different!

The greater meaning in developing Evil Sculpture was to enhance the related Evil Techniques in grade.

That was what Lu Ran needed the most!

Demons like Fog Shadow Man, Ghostly Eyes Ghost, and Blood Disaster Dogs were all ready.

Lu Ran could activate them at any time.

But he did not.

In the Mist Realm, Lu Ran could activate one evil demon sculpture.

He chose the Evil Dog.

In the Stream Realm, Lu Ran could activate two evil demon sculptures.

He chose the Soul Splitting Demon and the Black Lantern.

When he reached the River Realm, the activation slots reached five.

Lu Ran chose Night Charm, Yan Zhi, Ghost General, Evil Mirror Demon.

And next month during training, Lu Ran was going to activate Evil Sculpture·Jade-faced Snake!

Now, Lu Ran had reached the River Realm.

The number of Evil Sculpture activations had increased by eight!

Lu Ran was not in a rush to use them up.

Those Evil Sculptures and numerous Evil Techniques were sufficient for Lu Ran to focus his studies on and seamlessly integrate for a long time.

Once he obtained the Jade-faced Snake and paired it with the Purification Skill, his arsenal of skills would be virtually flawless.

Next on his developmental path,

He could adjust to filling out his servant team.

Ever since last time, when Lu Ran went on a mission with Night Charm and Ghost General, he realized a serious issue!

Not every demon could keep up with Night Charm's pace!

Lu Ran still remembered, such a big Ghost General, miserably squatting by the lake, like a 300-pound baby.

Fame and self-esteem...

Were all trampled by Night Charm!

Of course, it was mainly because Ghost General had no horse...

If taking Night Charm as the standard, assembling a servant team, he had to be very selective.

The Barbaric Woman was a true weapon of mass destruction!

Niu Zhengzheng became fierce as a bear, also lasting a long while with the Barbaric Woman, eventually using human wit to defeat her.

So in the servant squad, "Big Chang Ying" definitely had a place.

Tangled Silk Shadow was great too.

Sister Tangled Silk with her fiery red lips, a calamity for the country.

Not only was she beautiful, but she was also ruthless at heart!

Dressed in a ragged sexy red dress, standing incredibly stable!

Prison Sky Demon could also be scheduled.

After all, Lu Ran was still dreaming of having "eight hands"...

As for the ready Straw Demon, Ghost Moon Fox, and Bamboo Demons, Lu Ran wasn't very interested in activating them.

Tonight, the possible incoming Evil Demon-Evil Spear Emperor was also added to Lu Ran's servant team roster.

The Evil Spear Emperor was no joke!

Perfect defense, spears raining down.

The key was he was a Human-shaped Demon, extremely intelligent!

Reportedly, his intelligence was unmatched even by humanoid creatures like Night Charm and Ghost General.

Thinking about it, it made sense.

The arch-nemesis of a First-class God naturally had to be top-notch in all aspects.

From this perspective, Evil Spear Emperor was not just a servant, but could also become the leader of the servant squad.

While Lu Ran pondered, he voraciously devoured various evil demon souls.

Too bad, people couldn't see what was happening in another dimension.

They didn't know how awesome Lu Ran felt!

If Forget Spring Believer·Li Rouyin were here, she'd probably grab a string of copper coins and furiously compete with Lu Ran!

"Phew~"

Lu Ran exhaled lightly and shook the Eight Desolates in his hand.

Looking around, corpses strewn everywhere.

Demons from all directions converged on the square, naturally making it a river of blood.

"Black Lantern, Yuansi." Guan Yiren suddenly spoke.

In the night sky, several long swords deliberately avoided the four Black Lanterns.

"I'm on it!" Qiao Yuansi hurriedly said.

Lantern Sect and Black Lantern Clan, arch-enemies!

It was evident the squad coordinated very well, already beyond the "survival" level.

The Beijing squad was not just killing enemies but was also sharing resources!

This was something Deng Tian and others couldn't compare to, they were still at the resistance level.

"Bro, watch me!"

As Qiao Yuansi spoke, a Miao Fire Cage appeared in his hands and soared into the night sky.

The only downside was that this octagonal lantern was a bit slow.

It was one of the few shortcomings of the Lantern Sect—lacking firepower.

But apart from firepower, Qiao Yuansi could almost do everything!

Lighting, purification, defense, marking, healing, control...

Lantern Believers were the kings of support!

Qiao Yuansi had earned his place in the squad, not just by family background.

Wang Ling shouted loudly, "Command, I'm a bit slow...there, done."

Slow,

because the Black Lamp Evil Technique·Yin Fire Cage slowed down the enemies exposed to light.

Done,

because of the Lantern Divine Skill·Holy Fire Cage!

Its glow purified an area, eliminating all abnormal conditions within the region.

Even the smoke released by the Black Lanterns was forcibly dispersed by the light!

The Black Lantern Clan was completely repressed, with no place to hide.

As a River Realm Believer, Qiao Yuansi could have three lanterns at the same time.

In the night sky, a Bright Fire Cage that marked living beings.

One flying towards Wang Ling to purify the area, and a Holy Fire Cage.

Another octagonal lantern, flying straight towards the Black Lantern group.

Qiao Yuansi's thoughts shifted!

The Basic Divine Skill·Marvelous Fire Cage changed its nature, becoming the attack Divine Technique·Blazing Fire Cage!

"Bang!"

The Blazing Fire Cage exploded gloriously.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

The Black Lanterns triggered a chain reaction, bursting in succession.

Qiao Yuansi immediately turned his head to look at Lu Ran, his eyes sparkling.

Meanwhile, Lu Ran was covering the mouth of Ghostly Eyes Ghost to prevent it from spitting venom.

The Eight Desolates in his hand instinctively swept across its neck.

The mummified body collapsed, and Lu Ran also gave a thumbs up to Little Yuansi.

"Giggle~" Qiao Yuansi's eyes curved into two beautiful crescents.

If Beijing was hell difficulty.

Then Rain Alley City was purely a newbie village.

Worse still, there was a full-level big shot in the newbie village, protected by a divine weapon.

Miss Qiao knew her mindset was off.

But it couldn't be helped!

Beside her brother, she rarely felt any danger.

Qiao Yuansi even fell in love with this place, or more precisely, she fell in love with being by Lu Ran's side.

Mom didn't belong exclusively to her.

Mom belonged to Sword One, to Sword Heaven, to Beijing.

But brother,

Seemed like he could be hers!

"Ran Bro!" Niu Zhengzheng laughed loudly, "Isn't it said that Rain Alley educates every arrogant person?"

It's almost eleven o'clock..."

Guan Yiren shouted sharply, her voice icy: "Shut up!"

Niu Zhengzheng's laughter stopped abruptly: "Uh."

Lu Ran just smiled.

He knew Niu Zhengzheng meant no harm.

After all, everyone was wearing cameras; Niu Zhengzheng's words were purely for triggering himself.

So this rash man was just straightforward and couldn't hold his tongue.

Especially after fighting for several hours, with boiling fighting spirit and excited emotions, he spoke without thinking.

"Eh?" Qiao Yuansi suddenly exclaimed.

Everyone looked in the direction she pointed, then followed her little hand to look up into the night sky.

"Ah?!" Wang Ling's body jolted, his eyes gleaming!

What did he see?

Evil Demon·Evil Spear Emperor?!

Such a rare demon was seldom seen even in Beijing!

Coincidence?

Or a vanguard?

Was the Evil Spear Emperor Clan really going to invade Rain Alley?

Five cameras turned towards the night sky, stunning countless people of Da Xia.

The chat was a deluge!

"Holy shit, why's it so cool? Why?!"

"It's clearly an evil demon, yet dares to claim 'emperor'? Ridiculous, kill its mother!"

"Kill it, Ran General! From now on, you're Emperor Ran!"

"General Ran! If not now, when?"

"General Ran, smash the cup as a signal! Let's revolt!"

Lu Ran was unaware of the turmoil in the live broadcast room; at that moment, his attention was all on the Evil Spear Emperor.

The Evil Spear Emperor appeared like a young man, quite handsome.

His eyes were pure black, without any whites, eerie and terrifying.

He held a golden spear, draped in a magnificent black and gold brocade robe, his long hair tied up, sporting a dark golden crown.

Imposing!

Overwhelming!

The Evil Demon Clan·Evil Spear Emperor!

"Ran Bro, command!" Wang Ling quickly spoke up, "May I..."

"Go ahead, bro, you take the skull's position." Qiao Yuansi directly commanded.

Wang Ling didn't hesitate and thrust a spear into the night sky!

Divine Technique-Cloud Cutting Spear Technique!

"Clang! Clang! Clang..."

Countless long spears, transformed into a fierce torrent, lunged toward the night sky.

"Hmph." The Evil Spear Emperor snorted coldly, stepping onto a black cloud, soaring across.

Evil Technique-Evil Cloud Stepping Mist!

At the same time, he pointed with his golden spear.

A mass of dark clouds gathered in the night sky, churning violently.

Numerous black mist-formed long spears emerged from the clouds, their tips hanging overhead.

It sent shivers down one's spine!

Evil Technique·Evil Cloud Spear Technique!

This was the Evil Technique adapted by the Evil Spear Emperor Clan in River Realm·Third Rank.

Due to the black clouds spreading and flowing unpredictably, it was difficult to define at first glance whether this technique was Jiang Grade or River Grade!

Qiao Yuansi's expression changed: "Dodge, quick—ugh."

A figure appeared with the mist, flashing by.

Before Qiao Yuansi could finish speaking, Lu Ran had already scooped her up and dashed to the edge of the square.

In an instant, the two had left the area covered by the dark clouds.

She reached out her little hand to touch her abdomen, grabbing her brother's arm.

Qiao Yuansi ordinarily never cursed.

But at that moment, a loud scream echoed in her heart:

What the fuck is called SECURITY?!

Goodbye, Mom.

Goodbye, Immortal Scenic Garden.

From now on, I'm a Rain Alley person...

Chapter 358: Ascended to the Throne!

Spears fell like rain, leaving a scene of devastation in their wake.

Guan Yiren sped away on her flying sword, her movements incredibly swift as she made her escape.

Niu Zhengzheng, already on the edge of the battlefield, stomped the ground beneath him, and his burly frame shot towards the road, like a cannonball hitting pavement.

Wang Ling weaved through the chaos, skillfully dodging the most dangerous attacks, and quickly retreated to the edge of the plaza.

The Human Clan squad each displayed their magical abilities, timely evading the onslaught.

But the Evil Demons weren't so fortunate!

Formed of black fog, the spears poured down like torrential rain, piercing through the bodies of countless Evil Demons.

The plaza suffered the same fate.

The black spear rainstorm completely devastated the ground. The sound of shattered stone tiles was relentless.

"Whimper~"

"Hiss..."

"AAAAHHHHH!!!" The piercing screams of agony made everyone's blood run cold.

Lu Ran, however, was overjoyed.

As the saying goes: these are all perfectly good, fresh Dead Souls!

It doesn't matter who killed the Evil Demons.

What matters is,

after you die, you belong to me~

"How terrifying," whispered Qiao Yuansi, looking at the ghastly sight.

As the Evil Technique·Evil Cloud Spear Technique unfolded, people could judge by the range of the spell, the intensity, and the density of the spear rain.

This was a River Grade Evil Technique!

Chances were, this Evil Spear Emperor was from the River Realm.

Precision in wording was necessary here—"chances were."

Because the Evil Spear Emperor had quite the cunning mind!

He had the ability to play mind games and deceive others. Perhaps he had purposefully lowered the quality of the Evil Technique to lull the Human Clan into complacency.

But then again, the Evil Spear Emperor most likely wouldn't bother with such tricks against Wang Ling.

This is where racial characteristics came into play!

The clansmen of the Evil Spear Emperor held themselves in high esteem, proud and arrogant.

If he was truly a River Realm Demon Monarch, he would consider it beneath him to scheme against the mere humans of the River Grade.

At the very least, you'd have to catch the Evil Spear Emperor's full attention, perhaps even be above his level, to be worthy of his direct gaze.

Such is their arrogance!

Moreover, this trait of "only I am worthy" from the Evil Spear Emperor also greatly relieved the Human Clan.

Such a formidable creature, if they could unite...

The military might not even be able to defend against the Demon Cave!

"Phew~"

Lu Ran raised his eyebrows slightly.

Above, the Evil Spear Emperor, standing on a black cloud, charged straight towards Wang Ling.

The techniques of the Evil Spear Emperor Clan and the Qiang Xiu sect shared many similarities.

But the core Instant Teleportation Technique was absent in the Evil Spear Emperor.

Perhaps,

that's one of the reasons the Human Clan hasn't been wiped out yet.

Imagine the thick-headed Evil Dog Clan combined with Instant Teleportation—the threat would skyrocket!

If the Evil Spear Emperor had Instant Teleportation...

The Human Clan would truly have nowhere to run!

"Die!" Wang Ling thrust his spear once more.

The spear stream roared, heading straight for the Evil Spear Emperor.

"Heh," sneered the Evil Spear Emperor.

His peerless face held a dismissive derision—quite the air of a scornful prince, no?

This was Lu Ran's first in-person sighting of the Evil Spear Emperor, and he couldn't help but think less of his opponent...

Suddenly, the Evil Spear Emperor leaned to the left.

The black cloud beneath him shifted sideways, moving with exceptional speed, easily dodging the spear stream.

Lucky that the cloud was black!

Had it been white, would it not have turned into the Cloud Somersault of a certain Great Sage?

"TAH!" roared Wang Ling, ascending step by step.

The Gun Corpse Believers too could ride the clouds.

However, Wang Ling had to climb into the sky on his own.

With each step he took, a small white cloud would appear beneath his foot.

In a flash, the two combatants were locked in a fierce battle in the night sky!

"Your teammate has quite the skill in martial arts, doesn't he?"

Lu Ran, with eyes and ears open in all directions, controlled the Silent Night Blade with his mind, cutting down Evil Demons nearby.

"It's a family technique, very powerful," replied Qiao Yuansi, her little hand still resting on her lower abdomen, clutching Lu Ran's arm.

Sensing that her brother wanted to withdraw his arm, she suddenly held on tighter.

"Yuansi?" Lu Ran questioned.

Qiao Yuansi pouted but remained silent.

She knew she shouldn't do this, but...

Being in her brother's arms was just too reassuring!

You see, right before their eyes, was a plaza being destroyed, covered with limbs and flesh.

Such a horrifying scene could instill panic in anyone.

And oddly, Qiao Yuansi discovered she wasn't really scared or worried at all?

After a few seconds, her rational side won over, and she finally let go of Lu Ran's arm.

No one else noticed this detail.

After all, their attention was mostly fixed on the battle above.

The duel of the spears had everyone on edge and thoroughly exhilarated.

"Instant Teleportation, ah, continuous Instant Teleportation! It's simply a dream technique!"

"That Qiang Xiu Disciple is not doing so well, his attacks are ferocious, but he can't break through."

"Where's Ran Shen? Go for it!"

"General Ran is clearing out the minions there."

"What? Ran Shen is still farming?"

"In a life-or-death fight between bitter enemies, isn't it inappropriate for Ran to interfere? Plus, there are quite a few Evil Demons around... OH SHIT!"

"No, no!!!"

In the night sky, the Evil Spear Emperor unexpectedly stabbed through Wang Ling's heart!

Along with the protective shield from the Bright Fire Cage, Wang Ling's water armor, and even his heart, all were punctured at once?

Yes, and no!

Indeed, the shield provided by the Bright Fire Cage was shattered by the gold spear.

But Wang Ling had intentionally canceled his water armor, allowing the Evil Spear Emperor to pierce his chest.

Using this opportunity, Wang Ling finally thrust his spear towards the Evil Spear Emperor's face!

Was Wang Ling trading his life for a chance to strike?

No, his body turned into mist!

To be precise, Wang Ling's chest turned into thin wisps of fog.

Spear Withering Divine Skill-Shattering Cloud Body!

The Martial Monk Believers could turn their bodies into a Golden Body, and the West Desolation Believers could turn their bodies into a Sand Body.

But the Qiang Xiu Believers,

could beseech the gods to turn a part of their bodies, temporarily, into a Cloud Body!

This technique was for survival.

But it could also be used to achieve a surprise victory!

"Die!"

Wang Ling's eyes were filled with rage as his Heavenly Star Spear, with a sound that split the air, aimed directly at his enemy's face.

"Heh," the Evil Spear Emperor laughed coldly again.

Full of mockery.

It was maddening to hear!

Suddenly, the Evil Spear Emperor's body tilted back, with the black cloud beneath him shifting backward.

The tip of the Heavenly Star Spear, just an inch from the Evil Spear Emperor's nose.

Yet, unable to penetrate.

Such precision in controlling the distance almost felt humiliating.

With a sneer on his face, the Evil Spear Emperor seemed to be toying with the Human Clan.

In the night sky,

Wang Ling thrust his spear forward, while the Evil Spear Emperor moved backward on his cloud.

"Phew~"

The Evil Spear Emperor's extravagant black and golden robe swished forward.

The Evil Technique·Evil Cloud Robe!

This defensive garment was now being used to swat flies.

"AAAH!!"

Wang Ling screamed as he was struck and sent flying.

His chest had turned to mist, not the entire body.

"Thunk!" The sound reverberated as Wang Ling crashed heavily into the ground, dust billowing and stones scattering.

"Wang Ling!"

"Skull!" Shouted Niu and Qiao in horror.

Guan Yiren's eyes narrowed as her quick hands drew a swift sword flower.

"Whoosh~ Whoosh~"

Two frosty sword energies aimed straight at the Evil Spear Emperor.

The Evil Spear Emperor flying backward suddenly stalled, then sharply dived down, aiming for his mortal enemy.

"Whirl~"

His beautiful and luxurious black and gold robe swayed, withstanding the frosty sword energies.

"Huh?"

The Evil Spear Emperor's expression changed as he abruptly tilted his head.

A keen martial instinct saved his life!

"Whoosh~"

A Black Luminous Stone Blade whizzed past his neck.

A strand of pitch-black hair was severed, drifting away with the wind.

"Shhh—"

With the sound of Immortal Fog spraying, a figure slid back, stopping in front of Wang Ling.

The Evil Spear Emperor halted abruptly, looking at the Human Clan youth below.

Dressed in black, with a cap and a mask, holding a gleaming Heavenly Star Blade.

"Brother..." Qiao Yuansi clenched her small fists, gazing at her brother from a distance.

Guan Yiren and Niu Zhengzheng breathed a sigh of relief.

Still fighting, they kept a close watch on the situation.

"Ran, Ran bro."

Wang Ling lay in the rubble, blood spilling from his mouth as he looked up at the figure blocking his path.

Lu Ran wanted to say, "You were too hasty."

Considering "Heavenly Pride," he didn't point it out then and there.

If someone pulled the footage frame by frame, it would be enough for Wang Ling to handle.

If Lu Ran openly criticized the fight, Wang Ling's pressure would become immense.

Just now, Wang Ling could have escaped.

Regroup and seek another opportunity.

But in the blink of an eye, the temptation of the Evil Demon, so close to his reach, ensnared Wang Ling's heart completely...

The Evil Spear Emperor was indeed formidable!

Controlling the distance, with just an inch between his nose and the spear tip, he hooked Wang Ling like a hooked fish...

The live broadcast was chaos:

"Damn, I nearly keeled over in shock; that robe slap almost hit me in the face!"

"As expected of the Spear Emperor, too strong!"

"Wuwuwu~ General Ran finally arrived!"

"Kill him! Kill him! What's this high and mighty, cold and heartless emperor act? Just looking at him annoys me!"

"Rebellion! General Ran! Let's rise up!"

"Da."

That was the sound of Lu Ran tapping the ground lightly with the Eight Desolate Blade.

The Evil Spear Emperor's indifferent face finally changed.

The hat and mask obscured most of the Human Clan youth's features.

Even more eerie, this Human Clan youth was even closing his eyes?

The Evil Spear Emperor, unable to observe, could only sense the young man's formidable presence and felt his strength was immense!

The proud Evil Spear Emperor,

for the first time since his existence, seriously acknowledged an opponent.

The unapproachable Evil Spear Emperor,

in response to Lu Ran's provocative actions, chose to land on the ground.

Lu Ran nodded silently to himself.

The Evil Spear Emperor did possess a shrewd mind, but he also had an imperial dignity that can't be affronted.

Pride,

ultimately, was your downfall.

"Shh—"

Lu Ran surged forward with mist swirling beneath his feet.

Although the Evil Spear Emperor had landed on the ground, the black cloud beneath him lingered.

He promptly retreated, and his trailing robe lashed fiercely at Lu Ran.

Another fly-swat?

"Slap!"

The Evil Spear Emperor's eyes widened in shock: !!!

The tail of the Evil Cloud Robe was actually caught by the Human Clan youth?

This required not only precise timing but also overwhelming strength!

And in the moment the Evil Spear Emperor was caught off guard, the mist under Lu Ran churned.

"Shh—"

Stream Grade-Immortal Hoof,

turned into Jiang Pin-Immortal Hoof!

The godly technique, spanning two Grades, gave Lu Ran's speed a sudden boost!

With one hand grabbing the tail of the robe and lightly tugging, the other holding the blade at his side, silhouettes intertwined in an instant.

Ran Sect Blade Technique First Form-Moon Inquiry!

In the last moment, the Evil Spear Emperor saw Lu Ran's opening eyes.

In his dying breath, a glance that spans eternity.

The Evil Spear Emperor saw the stars of the night sky, saw the sunset's afterglow.

He saw eyes that belonged neither to Wuxi River nor to the ordinary beings.

And in those tranquil and serene pupils, he saw his own face contorting in horror...

"Whoosh!"

With a flash, the blade fell, and the head soared.

Eternity, to the Evil Spear Emperor.

To the world, it was but two seconds, perhaps just one.

The decapitated Spear Emperor lay on his back, sliding away.

The lofty head spilled blood in the air.

Guan, Niu, Wang, and Qiao stared at Lu Ran in stunned silence, watching his bowed head flick the blood droplets from his blade.

In the live broadcast, a brief stasis ensued, then it utterly exploded:

"No way—dude!!!"

"The Qiang Xiu Disciple doesn't care for face?"

"Instant kill? Just... just killed with one strike?"

"What happened to the Qiang Xiu Disciple? Didn't our Ran Shen also just dismantle the Martial Monk Believer?"

"This world, may not be impossible to be surname Ran!"

"Bro, his surname is Lu..."

"Say no more. Ascend to power today!"

"Ascend to power!!!"

Chapter 359: dew?

"Brother!!" Qiao Yuanxi exclaimed with exuberant vitality.

The Dawn Blade floating behind her continued to fend off stray arrows on the battlefield and slaughtered any petty thieves getting close.

Qiao Yuanxi, however, was scurrying over with her little short legs fluttering rapidly.

Strictly speaking, those were not short legs.

After all, Qiao Yuanxi was 1.68m tall with a good body proportion—she should be considered long-legged.

But she was, after all, the younger sister.

When Lu Ran looked at Little Yuanxi, he always saw her through a filter.

He always felt that she was still the little shadow following him around in their younger days.

"You're too amazing! Wait a moment, I'll praise you more in a bit, haha!"

Qiao Yuanxi hurried past Lu Ran.

She quickly summoned a Bright Fire Cage and transformed its nature.

Healing class Divine Technique·Bright Fire Cage!

The eight lanterns turned a firefly green, sprinkling twinkling stars as they drifted towards Wang Ling.

"I'm fine."

Wang Ling quickly got to his feet.

His robe's tail had smacked him into disarray, and the impact into the ground had indeed been harsh.

But Wang Ling had not sustained a fatal injury.

Even when he was lying in the pit, he had witnessed Lu Ran's valor straight through.

Lu Ran... was too cool!

In every movement, he exuded the demeanor of a powerful being, which filled Wang Ling with admiration.

Is this the strength of a Jiang Realm Great Power?

If Lu Ran had taken the initiative to kill the enemy right from the start, Wang Ling's impression might not have been so vivid.

The key was that Wang Ling had tried his best and ultimately come back empty-handed, even getting tricked and injured in the process.

Then look at Lu Ran!

A wisp of fog, a blade in hand.

In one encounter, the clouds dispersed and the smoke vanished!

Wang Ling was certainly top-tier among his peers.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to get into Beijing University, nor would he have joined this elite team.

The moment Wang Ling got injured, he immediately realized his mistake!

He had been overeager for quick success!

He wanted rewards.

And to make his mark in front of the whole world.

The combination of factors led to a slight deviation in his mentality.

The fearsome Evil Spear Emperor had seized on this moment of Wang Ling's impatience to gain the upper hand.

While introspecting, Wang Ling also deciphered the key to Lu Ran's enemy-slaying technique.

Two characters: Pace!

"Thank you, Brother Ran." Wang Ling's face was extremely solemn as he spoke seriously.

The formidable Gun Corpse Believers showed not a hint of arrogance, nor the shame of being rebuked; instead, their attitude was extremely sincere!

That thanks, to the ears of ordinary people, was an acknowledgment for Lu Ran helping out of a tight spot.

But it also held another meaning:

Thanking Lu Ran for the lesson given!

Even Lu Ran himself was unaware of this.

At this moment, Lu Ran, while controlling the Silent Night Blade to kill enemies, glanced at Wang Ling.

The other's skinny body stood straight; even though his mouth was bloody and his appearance was ragged, his aura was more like that of a resilient pine.

Lu Ran nodded slightly but said nothing.

His prestige was evident, and any word from him could lead to a significant change in pace.

Wang Ling had come for the reward,

and the young masters and ladies of Beijing had come to make a name for themselves.

Lu Ran was happy to oblige and help them out, after all, if they developed well, Qiao Yuanxi would be even better off.

Lu Ran just hadn't expected Wang Ling's gaze to be so fervent.

What's the matter?

You're not falling for me, are you?

And there's Guan Yiren over there, what are you always sneaking glances at?

I've been wearing my hat and mask the whole time, isn't that enough? Must I close my eyes too?

Well then... mhm, I'll just close them.

"Brother~"

Qiao Yuanxi, seeing her teammate unharmed, placed the Bright Fire Cage next to the injured person and scurried over.

"Brother... Eh?" Qiao Yuanxi looked up at Lu Ran and blinked, "Why are you asleep?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Is that even human language?

Qiao Yuanxi surveyed the battlefield, applying Bright Fire Cages as defense shields for her teammates while simultaneously disabling some of the Evil Demons' defenses.

The Divine Technique·Bright Fire Cage was extremely versatile.

Whether to provide a target with defense was up to the caster to decide.

That's why there had been no golden-red light on the Evil Spear Emperor just now.

As Qiao Yuanxi cast her spell, she excitedly said, "Brother, you're so cool! Even cooler than the Evil Spear Emperor!"

Lu Ran replied with a smile, "I'm from the Jiang Realm; he's from the River Realm.

If I were to fight back and forth with the Evil Spear Emperor, the people of Da Xia wouldn't agree."

Qiao Yuanxi's eyes gleamed mischievously, "I'm talking about your looks!"

Lu Ran accepted the challenge with a nod, deeming it correct, "Well indeed~"

In matters of appearance, it was pretty much a draw.

The Evil Spear Emperor leaned more towards handsome.

Lu Ran, on the other hand, veered more towards valiant.

But when it comes to temperament,

no matter how lofty and arrogant the Evil Spear Emperor was, he couldn't compare to Lu Ran's Immortal appearance.

Netizens were not fortunate enough to see the whole of Lu Ran's true face.

But Qiao Yuanxi had witnessed it all in person while at home these past two days.

"Have you really become so vain?" Qiao Yuanxi pouted.

The sibling exchange reached the ears of countless households.

On this dangerous and deadly battlefield, the banter between siblings was like a spring breeze, comforting people's hearts.

It also gave the world an unprecedented feeling.

One must know that in other channels, the Heavenly Prides and their teammates were bravely fighting, stirring people's blood to boil.

But at Lu Ran's location...

Why did it feel a bit heartwarming?

Totally off the normal path!

Last season's "Heavenly Pride" was the same: Lu Ran single-handedly repelled the Night of Ghosts, then ran off to the shelter to sleep.

While others continued to fight through the bloodshed, Lu Ran switched to a sleep stream.

And sleeping wasn't enough,

the beautiful Jiang kept watch for a whole night by the bed, making the dogs wail in distress.

This...

"The sister is right! Your sister-in-law also thinks your brother is the most handsome!"

"Sis, pull down his mask and let your sister-in-law take a look~"

"The Evil Emperor is dead, Long live Emperor Ran!"

"Killing just a River Grade Evil Spear Emperor and you're Emperor Ran now? You fans are shameless, aren't you?"

"Wait! What's that sound? Holy crap?"

"Is that an alarm?"

"Wuu~~~Wuu~Wuu~~~Wuu~"

A series of deep alarm sounds echoed through Rain Alley City, causing everyone's hearts to tighten.

Lu Ran's brow furrowed as he listened to the orders coming through his earpiece and quickly surveyed his surroundings.

"Contract! Tighten the formation!"

Qiao Yuanxi's voice was urgent as she immediately issued orders.

The deep alarm sounds were oppressive on the heart.

The long and short of it, Night of Ghosts!

"I'm returning to the jungle position," Lu Ran said softly, patting Qiao Yuanxi's back.

He was comforting his sister, but also entrusting the Dawn Blade.

Lu Ran's gaze was fixed on the street to the left of the Wu Lie Building, where a tall and handsome man appeared.

The Evil Demon·Evil Spear Emperor!

Here they come.

They have arrived.

Bodies full of life, carrying palatable souls, came to the human world for a feast.

"Zi—"

Lu Ran stepped into the swirling mist below, heading straight for battle.

Before reaching the River Realm, Lu Ran hoped to slay as many enemies as possible, preserving his life.

Now?

What he saw,

were souls waiting to be reaped.

What he saw,

was an emperor who would eventually kneel at his feet, bowing in submission.

"Hmm?"

The young and handsome emperor, with a slight frown, sensed the fierce approach of the human youth.

The Evil Spear Emperor didn't take things lightly!

The intuition of the strong compelled him to take the opponent seriously, his golden spear swinging out and spreading a swath of black fog.

Evil Technique-Evil Cloud Entanglement!

Three wisps of black fog moved with a will of their own, like living creatures, like venomous snakes with malice.

This technique was full of evil nature!

Once entangled, the target would be bound hand and foot and rendered immobile.

And the streaks of black fog could even seep through watery armor and penetrate into the target's body, disrupting the flow of Divine Power and consequently interfering with the target's ability to cast spells!

"Zi—"

Lu Ran suddenly bent down and ducked his head, his speed surged!

This move was clearly beyond the Evil Spear Emperor's expectations.

As the three eager black fog snakes lunged forth, they couldn't react in time to bite downwards; Lu Ran had already darted past from below.

The Evil Spear Emperor's face changed, and he retreated into the clouds, soaring towards the upper night sky.

"Zi—"

Mists swirled beneath Lu Ran's feet.

He was capable of speeding up even now?!

Yes,

from Stream Grade to River Grade.

"Hmph!"

The Evil Spear Emperor snorted coldly, flying backwards into the night, holding his spear as if ready to strike with three more black fogs.

"Zi—"

The Evil Spear Emperor's face stiffened: !!!

Lu Ran's feet exploded with power as he soared upward!

River Grade-Immortal Hoof was clearly not Lu Ran's limit.

The Vast River,

possessed the Jiang Pin Immortal Hoof!

Three strides and one leap.

Especially the last leap into the night sky, at a speed that was downright shocking!

Chasing the wind, streaming like clouds.

Figures intersected, hands raised, and blades fell.

Lu Ran looked towards the landing point in mid-air and turned around.

At the third floor of a commercial building, Lu Ran landed steadily on the wall, looking at another hastily assembled figure in the air, he didn't hesitate—Immortal Fog arose again!

This time, he didn't need several strides.

The moment the Evil Spear Emperor materialized,

the time for the Eight Desolate Blade to behead!

The audience in front of the screens were dumbstruck!

The name Evil Spear Emperor, of course, was given by the Human Clan and was very meticulously chosen.

The character "Emperor" not only represented the Evil Demon's inherent nature.

But also signified that the clan excelled in martial prowess, being a master of spear techniques!

The problem was,

this formidable Evil Spear Emperor, in front of Lu Ran, why did he seem like a bamboo demon spirit?

Anyway, it's all in one encounter!

No difference!

"I thought, that Soul-destroying Strike was the peak, but I didn't realize it was just the beginning..."

"When I saw you, you were already dead..."

"Too fast, Ran Dog! Really too fast, slow down, I can't take it anymore!"

"No! Where am I? I was just at Wu Lie Building, why have I run up to the bank door?"

"Show? The second they show up, they're dead!"

"Hehe~ Just kidding! They're dead even if they don't show~"

Meanwhile, in the center of the square.

The four people tightening their formation were bewildered as they looked at the Immortal Fog enveloping the square.

The speed of Jiang Grade-Immortal Hoof was so fast they could barely see with their naked eyes!

Only the trails of Immortal Fog,

outlined the trajectory of Lu Ran's movements.

Wherever he passed, there were sure to be corpses.

The newly-promoted Jiang Realm Lu Ran seldom dodged.

As long as the Evil Spear Emperor didn't release the black fog immediately,

whether it was his billowing robe or his thrusting long spear, Lu Ran just casually brushed it aside...

Wang Ling: "..."

I feel numb.

I mean!

How am I going to seek a reward now?

Of course, Wang Ling knew in his heart that the presence of such a powerful Evil Demon for even a second longer could cause devastating damage to the buildings!

Lu Ran was willing to do a favor, leading people onto "Heavenly Pride," but all of this was predicated on protecting Rain Alley.

So, Lu Ran would not deliberately overlook an enemy within his line of sight.

The Night of Ghosts still had a long way to go!

With the lessons learned, Wang Ling calmed down, knowing he would find an opportunity.

In his field of vision, Lu Ran suddenly stopped and looked up into the night sky.

Another Evil Spear Emperor, standing on dark clouds and looking down furiously and surprisingly at Lu Ran below.

"Come down."

Lu Ran beckoned to the Evil Spear Emperor.

In the face of absolute strength, the Evil Spear Emperor lost the demeanor befitting his imperial status.

He didn't come down.

Instead, he directly summoned dark clouds, determined to use thousands of long spears to pierce Lu Ran to death.

Lu Ran grinned, the Evil Spear Emperor Clan might be defensively strong as hell, but bleating like sheep won't work.

From afar, Wang Ling nodded quietly.

Right, Brother Ran can't fly.

I'll go kill the ones in the sky in a bit!

"Zi!"

Wang Ling's face stiffened!

A dark figure appeared in the night sky, the long spear pierced through the Evil Cloud Robe, penetrating the Evil Spear Emperor's chest, lifting him high.

Gun Corpse Believers·Wang Quan!

His feet rested on two small white clouds, lifting the Evil Demon carcass, and looked down at Lu Ran below.

Lu Ran tilted his hat, looking at the rugged, bearded, and long-haired man with a weathered look.

"Huh~"

The next moment, Wang Quan moved like a ghost.

His figure seemed to appear all around the square!

Sky and ground, north, south, east, and west.

Covering the entire area of the square.

It even gave the illusion that there were several Wang Quans present at the same time.

Wang Ling was almost in tears!

Uncle, uncle...

It's me, your dear nephew.

Chapter 360: I said it!

Lu Ran observed for a moment and keenly detected a pattern.

The Divine Technique·Cloud Piercing Shadow, also known as Instant Teleportation, actually had a "casting wind-up"!

Every time before Wang Quan shuttled through space, he would either take a step in one direction or his body would slightly lean.

No matter how brief or subtle the wind-up motion for the casting was, it was real.

With Lu Ran's observational skills,

he could naturally predict the direction of Wang Quan's shuttle.

In that case, was the Evil Dog Evil Skill·Evil Shadow Flash superior to the Divine Technique·Cloud Piercing Shadow?

When the slim dogs activated Instant Teleportation, there was no indication of movement at all.

"Um," Lu Ran nodded secretly to himself.

Case closed!

The disciples of Gun Ruined were inferior to dogs!

Round that off, and it means the disciples of Gun Ruined are worse than me... eh?

Something felt odd.

Not important!

Lu Ran's gaze extended far, observing all around.

On this side of the square, with Jiang Realm Great Power·Wang Quan in place, there was nothing to worry about for the time being.

Of course, Lu Ran wasn't idle; his gaze sharpened, spotting clouds gathering in the sky not far away.

How could that be allowed?

"Ziii—"

Immortal Fog surged under Lu Ran's feet, with full power on!

The street scenery flew by on both sides as Lu Ran took the people of Da Xia on a roller-coaster ride once again.

"Be careful!"

"I'll pin down the Evil Spear Emperor! You hold the umbrella!" a disciple from the Desert Drum order shouted from the top of a four-story building.

Beside the man, a woman from the Moon Gazer tribe immediately opened a light red oil-paper umbrella.

The paper umbrella was light and as thin as a cicada's wings.

It was printed with beautiful flowers, full of charm.

Clearly, this one was a Third-class God·Flower Holder Believer!

In this small Rain Alley City, such believers were rare.

Probably new on the job?

"Don't knock!!"

A voice traveled from far to near, carrying a trace of authority.

The Desert Drum believer held a drumstick, pausing his action and quickly looking over to see a figure rushing towards him at high speed.

Lu Tianjiao?

The Desert Drum disciple wasn't the least bit annoyed but rather overjoyed.

In this cursed land, there existed someone unique.

His mere presence could calm the heart and greatly boost the morale of the entire team!

Lu Ran!

Da Xia's number one Heavenly Pride!

The uncrowned king of Rain Alley City!

To put it bluntly: even if Liu Yunlan and Ge Bin came, they would not have such a strong effect.

"I need to borrow your umbrella!"

Lu Ran's voice grew from distant to near.

Before the Moon Gazer woman could react, the oil-paper umbrella in her hand had already been borrowed.

"Whoosh!"

A figure rushed past with a gale.

She quickly looked up, only to see Lu Ran already streaking diagonally across the night sky!

"Lu Ran..."

The Desert Drum disciple's eyes were fervent.

The Flower Holder disciple's eyes were burning with passion too.

In the eyes of the Moon Gazers, Lu Ran, holding the oil-paper umbrella, and brandishing the Eight Desolate Annihilation, charged at the Evil Spear Emperor in the sky.

His hat was long gone, with no clue as to where it fell.

Only the black mask remained on his face, his short and disheveled hair fluttering around.

Above his head were rolling dark clouds.

They were dense and sharp spear tips!

So, was Lu Ran planning to use the oil-paper umbrella to fend off the spears raining down?

The Moon Gazer woman instinctively cast magic to pour Divine Power into the oil-paper umbrella, ensuring the umbrella in Lu Ran's hand wouldn't shatter.

Her first choice was not to protect herself or to open another umbrella?

You should know, the Moon Gazers were also within the range of the dark clouds!

"Hm?"

The Evil Spear Emperor's eyebrows slightly furrowed, and he turned his gaze towards the approaching figure.

The fearsome aura of the human youth prevented the Evil Spear Emperor from being complacent.

He stood on a black cloud, suddenly shifting several meters to the side.

At the same time, the Evil Spear Emperor gripped the Dark Gold Spear, sweeping it fiercely across.

As the saying goes, "an inch longer, an inch stronger!"

The 2.5-meter-long spear could naturally bisect Lu Ran at the waist!

But then, Lu Ran changed his movements!

The oil-paper umbrella in his hand transformed into a small night sky boat.

"Ziii—"

Lu Ran stepped on the paper umbrella, Immortal Fog billowing under his feet, and made a sharp change of direction, charging straight at the Evil Spear Emperor!

Evil Spear Emperor: !!!

The sweeping spear was easily parried with one hand.

Figures crossed paths.

The sharp Eight Desolate cut down a head.

The momentum of the rolling dark clouds eased, and the spear tips within the clouds shattered one after another.

"Ha ha!" The Desert Drum believer laughed heartily, his gusto no less than that of a Red Scarf believer.

He clenched his drumstick and pounded fiercely on the large drum in front of him.

This was to celebrate for Lu Ran, as well as to lift spirits and inspire courage!

"Boom!"

"Hisss..." Lu Ran drew in a cold breath, his expression somewhat ugly.

His head was buzzing!

Brother,

didn't I tell you not to knock...

The Evil Spear Emperor couldn't kill me, but you Desert Drum and Jade Flute believers might beat me to death!

"Ziii—"

Lu Ran rapidly fled, leaving behind only a quickly retreating silhouette to several people.

To the Moon Gazers, Lu Ran was the epitome of suaveness!

Having finished the task, he left without a second thought.

Only Ran himself knew that he was nearly dazed from the shock.

He had to leave this place of conflict quickly.

There was no helping it; the Jiang Grade·Evil Sense was just too sensitive.

He finally understood the sensation those slim dogs felt when they heard thunder several months ago when he killed the Evil Dog from the Jiang Realm.

Truly bittersweet~

"Wow, Ran is really fast! If only my girlfriend could shop this quickly~"

"Which street is this, where am I?"

"Why stay here to be a little Heavenly Pride when you could be delivering takeout and making a name for yourself?"

"I can't take it anymore; I'd rather go see my sister-in-law."

"Ran Shen is so doting on his sister, leaving both Divine Weapons for her, wuwu~ I want a brother like that too!"

Meanwhile, on the north side of the square.

Lu Ran finally stopped, and his eyes transformed into a pair of horizontal pupils.

Divine Technique·Pupil of the Netherworld!

Behind Lu Ran stood a headless corpse.

The Dead Soul of the Evil Spear Emperor was automatically detained.

As the body of the Evil Spear Emperor disintegrated into mist, Lu Ran also put the Divine Power Pearl around his neck to good use, replenishing energy.

In his view, the Beijing team was bravely fighting the enemy.

With Wang Quan holding down the fort here, the pressure on the Beijing team decreased sharply, and their performance was quite eye-catching.

They were no longer defending passively but moving from east to west, from west back to east in combat.

As the team moved, their style of fighting changed as well.

Guan Yiren firmly covered their retreat.

Sword cultivators, truly the kings of soldiers, the gods of slaughter!

Niu Zhengzheng was a qualified tank, charging into the fray and clearing the way with his great axe, a force to be reckoned with!

Wang Ling was undoubtedly the jungler, moving flexibly inside and outside the team, shuttling back and forth, his whereabouts mysterious.

Qiao Yuansi firmly took the center of the team, commanding all sides, frequently employing supportive magical techniques.

Moreover, she was accompanied by no fewer than two Divine Weapons, ensuring her complete protection.

"A wise choice," Lu Ran murmured softly, not minding lending a hand to a few people.

Lu Ran wasn't just offering empty praise; Qiao Yuansi's choices were indeed very good.

Although they were charging back and forth in the square area, they had turned passivity into activity, reverting to the team's more familiar "training style."

Thanks to this,

Wang Ling had a great start, reaping more and more.

Of course, all this was predicated on the presence of Wang Quan guarding this place.

Disciples of the Jiang Realm-Gun Ruined are truly fierce!

Though not as good as dogs,

They have more intelligence than dogs!

"Hm?" Lu Ran looked up at the sky and noticed a gathering of dark clouds down the street; he immediately darted out.

"Demon Spear Emperor!"

Guan Yiren suddenly spoke up.

Although she was on the ground, she was standing on a flying sword, flying backward away from the team.

Right in front of her, a Demon Spear Emperor took form.

As Guan Yiren reported the situation, she twirled her sword, already hurling two sword qi forward.

Sword One Divine Skill-Frost Sword Qi!

"Heh."

The Demon Spear Emperor snorted coldly, also on the ground but standing on a black cloud.

He leaned right then left, dodging the two sword qis, and swept his spear.

Evil Technique·Evil Cloud Entanglement!

In a flash, three trails of black mist were thrown, like three venomous snakes, lunging at Guan Yiren.

"Silent Night, go help Sister Yiren."

Qiao Yuansi commanded, two lanterns still hovering above her head.

The Bright Fire Cage added a golden-red defensive shield for everyone.

The Heavenly Fire Cage... went berserk!

As a Purification Technique, it used its gentle glow to completely eradicate the three trails of black mist!

In this world, the priority of purification techniques is higher than that of abnormal state techniques.

Not to mention the River Realm's Evil Cloud Entanglement with the three trails of black mist, even with four trails of Evil Cloud Entanglement from the Jiang Grade, Little Yuanxi could purify it cleanly!

If you want Evil Cloud Entanglement to persist and take effect, you have to bring out the Sea Grade!

"Ding~"

The spear collided with Silent Night!

The Demon Spear Emperor had impressive martial skills and did not just resist; he shifted his weight forward.

Although his direction of travel was slightly off, with the help of the black cloud at his feet, he instantly adjusted his position and charged again.

Guan Yiren's delicate brows furrowed slightly; as she continued to fly backward, she immediately turned direction.

She raised her hand, and a string of flying swords stabbed toward the Demon Spear Emperor.

Inevitably, the flying swords that shuttled across the battlefield, slaughtering the enemy, vanished.

"Hmph."

A trace of mockery appeared on the handsome face of the Demon Spear Emperor.

He abruptly flicked his robe, and his speed surged!

Guan Yiren's eyes widened sharply!

How... how fast!

As a disciple of First-class God·Sword One, Guan Yiren's speed in sword flight was naturally top-notch.

As a mortal enemy of First-class God·Gun Ruined, the Demon Spear Emperor's cloud-riding speed was also top-notch!

Here comes the problem!

In a peak sect duel, the flying speeds of both parties are generally even.

But this Demon Spear Emperor...

His speed far surpassed Guan Yiren's!

More than fast?

His luxurious black and gold robe easily swept away the string of flying swords, the tail of the robe showing not the slightest sign of being torn.

Guan Yiren broke out in a cold sweat!

This was definitely not a River Realm Demon Spear Emperor!

But a Jiang Realm Demon Monarch?!

So when the Demon Spear Emperor just cast Evil Technique·Evil Cloud Entanglement, did he deliberately produce three trails of black mist?

By the quantity of black mist trails, to confuse the enemy, making them misjudge him as from the River Realm?

Other Jiang Realm Demon Monarchs descend upon the world with great pomp!

Wishing the earth would shake and the mountains would move, to proclaim their arrival to the world.

Yet the Demon Spear Emperor was silent and even concealed his presence deliberately...

Guan Yiren realized this!

But it was too late.

She instinctively dodged, striving to move sideways.

But that dark gold spear continually adjusted its angle, chasing her forehead, closing in relentlessly!

"Guan..."

Before "Yiren" could leave her lips, Wang Ling, who was roaming outside the team, had already shuttled to the side of the Demon Spear Emperor.

The Demon Spear Emperor looked disdainful, his sneer growing deeper.

His target was never the disciple of Sword One.

The suddenly diverted spear tip notified everyone of a cruel fact:

The Demon Spear Emperor's target had always been the Gun Corpse Believers!

"Ding!!"

An extremely shrill noise almost made Guan Yiren's heart jump out.

"Hm?" The Demon Spear Emperor's eyes narrowed slightly.

Wang Ling's face turned pale!

The sweeping dark gold spear tip had barely penetrated his throat but could not sweep further.

Because another iron spear was pointed at the dark gold spear shaft.

"Gulp." Wang Ling's Adam's apple bobbed.

Following the iron spear shaft in front of him, he saw the spear holder beside him—Wang Quan!

Wang Quan's face was expressionless, his eyes murky, quietly watching the Demon Spear Emperor.

To dare to act so boldly!

Wang Quan actually used the tip of an iron spear to tap a golden gunstock?

"Hmph." The Demon Spear Emperor moved quickly.

Since he couldn't slash Wang Ling's throat, he casually flicked the golden spear away.

Guan Yiren's pupils contracted sharply!

All of this happened in just a moment.

Guan Yiren did not fly too far.

The dark gold long spear stabbed at her face again!

The Demon Spear Emperor stopped pretending!

At such a close distance, with the fierce strength of a Jiang Realm Demon Monarch and the speed of the spear thrust, it simply wasn't something a River Realm Believer could handle.

"Ding!!"

Another clear sound!

Guan Yiren's complexion was extremely stiff, and she felt just a blur in front of her eyes.

The Phantom carrying the Immortal Fog flashed in front of her.

The newcomer deflected the golden spear and also caused her long black hair to flutter sideways.

In the blink of an eye, Guan Yiren felt like she had died twice.

And had been revived twice.

She kept flying backward, her gaze uncontrollably shifting to the left.

She just saw a youth in a black robe, wearing a black face mask, sliding backward, his short hair floating forward.

A pair of cold, piercing eyes were set in that valiant face.

He looked up slightly,

Twirled a knife flower in his hand, and silently gazed at the Jiang Realm Demon Monarch.

Tonight,

There may be a Night of Ghosts parading, and perhaps a Demon Monarch descending upon the world.

However, where my gaze falls, there should be no casualties among the Human Clan.

I said so.