

## Old Gods 361

Chapter 361: Emperor?

The Evil Spear Emperor's expression was grim as he soared backward on a cloud.

His eyes were pure black, devoid of pupils and sclera.

Thus, it was difficult to discern just whom the Evil Spear Emperor was looking at.

However, both Wang Quan and Lu Ran could sense that the opponent's gaze was sweeping back and forth over the two of them.

The feeling of being appraised by a powerful being was like a great mountain, pressing down on their hearts.

However...

Wang Quan still looked like an old man in his declining years, his eyes filled with worldly weariness, as if he had experienced all the suffering of the world.

Wang Quan showed no reaction to the scrutinizing gaze of the Evil Spear Emperor.

Lu Ran reacted!

Not with fear, but with coldness.

Despite his heroic face, a chilling smile showed through the black mask he wore.

It matched eerily with his unusual horizontal pupils.

"I'll go," Wang Quan said lightly, his voice raspy.

That voice,

It must have at least 20 years of smoking behind it, right?

Looks like he's someone who indulges in smoking and drinking in private.

Lu Ran smiled and said, "Don't die."

Wang Quan's usually unflappable face twitched slightly at the corner of his mouth.

The next moment, Wang Quan leaned forward, and his figure suddenly shot forward!

"Ding! Ding! Ding..."

In an instant, the sound of spears intertwining filled the night sky.

The Evil Spear Emperor held a dark gold spear, standing on a black cloud, his spear technique grand and unrestrained!

Wang Quan, holding a rusted iron spear, stood on two little white clouds, his spear technique swift and fierce.

A true peak duel!

"Ran, Big Brother Ran," Wang Ling's face was as pale as death, having just walked a thin line at Ghost Gate, in a very bad condition.

Big Brother Ran was right:

The rainy alley indeed equally educates every proud person.

"Continue with the mission."

Lu Ran stared at the battle in the night sky and said offhandedly.

"Yes," Wang Ling struggled to calm his emotions.

"Lu..." Guan Yiren's face was also pale as she looked at her savior.

Unlike before, Lu Ran's demeanor had completely changed.

He was no longer calm, nor was he gentle.

Through those chilling eyes, she seemed to see a graveyard!

A cold wind in waves, a forest of white bones!

Strangely,

Guan Yiren did not feel fear, but rather her heart was even more turbulent.

"Continue," Lu Ran interrupted the girl's words, his gaze fixed on the night sky battlefield.

Guan Yiren opened her mouth, and after a moment, she whispered softly,

"Yes."

Wang Ling was out of sorts, Niu Zhengzheng was distracted by the battle,

Only Qiao Yuansi, with her delicate thoughts, opened her mouth slightly in surprise.

Yes?

Miss Yiren was unexpectedly obedient, responding with a "yes"?

Even when facing the teachers from Beijing University, Guan Yiren was just polite at most.

Where was the "submissive" in that?

This...

It must be because her brother had just saved her.

Yes, that must be it!

Speaking of which, brother looks so cool and impressive.

His eyes are so intimidating.

When we get home, I'll have to ask him to look at me with his gentle eyes for ten minutes to soothe my injured little soul.

No,

Ten minutes won't be enough—make it half an hour!

Huh? Why is he running off again?

"Zzt—"

As the Immortal Fog churned, Lu Ran's figure rapidly weaved through it.

While he dealt with the Night of Ghosts, he kept an eye on the night sky battlefield.

Wang Quan and the Evil Spear Emperor were truly evenly matched,

Fighting fiercely,

As if they wished they could exchange eight moves in a single second!

People might not believe it, but Lu Ran's heart was actually thrilled.

The Evil Demon, known as the "Spear Emperor," had a spear technique that was simply divine!

And that black gold robe was utterly luxurious.

His presence shattered the heavens!

Lu Ran kept admiring it, while also feeling secretly pleased.

In the future, he wouldn't need to dress up as a woman anymore.

He could don this regal and commanding black gold emperor's robe!

"Hahaha!"

Suddenly, the Evil Spear Emperor's laughter rang out in the night sky.

It wasn't the cackle typical of villains.

He truly had the demeanor of a sovereign, his laugh bold and unrestrained, reaching the heavens!

Lu Ran couldn't help but grin.

What's happening?

Has he found a worthy opponent and is reveling in the fight?

"Ding!"

The spears clashed in the night sky.

A wisp of black fog suddenly seeped out from the tip of the dark gold spear.

Evil Technique·Evil Cloud Entanglement!

Wang Quan, instead of retreating, lunged forward, his figure flickering instantly.

Not only did he dodge the black fog entanglement, but he also appeared behind his enemy, thrusting his spear out fiercely.

In the blink of an eye, a myriad of spears converged into a flood, aimed at the back of the Evil Spear Emperor.

Divine Technique·Cloud Cutting Spear Technique!

"Hmph."

The Evil Spear Emperor's robe billowed, yet he did not dodge, displaying an attitude that seemed to ignore the actions of a less significant disturbance.

The aura of a king showed itself!

With the sound of cracking and popping, the black gold robe resisted the flood of spears.

The Evil Spear Emperor also raised his golden spear, pointing towards the night sky.

In an instant, dark clouds swiftly gathered.

"Swish~!"

The sound of something tearing through the air approached.

The Evil Spear Emperor remained calm as he moved horizontally on a cloud, easily dodging the flying stab of the Silent Night Blade.

At the same time, the dark clouds in the night sky had already formed.

Dark clouds covering the moon, storm clouds pressing upon the city!

Countless Moon Gazers, including civilians in shelters like the Wu Lie Building, witnessed the scene.

Millions of people behind screens also saw this apocalyptic vision.

The sea of clouds churned wildly,

An endless array of spear tips suspended overhead!

It seemed as if everything in the human world would be utterly destroyed.

A breath of extreme panic permeated the air while suppressing and suffocating.

Many people were already crying out loud.

Are we going to die?

Is it finally time to say goodbye to this suffering world?

Even those inside the Wu Lie Building had no doubt that the towering building would be pierced and collapsed.

"Brother!!" Qiao Yuansi screamed, her face deathly pale.

The rosy clouds Dawn Blade erupted from behind her.

"Damn!" Niu Zhengzheng's eyes widened as he looked up at the cloud-filled night sky.

Jiang Grade-Evil Cloud Spear Technique indeed had the power to destroy heaven and earth!

It might already be too late to run.

Aside from Wang Ling, who could escape the range of the Evil Cloud Spear Technique's onslaught?

Wang Quan's attack was dense like rain, desperately pursuing the Evil Spear Emperor to no avail.

"Hahaha!"

The Evil Spear Emperor laughed loudly, with a defense as tight as a drum, focused solely on executing the Evil Cloud Spear Technique.

"What do we do now?"

"Come up with something quick, Ran Shen!"

"Are you freaking kidding me? A Demon Monarch sneaked into the Night of Ghosts?"

"This goddamn world, does it ever give people a way out?"

"Emperor Ran, quick, kill the Demon Monarch!"

"Where are the Gun Ruined Disciple? Do it!"

"The ultimate move is unleashed! It's unleashed!"

Wang Quan indeed unleashed his ultimate!

Far above in the night sky, Wang Quan could no longer afford to chase after the Evil Spear Emperor; instead, he aimed at the surging clouds.

"Whoosh!!"

Terrifying waves of air burst out in all directions.

Wang Quan held his hand high, just above his palm, a giant spear rapidly formed!

Spear Withering Divine Skill-Sky-reaching Divine Spear!

That spear, constructed of clouds and mist, roughly observed, was a staggering hundred meters in size!

The puny Human Clan held it aloft with one hand, virtually lifting the Sky-reaching Divine Spear, stirring wildly against the churning dark clouds!

The dark clouds turned into a vortex, a truly magnificent sight to behold.

As a consequence, the densely packed spears hanging upside down in it were also shattered.

"Heh."

The Evil Spear Emperor soared high, watching Wang Quan with interest, his hand also raised high.

It seemed he had anticipated Wang Quan's move all along.

In the hands of the Evil Spear Emperor, a hundred-meter-long spear also formed.

Different from the Sky-reaching Divine Spear,

this spear was composed of black clouds and mist.

The advantage was that by using this technique, the Evil Spear Emperor disregarded the Evil Technique-Evil Cloud Spear Technique.

The black spear's rain did not pour down in time.

But the disadvantage was... an even greater crisis had arrived!

Wang Quan's face changed color!

While he was stirring the dark clouds, he naturally noticed that the Evil Spear Emperor had set his sights on the Wu Lie Building!

The people inside the building had utterly lost hope.

Before the terrifying River Realm Demon Monarch, the Human Clan was as insignificant as ants, without the slightest chance of survival.

"Whoosh--"

"Whoosh!!"

Suddenly, streaks of rosy clouds darted toward the night sky, lighting up the pitch-blackness.

Cinnamon, orange, golden, deep red...

The light was dazzling and magnificent, like a beautiful dream before death.

So unreal.

The strips of rosy clouds, like soft, light gauze, shuttled at high speed and danced gracefully.

If one had to say what the long, floating streaks of rosy clouds resembled...

The Third Prince, Chaos Sky Silk!

"Block the spear!" Lu Ran shouted out loud, his voice echoing through the heavens.

Wang Quan, without a second word, virtually lifted the Sky-reaching Divine Spear and charged towards the Evil Spear Emperor.

At that moment,

the smile on the Evil Spear Emperor's face finally became more restrained.

The streaks of rosy clouds were incredibly fast, already plunging into the sea of clouds.

Where the rosy clouds passed, the dark spears were set ablaze and destroyed!

Along with them, the turbulent clouds in the sky were also ignited, their colors radiantly changing.

The night sky turned to golden red!

The darkness was reversed.

Midnight, receding to twilight.

In the middle of the plaza,

Lu Ran stood proudly, holding the Dawn Blade in front of him.

The brilliance in his eyes shone brightly, full of divinity!

Streams of rosy clouds continued to flutter outward, swirling and dancing up into the heavens.

Dark clouds?

A city cloaked in darkness?

Auspicious clouds!

Colored clouds filled the sky!

I've said before...

Before me,

the long night lingers, and dark clouds loom.

After me,

a rosy light reaches for miles, and auspicious colors fill the sky!

"Boom!!!"

In the distant night sky, the two giant spears collided with an earth-shattering noise.

At the point of impact, a circle of clouds and mist spread out!

White clouds intertwined with the black mist, rapidly expanding outward.

"Back off!"

"Quick, get away!" Shouts of alarm rang out as everyone retreated.

The rapidly expanding cloud circle finally hit the ground, kicking up dust clouds, scattering debris all around.

The cloud circle also hit some buildings, causing cracks to spider across their walls.

Keep in mind, it was merely a clash of weapons!

The extent of the aftermath was capable of this much damage.

"Hmph!"

The Evil Spear Emperor faced Wang Quan, seeming to lock onto the Gun Ruined Disciple, but his gaze actually swept past Wang Quan, looking towards the young man of the Human Clan in the center of the plaza.

The next second, the Evil Spear Emperor held his black mist giant spear high and suddenly charged at Wang Quan.

Wang Quan, fearless, prepared for battle with his spear!

"Whoosh!!"

Just as the two spears were about to touch, the Evil Spear Emperor suddenly shifted sideways, his speed so fast it was alarming.

However, his motion to swing the spear downwards was not the least bit restrained.

The Evil Spear Emperor moved fast; the force with which he swung the spear was violent!

Wang Quan's heart skipped a beat!

Stunned, he glanced back only to see the black mist giant spear thrusting downwards at Lu Ran.

Wang Quan believed that Lu Ran could dodge it.

The issue was, such a giant spear driving into the ground would cause tremors, who knows how many surrounding buildings would collapse.

Wang Quan couldn't care less, his body leaning forward instantly.

But in the very next second, he froze in place because...

"Szzz—"

A mist arose from beneath Lu Ran's feet, slanting towards the night sky!

Slanting towards the night sky?!

In the view of all the Da Xia residents, in the first-person perspective, Lu Ran was facing the spearhead and charging upwards!

At that moment, the people didn't even have time to comment, their eyes wide in shock as they stared at the screen.

And in the third-person perspective of the Beijing team:

A tiny Human Clan,

bravely facing off against a hundred-meter giant spear!

"Whoosh~"

The moment the Dawn Blade made contact with the giant spear tip, there was no earth-shattering noise.

Instead...

The spear tip was burnt away?

As the thick mist ignited, the giant spear appeared to be cleaved through!

With the Dawn Blade's brilliance and Lu Ran's eyes shining brightly,

everywhere the diminutive Human Clan passed,

the dark spears were sliced through, parted aside, turning into a sea of golden red flames.

More streams of rosy clouds, like golden red dragons, coiled around the black spear, roaring as they ascended towards the night sky.

From the spearhead, to the shaft, then to the butt...

The small Human Clan, with an incredibly staunch posture, burst forth from the body of the spear!

The Evil Spear Emperor's expression was exceedingly rigid!

He had envisioned that Lu Ran, in order to protect the city, wouldn't dodge but would withstand the spear.

Open schemes,

are the right way to victory!

Yet his earth-shaking spear failed to crush Lu Ran as he had hoped.

It also failed to blow up the ground as a secondary target.

In the night sky, Lu Ran was enveloped in streams of "Chaos Sky Silk," with a backdrop of fire clouds fluttering below.

"Snap!"

Lu Ran, standing on the slender Silent Night Blade, briefly paused in the night sky.

He slowly raised the Dawn Blade, pointing it at the Evil Spear Emperor.

I don't care about other places.

In the Rain Alley,

you cannot claim to be the emperor.

"Whoosh!!"

Streaks of rosy clouds spiraled upwards.

Like splendid woven silk, they filled the heavens!

Chapter 362: The Last Journey of the Emperor

"Everyone, check out the third perspective of the Beijing squad, damn! It blew me away!!"

"Little Lu Ran, the big black spear..."

"Forcing his way through, really just forcing through, huh? Deserving of the title as the top 'forcer' in Da Xia!"

"Is this Lu Ran? Isn't this the god from the Triple Sea Grand Meeting?"

"Every frame is wallpaper material! My screenshot key is about to break, I'm going crazy!"

"Suddenly, a madman sharpens his knife at night, the emperor stars sway high."

"Gentlemen! Observing tonight's Rain Alley City, the celestial phenomena are abnormal, the rosy clouds stretch thousands of miles, I fear a new king is about to ascend?"

The barrage in the live stream exploded.

Because the opponent was the Evil Spear Emperor, the points of discussion were quite unique.

Words of rebellion were frequent!

But those actually in Rain Alley City saw and felt much more deeply than the Da Xia viewers.

After all,

The people of Rain Alley were the ones facing imminent death.

Their emotions surged tremendously and they watched the diminutive Lu Ran behead that shocking spear from start to finish.

The black fog ignited golden flames.

The dark clouds turned into auspicious clouds.

In this special era, the concept of Worshiping God was already inherent among people.

About kneeling and praying, it had long been ingrained into their bones.

Nearby at the square and inside the shelters, people were already kneeling en masse.

And those in Rain Alley City, who witnessed Lu Ran's actions through "Heavenly Pride" yet were not in the square, also gathered at their windows.

These people couldn't see the battlefield.

But as they looked up,

they could see the vortex of auspicious clouds.

They saw the sky dyed golden red!

For this young man of the Human Clan who had saved Rain Alley time and again, the people's clasped hands and kneeling in gratitude were only natural.

Lu Ran was unaware of these things.

In the distant night sky, he rode his blade, unleashing rosy clouds to pursue the Evil Spear Emperor.

It must be said, the movement speed of the Evil Spear Emperor was truly fast!

The black cloud, carrying the dodging Evil Spear Emperor, was frustrating to watch.

"Jiang Fourth Rank."

A figure suddenly appeared, standing shoulder to shoulder with Lu Ran.

"River Realm Fourth Rank?" Lu Ran looked toward Wang Quan beside him.

Wang Quan rolled up his sleeves and pulled off a black headband from his wrist.

"Uh-huh." Wang Quan watched the desperately dodging Evil Spear Emperor, "His Evil Technique is just a notch stronger than mine."

Below the River Realm, when people use techniques of the same grade, the effect is not much different.

In other words:

A Believer of River Realm Second Rank and one of River Realm Fourth Rank, using the same River Grade Divine Method, have almost no difference.

But it's different after advancing to the Jiang Realm!

If a Believer of Jiang Realm Second Rank and one of Jiang Realm Fourth Rank use the same Jiang Grade Divine Method...

Who is stronger and who is weaker,

can be discerned!

At this stage, the term "Jiang Grade Divine Method" becomes quite general and should be further refined.

Refined to something like Jiang Grade Specific Rank Divine Method.

"Evil Spear Emperor moves too fast." Lu Ran spoke, "Mr. Wang, can you help block him?"

Wang Quan, with the black headband in his mouth, tied his medium-length hair with both hands:

"Just wrap him up with the golden-red ribbon, right?"

While speaking, Wang Quan took off the headband and tied up the small braid he had smoothed at the back of his head.

Lu Ran suddenly smiled:

"A braid tied, it's either me or him?"

Wang Quan paused in his motions, his usually expressionless face twitched at the corner of his mouth.

It must be said, Wang Quan's scruffy face, eyes filled with vicissitudes, and a hint of melancholic temperament...

It would be a pity not to sing folk songs.

Lu Ran: "My Divine Weapon Domain is strong in output, you need to fully deploy the water flow armor.

Once ensnared by the rosy clouds, make sure to instantaneously teleport out!"

"Uh-huh." Wang Quan grasped the iron spear floating beside him.

Without a doubt, this was also a Divine Weapon!

However, this spear probably doesn't have a Divine Weapon Domain, being on the same stage as the Silent Night Blade.

"Mr. Wang."

"Hm?" Wang Quan's body tensed, about to deploy Cloud Piercing Shadow, yet heard Lu Ran speak again.

Lu Ran smiled lightly: "Don't die."

Wang Quan: "..."

If before, Lu Ran was retorting.

Then this time, Lu Ran sincerely reminded and blessed him.

The Divine Weapon Domain is no joke!

If Wang Quan were too careless, he might really be reduced to ashes by the rosy clouds!

In this world, only Lu Ran, the Master of Divine Weapon, could roam freely in the vast rosy clouds.

After all, the Divine Weapon Domain was deployed jointly by a master and a weapon.

The energy source was provided by the two.

"Aargh!!"

In the night sky, came the loud shout of the Evil Spear Emperor.

His output techniques were almost all blocked!

The Evil Spear Emperor attempted to release four black fogs to interfere with Lu Ran's spell casting.

However, wherever the splendid ribbon passed, the black fog was utterly incinerated.

The Evil Spear Emperor then tried to deploy the Evil Technique-Evil Cloud Spear Technique.

But this technique counted as a Second Rank skill.

The Evil Spear Emperor needed to first gather dark clouds and then craft and scatter thousands of long spears from within the clouds.

But at that moment in the night sky, auspicious clouds were plentiful, and brilliant colors were spreading everywhere—where would there be a place for dark clouds?

Even if the Evil Spear Emperor forcefully used his technique, those inverted black fog spears would also be incinerated by the splendid ribbon.

And the Evil Spear Emperor's ultimate move, Sky-reaching Demon Spear, had no chance of assembling at all.

The specifications of the Sky-reaching Demon Spear were too large!

Even a slight touch from the brilliant rosy clouds would completely ignite an entire spear shaft, turning it into ash in the process.

Even more so, the Evil Spear Emperor had to be cautious about the black cloud under his feet!

Should it be grazed by the rosy clouds, he might very well fall from the night sky.

Two words: Complete defeat!

From then on,

Retreat became the inevitable conclusion.

The Evil Spear Emperor Clan had sufficient intelligence to accurately judge the battlefield situation and make the correct decision.

But this clan was second to none!

With a bearing that dominated the world, they descended upon the human world.

You let the Evil Spear Emperor flee ignominiously...

He could indeed escape.

But it required some time to mentally prepare himself.

Presumably, Wang Quan could exchange a few words with Lu Ran and confirm the enemy-killing plan, also based on the traits of the Evil Spear Emperor Clan.

"I understand." Wang Quan replied, leaning slightly forward, then vanished in an instant.

"Ding!"

The sound of spears clashing came from the night sky.

Relying on the powerful instincts of a martial artist and sharp battlefield senses, the Evil Spear Emperor firmly blocked Wang Quan's surprise attack.

From then on, the two entangled in the night sky.

Every clash was accompanied by earth-shattering noises.

The splendid ribbons swept across the night sky, spiraling upward!

The Evil Spear Emperor seemed to realize something.

He fought while retreating, his black and gold robe billowing like ocean waves.

The black cloud was really fast.

But no matter how fast, could it outpace instant teleportation?

"Ding!!"

The soaring Evil Spear Emperor suddenly turned around, vigorously swinging away Wang Quan's iron spear.

The Evil Spear Emperor tried to break through diagonally downwards once more, but Wang Quan's figure shuttled by, again blocking the Evil Spear Emperor's path.

"Heh!"

The Evil Spear Emperor, enraged to the extreme, laughed in defiance, the rage exploding from his dark pupils.

The offended majesty forcefully rebounded, manifesting in the Evil Spear Emperor's aura.

The might seemed utterly overwhelming!

Chilling to the observer.

It was only because Wang Quan's mindset was stable and undisturbed like an ancient well.

If it were anyone else, they might tremble and kneel in submission under this immense heavenly might...

"Huuh!!"

A splendid ribbon rushed to the battlefield, encircling one man and one demon.

More splendid ribbons followed closely, completely encompassing the pair and continually shrinking the battle circle.

"Ding!"

The spears clashed, the man and demon fiercely wrestling.

Wang Quan suddenly leaned forward, his face moving closer and spoke faintly:

"You're already dead."

"Heh." The Evil Spear Emperor suddenly flew backward, his golden spear sweeping horizontally.

Wang Quan held his spear vertically to block, feeling numbness in his tiger's mouth.

In the same realm status, the Evil Spear Emperor, being of a slightly higher segment, indeed possessed a stronger force than Wang Quan.

"Huuh~"

Black fog suddenly surged from the tip of the dark gold spear.

If tainted, it wouldn't just bind Wang Quan's flesh, but if his Divine Power was disrupted, it might cost him his life!

"Heh."

Rarely, Wang Quan also snorted coldly.

Using the force from the golden spear's swing, Wang Quan slanted his body almost simultaneously and shuttled once again.

The four black fogs failed to entangle the enemy, flying aimlessly like headless flies.

The Evil Spear Emperor, standing on the black cloud, slowly turned around.

Above his head and under his feet, all around were splendid ribbons.

Beautiful, radiant.

Suddenly, for a moment, the Evil Spear Emperor stopped.

"Hehe...hahaha...hahahahahaha!"

With his black and gold robe fluttering in the wind, his laughter echoed through the night sky.

Even though he was in dire straits,

He retained the elegance of an emperor.

Lu Ran looked up at the night sky, his heart slightly trembling.

Such a scene was absolutely unexpected.

The splendid ribbons rapidly tightened the encirclement, but there were still some gaps between the ribbons.

Lu Ran thought the Evil Spear Emperor would flee frantically, looking for any chance to escape.

But unexpectedly,

The Evil Spear Emperor wasn't escaping anymore?

This?

Outside the ribbons, Wang Quan stood on a white cloud, peering through the gaps at the laughing emperor within.

The circle was shrinking.

The gaps between the ribbons were getting smaller.

Was the Evil Spear Emperor really not planning to...hmm?

Wang Quan's eyes slightly widened.

Just as the Evil Spear Emperor weighed the dark gold spear in his hand, he suddenly reversed the spear tip, plunging it directly into his own heart.

Wang Quan: !!!

"Haha! Hahahahahahaha!!"

The dark gold spear tip pierced through the chest, shattering the heart.

Blood spilled from the corners of the Evil Spear Emperor's mouth, but his laughter grew even more heroic, without a hint of tragedy or sorrow.

"Phut~"

The cloud under his feet quietly shattered, and the laughter abruptly ceased.

The Evil Spear Emperor fell from the skies, dropping into the bright and splendid ribbons.

His bones couldn't penetrate the rosy clouds.

In an instant, they were burned to ashes, vanishing between heaven and earth.

Wang Quan silently stood in the night sky, watching as the ribbons continuously disassembled, flying towards various parts of Rain Alley City, heading to places where dark clouds still gathered.

Lu Ran continued to look upward, watching the spot where the Evil Spear Emperor had turned to dust.

There, there was a Dead Soul.

Seeming to sense a suction, the Evil Spear Emperor's Dead Soul turned around to look.

The smile on his face gradually faded, quietly watching Lu Ran.

Never had any Dead Soul approached Lu Ran with such a demeanor.

No struggle, no ferocity.

No cries, no rage.

As the man and ghost drew closer, the Evil Spear Emperor still maintained a proud posture, his robes fluttering.

Suddenly, the Evil Spear Emperor smiled again.

A light smile.

He looked at Lu Ran and nodded slightly.

What was this?

Acknowledgment?

Or appreciation?

Lu Ran found it hard to read his expression, simply watching silently as the Evil Spear Emperor's Dead Soul continued to converge before his eyes.

This emperor,

Finally captured within a pair of horizontal pupils.

...

Chapter 363: Crying Pufferfish

The Night of Ghosts, hosted by the Evil Spear Emperor Clan, lasted barely over an hour.

Despite that, Rain Alley City still suffered immense damage.

Not only were the city structures devastated, the hearts of its people were pierced full of holes.

Thankfully, the youth who surpassed all in Rain Alley stepped up once again.

Calling upon rosy clouds, he dyed the skies with auspicious clouds.

Thankfully, the long night eventually came to an end.

When the proud sun rose in the east, shining on this world of suffering, the beings of Rain Alley could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

Lu Ran took Little Yuanxi home.

Wang Ling was unsure how to hold them back, while Guan Yiren hesitated to speak.

Only Niu Zhengzheng repeatedly thanked Lu Ran, grateful for his care throughout the night.

It wasn't until Lu Ran got home, pondering what breakfast to make for Little Yuanxi, that he remembered he had promised Aunt Liu to have breakfast together.

Lu Ran pondered for a moment before pulling out his phone and sending a text to Director Liu.

He expressed his apologies and explained that he was exhausted in body and spirit after fighting through the night.

Aunt Liu did not blame him, instead, she urged Lu Ran to rest well and call if anything came up.

"Snap."

Lu Ran casually placed his phone on the computer desk and turned his head to look at the shrine.

"Lord Immortal Sheep."

He clasped his hands together, standing before the shrine, continuously muttering to himself.

"The Evil Spear Emperor Clan is quite remarkable; sharp-witted, strong with Evil Technique, and their spear technique is divine."

"Serving as the leader of my servant squad would be more than fitting."

"Also, Lord Immortal Sheep, this Evil Spear Emperor..."

Lu Ran slightly furrowed his brows, thinking of the Evil Spear Emperor's posture in the River Realm, slightly moved:

"This clan seems different from other Evil Demons?"

I've never seen such a respectable Evil Demon before!

Even the graceful Yan Zhi, when she turns into a Dead Soul and approaches me, cannot suppress that intense look of desire in her eyes.

Let alone other Evil Demons with their gnashing teeth and twisted faces.

But the Evil Spear Emperor alone!

With a smile, he nods slightly.

Dashing and proud.

Even in death, his elegance remains!

"Is this clan truly Evil Demons?"

"Why can't I see the desire for blood and tender flesh in the eyes of the Evil Spear Emperor?"

"Hmm... or maybe his eyes are too dark? Well concealed?"

Lu Ran kept talking to himself.

Uncharacteristically, the deity remained silent with no response.

Lu Ran pondered for a long time in front of the shrine when outside, Qiao Yuansi's voice called out, "Brother?"

"Hmm?"

"I'm done washing. You should go shower."

"Oh." Lu Ran looked at the Immortal Sheep Jade Carving, realizing it was still silent without any intention to respond.

With no other choice, Lu Ran bowed to the shrine and then stepped out of the bedroom.

Outside, Qiao Yuansi was holding a white towel, wiping her wet hair, her cheeks flushed, urging:

"Hurry, after you wash, dry my hair for me."

"I'll dry it now," Lu Ran immediately said.

Qiao Yuansi pouted and stepped back, seemingly grossed out by how dirty Lu Ran was.

Lu Ran: "..."

You're still fussing over that?

"Do it yourself." Lu Ran huffed and walked into the bathroom.

Qiao Yuansi stuck her tongue out at Lu Ran's back.

When Lu Ran came out freshly bathed, wearing shorts and a T-shirt, he found Little Yuanxi sitting on the sofa.

She was clutching a towel and staring blankly at the ground.

Her dazed little face, like a wounded kitten or puppy, was especially pitiful.

The night that just passed was like a nightmare.

Even someone as lively and cheerful as Qiao Yuansi couldn't possibly feel good.

Especially when the siblings were heading home.

Everywhere they passed was a sight of devastation.

That tragic scene required a long time for anyone to process.

Lu Ran hesitated for a moment but went back into the bathroom to grab the hairdryer.

He walked towards the sofa and softly called, "Yuanxi?"

"Hmm?" Qiao Yuansi snapped back to reality, her eyes a bit confused.

When she saw Lu Ran holding the hairdryer, she immediately lifted her small face.

A face full of pride.

Didn't you say I should dry my own hair?

Hmph, men!

Men who say one thing but mean another!

Lu Ran plugged in the hairdryer and sat down beside Qiao Yuansi, changing the subject with a smile: "Your Sister Ruyi never let me dry her hair."

Qiao Yuansi pursed her lips and said, "Then you're really not doing your job."

Lu Ran was choked up!

He clumsily messed with the girl's hair, and amidst the "whooshing" sound of the dryer, he loudly said:

"Your hair quality isn't great either! Your Sister Ruyi's hair feels so silky, just like silk."

"Eh? You're such a character!"

Qiao Yuansi turned her head to look at Lu Ran, her big eyes dissatisfied with him.

Lu Ran laughed, continuing to tease: "And your Sister Ruyi's hair doesn't split at the ends."

"Ah!" Qiao Yuansi flared up.

Her cheeks puffed out,  
turning into a cute little pufferfish.

"Ha ha!" Lu Ran couldn't hold back and burst out laughing.

"My hair is fine, annoying! Get up!" Qiao Yuansi snatched the hairdryer.

"Alright, I'll go make breakfast."

Lu Ran got up and left. After a bit of noise, his mood was much better.

In this extremely dangerous world, relationships between people tend to be easier than usual.

Probably because people cherish them more.

Not to mention they were siblings.

Lu Ran first went back to the bedroom to pick up his phone, then headed straight to the kitchen.

Warmed milk, toasted bread, fried eggs.

While preparing the meal, Lu Ran reported his safety to many people.

He even called the Jiang Family, intending to reassure his aunt and uncle, but ended up being instructed by them for a long time before ending the call.

Yesterday morning, while visiting the top floor of Wu Lie Building, Lu Ran specifically instructed the command center.

If there were any issues on the other side of the water, they must notify him immediately.

Director Liu naturally knew what Lu Ran cared about and reassured him softly.

Actually, teams stationed and patrolling near the residential area had always been plentiful.

Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi had made such contributions to Rain Alley City; it was natural to protect their family members heavily.

"Heh..."

Lu Ran took a deep breath and scooped the fried egg onto the plate.

He looked over,

only to see the little pufferfish still pouting, sitting at the dining table waiting to eat.

Lu Ran approached the table and placed the plate in front of her: "Eat."

"Bro~"

"What do you want?" Lu Ran's mental alarm bells rang.

Clearly upset, and suddenly using such a coquettish tone, it definitely wasn't something good!

Qiao Yuansi opened the fried egg with her chopsticks, and suddenly her eyes lit up:

"Wow! It's runny~"

She immediately leaned down and slurped directly at the flowing yolk.

"Ow, ow, hot..."

Qiao Yuansi suddenly raised her head, her small mouth open, speaking unclearly.

Lu Ran couldn't help but tease: "What, you think I didn't cook it enough, and you're frying it again in your mouth?"

Qiao Yuansi: ? ? ?

Can you even be considered human?

Lu Ran held back his laughter and sat down.

Qiao Yuansi summoned a Firefly Lantern.

The lantern hung mid-air, scattering green light spots around.

Qiao Yuansi ate happily, one bite at a time.

Hmm... like eating fireflies.

Firefly Lanterns could heal injuries.

Although Little Yuanxi wasn't hurt, nourishing her lips and tongue was still very comforting.

Support-type believers mostly have a natural advantage: they maintain their health very well.

"Bro~" Qiao Yuansi called out again.

Lu Ran didn't even lift his head, casually grabbing a slice of toast and stuffing it into her mouth.

"I mean later on... munch... when I execute missions in Rain Alley... munch munch... is that okay?"

"You're still in school."

"I mean, every fifteenth, I'll come to Rain Alley City to help guard the city with you!" Qiao Yuansi looked at Lu Ran with hopeful eyes.

Lu Ran thought for a while.

The Night of the Fifteenth, wherever it is, tasks could be performed.

The teammates of Qiao Yuansi, all from powerful families, should find it easy to persuade the school.

"Brother?" Qiao Yuansi held the toast cautiously while looking at Lu Ran.

She knew Rain Alley was known as a cursed place, fearing Lu Ran would disagree.

Last night,

she felt her brother's careful support and felt completely secure.

Just once,

and it was enough to make her deeply indulge.

Just like... staying by her mother's side.

Not that it was completely worry-free, but it was a kind of peace from deep within.

In this cold and cruel world, such feelings were something most people never experienced in their lifetimes.

And...

Clutching the toast, Qiao Yuansi thought a lot.

Now, she was already in university, no longer needing to stay rooted in Beijing like during high school.

As long as she discussed it well with Beijing University, it should be fine.

Her own squad was already quite strong, at least stronger than the usual Moon Gazer teams in Rain Alley City.

She wouldn't drag her brother down too much.

In fact, she could help him share a lot!

Killing two birds with one stone, how wonderful~

"Sure," Lu Ran nodded lightly.

"Yay!!" Qiao Yuansi was thrilled.

But Lu Ran's next sentence made her cheeks fall.

Lu Ran softly said, "The next two months are okay.

After I celebrate your birthday with you, I might have to leave for a while."

"Leave? For a while?" Qiao Yuansi was puzzled.

Lu Ran was silent for a moment but decided to tell her now, as he would have to at some point:

"The Immortal Sheep faction is planning to open a Divine Ruins in the middle to late next January, I..."

Qiao Yuansi's face gradually paled.

As a top student from Beijing University, she naturally understood what Divine Ruins meant.

This was no longer a matter of "leaving for a while."

But whether they could see each other again in this lifetime!

Qiao Yuansi silently lowered her head, her eyes welling up, her voice small and soft:

"Mom doesn't want me, she's never home. You're leaving too, and I don't know if you can come back..."

Lu Ran felt extremely heartbroken: "Yuanxi... Yuanxi? Yuanxi!"

"Wuw~" Qiao Yuansi wiped her eyes, got up, and ran out.

"Thump!"

From afar, the sound of the master bedroom door closing echoed.

Lu Ran put the toast down and silently lowered his head.

Although the siblings didn't see each other often, their relationship was genuinely close.

Not seeing,

and not knowing if they could see each other again...

were completely different issues!

Even if their mother hardly came home, Qiao Yuansi knew where her mother was and that she was alive.

If Qiao Yuansi was determined and acted willfully just once, she could get a chance to see her mother.

But Lu Ran was facing the Divine Ruins...

Life or death uncertain, return date unknown.

Qiao Yuansi had just been coquettish and received a response.

But Lu Ran's news shattered Qiao Yuansi's beautiful illusions.

For countless Night of the Fifteenths in the future, he'd no longer be with her.

Thinking back,

Jiang Ruyi was undoubtedly gentle.

Strong yet gentle.

Undoubtedly, she had suppressed her surging emotions before she could muster a smile and look at Lu Ran.

Saying she supported his decision.

Telling him not to worry and to chase what he wanted.

"Hum... hum..."

On the kitchen counter, the phone vibrated.

Lu Ran sat silently in the chair, ignoring it.

"Hum... hum..."

"Hum... hum..."

...

Chapter 364: Those Flowers

The phone vibrated for a minute before it finally stopped.

In no time, it buzzed again.

Lu Ran tried his best to compose himself, but eventually, he picked up the phone and glanced at it before answering the call:

"Sister Xian'er."

"Young Master!"

A sweet voice came from the other end of the line.

It was sickeningly sweet.

Ever since his experience in Yan Zhi Village, the title "Young Master" had stuck.

Si Xianxian sounded a bit excited, "Young Master, you were amazing last night! It thrilled me to death!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Si Xianxian was caught up in her emotions, speaking rapidly, "That scene where you forcefully handled the Black Spear, it was explosive!"

Holy crap! You split the giant spear right in half, into two flames from end to end!

It blew me away so much that I smashed my computer!"

Sister Xian'er was as usual.

Sweet voice,

And an extra sweet mouth.

Lu Ran leaned back, resting against the chairback, "Did your aunt scold you?"

Others may exaggerate smashing their computers,

But coming from Lie Tian Girl, it was probably true.

"Uh." Si Xianxian clearly hesitated, her voice dropping, "Why bring her up, let's talk about us."

"Us?"

"Yeah, yeah!" Si Xianxian's voice grew sweeter, "This month, Young Master, where do you plan to take me for fun?"

Lu Ran fell silent.

He suddenly realized a problem—on this climbing path, he would hurt many people's hearts.

Jiang Ruyi, Qiao Yuansi.

And now Sister Xian'er.

"I..."

"Where, where?" Si Xianxian was full of anticipation.

"My sect has tasks, I'm busy, and I can't accompany you."

Si Xianxian's tone changed instantly, her voice deepening, "So you said yesterday that you would call me today.

You're just putting me off, not to make me fuss anymore."

Lu Ran explained, "It's not that I'm putting you off; I just wanted to talk to you properly today..."

"Mm, you've disturbed me." Si Xianxian responded indifferently, and before Lu Ran could finish, she hung up.

"Beep...beep...beep..."

Listening to the busy tone, Lu Ran smirked.

Actually, he had arranged a place for Sister Xian'er.

But this girl was too impatient, hanging up the phone so decisively?

Well, maybe it was for the better.

He first needed to greet Jiang Ruyi.

Lu Ran was indeed too busy to accompany Si Xianxian.

This month, he had to head to the Jade-faced Snake Demon Cave, for Soul Seizing equipped with the Purification Skill.

Since Lu Ran also had to practice the Evil Technique, he couldn't bring anyone with him.

Furthermore, Lu Ran had to go to various Demon Caves to cultivate the Evil Sculpture up to River Realm.

Black Lantern, Soul-splitting Demon...

These Evil Demons, when in the River Realm, had no Evil Techniques to learn.

But by cultivating the Evil Sculpture up to River Realm, the original Evil Techniques could rise to Jiang Pin.

Like the Evil Techniques of the Soul-splitting Demon.

Currently, Lu Ran was still using the River Grade-Soul Splitting Power.

Within three months, Lu Ran needed to tune his combat power to its pinnacle, only then might he pass the test.

Lu Ran looked at his phone and dialed another number.

Unexpectedly, it was picked up quickly: "Young Master?"

Lu Ran paused for a moment and looked at the screen.

He hadn't dialed wrong.

It was Jiang Ruyi he was calling...

From the earpiece, Jiang Ruyi's teasing voice came: "Young Master, why aren't you speaking?"

Lu Ran knew in his heart, yesterday, Si and Jiang had talked over the phone.

Probably Si Xianxian excitedly gushed something, hence today's teasing from Jiang Ruyi.

Lu Ran rubbed his forehead, feeling out of sorts.

Both girls had drastically different voices, why did he mistake them?

Sister Xian'er was a sweet girl.

Appearance, voice, smile...

Except for her explosive heart, everything about her was sweet.

Jiang Ruyi, on the other hand, was a truly aloof mature woman.

Looks, demeanor, figure, of course, including her voice.

But she had a very warm heart, which made her overall demeanor very soft.

Only when she was silent, lost in her thoughts, did her appearance and demeanor overpower her presence, making her seem cold and distant.

"Lu Ran, what's wrong?"

This time, Jiang Ruyi's voice carried a hint of concern.

"Oh." Lu Ran came back to his senses, "I told Little Yuanxi about me trying the Divine Ruins."

Jiang Ruyi fell silent for a moment, then softly said, "Is she throwing a fit?"

Lu Ran: "She was probably crying."

Jiang Ruyi spoke softly, "Should I help you coax her?"

"No need, I'll do it myself." Lu Ran smiled wryly.

She was still so gentle.

Just a few words, and you could really feel it.

Jiang Ruyi: "Hurry up then, then get some good rest, and call me when you wake up."

Lu Ran suddenly said, "I want Sister Xian'er to go to Luoxian Mountain to find you."

Jiang Ruyi obviously understood the reason, and didn't ponder for long: "That's doable.

Living has indeed been painful for her.

No friends, no one to talk to.

Wherever she goes, she encounters malicious stares, so she often stays at home."

While speaking, Jiang Ruyi added, "Sister Xian'er has reached River Realm·Fifth Rank, coming to Luoxian Mountain, she might gain some insight and ascend to the River Realm."

Lu Ran, however, said: "A Fierce Heavenly believer ascending to the River Realm is hardly a good thing."

Jiang Ruyi fell silent.

Indeed, not a good thing.

From the moment Si Xianxian joined under the Fierce Heavenly Sect, she began a self-destructive path.

The higher her power and realm, the more severe the divine influence.

Extreme emotions would ultimately bring about dire consequences.

Once Si Xianxian ascended to the River Realm, it meant she was taking a significant step towards death.

Jiang Ruyi, under the guidance of the Jade Talisman, wasn't severely affected by extreme emotions.

But after ascending to the River Realm, she had definitely noticed some changes in her mindset.

Her temperament had also chilled somewhat.

This kind of change, even if she wanted to actively change it, was very difficult.

From this, it was clear that the changes in mindset and temperament would exacerbate Si Xianxian's condition and make her path ahead thorny.

Lu Ran: "I think, the environment of Luoxian Mountain might help her stabilize her mind."

Jiang Ruyi nodded gently, "I'll try to guide her."

Whether it would be successful, no one knew.

Jiang Ruyi could only do her best.

At the very least, she could accompany Sister Xian'er, be a part of her journey through life...

It would also be worth their encounter.

Lu Ran: "Okay, then I'll call Sister Xian'er."

"You..."

"Hmm?"

"When will you come to see me?" Jiang Ruyi asked softly.

As soon as she said it, Jiang Ruyi regretted it.

She had explicitly told him not to worry, to go out and strive.

She had firmly resolved herself to focus solely on gaining strength...

Lu Ran smiled: "Today is the sixteenth of the lunar month, the third day since we parted."

Jiang Ruyi wore a smiling face, her voice turning gentle again: "Alright, go and pacify your little sister, I should continue with my classes.

Grandpa Cheng has been waiting by the side for half a day."

Lu Ran responded openly, his words clear, "The nineteenth of the lunar month."

Jiang Ruyi's eyes brightened: "Hmm?"

Lu Ran smiled: "Sister Xian'er can't travel far alone."

Jiang Ruyi steadied her heart and spoke softly, "Okay, you bring her here, be careful on the road."

Lu Ran suddenly said, "Ruyi Ruyi, follow my heart.

Before hanging up, give me a kiss!"

"Go." Jiang Ruyi's cheeks flushed, she lightly smacked Lu Ran on the phone and hung up.

Lu Ran put down his phone and fell into deep thought.

Back in the day, when Jiang Ruyi and Si Xianxian had similar strengths, they could both keep Sister Xian'er in line.

Not to mention now, when Jiang Ruyi had reached the River Realm.

With Grandpa Cheng keeping watch there, and right under the divine eyes, Si Xianxian naturally couldn't stir up any trouble.

The environment on Luoxian Mountain,

Maybe it really would be beneficial to Si Xianxian's physical and mental health?

Without a doubt, Lu Ran intended to recruit Sister Xian'er as a follower of the Ran Sect.

Hopefully, Luoxian Mountain could slow down her self-destructive progress.

Lu Ran held his phone and called Si Xianxian.

Unexpectedly, she didn't answer.

Lu Ran called again, and after waiting for dozens of seconds, the call finally connected.

But the Party on the other end didn't speak.

Faintly, Lu Ran could still hear her disordered breathing.

Was she... crying?

It was hard to imagine, someone so fierce, showing such a vulnerable side.

Lu Ran: "Are you angry?"

Si Xianxian sat on her bedroom bed, her eyes misty as she looked out the window, and said coldly,

"Why are you still calling?"

"Do you want to visit Luoxian Mountain?" Lu Ran's voice was very gentle.

It sounded so annoying.

Si Xianxian's heart thumped!

She wanted to say something, but her joy was overwhelmed by grievances.

Thinking back to Lu Ran's words yesterday, just to appease and dismiss her, Si Xianxian felt miserable.

I have a temper too, okay?

If it were anyone else, I would have slapped them by now!

You're just spoiled.

The words Si Xianxian was about to say turned cold and hard:

"No!"

Lu Ran acted as if he hadn't heard, smiling as he said, "Our lady is cultivating there alone, lacking a maid to pour tea and water."

Si Xianxian clenched her phone, squeezing out a word through her teeth:

"Lu! Ran!!"

As it turns out: It's indeed necessary to discipline a younger brother early.

Why didn't I smack him to death when we first met?

Now it's too late, I can't beat him...

Lu Ran spoke softly, "The scenery there is beautiful, peaceful and serene, it will be helpful for you."

Hearing this, Si Xianxian's angry expression gradually softened.

Lu Ran continued, "The people there are warm-hearted, kind and gentle.

I guarantee, every face you see will be filled with goodwill."

Si Xianxian's hand holding the phone trembled slightly, a warmth rising in her heart.

A warmth she had never felt before.

She'd endured cold stares, seen familiar expressions of disgust.

She'd also witnessed people's fearful avoidance.

Since worshiping the divine, it had only been a few years, but it felt so, so long.

So long that she had forgotten what the normal world looked like.

The girl lowered her head, her shoulder-length hair messy, she whispered, "How many days?"

"The lady isn't leaving, why the hurry, maid?"

As soon as Lu Ran's voice fell, he quickly tilted his head and pulled the phone away.

From the earpiece came an outraged voice: "Do you need a slap?"

Following that, a middle-aged female voice came through, very stern: "Si Xianxian! What are you shouting?"

Wasn't smashing the computer enough, now you want to flip the roof too?"

Si Xianxian's eyebrows shot up: "I..."

Lu Ran suddenly spoke up, "Baa~"

Si Xianxian stopped talking, her body stiffening.

Divine Techniques couldn't affect people thousands of miles away through the earpiece.

Otherwise, if Lu Ran had "baa-ed" in "Heavenly Pride", the people of Da Xia would have been in uproar long ago.

However, this ineffective Divine Technique strangely worked wonders on Si Xianxian.

Like a reflex, Si Xianxian quieted down.

"I'll talk to Si Auntie." That hateful voice came through the earpiece again.

Si Xianxian pursed her lips and handed the phone to her mother, annoyed, "Here! Lu Ran!"

Si Caiqin immediately entered the room, picked up the phone, her anger transforming into a smile, warmly said:

"Little Lu, why aren't you resting yet? Is Xianxian bothering you again?"

Lu Ran's voice was gentle: "Not at all, Aunt Si, I have something to tell you..."

It took a while, but Lu Ran finally explained everything and hung up the phone.

He picked up his phone, gently tapping on the table, his thoughts wandering far.

Sister Xian'er,

Give me some time.

I will try hard to pull you from these bitter seas.

Thinking this, Lu Ran lowered his head and smiled, Wang Quan's words echoing by his ear, very fitting.

Don't die.

...

Chapter 365: Trembling Da Xia

Bad news: Lu Ran's skills in cajoling were somewhat lacking.

At least, far less adept than his skills in confrontation.

Good news: Qiao Yuansi knew how to comfort herself.

She grew up in a single-parent family, with a career-driven mother and little time for accompaniment.

This shaped some of Qiao Yuansi's traits.

Beneath the shell of a mischievous young girl,

hid a heart that cautiously sought and was yet strong and independent.

The siblings of the Lu family seemed worlds apart, but at their core, they shared the same traits.

Self-reliance and strength.

While Lu Ran sat in the kitchen, his thoughts drifting away, Little Yuanxi walked back to the kitchen door.

Her eyes were red, and she stubbornly pursed her lips, looking at the young man seated in silence with his head bowed.

The more she looked, the sadder Qiao Yuansi felt.

The person who should be most worried was Lu Ran.

After all, he was the one who was risking his life to challenge the Divine Ruins.

When the divine commanded, believers had no right to refuse.

Thus, Lu Ran also had no choice in the matter.

"Brother~"

Qiao Yuansi spoke softly.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran snapped out of his thoughts and quickly stood up, "Come eat, I'll warm up your milk for you."

"Um." Qiao Yuansi relaxed a bit, relieved to see that her brother wasn't angry.

She sat down with her head lowered.

A moment later, Qiao Yuansi sneakily glanced up at Lu Ran, who was busy at the kitchen counter.

She pouted and broke the silence, "Did you tell Mom about the Divine Ruins thing?"

Lu Ran shook his head, "No, Mom is in closed-door cultivation, I can't reach her."

"Oh." Qiao Yuansi picked up her chopsticks and poked at the soft-boiled egg on her plate.

Was she imagining the fried egg as Lu Ran's face?

The conversation naturally shifted.

As if by silent agreement, the topic of leaving was no longer brought up.

In the next two days, the siblings returned to their usual routine.

Warmth as the main theme, with bickering as a minor interlude.

Lu Ran could feel that Little Yuanxi had become more clingy.

She pulled him to the sofa to watch "Heavenly Pride," replaying each of his battles.

Watching the heroic figure of Lu Ran, Qiao Yuansi couldn't help but giggle covertly and hug her brother's arm tightly.

The young girl's eyes were sparkling and her curved smiling eyes were like two beautiful crescents.

Charming and adorable.

On the eighteenth day of the lunar month, the latest ranking for "Heavenly Pride" was released.

Lu Ran scored 142 points.

Qiao Yuansi was quite dissatisfied, claiming there was foul play.

Lu Ran, on the other hand, pondered in his heart.

Isn't this score a bit harsh?

After his promotion to the River Realm, the grading standards of the judges were indeed different, weren't they?

To think, Rain Alley City did not just experience the Night of Ghosts but also the presence of a Demon Monarch.

And Lu Ran was involved in the battle from the beginning and played a critical role!

If Lu Ran was still at River Realm-Fifth Rank, might he have gotten full marks?

The fact that a Demon Monarch had slipped into the Night of Ghosts was indeed a shock to everyone!

Since last June, the intensity of Evil Demon invasions had been increasing.

Events claimed to be 'special' were gradually becoming less so.

And this October, the Night of Ghosts and the descent of the Demon Monarch occurring at the same time seemed to herald the dawn of a new era.

Panicked citizens were only natural.

The Da Xia government was also deliberately steering public opinion.

Whenever people connected the Night of Ghosts with the descent of the Demon Monarch, they invariably brought up the name Lu Ran.

Public focus and discussions inevitably leaned towards him.

Now, Lu Ran was more than famous in Da Xia.

He was awe-inspiring!

Lu Ran dared not rebel, but his fans had already hailed him as emperor...

Regrettably, Emperor Ran only secured third place this period.

But on the overall leaderboard, he was still comfortably in first place.

The two individuals ahead of him this period were both River Realm·Fifth Rank believers.

One with 147 points, the other with 144 points!

One a disciple of East Thunder, the other a disciple of Sword One.

Lu Ran specifically watched the highlight reel of the East Thunder brother, who was like Flash!

Enveloped in purple lightning, he stood his ground against a River Realm Demon Monarch.

Two words: Badass!

In any combat, an absolute advantage in speed can create miracles.

The East Thunder believer was such, and so was the Immortal Sheep believer.

"Brother, you now have 583 points in total!" Qiao Yuansi exclaimed excitedly from the computer desk, "17 points ahead of second place! Yay~"

Lu Ran then turned his attention to the second place.

Poor He Qifeng, the Martial Monk sister.

She advanced to the River Realm first and faced score suppression by the judges earlier.

Despite being a major force in battle with outstanding achievements, she couldn't reach 140.

That's tough~

"Just one more battle left!" Qiao Yuansi's eyes shone with excitement, "And you'll be the undisputed number one heavenly pride of Da Xia!"

Lu Ran patted Qiao Yuansi's head, "You shouldn't count your chickens before they hatch."

"AUV~" She imitated the tones of a Beijing socialite.

Then, becoming mischievously playful, she wobbled her head, "You're not allowed to say that~"

Lu Ran held her head steady with one hand, "Are you showing your true colors now?"

Qiao Yuansi giggled, "So tell me, what am I then?"

"You... well, you're a person." Lu Ran was out of arguments.

They were, after all, siblings, sharing the same blood.

"Hmph." Qiao Yuansi won another round and turned to look at the computer.

Lu Ran too looked on, opening the prize page.

The prizes for the top ten in the Heavenly Pride rankings weren't too shabby.

Seven Divine Weapons and three Magic Artifacts were available to choose from.

After "Heavenly Pride" ended, students would select in order of their rankings.

Those ranking 11th to 30th would be awarded Divine Weapon embryos, akin to the state of the Black Ice Sword when Jiang Ruyi first obtained the Cold Night Sword.

These weapons had been nurtured by their owners for a long time and were full of spirit.

Regrettably, their owners had perished in battle, leaving their blades to be collected by "Heavenly Pride" as prizes.

Subsequent rewards were varied and assorted.

Various materials for weapons, high-grade Divine Power Pearls, rare minerals from Demon Caves, plants, and so on.

Naturally, Qiao Yuansi's eyes were focused on the top ten.

"Magic Artifacts are rarer, let's pick a Magic Artifact!" she suggested confidently, as if the powerful artifact was already hers.

"Let's hope so." Lu Ran's gaze passed over the images of the three Magic Artifacts.

"Heavenly Pride" really knew how to whet one's appetite.

The images of the seven Divine Weapons were displayed openly, whether they were swords or sabers at a glance.

By contrast, there was no introduction for the three Magic Artifacts; their images were even obscured by fog.

Online speculation was rife, and there were many theories.

One of the Magic Artifacts appeared to be a Treasure Bead.

Another looked like a wine gourd, at least the part visible through the fog looked like the gourd's mouth.

As for the last Magic Artifact, the fog in the image was so thick that there was no consensus on the internet.

According to "Heavenly Pride" official website information, the details of the three Magic Artifacts would be revealed along with the year-end total score ranking.

This left Lu Ran itching with curiosity.

He wished that tomorrow would be the final day of "Heavenly Pride"!

He hoped that the unique Artifact Spirit within the prize he would choose would be somewhat amiable.

Lu Ran was not worried that the Artifact Spirits of these Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts would cause trouble or refuse to acknowledge their masters.

After all, these were offered by "Heavenly Pride"; the officials must have communicated with the Artifact Spirits.

Full of hope, Lu Ran received numerous congratulatory messages.

He replied to each one, then received a call from the official "Heavenly Pride".

Without the excuse of needing to meditate on the River Realm this time, he agreed to their invitation for an outing.

Just taking two or three days, it wouldn't delay anything.

Besides, Lu Ran had his eye on the prize...

Most of all, Lu Ran truly wanted to do something for this land, for the people of Da Xia suffering through adversity.

Going to some remote areas to offer warmth.

To bring encouragement to the locals, to inspire the students, felt quite meaningful.

And there was also money to be made.

...

In the blink of an eye, it was the nineteenth day of the lunar calendar.

That morning, a large G-class SUV stopped in front of the apartment building.

By the Lu residence's doorway,

Qiao Yuansi pouted, stepping into her Doc Martens, obstinately gazing at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran, irritated, said, "Tie your own laces!"

Qiao Yuansi stubbornly kept her gaze fixed on her brother, her lips so puckered they could hang an oil bottle.

"I really owe you one!"

Lu Ran acquiesced, knelt on one knee, and tied his sister's shoelaces.

A flicker of joy passed in Qiao Yuansi's eyes, quickly filled again with the sorrow of parting.

But she had no choice; she had to return to Beijing for college.

"It's tied, let's go." Lu Ran stood up and said, gripping the suitcase handle.

"Hmpf." Qiao Yuansi stomped and turned to push open the door, walking out.

Lu Ran followed behind his sister, suddenly feeling an urge to start chanting "left, right, left."

Well... better not provoke her.

As soon as the apartment door was pushed open, several voices were heard.

"Ran Bro!"

"Ran Bro!" Niu Zhengzheng and Wang Ling were smiling and greeting him by the off-road vehicle.

Guan Yiren looked at Qiao Yuansi, who was pouting as she came out and reached out to steady the young girl.

However, Qiao Yuansi instead plunged directly into Guan Yiren's embrace.

Guan Yiren, showing rare warmth, gently patted Qiao Yuansi's back.

Wang Ling asked, "Bro Ran, you sure I shouldn't take you back to Beijing?"

"No need, you guys go ahead." Lu Ran still wore his mask and shook his head.

Lu Ran indeed had to fly from Beijing, but he had to wait for Sister Xian'er to arrive before leaving together.

"Wang Ling." Guan Yiren called softly.

"Ah." Wang Ling opened the rear car door, fetched a Tang broadsword, and approached Lu Ran.

Lu Ran asked, "What's this?"

Wang Ling smiled, "Bro Ran, this is our squad's thank-you gift, for your care on the night of the fifteenth."

The Tang sword was without a scabbard, at first glance seeming like ordinary steel.

But Lu Ran was fairly certain, it must be Tianchen Steel!

After all, those giving the gift were all sons and daughters of nobility.

"No, it's too precious." Lu Ran waved it off.

Guan Yiren softly said, "Compared to what you've done for us, this is insignificant."

Lu Ran had indeed taken great care of the squad.

He had broken the siege for Wang Ling and saved Guan Yiren's life.

But this was not the way to count it!

That night they were a team, companions in battle together.

Their relationship could be life-saving; it wasn't right to accept gifts.

Niu Zhengzheng boisterous as ever, "Bro Ran, just accept it, we've seen you like blades!"

You're bound to have more than two divine weapons in your life, haha!"

Guan Yiren glanced down, stared at Lu Ran's black mask, her voice tender:

"Having this blade follow you would be its honor."

Wang Ling added, "Yeah, Bro Ran! In your hands..."

Lu Ran waved his hand, "If you insist on giving it to me, then don't come next month on the fifteenth."

Wang Ling looked troubled, turning to look at Guan Yiren.

Guan Yiren hesitated, but only until the girl in her arms whispered something. She then nodded, signaling Wang Ling to take back the sword.

Lu Ran was also helpless.

Was Ran Dog's hearing too sharp?

Of course, he overheard Qiao Yuansi softly say, "My brother's birthday is soon."

Lu Ran handed the suitcase to Wang Ling, "Hurry up and go, don't be late returning to school."

Qiao Yuansi turned to gaze at Lu Ran, her cheeks puffed, and she glared at him again.

Then she got into the vehicle, her ponytail swishing with every move.

Lu Ran watched them helplessly, shrugging his shoulders, "Hurry up, I'm pretty cold."

Early winter season, dry grass covered with a thin frost.

Lu Ran stood in the cold wearing only light clothes after speeding to see off the visitors.

"Okay, let's go."

"Then we're leaving, Bro Ran, see you next month on the fifteenth!"

"Drive safely." Lu Ran watched them get in the car, sending them off until the vehicle slowly disappeared.

Just as the car was about to turn the corner and vanish, a small head popped out of the window, loudly saying,

"Goodbye, brother~~~"

The early winter morning was a bit chilly.

The neighborhood was quiet and deserted.

The girl's voice carried far and wide, breaking the cold silence.

Lu Ran's eyes were warm with a smile as he waved his hand.

...

Chapter 366: Mad Immortal Xian'er

In the morning hours, Lu Ran stood on the platform of Rain Alley City Station, awaiting a train.

High-speed train stations have rules that non-passengers may not enter the platform.

But this is Rain Alley.

Lu Ran is Lu Ran.

Had he not been assertive yet polite in sending off the station leaders, he would likely be surrounded by a crowd of people.

Some wanted to stand with Lu Ran and receive the train together, while others played coy and refused to disembark.

When the train came to a halt and the carriage doors opened automatically, a tall and slender figure stood at the door.

Motionless.

Her hair length did not exceed her shoulders, slightly curved, and somewhat messy.

She wore a V-neck knit sweater, a dark scarf, a black wool coat, and black high heels.

Her originally sweet face, now clad in such attire and styled hair, seemed elegant yet sexy.

Indeed,

cuteness was nothing in front of sexiness.

"Where's your white down jacket, the one with pink bunny ears?" Lu Ran slightly raised an eyebrow.

Last winter was still fresh and clean.

Grown up by a year, and already switched to a mature style?

It's undeniable, Sister Xian'er's appearance was top-notch.

Unfortunately, beneath this top-tier exterior hid a fiercely eccentric personality...

Xianxian still stood inside the train, in front of the carriage door, silent, quietly looking at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran said, "You're blocking the people behind."

If it were Jiang Ruyi, she would have immediately come out, unwilling to cause trouble for others.

But who is Xianxian?

Blocking people?

Then you can roll to the next carriage!

Behind Xianxian, the female attendant hesitated for a long time, yet dared not speak.

The aura of the lady before her was too intimidating...

It was good enough that ordinary people didn't tremble, let alone make a peep.

Lu Ran said, "Don't be silly."

Xianxian finally spoke, scoffing, "This is your Rain Alley."

"What's wrong with Rain Alley?"

"Who gets off at your stop?"

Lu Ran hesitated, "..."

You... well, you're right.

Lu Ran slightly tilted his head, "You're blocking the staff from doing their job."

"No—I haven't," the attendant stammered, quickly walking back into the carriage.

Don't drag me into a couple's quarrel!

You cultivators, each one scarier than the next... Uh?

The attendant was stunned.

Because Xianxian blocked the carriage door, the female attendant couldn't see the people outside.

Now stepping into the carriage and through the window, she naturally saw the youth in black hat and black mask.

Isn't that Lu Ran?

He was dressed just like that on "Heavenly Pride"!

"My dear!" The attendant's eyes widened, immediately pulling out her phone.

Clearly, Lu Ran had been somewhat negligent.

Last week on "Heavenly Pride," in order to conceal his "divine appearance," he was still wearing a hat and mask.

Lu Ran was genuinely worried about "seducing" too many people.

And here came the problem!

If he continued wearing a black hat and black mask while traveling, what effect would the disguise have?

When Lu Ran took a cab to the high-speed train station, the driver had already taught Lu Ran a lesson.

The excited driver talked the entire way, asked for an autograph from Lu Ran, and at the end, insisted on refusing the fare.

After arriving at the station, Lu Ran wanted to talk to the station staff, hoping to enter the platform to meet someone.

Little did he anticipate that he would be recognized by a security officer upon entering the station, who directly reported to higher authorities and escorted Lu Ran onto the platform.

What followed was a swarm of leaders arriving...

Lu Ran was overwhelmed!

As a guardian deity of Rain Alley City, he was treated with absolute respect and care.

He also saw countless surprised and grateful faces.

There were a few moments that made Lu Ran slightly embarrassed and at a loss.

During his journey, several people paid great respect to him.

The kind that involved kneeling.

Many tearfully thanked Lu Ran for saving their lives, thanking Heavenly Pride Lu Tianjiao for rescuing their families.

In this era of worshipping gods, kneeling had become an ordinary act.

Kneeling to gods, praying for protection was something people did daily; it had become habitual.

But kneeling to a person?

Perhaps, for the people of Rain Alley, Lu Ran's existence was also a kind of deity.

"Stop fussing, come down," Lu Ran advised. "The train only stops for two minutes; it will depart soon."

Xianxian huffed, "Even better, I'll go have fun by myself."

Lu Ran felt helpless.

This girl got onto the train while Aunt Si saw her off all the way to the platform, even called him for confirmation and repeatedly reminded him.

Of course, Lu Ran had to personally receive her when she disembarked.

Lu Ran took a step forward and walked over.

Xianxian's gaze was deep. As Lu Ran approached, a flicker of panic crossed her eyes, and she turned her head to look aside.

Sister Ruyi wasn't exaggerating.

Lu Ran's eyes, who could withstand them...

On "Heavenly Pride," Xianxian had also had a superficial experience, but what was it compared to seeing with her own eyes?

Especially now, when he was slightly displeased, approaching with large strides, pressing forward.

Tsk tsk,

that aura!

It's even more thrilling~

I really want to pick up a hammer and have a fight with him...

Xianxian felt her wrist tighten and was directly pulled off the train.

Her high heels clacked, and the suitcase wheels rumbled.

"Be gentle, you're hurting me!"

Xianxian struggled with her hand, clearly displeased.

Stupid younger brother!

I regret not slapping you back then.

Lu Ran smiled, "Came here to act spoiled?"

Xianxian shot back directly, "Who asked you to brush me off? Do you know how hurtful your words were?"

Lu Ran slightly raised an eyebrow, "I've arranged for you to go to Luoxian Mountain, is that still brushing you off?"

Xianxian fell silent.

Lu Ran arranging for her under the foot of the divine truly showed full sincerity.

However, Xianxian still couldn't forget the time she eagerly asked him where he was going, and he said he was too busy...

After that phone call, Xianxian indeed felt devastated.

The greater the expectation, the greater the disappointment.

She sat alone on the small bed, staring blankly at the sky outside the window.

Her joyful anticipation turning empty, her eye rims gradually reddening.

Thinking about the lonely, dim days continuing without an end in sight.

Perhaps, she should never have worshipped the Divine-Lie Tian.

Having great power, so what?

Becoming a Believer, stepping onto what everyone considers the right path, what's the use?

Staying at home, she was like a rat hiding in the sewers.

Occasionally going out, she became a plague god that everyone avoided and detested.

Perhaps, she should just be an ordinary person.

To hell with curiosity!

To hell with resisting Evil Demons, protecting family!

To hell with common notions, the right course in life!

To hell with societal values, school, and family education!

To hell with Lie...

But it was too late.

You can't just leave the God Sect when you feel like it.

"Sister Xian'er?" Lu Ran stopped in his tracks, looking at the girl beside him whose emotions were violently fluctuating.

In those beautiful eyes, a layer of mist seemed to rise.

Was she about to cry?

Is this still the aggressive Lie Tian Girl he knew?

Lu Ran quickly reviewed all his actions since meeting her up until now.

He didn't seem to have said anything too harsh, did he?

Could it be, pulling her off the train really hurt her?

"What's up?" Xianxian turned her head again, glancing aside.

After a moment of hesitation, Lu Ran softly said, "We're catching the afternoon train, let's head home now.

What do you want to eat for lunch? I'll take you out."

Xianxian scoffed coldly, "My mom told me to cook for you at noon. We'll eat at home, to avoid causing you trouble."

Lu Ran took her suitcase, repeating:

"What do you want for lunch? I'll take you out."

"Can't you understand human speech?" Lie Tian Girl's emotions were extremely unstable, ready to explode at a moment's notice.

However, when Xianxian suddenly turned to look at Lu Ran, she froze.

She saw a pair of gentle eyes.

Gone was the displeasure from before, only a tranquil calm remained.

As if any emotions that plunged into them could not stir up the slightest ripple.

That was a kind of...

peace that embraced everything.

Xianxian spaced out for a while, then looked away.

Thinking about her own outburst of control just now, she lowered her head and softly said:

"Sorry, I didn't mean it."

Lu Ran softly spoke, "It's fine. What do you want for lunch? How about hotpot lamb?"

He, of course, knew she didn't mean it.

The disease is called Lie Tian.

It's not about others.

Xianxian looked up, her expression bizarre, "You? Eating hotpot lamb?"

Lu Ran shrugged, "If you want to eat it, let's go."

Xianxian ruffled her hair, making it even messier.

Her eyes, brimming with tears, naturally carried a sense of broken vulnerability.

To outsiders, this was an appearance that seemed pitifully lovely—an utterly unique charm.

As for Lu Ran, she seemed even crazier...

Xianxian took a good while to respond, "Can you handle it?"

Lu Ran retorted, "What kind of question is that!"

Xianxian placed a hand on Lu Ran's shoulder, her eyes shining, "Then I want to eat lamb skewers, and drink draft beer!"

Lu Ran slightly furrowed his brows, "Draft beer in winter?"

Xianxian suddenly smiled, her smile sweet, her voice even sweeter:

"Young~~~ master~~~"

Lu Ran shivered, "Speak properly!"

Xianxian bent over, grabbed the handle of her suitcase again, "Young master, let me carry it.

I'm the young mistress's maid, expressly appointed by you!

Just command me, young master."

Lu Ran slightly lifted his head, gesturing towards the exit escalator, "Let's go."

"Alright then." Xianxian immediately strode forward, her wool coat unbuttoned and flapping, moving briskly.

Lu Ran's expression was peculiar as he followed behind, riding the escalator together.

Xianxian turned around and looked down, a pitiful little look in her eyes, looking towards Lu Ran, "About that draft beer..."

"Hmm," Lu Ran nodded gently.

Xianxian's eyes lit up, her tongue licked her lips.

That greedy look seemed somewhat appropriate for a normal girl.

Lu Ran could guess that such things as alcohol were strictly forbidden by Aunt Si for Xianxian.

But by his side, Lu Ran didn't mind letting Xianxian drink a little.

He had the absolute strength to control the situation.

As Jiang Ruyi said, Sister Xian'er is in too much pain; let her have some joy.

Lu Ran watched Xianxian, who was lost in her delightful fantasies, and smiled:

"Button up, it's cold outside."

"Okay."

"Fix your hair; you look like you just woke up."

"Hmm."

"Everything will get better."

"Of course it will..." Xianxian paused, looking down at Lu Ran standing below.

Lu Ran lifted his gaze towards her, his eyes earnest.

The escalator just reached its end.

Xianxian, dragging her suitcase, walked out.

"Hehe." She smiled, although the smile was somewhat strained, casually joking, "Yeah, I believe in you, young master."

Following behind her, Lu Ran murmured to himself:

"I believe in myself too."

...

Chapter 367: Blessed Cloud

At dusk, Yeyu City.

A pair of men and women walked through Luoxian Mountain.

Among them, the young girl dragged a suitcase, her eyes enchanted.

She looked around, admiring the beauty between Heaven and Earth, and felt as though she had arrived in the Immortal Realm.

"How beautiful~" Si Xianxian sighed.

She had repeated this many times along the way.

Lu Ran pinched his medical mask and pulled it up slightly.

At noon, Sister Xian'er hadn't eaten much skewer, but she had drunk three full pints of beer.

She was very happy~

But every time she opened her little mouth, the smell of alcohol was strong.

Moreover, Lu Ran had the nose of a dog.

When they sat together on the high-speed train and the plane, Lu Ran felt he was almost drunk from the smell.

"Really beautiful~"

Even if the alcohol didn't intoxicate people, the scenery did.

Si Xianxian stopped walking and gazed westward.

The setting sun left rosy clouds filling the sky.

The mountain breeze blew, shaking the leaves, bringing a pleasant rustling sound.

Si Xianxian's eyes grew more enchanted.

She wasn't foolish.

In Luoxian Mountain, she clearly perceived Lu Ran's aura.

"We are almost there," Lu Ran urged.

However, Si Xianxian said, "Does your Divine Weapon Domain, and even your eyes, originate from here?"

Lu Ran, hands in his pockets, also looked westward: "The eyes do, but not the rosy clouds.

The Blessed Cloud was inspired by Rain Alley City."

Lu Ran had already named the Dawn Blade's Divine Weapon Domain as "Blessed Cloud."

This term needs to be explained.

The Blessed radiance refers to the rosy clouds that Lu Ran can conjure.

As for the Blessed Clouds...

It must be noted:

A Divine Weapon Domain can be further comprehended and developed!

It has some "endless learning" kind of meaning.

Lu Ran had a premonition:

If the Dawn Blade continued to progress, its domain might very well take the form of Blessed Clouds!

He always remembered the moment when the Dawn Blade's domain first formed.

In the sky of Rain Alley City,

The Blessed Clouds vortex swirled!

That massive vortex of Blessed Clouds, not knowing how many Evil Demons and Paper Phoenixes it incinerated.

It fiercely forced back the Night of Ghosts!

Was this achievement Lu Ran's?

Of course!

But the vortex of Blessed Clouds in the night sky was not the capability of Lu Ran and the Dawn Blade.

It belonged to the celestial phenomenon brought about during the upgrade to a Divine Weapon.

This phenomenon provided ample inspiration for Lu Ran and also gave a direction for the Dawn Blade to proceed.

Perhaps one day in the future, Lu Ran could use the Dawn Blade to personally summon massive vortexes of Blessed Clouds.

Just thinking about it was exciting!

Ever since then, the sky of Rain Alley City...

Forbade Evil Demons!

Returning to the topic, for a Divine Weapon and its master to further dig deeper and comprehend a higher level of the domain is extremely difficult.

After all, it's not easy for people to possess a Divine Weapon.

Those who can activate a Divine Weapon Domain are even rarer.

You want to climb even higher?

Even if you have a clear research topic and direction for growth, who knows when you will fully comprehend it.

"Let's go, the sun is about to set," Lu Ran urged again.

Si Xianxian looked at Lu Ran and then turned her head to the western rosy clouds.

Sister Xian'er's head swung like a rattle drum, comparing back and forth.

Time and again in amazement.

"Let's go." Lu Ran pushed her back.

"Master is quite domineering~" Si Xianxian's lips curved up, her smile as unrestrained as ever.

Various signs constantly reminded Lu Ran that the beauty before him was seriously ill.

She was crazy.

Thinking of this, Lu Ran had a strange expression.

On the way here, he hadn't planned to pass through the mountain villages, but it just so happened that the two encountered a group of Immortal Sheep Believers picking in the mountains.

Naturally, Lu Ran was surrounded by the enthusiastic aunties, who were all warm and concerned.

However, as they surrounded him, the expressions of the aunties became somewhat off.

Why?

Naturally, because of Si Xianxian, who was explosively beautiful!

The gazes of the Immortal Sheep Believers swept back and forth between the man and woman, hesitant to speak.

In the end, it was still Aunt Liu, who often picked mushrooms for Lu Ran, who pulled him aside.

Lu Ran thought Aunt Liu was going to admonish him, telling him not to be unfaithful.

But unexpectedly, Aunt Liu cautiously advised Lu Ran to communicate well with the Mountain Master's wife and not be too domineering.

Aunt Liu also said that if Lu Ran needed, she could help persuade the Mountain Master's wife.

This world is too hard.

To live a peaceful and beautiful life is better than anything.

Lu Ran was stupefied!

He and Si Xianxian were proper, without any intimate actions, holding hands or linking arms.

What's going on?

My Sister Xian'er is a third wheel?

Later, Lu Ran realized.

In the recognition of the Immortal Sheep Believers, Luo Xian Residence is a landmark building, not accessible to just anyone.

Only the Mountain Master and his family can reside there.

Lu Ran could only smile wryly.

Faced with the devout Immortal Sheep Believers, it was not good for Lu Ran to say that Sister Xian'er was just a friend.

Such an explanation would simply desecrate the "holy place" in the hearts of the Immortal Sheep Believers!

Lu Ran couldn't expose the secret that Sister Xian'er was a potential Believer of Ran Sect he had chosen.

Simply, Lu Ran set Si Xianxian's identity:

"This is a personal maidservant, who came to serve the Mountain Master's wife."

Now it was Aunt Liu's turn to be stupefied, staring at Si Xianxian for a long time.

Could this be a maidservant?

This appearance, this aura, this powerful presence!

Are you sure she's not aiming to usurp the position?

Afterward, Lu Ran and Si Xianxian had walked quite a distance, but Aunt Liu was still gazing at Si Xianxian's graceful back, constantly murmuring.

"I see Ruyi!" Si Xianxian suddenly exclaimed, awakening the contemplative Lu Ran.

Lu Ran looked up and was momentarily dazzled.

Luo Xian Residence, in front of the courtyard.

A figure in white clothes purer than snow, with long hair like a waterfall, stood quietly.

The setting sun shone on her, adding a layer of sublime color.

That pair of clear eyes, upon seeing Lu Ran, visibly fluctuated.

Her cool and distant demeanor quietly thawed, revealing a slight smile.

In Lu Ran's mind, a line of poetry suddenly emerged:

"Feather clothes often carry the colors of the clouds and mist, untouched by the worldly peach and plum blossoms."

"Oh my God..."

Si Xianxian's voice grew softer, and she stopped in her tracks, staring blankly at Jiang Ruyi.

Indeed, Jiang Ruyi was more suited to be the master of Luoxian Mountain.

She matched the temperament of Luoxian Mountain more.

Lu Ran let out a sigh of relief and patted Si Xianxian's shoulder: "In the future, just look at her every day, you'll become resistant.

And she is also trying hard to suppress this charm."

Si Xianxian kept staring at Jiang Ruyi, full of confusion:

"I've also seen Jiang Realm Great Powers, but none like this..."

Lu Ran chuckled inwardly.

The Jiang Realm Great Powers you've seen, have they received a Divine Blessing?

To speak bluntly, bring the dazzling Deng Yuxiang here, and she would be crushed into dust by Jiang Ruyi.

This is far beyond just Transforming!

In the future, if Jiang Ruyi advances another realm and enters the Sea Realm...

She might just become a transcendent immortal!

"Why... why is she frowning?" Si Xianxian felt a bit panicked, "Did I do something wrong?"

"Hmm?" Lu Ran observed carefully.

With his excellent vision, he could determine where Jiang Ruyi's gaze fell.

It fell between the two of them!

Lu Ran's heart stirred, recalling his recent action of patting Si Xianxian's shoulder, he immediately sidestepped, putting distance between himself and Sister Xian'er.

From afar, Jiang Ruyi's brows gradually relaxed.

Lu Ran: "..."

Good fellow~

Jiang Xianzi was actually jealous?

Hmm, acceptable.

At least she seemed more human.

"Huff huff~~~" The voice of a child suddenly came.

In the courtyard, a pretty little girl ran out, her pigtails bouncing adorably.

"Can't go out, Mommy will come in a bit," Jiang Ruyi said softly, bending over to pick up the little girl.

It turned out to be Gugu.

Si Xianxian widened her eyes.

She stared blankly for a while, then turned her head toward Lu Ran: "You... you! You guys?"

Lu Ran almost laughed out loud!

He hurriedly pretended to look guilty and nodded reluctantly.

Si Xianxian was completely overwhelmed, her mouth agape: "Holy crap!"

Is it that explosive?

Inside the courtyard, Cheng Rou hurriedly approached, her face full of apologies: "I'm sorry, I was just washing my hands, and she ran off again."

"It's fine," Jiang Ruyi handed Gugu back to her.

"Ma'am, the food is ready, I'll be heading back now," Cheng Rou said, her face still apologetic, and she smiled.

"No worries, Senior Sister Cheng," Jiang Ruyi responded a bit helplessly.

She had corrected this address many times before.

But every Immortal Sheep Believer in the mountain dutifully called her "Mountain Master's wife."

Actually, when Jiang Ruyi and Cheng Rou first met, Senior Sister Cheng was not so formal and polite, just friendly and amiable.

Perhaps the grandfathers of the Cheng Family had said something.

In any case, everything had changed.

"Oh, little junior brother has arrived!" Cheng Rou, holding Gugu, naturally saw Lu Ran.

Seeing the real Mountain Master, Cheng Rou was not so formal but very friendly.

Cheng Rou glanced at Si Xianxian, nodded in greeting, then said to Lu Ran:

"The food is ready, go ahead, don't keep the lady waiting."

"Thank you, Senior Sister," Lu Ran said with a smile.

As Senior Sister passed by, he stretched out a finger and gently poked Gugu's cheek.

"Um." The little girl turned and hugged her mother's neck, hiding her face.

Cheng Rou's face was full of doting: "That's rude, call him brother."

"Brother~"

"Bye-bye," Lu Ran waved with a smile.

Si Xianxian watched Cheng Rou walk away, then turned and kicked towards Lu Ran.

I dodge~

Lu Ran sidestepped several times and looked at the woman: "What are you freaking out about?"

Si Xianxian, obviously not lightly deceived, her beautiful eyes almost sparking fire: "Is that f\*\*\*ing your child?"

From afar, Jiang Ruyi's faint voice came: "How long are you going to stand there?"

"Coming!" Lu Ran strode forward.

Jiang Ruyi pursed her lips, her eyes slightly resentful, watching the young man approaching step by step.

Lu Ran suddenly stretched out both arms, embraced the warm fragrant soft jade, and with a flourish, tossed her up!

"Ooh!"

Jiang Ruyi let out a light cry, thrown into the air, her deliberately stern face breaking her act.

She looked at Lu Ran, both angry and amused, and was caught firmly by him.

Under the sunset, in front of the courtyard.

A pair of slender figures stood, draped in a faint luster.

The greedy Lu Ran quickly shed his disguise and pressed his lips gently against Jiang Xianzi's tender and beautiful lips.

"Um, Xian... Sister Xian'er is still here... um..."

Jiang Ruyi's cheeks turned red.

Unable to escape, she gradually grasped Lu Ran's clothing tighter.

Si Xianxian immediately turned her head away.

After a moment, she sneakily glanced once.

She disdainfully spit and turned her gaze away.

Then sneaked another glance.

And another...

Chapter 368: Lingyun Mountain

The stars and moon transitioned, a moment of greed for joy.

Lu Ran came adorned with the sunset, and left facing the dawn.

The forces of "Heavenly Pride" were pressing; naturally, one could not miss such an official event.

Jiang Xianzi hid her emotions well, seemingly not wanting to bother Lu Ran because of her.

Yet, upon parting, she took the initiative to kiss Lu Ran's cheek.

This time, Sister Xian'er did not look away.

It was just a kiss on the cheek, what was there not to see?

Si Xianxian showed no particular expression, revealing no happiness or anger.

Lu Ran believed that she must be pleased with his departure.

After all, Si Xianxian had spent that night on the bench at Luo Xian Residence.

That was after dinner.

While Jiang's madam and Maid Si were having a lively chat, Lu Ran picked someone up.

He muttered something along the lines of "Heaven as curtains and earth as a mattress, with Cang Mountain and Erhai accompanying my sleep."

Then, Lu Ran sent Sister Xian'er outside to the old road by the pavilion.

Frustrated, Sister Xian'er stomped her feet outside the pavilion!

It remained unknown whether she slept that night...

There was no helping it, though Luo Xian Residence was spacious and the rooms large, there were no guest rooms.

The main bedroom alone could fit ten more beds, space was plentiful.

But there was truly no place for a third wheel.

Now that the troublesome Lu Ran had left, the two beauties could stick together every day...

Lu Ran's destination was just next door — the provincial capital of Qian Gui Province.

It took just over an hour by plane, and Lu Ran met up with the "Heavenly Pride" crew in the morning.

During this event, Lu Ran also met the other two Heavenly Prides.

One ranked in the sixties, the other in the eighties, clearly there to play supporting roles.

Lu Ran felt quite ashamed; he had never really paid much attention to the two.

As the number one Heavenly Pride of Da Xia, the two seniors were very friendly to him.

Lu Ran, lacking arrogance and being mild and polite, got along famously with them and even exchanged contact information.

During the two days of activities, Lu Ran promoted the team and distributed materials, and even gave a speech at a high school.

It was a fulfilling experience.

On the twenty-second of the lunar October, the activity ended.

Lu Ran declined his seniors' invitations and headed straight to Gusu City without any breaks.

Chen Jingjing had already arranged the Demon Cave for him.

The noble and holy Jade-faced Snake family, eagerly awaiting the guidance of the Evil Demon Lord...

How could Lu Ran bear to keep the fairy sisters waiting?

The three blades on his back were already eager for action.

...

Outside of Gusu City, in a taxi.

Lu Ran sat in the back, wearing a grey fisherman's hat and a white mask, staring blankly at the scenery outside the window.

Here, early winter was not very cold yet.

Not like his hometown, with its fluttering snowflakes.

Yet, as Lu Ran watched the drizzling cold rain outside the window, he felt even colder...

Slowly, he lifted his eyelids, looking at the majestic Divine Sculpture emerging amidst the rain curtain.

Second-class God·Dong Ting!

The main base of Divine·Dongting was in Hushang City.

But, with the strength and influence of a Second-class God unmatched, Gusu City had also been taken over by Dong Ting.

The first sight of Dong Ting's Divine Sculpture sparked a thought in Lu Ran's mind:

Lv Fengxian?

The image of the sculpture was that of a majestic ancient general.

In terms of attire, Dong Ting even had a bit of an "emperor" feel.

He wore a golden crown tied up hair, dressed in magnificent clothes that seemed like a mix of robes and armor, exuding an imposing aura.

He held a square sky halberd, entwined with purple electrical currents.

Even in those eyes, purple sparks flickered.

Majestic and heroic, with a powerful presence!

Of course, the purple currents on the halberd and in the eyes were all imagined by Lu Ran.

The magnificent stone sculpture in front of him had no currents entwined.

It was only because Lu Ran had seen the virtual shadow of Divine-Dongting on the internet and knew how stunning the original image was.

"Sir, we can only go this far," the taxi driver slowed down.

Ahead was a checkpoint, and at this moment, several soldiers were blocking the road, gesturing for the vehicle to stop.

Demon Cave·Lingyun Mountain (Jade-faced Snake Demon Cave) was not open to the public.

And unlike Yan Zhi Village, which was not open to the public on the surface but could still be accessed by influential people through connections for training.

It was really difficult for trainees to set foot in Lingyun Mountain.

As the archenemy of the First-class God-Monk, the Evil Demon-Jade-faced Snake was extremely strong and dangerously high.

It would be too great a loss to allow people to train here.

Presumably, only because of Lu Ran's reputation as "Da Xia's Number One Heavenly Pride" and his absolute strength, the arrangements by Chen Jingjing went smoothly.

"This is as far as we go." As Lu Ran was scanning the payment code, a soldier had already approached the driver's window and knocked.

"Knock, knock, knock~"

"This side." Lu Ran lowered his own window.

The young soldier looked serious, not speaking at first, assessing the driver before coming over to Lu Ran's window.

"Hello." Lu Ran directly handed out his ID and university student card.

The young soldier frowned slightly, but his expression changed drastically when he saw the ID.

Initially unkind, his eyes now blazed with fervor!

"Lu..."

"Before the fifteenth, I asked someone to contact you," Lu Ran interjected.

"Yes, we received the superior's notice. Please get out of the vehicle," the young soldier immediately nodded and signaled to the checkpoint.

Another soldier promptly came over with an umbrella.

Lu Ran got out of the car, unable to refuse, feeling very emotional inside.

"Heavenly Pride" had given him so much, setting up a stage that captured the world's attention.

What followed was up to one's own skills.

And on this stage, Lu Ran had made a formidable reputation.

Gaining respect from people everywhere.

Lu Ran took a blade from the trunk then followed the soldier onto a military vehicle, passed through multiple checkpoints, and headed towards the military camp.

The person welcoming Lu Ran was the second in command of this Demon Cave.

He was very enthusiastic, speaking special words that were not exactly out of regulation.

Da Xia's protection of the top one hundred Heavenly Prides was excessively strong, forbidding any official bodies from private dealings.

Looking back, it was rather the folks at Rain Alley City, Aunt Liu and Captain Ge, who seemed to have broken some rules.

It seems Aunt Liu, that local tyrant, had bet on Lu Ran's nature and relied on her unique advantage, acting a bit recklessly.

In fact, Lu Ran could guess as well.

Once "Heavenly Pride" ended, Da Xia officials would certainly have arrangements for these one hundred students.

After a year of hard fighting, every one of them had exceptional influence, of course, they were to be utilized by Da Xia.

Lu Ran was willing to serve this land.

The place that raised him was Rain Alley, but it was also Da Xia.

However, challenging the Divine Ruins was also something Lu Ran had to do.

With Lord Immortal Goat at his back, all problems would naturally be resolved.

Fundamentally, Lu Ran's goal of "eradicating earthly troubles" aligned perfectly with his country's goals and with the people of Da Xia.

"Lu Tianjiao, really no need for accompanying personnel?" the second in command chuckled as he looked at Lu Ran.

"No need, no need, I'm used to training alone, before the tenth I'll come out on my own."

Lu Ran said this, standing beside a column, looking down for the teleportation gate below.

Unexpectedly, it wasn't a Starry Sky Curtain, but a clear water screen.

Like a limpid lake, with Immortal Fog swirling above.

Lu Ran had seen this type of teleportation gate before!

That was in Bamboo Sea Demon Cave under the lanterns at Qiantang River Province.

Thinking of Bamboo Sea, Lu Ran recalled Forget Spring Believers·Li Rouyin.

After their last parting, he wondered if she had been diligently collecting Dead Souls.

He would need to find an opportunity to drop by Miss Forget Spring for a visit...

"Leader, we shouldn't delay; I'll go train now." Lu Ran said, pulling out his Silent Night Blade and leaping down.

Gale howled by his ears as Lu Ran plunged into the clear lake.

Instantly, the sky brightened!

This was not night, but day, just like Bamboo Sea Demon Cave.

Lu Ran gripped the hilt tightly, hovering in the air, looking around.

He was a bit stunned.

Lingyun Mountain, was it really this beautiful?

Looking around, the mountains undulated, the forests lush.

The alien trees varied abundantly, mostly of remarkable sizes, the leaves displaying colors like green, yellow, red.

Like the northern autumn, forests all dyed.

The vast sea of clouds covered the distant peaks, creating an artistic conception.

This was simply a recuperation sanctuary!

Sadly,

the evil demons inhabiting this Demon Cave belonged to the Jade-faced Snake family.

They were not the silly bamboo wood demons!

Who would dare come here to recuperate and reproduce?

Lu Ran looked down and saw a beautifully constructed Wooden City.

Many soldiers were looking up, watching Lu Ran in the sky.

They clearly knew Lu Ran's identity, and many looked excited.

"Sigh~"

Lu Ran first landed on the ground, politely negotiated with the soldier leader, confirmed the related matters, and then directly flew away from Wooden City.

Jade-faced Snake, here I come!

Um... before that, need to find a helper.

This time, instead of calling on Night Charm and Ghost General,

let's mold Sister Yan Zhi first~

Since Yan Zhi's Evil Sculpture was promoted to River Realm, Lu Ran hadn't had the chance to summon the Yan Zhi, commanding her in battle.

He also wondered if his self-made Yan Zhi harbored any covetous intentions.

The more he thought, the stranger Lu Ran's expression became.

If Yan Zhi stayed by his side, full of possessiveness, thinking only of marrying and consummating...

"Uh." Lu Ran shook his head vigorously.

It shouldn't...

Right?

Lu Ran flew for a long time, directly plunging into the depths of the forest.

He paused for a long while, listening carefully, ensuring there was no one nearby before extending his hand forward.

"Sigh~"

Accompanied by an energy fluctuation, a finely crafted Ancient Bronze Mirror quietly took shape.

Evil Mirror Demon Technique·Connection Mirror!

Jiang Grade-Connection Mirror could detect any creatures within a five hundred meter radius.

Double assurance, better safe than sorry!

In a few days, he could also mold Miss Evil Mirror Demon and test her quality.

Sadly,

the Evil Spear Emperor's Evil Sculpture had not advanced to River Realm, thus could not create evils.

After the fifteenth, when Lu Ran activated the Evil Spear Emperor's Evil Sculpture, he also witnessed its ascension to River Realm-Fourth Rank.

To create the Evil Spear Emperor, more time was still needed.

"Person, person, person..."

Lu Ran continued swiping on the mirror surface, like scrolling through short videos, searching for creatures within a five hundred meter radius.

The results all showed himself.

Apart from Lu Ran himself, the Connection Mirror naturally also locked onto his Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts.

Lu Ran, stubbornly continuing to swipe...

"Jasmine flowers?"

He slightly raised an eyebrow and paused his finger.

Anyone or anything that qualified to appear in the Connection Mirror must possess a certain level of energy fluctuation.

In most Demon Caves, there were numerous special plant species and various mineral types.

Some plants had medicinal uses, some minerals could be made into blades.

But those inherently with energy fluctuations were not common!

Take Tianchen Steel for example, no matter how precious and rare, it itself did not produce energy.

But these jasmine flowers...

Lu Ran's eyes brightened more and more!

Had he stumbled upon a treasure?

He really wanted to call Jiang Ruyi,

to ask the scholar what exactly this thing was...

...

Chapter 369: Make a Yan Zhi Doll

"Ah?"

Lu Ran was holding the Ancient Bronze Mirror, closely observing the jasmine flower.

Suddenly, a delicate jade hand reached out in the mirror and gently plucked the flower.

This unexpected scene left Lu Ran stunned.

He immediately zoomed out the view and saw the owner of the hand.

Her upper body was that of a woman, dressed in white clothes, draped with a white veil.

Her long black hair was styled up high; her white veil fluttered around her.

Her lower half, however, was covered with white scales of a serpent's body.

The scales were white like jade, emitting a strange luster, extremely beautiful.

Evil Demon-Jade-faced Snake!

She placed the flower close to her nose, gently sniffing it, as if somewhat intoxicated.

What was terrifying was the long snake tongue that she spat out from her lips!

Her tongue forked, lightly grasping a jasmine petal.

Then came her red and tender long tongue, incredibly agile, coiling around a whole jasmine flower, swallowing it.

Lu Ran: !!!

My! Flower!

Lu Ran closely observed the scene in the mirror, immediately reaching his hand to the side and a surge of energy fluctuated in his palm.

Evil Technique·Mirror of Sin!

Another exquisite ancient bronze mirror assembled itself.

Immediately, it rapidly enlarged, turning into a floor-length mirror.

Jiang Grade Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon!

This core technique of transmission belonged to the Evil Mirror Demon clan!

"Hiss?"

Inside the floor-length mirror, the Jade-faced Snake furrowed her brow, twisting her serpent body, quickly retreating backward.

While retreating, her long tongue again coiled around a flower, drawing it into her lips.

"Snap! Snap!"

In the floor-length mirror, a pair of hands emerged, clasping the sides of the mirror frame.

Following that, Lu Ran emerged from the floor-length mirror.

Such a scene was extremely astonishing!

If people saw it, it would likely shock the whole world!

However, Lu Ran was not so aware.

He just watched as the last jasmine flower disappeared into the red lips of the Jade-faced Snake.

"Hiss~"

The Jade-faced Snake looked a bit surprised, sizing up Lu Ran from top to bottom.

"All three flowers... just... all eaten?" Lu Ran asked with a pained expression.

The Jade-faced Snake naturally could not understand human languages, but her kind had extraordinarily high intellect.

Comparable to that of the Evil Demon·Evil Spear Emperor!

Seeing the regretful expression on a human's face, the Jade-faced Snake realized why Lu Ran had come.

"Hiss!"

A surge of energy emanated from the Jade-faced Snake's hands, quickly summoning a Jade Ruyi.

Evil Technique·Jade Ruyi!

The lower half of the Jade-faced Snake's body was about eight meters long.

With a slight lift of her lower body, she easily reached a height of three meters.

From such an elevated position, she looked down on Lu Ran.

Such a lofty posture made Lu Ran quite furious!

A mere Evil Demon, daring to act arrogantly before a big shot from the River Realm!

"Huff~"

The Jade-faced Snake brought the Jade Ruyi to her face, slightly parting her thin lips, and blew out a breath of Immortal Breath.

Evil Technique-Immortal Breath!

Lu Ran remained unruffled, pulling the floor-length mirror to his front with a backhanded grip.

"Huff~~~"

Wherever the Immortal Breath passed, flowers and trees withered away, turning into ash.

But the Immortal Breath that blew towards Lu Ran was sucked into the floor-length mirror, not harming him in the slightest.

"Hiss."

The Jade-faced Snake's beautiful eyes narrowed, and she immediately stopped blowing.

At the edge of the floor-length mirror, a head quietly emerged, looking towards the Jade-faced Snake, even blinking an eye.

Observing surreptitiously.JPG

The Jade-faced Snake's expression changed!

Her noble, sanctified face took on a hint of anger.

"Hmph." Lu Ran let out a cold scoff, casually dispersing the floor-length mirror, and smoothly grasped the hilt of a sword over his shoulder.

At this moment, Lu Ran was carrying three swords!

The three swords were in a parallel position, all slanting towards his right shoulder.

Two of them had black and gold-colored scabbards, both of similar make and finely crafted, visibly quite valuable.

Only one of them had an iron-made scabbard, a bit crudely made.

And the sword Lu Ran was holding was slowly being drawn from this scabbard — Eight Desolate Annihilation!

"Hiss!"

The Jade-faced Snake let out a hiss.

A noble race,

not something you lowlies could provoke?

Her face turned icy as she picked up the Jade Ruyi again and blew out another breath of Immortal Breath.

"Hiss!!"

The Immortal Breath passed through the Jade Ruyi, turning into a giant white-scaled python roaring and attacking!

Evil Technique·Immortal Sky Python!

"Tss!"

Blade into flesh!

The blood-stained tip of the sword pierced from behind the Jade-faced Snake, through her chest, appearing before her eyes.

The Jade-faced Snake's pupils contracted dramatically!

At that moment, she could no longer maintain her lofty stance.

But it was already too late.

Lu Ran stood behind the Jade-faced Snake, stepping on the wind and waves, hovering in the air.

He held the Jade-faced Snake's shoulder with one hand, and with the other, he wielded Eight Desolate Annihilation, piercing her heart.

Ran Sect Blade Technique Third Form·Shuo Star!

This was the move that Lu Ran had comprehended while fighting the Evil Mirror Demon of the River Realm.

The name of the sword technique was also inspired by the beautiful Demon Cave-Galaxy Bay.

Do not teleport first, then strike.

Rather, strike first, then teleport!

"Huff~"

The Jade-faced Snake's white veil fluttered lightly, stroking Lu Ran's cheek, carrying a faint fragrance.

Lu Ran, observing the proprieties, flicked his sword upward.

He cleaved open her chest, splitting open a beauty's skull.

The pungent smell of blood wafted through the air, dispelling the intoxicating fragrance.

"Plop~"

The Jade-faced Snake's skeletal remains quietly shattered, turning into a thick mist.

Lu Ran still hovered in the air, calling upon the Divine Power Pearl around his neck, drawing in the thick mist.

Recalling the first time he encountered the Jade-faced Snake, how difficult the kill had been.

And now look at the present!

It really was quite moving.

Under the gaze of the masses, Lu Tianjiao,

was indeed a figure of extraordinary strength, unparalleled in his time.

But this so-called "First Pride of Da Xia" was far lesser than the "Evil Sect Master"!

In one sentence:

The fewer the cameras, the stronger Lu Ran!

"Huff~"

Lu Ran gently landed, then summoned another ancient bronze mirror.

He searched and searched, but this time he did not see another jasmine flower.

Lu Ran was not discouraged.

He still had a long journey of training within Lingyun Mountain.

With the Evil Technique-Connection Mirror by his side, he would eventually tie a thread of fate with that mysterious jasmine flower.

After confirming multiple times that there were no other creatures around, Lu Ran closed his eyes.

In his mind, Lu Ran connected deeply with the Yan Zhi Evil Sculpture.

"Divine Power shapes its body."

He slowly raised his right hand and reached forward, a severe wave of energy fluctuation surged forth.

"Origin Energy builds its soul."

Lu Ran muttered to himself, repeatedly chanting the spell.

In a short while, a big red figure gradually took shape.

Yan Zhi!

At last, I still molded you out!

That year on the Worship God Platform, you wanted to take me away.

Later, on the fifteenth night, you held me and flew into the vast rainy night.

On the night of the college entrance examination, you came again, aggressively chasing me!

Today,

I'm giving in to you... cough cough, I mean, I'm summoning you out, so we can have a good chat!

Lu Ran had many thoughts, but he dared not act rashly.

It must be said, the aura of Yan Zhi was too strong.

Wearing a phoenix crown, draped in a Big Red Robe.

Graceful and majestic, her demeanor impeccable!

"That Big Red Robe suits your commanding presence," Lu Ran murmured softly, slowly raising his hand.

Yan Zhi initially had a docile appearance but suddenly looked up at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran's face stiffened, and his hand paused mid-air.

Yan Zhi's expressionless face, those beautiful eyes quietly looking at Lu Ran.

"Chime~chime~"

The mountain breeze blew.

From the elegant phoenix crown the woman wore, a pleasant and clear tinkling sound emerged.

Hard to believe, but Lu Ran... felt slightly intimidated.

He was used to seeing Yan Zhi's eyes burning with zeal, almost an obsession.

Who had ever seen her motionless, just quietly watching him?

"Close your eyes," Lu Ran pressed down his hand.

Yan Zhi slightly tilted her head, seemingly a bit puzzled.

Lu Ran: "..."

I mean to say,

your temperament doesn't suit acting cute.

Yan Zhi suddenly knelt down, as if understanding her master's intentions.

Her hands overlapped, resting on her abdomen, her head respectfully bowed down, showing reverence.

As she moved, the elegant phoenix crown tinkled again.

"Uh." Lu Ran stepped back two steps, sizing up Yan Zhi.

His self-made Evil Demon minion held no covetous desires towards her master.

It was only the principle of obedience infused when he sculpted her.

Think about it,

the Yan Zhi that invaded the world had an essence derived from the original Evil Demon.

The Yan Zhi that Lu Ran summoned was rooted in the Evil Sculptures from his own Sculpture Garden.

The tools used to cultivate the Evil Sculptures carried a trace of the Original Energy carried by Yan Zhi's Dead Soul, not the soul itself.

So, the various traits of Yan Zhi's soul did not affect the Evil Sculptures in the Sculpture Garden.

"Rise," Lu Ran finally spoke.

Yan Zhi lifted her eyes towards Lu Ran, then tilted her head again, still somewhat confused.

"Alright then." Lu Ran said helplessly, seemingly starting from scratch.

He stepped forward, offering his arm to assist Yan Zhi up.

Yan Zhi slowly stood up, naturally embracing Lu Ran's arm.

Lu Ran: ???

No!

Sister!

What's the matter?

Lu Ran had assisted Night Charm and also Ghost General before, but they never clung like a stick to a snake!

So, is Yan Zhi's desire for a perfect consort an indelible thought?

Is this a trait of her race?

"Stop, stop, stop." Lu Ran immediately freed his arm.

Yan Zhi timely released her hands, the posture of her hands reverting to their elegant and dignified placement over her abdomen.

As if the prior action had nothing to do with her.

For a moment, Lu Ran also doubted, wondering if he had acted impulsively.

Was she just trying to stabilize herself?

Lu Ran scrutinized Yan Zhi closely.

Yan Zhi faced Lu Ran, her eyes meek, fully respectful.

"Let's go." Lu Ran rubbed his cheek, feeling somewhat insecure.

He waved his hand and turned to leave, casually deploying the Evil Technique-Connection Mirror.

Yan Zhi understood the gesture, but she didn't walk; instead, she slowly levitated.

Her feet hovered about ten centimeters off the ground, silently following Lu Ran.

"Go!"

Lu Ran pointed toward a distant tree.

Yan Zhi hesitated for a moment, and according to her master's gesture, she comprehended his intentions and then flew over.

"Come!" Lu Ran nodded in satisfaction and waved to her.

Master and servant moved through the woods, with Lu Ran continually teaching her simple commands.

A few minutes later, Lu Ran paused mid-stride, glancing toward the floating ancient bronze mirror on the right.

Inside the Connection Mirror, another Jade-faced Snake appeared!

Tsk, tsk, such refined taste!

This Jade-faced Snake was actually coiled around a tree, admiring the scenic beauty of the mountain?

Behind Lu Ran, Yan Zhi also turned her head, looking toward the Connection Mirror.

Yan Zhi remained expressionless, even upon seeing the celestial beauty of the Jade-faced Snake, she showed no reaction.

In just a moment, her gaze returned to Lu Ran.

But inadvertently,

as she watched Lu Ran's back, a hint of hidden resentment seemed to flicker in the depths of her eyes...

...

Chapter 370: Snake Fairy, Emperor Ran and the Love-Struck Brain

Half a month later, in Lingyun Mountain.

A pair of men and women, both dressed in luxurious clothes and exuding grace, strolled through the woods.

The woman donned a phoenix crown and was draped in a robe dyed with the colors of dawn, displaying a beauty unmatched in her era.

The man, on the other hand, wore a magnificent black gold robe and stood upon dark clouds, floating forward slowly.

Evil Technique-Black Gold Emperor Robe!

Evil Technique-Evil Cloud Stepping Mist!

After the fifteenth of October, Lu Ran activated the evil sculpture of the Evil Spear Emperor and witnessed it reaching the grade of River Realm-Fourth Rank.

Corresponding evil techniques, naturally, were equipped by Lu Ran.

Aside from the River Realm's great move of Sky-reaching Demon Spear belonging to the Evil Spear Emperor, Lu Ran could use whatever he wanted.

When Lu Ran donned this Black Gold Emperor Robe, even the dignified Yan Zhi couldn't help but display a heated gaze.

He appeared like a newly crowned Young Emperor.

Exuberant and regal.

Reasonably speaking, had Lu Ran from the River Realm era donned this "Emperor Robe," he probably would struggle to carry its majesty.

Comparing Lu Ran with the Spear Emperor was clearly a mismatch.

But at this moment, Lu Ran was a Jiang Realm Great Power!

Even more, he was a twice-blessed Jiang Realm Great Power!

Even the true master, the Evil Spear Emperor, would probably nod in admiration upon seeing Lu Ran in this outfit.

To this day, Lu Ran had activated 9 evil sculptures.

Evil Dog, Soul-splitting Demon, Black Lantern.

Night Charm, Yan Zhi, Ghost General, Evil Mirror Demon, Evil Spear Emperor.

And the Jade-faced Snake Evil Sculpture, activated during this training session.

Some evil sculptures had no new techniques to learn at the River Realm.

Others held "Jiang Realm's great moves."

For now, setting aside great moves, just speaking of techniques below the grade of River Realm, each evil sculpture could provide Lu Ran with 6 evil techniques.

6x9,

That amounts to a whopping 54 evil techniques!

Add to that the Divine Techniques of the Immortal Sheep sect that Lu Ran himself possessed.

At this moment, Lu Ran's skills totaled over sixty!

What does that mean?

Lu Ran once boasted inwardly that one day, he would be equipped with thousands of evil techniques!

Ha,

Still harboring thoughts of thousands~.

With these 60 plus skills, Lu Ran didn't even know how to use them all...

Of course, his thinking definitely had to shift.

What's wrong with having many skills?

Lu Ran didn't need to master them all.

Having numerous skills was a tremendous advantage!

He had more options and could select the best, taking the essence!

Lu Ran just needed to thoroughly master the most useful techniques, and that was enough.

As for the rest, just let them gather dust in the skill library, they weren't at any loss.

Skills are like money.

Who would complain about having too much?

In case one day, funds needed to be transferred, those dusty skills were still solid gold!

Thinking about it more deeply, it's quite sad.

Other Believers toil their entire lives, only to learn 6 or 7 skills.

While here Lu Ran had dozens of skills sitting unused, collecting dust...

That's really comfortable~

"I've found it," Lu Ran suddenly spoke, halting his floating movement.

Yan Zhi also stopped, looking at the Ancient Bronze Mirror floating beside Lu Ran.

It must be said, the name of this mirror was spot on!

Evil Technique-Connection Mirror!

It acted like a matchmaker, furiously connecting Lu Ran.

Girls within a 500 meter radius couldn't hope to escape...

"Does this one seem a bit different?" Lu Ran slightly raised an eyebrow as he looked at the girl in the mirror.

Yan Zhi flew a bit forward, pressing against Lu Ran's back, her chin resting loosely on his shoulder.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran turned to look, his brow slightly furrowed.

But he saw no reaction from Yan Zhi, who was still gazing past his shoulder at the image in the Connection Mirror.

Lu Ran suddenly said, "I know you're faking it."

Yan Zhi remained unresponsive, still looking at Jade-faced Snake in the mirror.

Lu Ran laughed: "All these days, your eyes can't lie.

I once caught your face in the mirror, and you didn't control your expression well."

Yan Zhi shuddered slightly, looking toward Lu Ran with eyes full of life.

The look in someone's eyes when they love a person cannot be hidden.

Of course, if you love several at the same time, maybe you can hide it well.

"Hmm~" Yan Zhi finally couldn't hold back, letting out a soft nasal sound.

She stretched out her hands as if to embrace Lu Ran from behind.

After more than half a month, the mentally astute Yan Zhi had learned to understand quite a few words.

At worst, she could grasp the general meaning through Lu Ran's expressions and tones.

"Sigh~"

A gentle sway of the Black Gold Emperor Robe pushed Yan Zhi back several meters.

Lu Ran turned to look at Yan Zhi and, in her undisguised countenance, he saw a trace of resentment.

Lu Ran said sternly, "Suppress your racial traits.

I am your creator, your master, not your destined lover."

Each evil demon has its own traits.

For example, the Ghost General.

They are natural commanders, brave and valiant, fiercely loyal.

Or consider the Night Charm Clan.

They are Dead Soldiers, composed and fearless of death, and extremely loyal.

Previously, when Lu Ran went to the Demon Cave for training, he always summoned Ghost Generals and Night Charms.

The problem also stemmed from there!

The traits of Ghost Generals and Night Charms had a great degree of similarity.

This gave Lu Ran an illusion.

He believed that every evil minion he created was like this.

He was sorely mistaken!

Each evil demon had its own racial traits, which couldn't be erased.

Lu Ran could infuse ideas of hierarchy, submission, and the like into them while creating the evil minions.

But the Yan Zhi's yearning for a perfect lover could not be removed.

Her nature compelled her to seek a good man!

On that level, Lu Ran was certainly not the main character.

The world is so vast,

With so many talented people out there?

It's not that Yan Zhi could only have eyes for Lu Ran.

It just so happened that on the Worship God Platform in the past, the Yan Zhi's true form took a fancy to Lu Ran.

This led to the invading Yan Zhi Clan from the mortal world, all setting their sights on Lu Ran.

Regrettably, after Lu Ran created his own Yan Zhi, she only moved in secret with him.

Thus, this Yan Zhi had no choice...

That said, Lu Ran wouldn't sell himself short.

He was Da Xia's top Heavenly Pride!

Who was he inferior to?

Lu Ran was confident that even if he threw himself into the vast crowd, letting Yan Zhi meticulously pick, she would still choose him in the end!

"Stand properly." As Lu Ran spoke, he sighed inwardly.

I am your master!

I created you to be a servant, a powerful fighting force for my use!

I wasn't creating a girlfriend!

"Mhm." Yan Zhi lowered her gaze.

Her hands overlapped and rested on her abdomen, once more assuming a noble and dignified demeanor.

When creating Yan Zhi, Lu Ran imprinted her with the concept of absolute obedience.

The evil demon servant could not defy Lu Ran's commands.

"Snap." Lu Ran grabbed the Connection Mirror, scrutinizing the Jade-faced Snake within.

He observed for a long while before speaking,

"This poise that surpasses the usual Jade-faced Snakes might indicate it's an elite monster."

Yan Zhi stood silently, poised quietly.

Lu Ran closed his eyes briefly, inspecting the God Demon Sculpture Garden in his mind.

After half a month of training, the Jade-faced Snake evil sculpture had reached River Realm·Fifth Rank!

Killing this elite monster might just allow the Jade-faced Snake sculpture to ascend to the Jiang Realm?

Lu Ran licked his lips excitedly, summoning an Ancient Bronze Mirror:

"Get ready, the same old strategy!"

Yan Zhi, however, stared at Lu Ran's lips, her gaze burning.

Lu Ran: "..."

Crap!

In the future, I should just summon Ghost Generals and Night Charms.

Here I am, wholeheartedly focused on business, and yet here's someone with love on the brain in the team!

That won't do!

"Sigh!"

The Ancient Bronze Mirror in Lu Ran's hand suddenly grew larger, transforming into a full-length mirror.

Inside, the Jade-faced Snake looked displeased at the mirror abruptly appearing before her.

But from within it, out stepped a young noble man.

The black and gold Emperor Robe rustled, his eyes cold beyond measure.

"Hisss."

The Jade-faced Snake showed slight surprise but no panic.

With a soft chant, she grasped a Jade Ruyi in her hand.

"Whizzzz~"

From the full-length mirror, another figure in bright red emerged.

Yan Zhi gleamed with a hint of cruelty in her eyes, fetching a tiny Paper Mache Man from within the large sleeve of her robe, embroidered with dragons and phoenixes.

The Jade-faced Snake sensed something amiss, and all of a sudden, her waist manifested over a dozen snake tails.

The long tails, all covered in glistening white scales, spread widely.

Lu Ran's breath halted!

He, of course, recognized, this as the Evil Technique-Immortal Tail!

The problem was, were there really as many as 16 tails?

Ah?

The River Grade-Immortal Tail amounted to eight tails.

And these ten-plus tails informed Lu Ran of a fact:

This was a Jiang Realm Demon Monarch!

In the past, when Lu Ran and Yan Zhi attacked enemies, the Jade-faced Snake would prioritize the Purification Skill!

That is, Evil Technique-Immortal Realm.

Through purification, the Jade-faced Snake could eliminate abnormal states, fundamentally cutting off the tiny paper man's mental connection and physical control over her.

Lu Ran would also seize the moment she was distracted, casting a spell to instantly teleport and kill the Jade-faced Snake.

But this time, the Jade-faced Snake chose to deploy the Immortal Tail!

One reason was, the Jiang Realm Demon Monarch's strength was unparalleled, and her mental fortitude exceedingly high, enabling her to resist the low-grade Paper Mache Man in a short period.

On the other hand,

The spread of 16 thick tails achieved absolute control over the surrounding area.

Both offensive and defensive, she was an army of one.

"Retreat!" Lu Ran barked sharply, his eyes locked on the swaying snake tails beside the Jade-faced Snake.

What an incredible defensive instinct, huh?

What was even more terrifying was that the snake's original tails swiftly coiled around her upper half.

Effectively, she achieved an absolute defensive state the moment battle commenced.

Because the original tails could employ another evil technique—Immortal Scales!

The effect of Immortal Scales could be summed up in two simple words—Golden Body!

Being the arch-nemesis of the First-class God-Monk, the skills Jade-faced Snake conserved were terrifying indeed.

"Mmm." Yan Zhi responded lightly, obeying Lu Ran's command to rapidly retreat backward.

Lu Ran too, stood upon a black cloud, retreating as well.

Several thick tails lashed out swiftly!

"Whack! Whack!"

"Crack..."

The ground was shattered, dust and grass flew, and large trees broke apart.

Lu Ran's eyes narrowed!

Through the gaps in the white-scaled tails encircling her form, Lu Ran and the Jade-faced Snake's gazes intersected.

Her eyes were cold and indifferent.

No mockery, no disgust.

She merely looked down on Lu Ran from on high, as if beholding a tiny, lowly ant.

"Ha."

Lu Ran suddenly laughed, with a touch of anger.

Jade-faced Snake,

You can hurt someone.

Wait until I summon you, that look in your eyes, I must learn it well!