

## Old Gods 381

Chapter 381: named Lead Silk poison

Day had hastily passed, and night gradually descended.

The group of five stood firm in the center of the square, with Wang Ling occasionally glancing at his watch.

From his increasingly frequent actions, it seemed that the battle was about to commence.

Suddenly, a Dawn Blade was pressed against Qiao Yuansi's back.

"Hey~bro, no need! I can protect myself."

Qiao Yuansi pretended to be displeased, but the smile on her face was genuinely sweet.

Lu Ran pinched the pompom on her knitted hat, "I'll be roaming around later, command the squad well and don't be rash."

"Mhm, got it." Qiao Yuansi nodded repeatedly.

To achieve a higher score, Lu Ran had to fight desperately that night.

"Don't worry." A cold voice chimed in from the side.

Lu Ran turned his head and saw Guan Yiren nodding softly, her expression firm.

"Yeah, Bro Ran!" Niu Zhengzheng shouted with his raspy voice, "Our commander, we'll protect them well, you just go ahead boldly!"

"Time's up!" Wang Ling interrupted everyone's conversation.

Qiao Yuansi quickly released a lantern, ascending into the night sky.

Lu Ran placed his right hand by his side and lightly grasped, the Silent Night Blade precisely fell into his palm.

To this day, Lu Ran hadn't fully deciphered what the Divine Weapon Domain of the Silent Night Blade was.

Before the Artifact Spirit had formed, whenever Lu Ran killed an enemy, he would add a word, "Silence."

The simple word was very effective, guiding the Silent Night Blade towards divinity.

Now, Lu Ran no longer needed to say silence.

The blade spirit, possessing spiritual wisdom, was also trying to figure out what kind of domain "silence" led to.

"Zii—"

The Immortal Fog surged, and frost danced chaotically.

Qiao Yuansi instinctively closed her eyes, only feeling the cold wind hitting her face.

When she opened her eyes, her brother's figure had already darted far away.

"Go for it." Qiao Yuansi muttered softly.

At the crossroads, a silly straw demon had been beheaded by Lu Ran.

The tall and thin headless body suddenly fluffed up, turning into a pile of straw, with leaves scattered all around.

This reminded Lu Ran of last year's December 15th, Night of Ghosts among the Straw Demon clan.

These darn things!

Every year-end, they think of starting a fire.

Other months, when Rain Alley City was continuously rainy, these straw demons were nowhere to be seen causing trouble.

"Lu... Lu Tianjiao."

"Lu Tianjiao." Several Moon Gazers greeted, their shins submerged in the pile of straw.

"Proceed with the mission normally, don't mind me." Lu Ran slightly lowered his cap brim, and the Immortal Fog rose again beneath his feet.

His attire was still the one familiar to the public:

Black hat, black mask, and a sleek black combat suit.

Before he finished speaking, his figure had already vanished.

Wherever he passed, frost danced wildly.

It was ridiculously stylish.

Complaints filled the live streaming room.

"Again? Taking me on a 3-second street tour, huh?"

"I'm gonna puke! Used to get car sick, now getting sheep sick..."

"One kick with the shin, saving humanity~"

"Jeez~ Ran is fast! So young and already this swift, what will become of him later?"

"This is the last dance, hate to let go of Ran baby waaa waaa![Cry.JPG]"

"Yah ha? Stopped! Did Ran Shen actually get intercepted?"

"Stop the dragon cart... no, stop the sheep cart!"

"Mmm~~~" A sudden moan from Lu Ran caught the audience by surprise.

Can this even be broadcast?

At the crossroads, Lu Ran's figure swayed.

His face, hidden under the cap brim and inside the mask, looked very ugly!

Originally rampaging, he was forcibly stopped and stumbled backward.

"Squeak~"

"Squeak! Squeak!!"

The audience might not hear it, and the street-side Moon Gazer squad probably didn't feel anything special.

But those squeaking sounds, each piercing into the ear, frustrated Lu Ran immensely!

He quickly moved back over ten meters and looked up.

Hanging on the exterior wall of a three-story building, a cluster of fuzzy little creatures appeared.

They resembled bats, palm-sized.

Their pointed ears, large dark gold eyes, golden-brown fur, and dark gold bat wings.

Evil Demon-Golden Winged Bat?

Although they were Evil Demons, fond of sucking human blood,

these little creatures did look quite adorable.

"You guys are pretty cute!"

Lu Ran gritted his teeth, vigorously shaking his buzzing head.

You should know, Lu Ran's Evil Dog Evil Skill·Evil Recognition had reached the level of Jiang Pin!

How sensitive were his ears?

Under such circumstances, the sonic attacks of the Golden Winged Bat Clan really taught Lu Ran a lesson!

Golden Winged Bat Evil Skill·Bat Sound!

This skill was invisible, quite troublesome, and its attack form was invisible to the naked eye.

And each hit dealt "true damage!"

What is true damage?

Facing sonic-type Evil Skills, the Water Armor of the Human Clan had no defensive effect.

Those Bat Sounds directly poured into your head!

Directly stupefying the prey, the Golden Winged Bats then flew onto the prey, sucking blood merrily.

Due to the small size of the Golden Winged Bats, they couldn't suck a lot of blood at once.

Therefore, they would continuously cling to people.

Once they detected signs of the prey regaining consciousness, this clan would cast Illusion Technique or reapply the Evil Skill-Bat Sound.

Rigorously controlling the prey, thus cycling repeatedly.

Thus, the poor prey would become a "living blood pack."

If unrescued, the prey would stagger through life, keeping their blood fresh until one day they died from excessive blood loss.

But now, the group of Golden Winged Bats hanging on the building wall was staring at Lu Ran, casting spells on him.

Golden Winged Bat Evil Skill·Bat Pupil!

This skill could induce sleep, actually a decent method for treating insomnia.

So the question now was, would Lu Ran be affected?

Of course not!

Ghost General's Clan Evil Skill·Ghost General's Will would not allow it.

Evil Spear Emperor Clan Evil Skill·Evil Cloud Will, even less so!

At this moment, Lu Ran was fully defensively fortified, fearing no spiritual-based techniques.

More than just fearless,

Lu Ran activated a pair of Immortal Pupils, glaring right back!

"Squeak~Squeak Squeak!"

The Golden Winged Bat's pupils turned dark gold, their big eyes intently staring at Lu Ran.

"Meh!" Lu Ran, with a pair of lifeless Dead Sheep Eyes, threw the Silent Night Blade out!

This Meh had nothing to do with techniques.

He just purely felt like calling out.

Where people couldn't see, under his thick and black horizontal pupils, a wickedly enchanting red flitted by.

Tangled Silk Shadow Evil Skill-Silk Pupil!

When mentioning the Evil Demon-Tangled Silk Shadow, what first comes to people's minds is the terrifying Evil Skill-Silk Thread!

Once touched by the red silk thread, people would turn into puppets.

The second thing people thought of should be the Evil Skill-Silk Pupil.

If encountering Tangled Silk Shadow, first dodge the red thread.

Second, don't look into her eyes!

This enticingly sexy creature was cruel to the extreme.

Poisonous all over!

Any slightest contact would result in unbearable agony.

And when Lu Ran activated the Tangled Silk Shadow Evil Sculpture...

Her poison,

all transferred to Lu Ran!

The foolish group of Golden Winged Bats was still looking at Lu Ran's eyes!

One of the Golden Winged Bats had already taken the bait.

In the Golden Winged Bat's vision, the snowy night, streets, including their selected "live blood pack," all vanished without a trace.

Its world turned red.

A deep red!

From all directions, countless red silk threads attacked!

The front ends of the red silk threads were not soft thread tips, but sharp red needles!

"Zii! Zii!"

"Zii..."

In the spiritual world, the Golden Winged Bat flapped its wings, trying to dodge.

But the endless red threads, attacking from all angles without any dead corners, instantly penetrated the Golden Winged Bat's body.

"Squeak! Squeak!!"

In the real world, the Golden Winged Bat let out a sharp screech, the sound incredibly mournful.

Its physical body had no wounds.

But all the torture and agony it experienced in the spiritual world were manifested in its physical body.

"Squeak~~~"

The Golden Winged Bat, enduring the pain of being "Ten Thousand Needle Pierced," frantically flapped its wings to fly away.

It could still fly, meaning Lu Ran had held back.

If he wished, he could completely torment the Golden Winged Bat into mental breakdown.

How Tangled Silk Shadow tormented others,

Lu Ran could wreak havoc on the Evil Demon similarly.

But Lu Ran couldn't do that now.

After all, there were Moon Gazers on the street, and cameras too.

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

The Pupil Skill he could reveal was only Immortal Sheep Divine Technique-Immortal Pupil!

Immortal Pupil: Enlarges the fear in the target's heart.

Now, the Golden Winged Bats flying erratically and frantically escaping perfectly reflected their fear.

Why were the Golden Winged Bats afraid?

First, it's in their nature to be cowardly, a characteristic of Evil Demons.

Secondly, Lu Ran had tossed out a Silent Night Blade.

Facing imminent death, being scared for a moment, isn't that quite normal?

"Zii!"

Blade entered flesh!

The Golden Winged Bat, in its panic and due to intense pain, couldn't properly use its wings anymore, its flight completely disarrayed...

In such a sorry state, how could it escape the pursuit of the Silent Night Blade?

In the blink of an eye, the Golden Winged Bat had been threaded onto the blade.

"Puff puff puff~"

The remaining seven Golden Winged Bats quickly flew up.

"Whoosh!"

The Silent Night Blade, with a swooshing sound, thrust straight into the bat flock, piercing a Golden Winged Bat!

"Puff puff puff~"

The Golden Winged Bats squeaked chaotically, all dodging.

Missed?

No problem, this was enough to make the Golden Winged Bat flock feel threatened.

Or should it be said, this was enough for the Da Xia people to believe that the Golden Winged Bats felt threatened and developed timidness.

"Look right at me!"

Lu Ran murmured softly, gazing upward into the night sky, sweeping over each Golden Winged Bat.

Where his gaze fell, the Golden Winged Bat flock screeched miserably, their wings beating wildly, flapping about in panic.

Were they struck by Divine Technique-Immortal Pupil, amplifying their inner fear?

No, they were struck by Silk Pupil, their minds tortured into near breakdown while horrendously panicked.

Snowflakes scattered all around.

Blood droplets splashed everywhere.

The Silent Night Blade rapidly weaved through, connecting dots into lines, threading the powerless Evil Demons into a string.

The street-side Moon Gazers, watching the Silent Night Blade finish off the Evil Demons, obediently flew back into Lu Ran's hands.

Several people sighed profoundly in their hearts!

One for the power of the Divine Weapon.

Two for Lu Ran's solid foundational knowledge, skillfully utilizing the characteristics of Evil Demons, exploiting enemy weaknesses with Immortal Sheep Divine Technique, achieving peerless effects!

This is what being a Heavenly Pride truly meant!

A total of eight Evil Demons, one encounter, dissipated like smoke!

"Snap!"

Lu Ran grasped the handle of the Silent Night Blade, looking at the "bat meat skewer" threaded onto the blade.

He removed the Divine Power Pearl from his neck, placed it next to the blade, and absorbed the adorable Golden Winged Bat bones one by one.

A few sparkling little Demon Crystals sequentially fell into Lu Ran's palm.

Lu Ran curled his lip.

You little things,

dared to intercept me and wanted to suck my blood?

In my body,

flows the poison of your Silk Sister...

Chapter 382: Snowy Night Youth

"Bats are so cute, why kill the bats [doge.jpg]"

"Divine Weapons are so cool! No matter how many times I see them, I'm always green with envy. They can move on their own..."

"If I had a Divine Weapon, I'd carry it with me every day, floating by my side to show off!"

"What's with Ran the Dog, some kind of Ran Aotian? Just one glance at the sky, and the gold-winged bats all pee themselves in fright?"

"I so wish Ran the Gem would 'wall-pin' me! Glare at me, and I'd be shivering in fear, cowering in a corner, ah ah ah! Ran the Gem, don't kill the Evil Demons, kill me~~~"

"Why has Ran Shen stopped? Keep going! Aren't we splitting up?"

From a first-person perspective, Lu Ran had already used the Divine Power Pearl to absorb several gold-winged bats to exhaustion.

After that, he seemed to enter a zen-like state!

Just standing there, holding the Divine Power Pearl and a Demon Crystal in hand, his body frozen?

One couldn't deny that Lu Ran's recent combat decisions were precise and clever, which undoubtedly was a plus.

But are you zoning out on "Heavenly Pride"?

You had just scored some points, and now are you not deducting them all?

Fans were urgently pressing for more, endlessly urging.

Fortunately, Lu Ran didn't space out for too long and slowly raised the Silent Night Blade.

People then realized that the Divine Weapon was vibrating?

Vibrating?!

Suddenly, many began to guess what that meant.

All Divine Weapons in the world could vibrate at any time, which wasn't particularly remarkable.

But combining Lu Ran's reaction...

Was this a precursor to activating the Divine Weapon Domain?

For a moment, countless eyes were glued to the screen, full of anticipation!

Before, people had the fortune to witness Lu Ran activate the Divine Weapon Domain of the Dawn Blade and forcibly repelled the Night of Ghosts!

It was a shock to the world!

Now, was the Silent Night Blade about to follow in its predecessor's footsteps and achieve greatness?

"Silent Night?" Lu Ran frowned slightly and spoke softly.

The vibration of the Silent Night Blade lessened.

Lu Ran and countless viewers felt their hearts sink.

Lu Ran absorbed all the energy from the small Demon Crystal in his hand and casually let the Silent Night Blade float vertically in front of him.

While putting on the Divine Power Pearl necklace, he communicated in his mind, "What were you just thinking?"

Silent Night: "Silent Night."

Lu Ran: "..."

The Silent Night Blade was as frosty as ever.

Even to its master's question, its response was brief.

In front of the camera, of course, Lu Ran wouldn't ask out loud but instead communicated in his mind:

"Care to elaborate?"

"The Evil Demon stopped you, and it's very noisy."

Lu Ran felt a bit helpless: "So what?"

Silent Night Blade: "I want a silent night, I want the Evil Demon to be mute."

Lu Ran: !!!

What did that mean?

Silence?

A storm of thoughts churned in Lu Ran's mind, and he hurriedly followed up: "You want to forbid the Evil Demon from speaking?"

Or to prevent the Evil Demon from casting spells?

Which path did you react violently to just now?"

But the Silent Night Blade replied, "Further contemplation is needed."

"Gulp." Lu Ran swallowed and his face brightened with ecstasy!

However, the next moment, a bucket of cold water was poured over his head, drenching him from head to toe: "I was interrupted."

Lu Ran was stunned for a moment: "Interrupted?"

Silent Night Blade: "Just as you experienced, I was intercepted."

After a brief silence, Lu Ran arrived at an answer:

The Divine Weapon Domains had collided!

Lu Ran pondered for a moment and asked in his heart: "Who was it? Where are they?"

If the domains of two Divine Weapons collided, there would be a faint connection between them.

Silent Night Blade: "Unclear."

Unclear?

Lu Ran thought for a moment and then nodded lightly: "You just had an idea, you just found the direction that resonates with you.

Since there hasn't been much time, the exploration is still superficial.

For now, stay focused on this path, and delve into it deeply.

After 'Heavenly Pride' ends, we can discuss it in detail."

Silent Night Blade: "Hmm."

Lu Ran weighed the Silent Night Blade in his hand, and his restless heart settled down.

The Silent Night Blade had finally found the right path, but just as a hint of it emerged, it was blocked.

It seemed,

The opponent was very domineering, weren't they?

As everyone knows, regarding the competition for Divine Weapon Domains, the challenger is at an absolute disadvantage.

After all, the opponent possesses a Divine Weapon Domain, but you do not.

Besides, if the Divine Weapon Domain of the Silent Night Blade truly was the "Silence Technique"...

How would one even challenge that?

Even if you have myriad Evil Techniques, you can't use any!

In this world, Divine Techniques and Evil Techniques at best disturb the target's internal energy and interfere with casting spells.

They can't achieve "forbidden spellcasting."

Now the question arose:

Can the Purification Skill purify silence?

Which one has higher priority?

While pondering this, Lu Ran had already activated Immortal Hoof and was slaughtering throughout the city district.

He seemed to have entered into a mysterious state.

Just as one doesn't have to think about walking when walking.

Instinct would take over your body and actions.

Although Lu Ran was preoccupied, he was quick and decisive when it came to slaying Evil Demons.

Whether it was a subconscious action or muscle memory aiding him.

In any case,

When Lu Ran snapped back to reality, he had been rampaging and killing throughout the city for a good while!

What surprised Lu Ran even more was that he had left Central Plaza and headed towards the West River district.

And he was standing on the connecting path between East River and West River — at Wu Lie Bridge Head!

"Heh heh."

Lu Ran suddenly laughed.

As it proved, he belonged to West River; instinct had brought him back here.

An old saying in Da Xia goes,

Since you're already here...

Unknown to Lu Ran at the time, the live-streaming room had gone wild:

"So fast, really too fast, I even feel sorry for Sister Jiang!"

"Dong Ting? North Wind? Hah, they're nothing compared to my little lamb's gentle kick~"

"I can't see clearly, nor can I understand! But I can hear the continuous wails of the Evil Demons, exhilarating!!"

"Ah, I've thrown up three times already, don't stop, keep going! I can still puke..."

"Hiss—"

The sound of Immortal Fog rolling in began again.

On the camera, the streets on both sides of the road swiftly receded, a flurry of snow dancing.

Evil Demons were being connected into lines.

The lingering Immortal Fog traced Lu Ran's route.

"Me-eh~~~"

Suddenly, a sheep's bleat echoed outside Hexi Park.

On the narrow and worn bridge above, a patrol team halted in their tracks.

Lowest Grade Fog Grade-Sound of Despair didn't cause much trouble for the Human Clan soldiers.

But it was enough to provoke the Evil Demons' cruel nature.

On the bridge, Sun Zhengfang's eyes lit up: "Lu Ran?"

At the last moment, a ferocious human-faced creature began to petrify its body and stubbornly resist.

In Lu Ran's left hand, the Eight Desolate Annihilation lay across the human-faced creature's neck, pushing against the Evil Demon as they moved together.

Dense lines of Immortal Fog snaked past beneath the bridge.

Sun Zhengfang was thrilled!

He hurried back, running to the other side of the bridge railing.

Looking down just in time, he saw the human-faced creature's petrified body shatter.

The young man in black swiftly decapitated the Evil Demon's brutish head with his Tang sword.

Remarkably, the young man came to a halt.

He turned around, looked up, and waved to the patrol team on the bridge.

"Ha ha ha ha!"

On this terrifying night of the fifteenth, old Captain Sun actually burst into laughter.

The steady Sun Zhengfang also showed such exuberance as he pointed at Lu Ran, looking to his new teammate:

"This is my soldier, Da Xia's genius, my soldier ha ha ha!"

Always expressionless Wei Long also showed a smile.

The two new Moon Gazer recruits to the patrol team watched with fiery eyes as Lu Ran step by step retreated and turned to leave...

"Hiss—"

Immortal Fog and frost filled the air, and that legendary figure disappeared at the end of the long street.

Compared to the Central Square of Rain Alley City, the people of Da Xia naturally had more affection for West River district.

After all, when Lu Ran first appeared on "Heavenly Pride," it was in West River district where he began patrolling round after round and rose to prominence.

"That's Captain Sun, right?"

"It is him, Ran Shen's old captain before he became a Jiang Realm Great Power, and that's Spicy Strip Bro next to him!"

"That's Hexi Park, that bridge, I remember this place!"

"The old captain is grinning from ear to ear, haha, so proud~"

"The curtain call, huh? Is it really time for the curtain call..."

"I don't want to let go, it's like saying a final goodbye, parting forever [crying.jpg]"

"It's stopped? That's the auto repair shop, by the banks of Wu Lie River, right?"

Ever since Lu Ran entered West River, the atmosphere in the live stream gradually changed.

Everyone knew this was the last edition of "Heavenly Pride."

Upon close calculation, Lu Ran had accompanied everyone for a year.

Even Lu Ran himself found it hard to understand the emotions the world had poured into him.

Perhaps, Lu Ran had a faint sense of empathy.

When he was vulnerable, when he spent the fifteenth of each month in fear in a shelter, he also relied on comic dialogues and storytelling to fall asleep.

The difference was,

Lu Ran was a real person, cutting down Evil Demons stroke by stroke.

He was a spiritual support for countless Da Xia citizens.

He was even the source of courage and spiritual pillar for many to continue living.

And such a Lu Ran was about to leave...

"Bellow!!"

A pitiful scream echoed through the live stream.

A towering Soul-splitting Demon was slit open and gutted, its vicious bull-head split apart.

In front of the residential area's gate, Lu Ran slowed down and looked aside.

"Yo, kiddo!"

In the snow, a man with a bare chest and a red bandana tied around his head grinned at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran looked him up and down, his muffled voice coming through the mask:

"Not bad this time, you've improved."

Chen Jing immediately took offense: "What do you mean?

I have to be on death's door every time you see me, covered in injuries, is that it?"

Lu Ran stood at the entrance of the residential area, glanced in the direction of his home: "I'm off, uncle."

"Hiss—"

Snowflakes danced as the figure receded.

Faintly came a phrase: "Don't die."

Chen Jing laughed heartily as he watched the carefree departing figure: "Hahaha, Roger that!"

The boisterous laughter of the rugged man rang out through the night sky, but it couldn't ease the growing sadness in people's hearts.

"I recognize this place, this is Rain Alley Home!"

"Is Lu Ran running his old patrol route? It's all memories..."

"I've never been to Rain Alley, but it feels like returning home."

"Slow down, young man, take it slow; the road to growing up isn't easy..."

"Don't listen to them, charge! Lu Ran!! Charge!!"

"That snowy night, the young man raced through the streets of the modest Rain Alley City, heading for the summit of Da Xia!"

### Chapter 383: Evil Demon Leader

"Quite the free spirit," Chen Jing remarked as his teammates approached from behind.

Had Lu Ran been there, he might have recognized the speaker.

After all, this Prison Demon Disciple had once helped Lu Ran open windows, pick locks, and return home...

"Free-spirited indeed, but also quite infuriating, haha!" Chen Jing gazed towards the far end of the long street.

He saw Lu Ran stopping again, entangled in battle with an Evil Demon.

"Right, Old Liu," Chen Jing continued.

Old Liu had thick eyebrows and big eyes; he looked rather upright, not as cold-hearted as one might expect from a Prison Demon Disciple, especially considering the life-or-death comradeship with his team.

He, too, watched Lu Ran's battle closely: "What's up?"

Chen Jing: "Your boy turns 17 next year, right?"

Liu Ming sighed with the worry of an elderly father: "Yes, my son's talents are really nothing special; I don't know if he can succeed in Worshiping God."

Chen Jing chuckled: "Why pretend? If the father is a hero, how can his son be far behind?"

But, how about letting my great-nephew try Worshipping Lord Immortal Goat?"

Liu Ming smiled as well: "There are many Immortal Sheep Believers in this world, but there's only one Lu Tianjiao!"

During their conversation, Lu Ran at the end of the street dispatched three Evil Demons and hastened away.

Beneath the spreading Immortal Fog, snow danced chaotically.

It truly created an atmospheric scene, although it obscured visibility.

"Something's not right!"

Above Chen Jing and Liu Ming's heads, a pitch-black crow spoke human words with grave seriousness.

"Hmm?"

"Where?" Chen Jing and Liu Ming asked in unison, standing at the entrance of the neighborhood, searching for the Evil Demon.

The pitch-black crow flew in the air, speaking rapidly: "The battlefield where Lu Tianjiao was just now!"

Chen Jing, Liu Ming, and another Biwu believer teammate immediately looked towards the end of the street.

The snow there continued to whirl, making it impossible to discern the enemy clearly.

Chen Jing's forehead creased slightly, barely making out what seemed to be a blood-colored shadow?

"Damn!"

In the night sky, the black crow's pupils constricted, letting out a vulgar exclamation.

"Report the situation!" Liu Ming said, his face solemn.

The four in the team were all veterans, save the newly joined Biwu believer, who had been through countless life-and-death battles over the years.

Yet now, their reconnaissance officer was losing composure like this?

What had he seen?

"Blood Skull!"

The voice of the black crow shook slightly.

"What?" Chen Jing's body tensed reflexively, shouting out loud without thinking.

Evil Demon·Blood Skull?

How had this small alley managed to draw such an infamous Blood Skull?

Such a dreadful Evil Demon wouldn't even venture into populous areas like Beijing or Changan...

People always said that some Evil Demons were rare, others seldom seen.

Creatures like Tangled Silk Shadow, Yan Zhi, and Prison Sky Demon indeed appeared only once every few months.

And races like the Evil Dog Clan, the Evil Spear Emperor, the Jade-faced Snake might only be encountered once in a year or two.

If you weren't a patrolling officer but a stationed Moon Gazer, you might only see them once every three to five years.

But when it came to rarity,

there was one kind of Evil Demon that stood out as the most rare.

The Blood Skull Clan!

Their sightings were extremely rare.

"Blood Skull! At the entrance to the Rain Lane Home Community, Evil Demon-Blood Skull sighted!"

The young Biwu believer immediately reported to higher-ups.

Liu Ming also spoke up instantly: "Draw the Blood Skull's attention, we cannot let it escape!"

Chen Jing's expression was extremely ugly!

Red Cloth Disciples like him, not only unafraid of battle but rather fond of it, immediately started moving.

But his shaking arms betrayed the turmoil in Chen Jing's mind.

This was the Blood Skull...

Was this the end of his life?

The youngster had just complimented him, saying he had performed well this time.

This time, without a line between life and death, without wounds all over...

"Attack!" Chen Jing roared, Divine Technique fully unleashed.

Under the Red Cloth Order, his fighting spirit soared!

He was a Red Cloth Disciple, and also a Da Xia Moon Gazer.

In this battle,

even if death was certain, he would still fight!

He must keep the Blood Skull from leaving, at all costs, until the support patrol arrived; otherwise, the consequences would be unimaginable.

He just hoped that the Blood Skull's power realm was a bit lower, preferably at the lowest level of the Mist Realm minions.

But how could the power realm of such Evil Demons be low?

In the limited sightings of Blood Skull Clan members,

not once did they not kill en masse, not once without causing bloodshed?

This was the being known as the Evil Demon Leader...

"Yaa~~~"

The black crow cried out, launching a sonic attack into the distance.

Chen Jing halted his charge abruptly.

Because the Blood Skull had disappeared.

Almost at the same time, from the night sky above and behind, the wail of the black crow resounded:

"Yaa~~~"

Liu Ming's expression changed drastically!

Instant Teleportation Technique?

This meant that this Evil Demon·Blood Skull was at least above River Realm·Third Rank!

When an Evil Demon possesses Instant Teleportation, the threat to the people of Da Xia was unsurpassed.

The Evil Dog Clan also had Instant Teleportation.

But with their low intelligence, the Human Clan could deal with them somewhat.

The Blood Skull Clan...

Their intelligence was not only above average, but they were also top-tier within the Evil Demon hierarchy.

Comparable to the Evil Spear Emperor, the Jade-faced Snake!

That was why Moon Gazers couldn't afford to lose sight of them.

Once the Blood Skull disappeared, finding it again would be difficult.

And by the time they found it, the Blood Skull would have already accumulated copious blood debts, and countless Dead Souls would be under its blade!

"Flutter flutter flutter~"

Black crow feathers mixed with the scattered snowflakes, falling together.

Facing the sharp blood knife, the Witch Crow Believer showed a remarkable will to survive.

The black crow's body desperately shifted, allowing the blood knife to pierce its wing instead of its heart.

The Witch Crow Believer narrowly escaped death, enduring the pain and casting the Substitute Technique immediately.

"Flutter flutter flutter~"

The injured black crow left a substitute as its body frantically fled.

"Pugh!"

The blood knife instantly shattered the substitute, and the hot blood beads scattered from the knife tip landed on the fleeing black crow.

"Yaa~~~"

The pitiful scream echoed through the night sky.

"Attack!!"

Battle Roar sounded once again, and Chen Jing charged into battle.

In the night sky, the Evil Demon glanced at Chen Jing, holding a blood knife in hand, and casually threw it at the faltering black crow.

"Flutter flutter flutter~"

The crow heard the breaking wind from behind, intense fear distorting its movements.

Its heart rose to its throat!

"Click! Click..."

Several chains appeared out of nowhere.

Although the blood knife shattered them, it bought the black crow a chance to live.

"Gulp."

Liu Ming swallowed hard, finally seeing the true face of the Blood Skull.

The Blood Skull wasn't a blood-colored skull.

It took the form of a young man, tall, strong, and muscular.

His face was fierce, full of murderous intent, with red hair and red pupils, even his skin was blood-red.

Around his neck hung a necklace of small blood-colored skulls, eerie and frightening.

He was bare-chested, wearing battered blood-colored shorts, and when he landed, his hands gripped two slender blood knives.

Evil Demon·Blood Skull!

This name was derived from the blood-colored skull necklace around his neck.

That name constantly reminded humans just how terrifying this necklace was.

It was the Blood Skull Clan's trump card!

"Drip, drip..."

Drops of blood fell from the tips of the slender blood knives.

The faint sound was like a countdown to human life.

The cold wind carried the pungent smell of blood, causing physical revulsion and chilling fear.

Blood Skull said nothing, his silence was terrifying.

His blood-colored eyes were cold and ruthless, sweeping over the few people, and finally resting on Chen Jing who was charging towards him.

"Swish!"

Suddenly, the Blood Skull's figure darted about.

He left a blood-colored afterimage behind.

Chen Jing's heart skipped a beat as his extensive combat experience and sharp battle senses saved his life.

"Ding!!"

Chen Jing raised his knife to block, reacting before his brain could process.

Blood Skull did appear in front of him, his blood knife viciously chopping down on the steel blade.

Blood beads splattered from the blood knife, scorching hot!

Tiny beads fell onto Chen Jing's face...

Or to be precise, onto his Water Flow Armor, steaming off little wisps of vapor.

"Whoosh!"

Liu Ming, draped in a Big Red Robe, threw its tail violently.

"Zzzt—"

Blood Skull suddenly shifted targets, teleporting away, people could not react in time.

That slender blood knife was incredibly sharp!

The tail of the Prison Demon Disciple's Big Red Robe, like a split red wave under the blood knife, parted on either side.

Liu Ming's pupils contracted violently!

In the blink of an eye, Blood Skull had split open the Prisoner Demon Sect's prized defense garment and aimed directly for the heart.

"Ahhhh!"

Liu Ming screamed in agony as he was flung away.

Hot blood beads trailed from Liu Ming's right shoulder all the way to the left side of his torso.

The blood knife not only sliced open the Big Red Robe but also the specialized Water Flow Armor of the Human Clan.

It tore through Liu Ming's clothes and skin.

The hot blood beads from the blade mixed into Liu Ming's wound, boiling violently.

Chen Jing's eyes split with rage: "Old Liu...uh."

He could only get two words out before reaching his limit.

The blood figure appeared and disappeared like a ghost, once again in front of Chen Jing.

This time, Chen Jing couldn't block the strike.

Previously, Chen Jing had been on edge, performing beyond his norm.

But this time, his attention had shifted slightly, concerned for his severely injured comrade.

Evil Demon-Blood Skull completed a left chop and right stab in a blink.

There was no pause.

Only the scorching hot blood knife, which sent Liu Ming flying one second, pierced through Chen Jing's abdomen the next.

"Cough, cough cough..."

Chen Jing's pupils nearly shrank to pinpricks.

Blood Skull's eyes were also sharp; those sinister blood eyes seemed to nail Chen Jing's soul.

"Zztt!"

The blood knife withdrew only to stab again.

Blood Skull clearly had the ability to kill with one blow, but he refrained.

He had taken special care with the Red Cloth Believer.

He withdrew the knife, only to plunge it into Chen Jing's stomach again.

"Zztt! Zztt! Zztt..."

Blood Skull remained silent, stabbing again and again.

His blood eyes fixed on Chen Jing's.

It was as if he wanted to see something in the eyes of this brave and fearless Red Cloth Believer.

Fear, pain, regret, despair...

Just like the man behind him.

Blood Skull slowly turned his head, looking back at the young Biwu believer.

The new Moon Gazer seemed utterly petrified.

He didn't strike, he didn't flee.

He just stood there, pale and trembling, staring blankly at the scene.

Fear,

profound fear from the bottom of his heart, pervaded the Biwu believer's mind.

The intense emotions of the Human Clan, though invisible, nourished the nearby Blood Skull.

Blood Skull turned back, leaving the Biwu believer standing behind him, raising his eyes to Chen Jing.

Chen Jing's mouth kept bleeding, his eyes dazed, his stomach a bloody mess.

Blood Skull slowly pulled out the slender blood knife, ready to stab again...

"Meh!!!!"

Chapter 384: Human Blood Pool

"Baa!!!"

The sudden bleat echoed, and Blood Skull's movement halted.

He remained silent, but those blood pupils grew even more fierce.

Blood Skull tossed Chen Jing aside as if discarding trash.

"Thud..."

Chen Jing slammed hard into the ground, rolling over several times toward the side of the road, creating a long trail of blood that stained the pristine snow red.

A harrowing sight!

Blood Skull had gotten rid of the eyesore and now noticed the young Human Clansman not far ahead.

Lu Ran, however, kept his gaze on Chen Jing.

Just moments ago, Chen Jing was bouncing around, his hearty laughter still ringing in the air.

Now, he lay there, pierced by several blades, his life hanging in the balance.

Chen Jing eventually stopped at the roadside, his eyes glossed with confusion, blood seeping from the corners of his mouth, as copious amounts of fresh blood flowed from his abdomen.

This tragic scene was almost too much for Lu Ran to handle!

"Rescue him!"

Lu Ran squeezed the words through clenched teeth.

Behind Blood Skull, the newly recruited Biwu believer was shivering uncontrollably.

He was terrified.

That kind of fear from the bottom of the heart was incomprehensible to average people.

Blood Skull, merely with a gaze, had completely disintegrated a squad.

The Witch Crow believer was critically injured, crumpled at a distance.

Prisoner Demon believers were torn, their chests ripped open.

The Red Scarf believers were stabbed again and again and again...

Three experienced seniors were savagely slain right before the eyes of the Biwu believer.

The people were powerless to resist, vulnerable as ever.

The River Realm believers, like insignificant ants, seemed alive but death was inevitable for them.

Their remaining value was experiencing all the sensations that came with their imminent deaths.

In these last moments, they were to provide the Evil Demon·Blood Skull with the extreme emotions of the Human Clansman.

The actions of Blood Skull, the stench of blood that emanated from him, the air of brutality that diffused from his presence, utterly broke the Biwu believer's defenses.

Blood Skull was like a ghoul that had crawled out of hell, a murderer capable of bloodbaths.

He seemed set to paint Rain Alley City with bloodstreams,

to pile up a mountain of corpses and create a Human Blood Pool.

Extreme fear caused the Biwu believer's mind to go blank, to the point where even the instinct to flee was lost.

"Rescue him!" Lu Ran bellowed again.

"Ah... Ah!"

The Biwu believer shook off the chill and finally snapped back to reality, pale faced and stumbling towards Chen Jing.

At the same time, Lu Ran's live-streaming channel was in chaos.

"What kind of Evil Demon is this? Why haven't we seen it before?"

"Is that guy thrown aside the Old Red Scarf just now?"

"He... he's bleeding so much, is he dead?"

"I can't stand to watch anymore; he was just fine a moment ago..."

"Fuck me! That's Blood Skull, it's Blood Skull!"

"The leader of the Evil Demons! The archenemy of Lord Sword One! Blood Skull!"

"What??"

"The archenemy of Divine Sword One?"

"In Da Xia, the only Demon Cave without any Human Clan presence is the Blood Pool, the cradle of the Blood Skull clan!"

"Yes, even the military doesn't dare to station there. As many that go in, die! Only Divine Sword One is resisting!"

"Is it... is it that formidable? I hope Ran Shen is okay."

"Don't, please don't die..."

The cold wind blew past.

Sweeping past Blood Skull's body, it carried with it a thick scent of blood through Lu Ran's black mask and into his nostrils.

A man and a demon stood facing each other.

Both were similar in height and build, both wielding slender blades.

The difference was,

Blood Skull had longer hair, his body dripping with blood.

Those blood pupils were like a thick pool of blood, intent on drowning the Human Clan within.

Lu Ran, however, had eyes like those of a dead sheep, with a frigid horizontal pupil as if concealing a graveyard behind him.

Lu Ran had indeed bleated, but Blood Skull did not immediately react.

Even more surprising to Lu Ran was the fact that Blood Skull seemed more interested in the blade!

Blood Skull's look towards Lu Ran had locked onto the Silent Night Blade from the first moment!

"Lu Tianjiao!"

"Lu Tianjiao!" Shouts came from all directions as several patrol teams arrived at the scene.

"Immediately rescue and evacuate the injured!" Lu Ran ordered.

"Lu..."

Others wanted to say more but were sharply interrupted by Lu Ran, "This is an order, execute immediately!"

While speaking, Lu Ran slowly lifted the Silent Night Blade, holding it up in front of his face.

Sure enough, as Blood Skull's blood eyes gazed upon the Silent Night Blade, they accidentally met Lu Ran's fierce gaze.

Evil Technique·Silk Pupil!

Blood Skull's eyes widened slightly, and in the next instant, his figure flickered.

The Blood Skull clan lacked Spirit Defense Techniques, so he could be subject to illusion techniques.

And at the moment he sensed danger, he chose to use Instant Teleportation.

Breaking the Illusion Technique?

Evil Technique·Blood Residue Shadow!

Combat erupted in an instant.

Lu Ran felt a chill rush up his spine, and he swiftly turned, raising his blade to block.

"Clang!!"

The clear ringing sound was piercing to the ears.

Silent Night clashed fiercely with the blood blade.

The blade indeed had been stopped.

However, the splattering blood drops from the blood blade showered over Lu Ran.

Lu Ran: !!!

The boiling blood drops falling on his water armor steamed up wisps of vapor.

Lu Ran's water armor was naturally Jiang Grade!

At this moment, the armor seemed as though it would be penetrated by the blood drops...

Lu Ran's heart tightened.

"A Demon Monarch! This is a River Realm Demon Monarch!" Lu Ran reported immediately.

His words, through the camera, were broadcasted to countless homes.

Simultaneously, Lu Ran's message also reached the command center through a concealed earpiece, and then it was relayed to everyone in Rain Alley City.

"What?"

"Is it really a Demon Monarch?"

"Hiss..." Spectators from a distance, the Moon Gazers, grew rigid, some even gasping in shock.

In reality, people were prepared.

The appearance of such a rare Evil Demon would inevitably bring devastation to mankind.

The Blood Skull clan almost never produced a weak member!

But the Moon Gazers still hoped against hope that this Blood Skull was a River Realm Third Rank Evil Demon.

Even River Realm·Fifth Rank would do.

Now, hopes were shattered.

It was a River Realm Demon Monarch!

With the absolute power to slaughter the entire city, River Realm·Blood Skull!

Lu Tianjiao had to stop Blood Skull.

Just defeating him was not enough; Blood Skull had to be killed!

Once Blood Skull fled defeated,

along his path, corpses would pile, and rivers of blood would flow...

"Hold on! Lu Ran, Ge Bin and I will be there right away!"

Liu Yunlan's slightly anxious voice transmitted through the earpiece.

"Hm?" For the first time, Lu Ran heard Blood Skull's voice.

It expressed doubt.

Blood Skull, wielding a blood blade, exerted force fiercely, only to find that his strike was not as powerful as this Human Clansman's?

It's common knowledge that in the same realm, the physical strength of the Evil Demon Clan is usually higher than that of the Human Clan.

Needless to say about beastlike Evil Demons.

Even the bodies of Human-shaped Demons are stronger than the frailty of the Human Clan.

However, Lu Ran possessed the Soul-splitting Demon Evil Technique·Soul Splitting Power!

"Baa~" Lu Ran suddenly spoke out.

Blood Skull looked up out of reflex.

Lu Ran's eyes narrowed, and a bizarrely enchanting red streaked across the depths of his eyes.

Blood Skull's pupils slightly widened as his figure flickered away again.

Lu Ran's blade cleaved through the residual image in front of him, the pungent scent of blood in his nostrils, and he violently slashed to the right.

"Clang!!"

The assault reversed!

The moment Blood Skull materialized, he switched to defense to intercept Lu Ran's slash.

The immense force numbed Blood Skull's wrist.

He slid backward several meters, spilling hot blood droplets along his path.

"Baa~" Seizing the momentum, Lu Ran advanced, his Immortal Fog swirling at his feet, as he raised his blade at Blood Skull.

"Clang! Clang! Clang..."

In just three to five seconds, their blades furiously intertwined, producing a relentless and rapid clanking sound.

Blood Skull realized that his body was becoming increasingly heavy?

Indeed,

Black fire had kindled within the dark horizontal pupils of Lu Ran.

A technique of the Black Light tribe, Evil Technique·Caged Fire (Yin)!

This technique was a single-target control skill; the enemy touched by the black fire would have their actions hindered.

Since you dare not meet my eyes, then don't look.

I, the Heavenly Pride,

See to your body!

"Whoosh~"

Blood Skull's figure vanished, retreating twenty meters away to watch Lu Ran from a distance.

Those observing from afar in Rain Alley City had been anxious for Lu Ran.

"Good!"

"Nicely done!"

"Hold firm! Hold firm!"

Seeing this, many of the Moon Gazers clenched their fists, voice low, venting their pent-up emotions.

Blood Skull had retreated!

He was forced by Heavenly Pride Lu Tianjiao to momentarily evade the heat of battle.

Such a sight brought surprise and joy to the crowd.

As the saying goes, a man's name, like a tree's shadow.

When the Evil Demon Leader·Blood Skull appeared, people already envisioned Rain Alley City submerged in blood in the wake of Blood Skull's rampage.

However, true gold fears not the fire's test!

Da Xia's number one Heavenly Pride did not rise through rhetoric.

He emerged through battle, blade by blade!

In days past,

When the River Realm Demon Monarch-Evil Dog came, it was time to slaughter the dog!

Two months ago,

When the River Realm Demon Monarch-Evil Spear Emperor came, he had been slain!

Over the past year and a half, Rain Alley City was akin to a small vessel amidst stormy seas, seemingly ready to be smashed by the towering waves at any moment.

Night of Ghosts prowled and trampled ruthlessly.

Various Demon Lords came to the human banquet.

Wave after wave, they came, and they went.

But only one True God,

Stood steadfast in this cursed land, unyielding!

Perhaps, to the Evil Demons, Rain Alley City was their "Demon Cave."

The human-made Blood Pool where myriads of ghosts and Demon Lords lay buried.

As many as come, so many would die!

"Good! Very good!"

"Kill him! What's this tm Blood Skull, kill kill kill kill kill!"

"He can instant teleport, the bastard has instant teleportation, no wonder Blood Skull is so dangerous, how is Ran Shen supposed to kill him?"

"I can't watch anymore..."

"Is Blood Skull burning? What's he doing... is he about to use his ultimate move?"

"That's the Burning Blood Body! Blood Skull is going berserk! Be careful..."

"Step back, Ran Shen! Don't face him head-on, wait for Blood Skull's blood to burn out! You must stand your ground, step back for now!"

The live broadcast room grew even more tumultuous.

In the camera's view, Blood Skull's blood was boiling!

Specks of blood burst from his blood-colored skin, only to fall back into it.

As if all the blood within Blood Skull's body was boiling.

This was not an ultimate move, but it was certainly terrifying!

Blood Skull's technique, Evil Technique·Burning Blood Body!

This technique involved burning one's blood and mana as a price, greatly enhancing the caster's speed, strength, and overall attributes for a brief period.

"Heh, leader of the Evil Demons."

Suddenly, Lu Ran's icy voice transmitted through the camera to the ears of thousands of people.

At the same time, the energy within his body violently surged.

Jiang Grade Evil Technique·Evil Recognition, maxed out!

Jiang Grade Evil Technique·Evil Agility, maxed out!

Jiang Grade Evil Technique·Soul Splitting Power, maxed out!

Jiang Grade Evil Technique·Caged Fire (Yin), maxed out!

"Baa~~~"

To everyone's astonishment, instead of evading, Lu Ran bleated defiantly, sounding through the rainy night.

"Zzzt—"

Enveloped in Immortal Fog, Lu Ran's Immortal Hoof thundered.

He charged directly at the boiling blood of the Demon Lord·Blood Skull.

You're the leader of the Evil Demons?

I am,

The Evil Demon Lord!

...

There's another update at 22:00. I'm asking for your monthly ticket support, brothers~

Chapter 385: The Last Dance

In the distant night sky, several shadows flew by.

Two followers of Ice Butterfly, with butterfly wings on their backs, each carried Liu Yunlan and Ge Bin.

"Quick, move faster!" Liu Yunlan urged in an anxious voice.

"I see it!" Ge Bin suddenly spoke up, with a very serious expression on his face.

As the two Jiang Realm Great Powers approached the Rain Alley Home Community, the battle became increasingly clearer.

And the fight between Lu Ran and Blood Skull left them speechless with astonishment.

Fast,

So fast!

Lu Ran's Immortal Hoof was quick, but Blood Skull's Instant Teleportation was even faster!

They were not just moving quickly in terms of speed.

Their movements were incredibly swift, and their attack speed was astonishing!

The two fought from one end of the street to the other, the fine sound of clashing blades making everyone's scalp tingle.

To put it bluntly, if anyone other than Lu Ran were in his place, they would have been killed by Blood Skull countless times already!

The Blood Skull Clan rarely made appearances.

But every time they did, they were invincible, wreaking havoc among humans.

Tonight,

Blood Skull met an opponent of a similar kind!

It was as if, the opponent was also a Blood Skull, just covered in the skin of the Human Clan.

Speed, agility, strength, skill, reaction time...

Not falling behind in any respect?!

Keep in mind, Blood Skull was using the Evil Technique-Burning Blood Body!

How?

"Ran Mei! Ran Mei's back!!"

"Holy shit! Holy shit! My heart is about to leap out of my chest!"

"Life and death in a second, it's really instant life and death!"

"I can't watch anymore, please, let nothing happen, please let nothing happen..."

Suddenly, a loud shout from Lu Ran came from the screen:

"Auntie Liu, go save them quickly!"

In the night sky, Liu Yunlan's expression was ugly.

She had to admit a fact: she couldn't get involved in this kind of battle!

Liu Yunlan indeed was a Jiang Realm Great Power, but she was a support.

Fortunately, as a believer of Nuoshasha, Ge Bin could offer some assistance.

Captain Ge was also swift, and the Nuoshasha Divine Technique-God and Ghost Entanglement allowed him to keep up with the pace of the battle.

But as he approached the battlefield, Ge Bin started to have doubts.

It wasn't that Ge Bin was afraid of death; rather, he was worried that if he joined rashly, Blood Skull would Instant Teleport away.

The consequences of that would be too severe!

Ge Bin, Liu Yunlan, and Lu Ran could together go kill a Jiang Realm Evil Dog.

The dumb creatures just knew to doggedly fight against the three of them.

The Blood Skull Clan was different!

This clan had a high enough intellect to judge the battlefield situation!

Even if Lu Ran had a taunting technique, Ge Bin couldn't risk it.

At this moment, as Blood Skull and Lu Ran's fierce battle raged on, such balance should not be disrupted.

If Lu Ran could, in an instant, decapitate his enemy, that would be the best outcome.

"Captain Ge, back me up, protect Auntie Liu, go save them quickly!"

Lu Ran shouted loudly as he, in turn, cried out like a sheep: "Baa~~~"

Amid the misfortune,

Blood Skull was afflicted by the Sound of Despair!

"Woo woo woo~~~"

Following the bleating, the sounds of ghosts wailing emerged.

The necklace of Blood Skulls around Blood Skull's neck suddenly "came to life"!

The small Blood Skulls each opened their mouths and let out chilling cries.

Right after, an endless blood fog sprayed out from the mouths of the Skulls!

"Sizz! Sizz..."

The dense blood fog engulfed the battlefield.

In just a few short seconds, it completely covered the battle group.

Those outside couldn't see within.

Those inside had no visibility either.

Blood Skull Evil Technique·Blood Rain and Foul Wind!

The blood fog sprayed by the Skull necklace could make those inside go mad, eventually overtaken by killing intent in their brains.

Of course, the blood fog didn't take effect instantly; one had to stay in the fog long enough to turn into a senseless killing machine.

After advancing to the Jiang Realm, the dense blood fog also had another effect:

Perception!

Everything within the fog couldn't escape Blood Skull's "magical eye".

Now came the question!

As Lu Ran stayed longer and longer in the blood fog, would he gradually lose himself, lose his reason, and ultimately, become a killing machine?

Under the Evil Demon Lord's command,

The Ghost General Clan did not consent, and the Evil Spear Emperor Clan consented even less!

Then, would Lu Ran, having lost his vision, become a lamb to the slaughter?

Under the Evil Demon Lord's command,

The Evil Dog Clan likewise did not consent!

"Hmph." Blood Skull gave a rare snort.

He closed his blood-red eyes, sensing everything within the fog, his figure flickering abruptly.

"Ding!!"

Blood Skull's face stiffened!

This blade strike, it was actually blocked by the young human?

For! What! Reason?

Within the unseen dense blood fog, Lu Ran, too, had his eyes firmly shut!

Blood Skull,

do you know...

I kill enemies, without opening my eyes!

You don't know?

Today, I'll let you know!

"Ding! Ding! Ding..."

Lu Ran wielded the Silent Night Blade in one hand, the Eight Desolate Blade in the other, dancing wildly,

Chasing after Blood Skull to kill him within his own Domain!

"Crack!!"

Soul Splitting Power + Divine Weapon Silent Night!

The River Grade technique of Blood Skull·Blood Burning Blade was shattered with brute force.

The edge of Silent Night Blade was incredibly sharp, instantly slashing into Blood Skull's shoulder.

"Sizz!"

This was the sound of Blood Skull's shoulder being cleaved, blood spurting out.

"Huff~"

This was the sound of Blood Skull flinching from pain, teleporting away in an instant.

Suddenly, the blood fog rapidly dispersed.

Many Moon Gazers displayed their supernatural abilities, staking their lives to approach the battle group, using River Grade Purification Skills to disperse the River Realm blood fog.

In this world, the precedence of Purification Skills is higher.

Faces filled with urgency, eyes brimming with concern, they frantically searched for Lu Ran's figure.

However, when the blood fog dissipated at that moment, everyone was stunned.

Lu Ran was unscathed.

Still standing firm!

Silent Night Blade in his right hand naturally hung down, its tip still dripping with droplets of blood.

And that Evil Demon·Blood Skull who had initiated the attack...

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He had a gash over ten centimeters deep on his right shoulder, which almost severed Blood Skull's arm off, if the wound had shifted slightly to the side!

The Moon Gazers were shocked!

They knew Lu Ran was strong, but this was beyond their imagination.

In that thick blood fog, not only had Lu Ran remained unharmed, but he had also nearly chopped off Blood Skull's arm!

What had happened?

The live broadcast audience was also in an uproar.

The "Heavenly Pride" show's crew reacted quickly, as the battle with the Demon Lord began, Lu Ran's channel had already switched to a first-person view combined with street surveillance from Rain Alley City.

Though the surveillance footage was black and white, it was quite clear.

Because Blood Skull's blood was boiling, his blood did not flow out from his shoulder but sprayed out...

"Holy shit! Holy shit!!!"

"Opening his domain only to get counter-killed, can't he play?"

"Ran Mei! Ran Mei is online!!"

"Joke! When does Ran Mei need eyes to slay his enemy?"

"Blood Skull? What happened to Blood Skull? One shows up, kill one, two show up, kill a pair!"

"Leader of the Evil Demons? I'm the fucking Leader of Heavenly Pride!"

"Wherever in the world creates a stir, only you dare to venture into Rain Alley City!"

"Demon Lord, since you've come, then just don't leave!"

"Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill!"

The screen filled with bullet comments represented the boiling hearts behind the screen.

A sheep's bleat penetrated the ears of all beings, as well as Blood Skull's ears.

"Hmm! Hmm!!"

Blood Skull snorted in anger, his red pupils lighting up.

The boiling blood had burned nearly half away.

Even with his attributes explosively increased, he couldn't gain the slightest advantage in front of this young human.

When the blood burned out, Blood Skull's body would shrivel, and his combat power would be greatly reduced.

The astute Blood Skull clan should cut their losses in time and teleport away. Where could they not kill enemies and drink their blood?

However,

Lu Ran's sheep's bleats kept penetrating his ears.

Already extremely infuriated, Blood Skull's murderous intent towards Lu Ran had reached its peak!

Whether it's a human or a demon, when extreme emotions dominate your brain...

"Whoosh!!!"

A sudden gale erupted, and beads of blood boiled.

"Ah!"

"Careful!"

"Stop Blood Skull, quickly stop..."

"Everyone retreat! Activate defensive techniques!" Liu Yunlan's sharp shout echoed throughout the venue.

In the distant night sky, a giant blood sword assembled from blood beads rapidly formed!

Lu Ran wasn't looking at the night sky, because he was focusing on Blood Skull.

This battle, Lu Ran had called too many times.

Each time infiltrating, a little invasion.

Now, it was time to reap the results!

Blood Skull, overwhelmed by his killing intent, focused on Lu Ran.

This time, Lu Ran did not use Silk Pupil, but chose another Pupil Skill.

A quietly executed Pupil Skill...

"Lu Tianjiao." Suddenly, a cold voice rang out.

In the distant night sky, a woman rapidly approached on her sword, looking up at the sky.

At a distance, Liu Yunlan, who was under a plane tree, also looked astonished.

Who was this disciple of Sword One?

"Blood-ravaged Mountains and Rivers, I, Guan, will block it." The woman surnamed Guan lifted one hand, energy swirling in her palm, "Go."

Evil Technique-Blood-ravaged Mountains and Rivers was a powerful move of the Blood Skull clan, known to all.

But this woman... Surnamed Guan?

Was she a great power from the outside world coming to aid them, Guan Xiao?

Guan Xiao was a woman?

"Sss—"

Lu Ran had no energy to speak; he stepped forward, shrouded in Immortal Fog, and attacked Blood Skull dozens of meters away.

"Baa~~~"

The bleating intensified.

Jiang Grade·Despairing Sound!

With no worries holding him back, Lu Ran fiercely added fuel to Blood Skull's fire!

As for whether others were affected, how their hearts struggled... it didn't matter, they had purification.

Even if not, desperate times called for desperate measures!

"Aghhhhhh!"

This time, Blood Skull truly let out a roar, not just a snort.

Seeing Lu Ran advancing to kill, Blood Skull's murderous desire surged, his hand brutally falling down!

"Whoosh!"

The giant blood sword thunderously cleaved downward.

"Ding!!"

An extremely harsh sound echoed through the night sky.

It was like a huge piece of glass shattering or as if the entire space was being torn apart.

A sword overflowing with frost harshly lifted upward.

Sword One Divine Technique·Frost Cold Nine Provinces!

The woman surnamed Guan, cold-faced, suddenly spread her fingers wide.

"Whoosh!!"

In the night sky, a blood sword hundreds of meters long turned on its side, spewing endless blood water.

As if splitting a blood sea from thin air, blood waves surged to both sides.

Should this sword have landed on the ground, not to mention where the blade struck, but the nearby buildings would likely have been shattered by the terrifying blood sea.

"Whoosh!!"

In the night sky, a frost sword hundreds of meters long emitted endless frost.

The surging blood sea, visible to the naked eye, steadily froze over.

Utterly frozen!

And two seconds before the collision of the sword and blade on the ground...

"Baa~~~"

The bleating sound from afar to near, pouring oil on fire.

Lu Ran did all he could, amplifying the murderous intent in Blood Skull's heart.

Blood Skull intensely stared at Lu Ran, fiercely slashing his blade down, that force seemed intent on taking Lu Ran with him!

"Sss—"

The "sheep-driven" Lu Ran shifted from second to fourth gear!

Stream Grade·Immortal Hoof instantly turned into Jiang Grade·Immortal Hoof!

With this sudden acceleration, Blood Skull couldn't react at all.

In fact, he couldn't react at all.

As soon as Blood Skull summoned the blood sword, the flames behind Lu Ran's eyes had already taken effect.

Black Lamp Evil Technique·Cage Fire (Illusion)!

When Jiang Grade·Cage Fire (Illusion) took effect, there was no rapid switch between reality and illusion, but a silent invasion of the Evil Demon's brain.

Lu Ran personally wove a scenario for the enemy that was indistinguishable from reality.

The difference was:

In the Illusion Realm, Lu Ran was still in second gear, performing the Stream Grade·Immortal Hoof.

But in the real world, Lu Ran's speed suddenly increased, his figure flashing away in an instant.

Ran Sect Blade Technique First Form·Moon Inquiry!

In an instant, figures crossed paths.

The Silent Night Blade slashed horizontally at the enemy's throat, a blood-red head soared high into the air.

In this moment,

It was as if time itself had paused throughout the world.

Everyone present, dumbfounded, watched the spectacle.

In the distant night sky, the frozen blood sea seemed to signify "time stopping."

No,

Time hadn't stopped.

The blood-colored head was flying, and that string of tiny skull necklaces scattered in all directions.

Blood Skull's body, spraying blood due to inertia, slid backward.

The genius of Da Xia who had decapitated his enemy still held the blade in his hand, dashing forward.

Blood splattered,

The Demon Monarch was beheaded!

Several seconds later, one of the Moon Gazer stumbled in speech:

"Win, have we won? Did we win?"

"He's done it! Lu Tianjiao has beheaded Blood Skull!"

"Woo... We won, we really won woo..."

Suddenly, a female Moon Gazer, unable to suppress her emotions any longer, fell to the snowy ground.

Her eyes reddened, covering her mouth as she began to cry.

If you weren't there, you'd never feel that extreme oppression, that extreme fear.

Gradually, some shouted loudly, some sobbed quietly.

And many more watched as Lu Ran returned to Liu Yunlan's side.

"Rustle~"

Branches shook, and several figures were brought down.

They were the Moon Gazer team that had been severely injured at the start of the fight, and they...

Seemed to still be breathing.

At least, through his Dead Sheep Eyes, Lu Ran didn't see any spirits floating up.

"Psst... cough, cough, cough..."

Chen Jing coughed violently, his eyes dazed as he looked at the slightly blurry figure before him.

His abdomen had been stabbed countless times.

This life was supposed to be taken by the gods, but it had been forcibly snatched back by Jiang Realm Great Power·Liu Yunlan!

Seeing the extremely miserable Chen Jing, images of their previous encounters floated in Lu Ran's mind.

More often hurt than unharmed.

At this moment, Lu Ran's eyes were also somewhat reddened as he said softly,

"So you're not dead yet."

"Heh, heh cough cough cough, heh heh..."

Chen Jing grinned, his teeth and lips covered in fresh blood, his smile so miserable, somewhat eerie,

"Didn't you tell me... not to die?"

"Yeah, then don't die." Lu Ran suddenly smiled, turned away, and wiped his eyes.

Inside the live broadcast, the bullet comments surged.

"They said you're the River Realm Demon Monarch? Or the leader of the Evil Demons?"

"Uncle is alive, that's really great!"

"That night, the boy from Rain Alley stood at the pinnacle of Heavenly Pride, mocking the incompetence of the Evil Demons."

"The First Pride, truly deserving!"

"Blood Skull's ritual blade, human testimony, witnessed by heaven and earth, seen by all people! Congratulations to Lu Ran for claiming the title of Da Xia's First Heavenly Pride!"

"Congratulations to Lu Ran for claiming the title of Da Xia's First Heavenly Pride!"

"Congratulations to Lu Ran for claiming the title of Da Xia's First Heavenly Pride!"

...

#### Chapter 387: The Bustling Scene Ends

"Lu Ran represents Rain Alley City, thank you, Senior, for lending a hand!"

Lu Ran stopped in his tracks, clasped his fist in his other hand, and looked up into the night sky.

Twenty meters away, a woman stood upon her flying sword.

She wore a white veil, her black hair pinned up behind her head, her white dress purer than snow, her sleeves fluttering.

Lu Ran could only see the upper half of her face, her brows exuding pride, with a pair of signature phoenix eyes.

The slightly upturned corners of her eyes, carrying a hint of severity, made her seem difficult to approach.

Guan Xiao looked down at Lu Ran, observed him carefully for a moment, and spoke indifferently,

"Peak Master Qiao has raised a fine son."

"Do you know my mother?" Lu Ran raised his eyebrows slightly.

The woman looked to be in her forties, probably a few years older than his mother.

"Guan Xiao wishes Lu Heavenly Pride success tonight," said Guan Xiao with a slight nod before departing.

Lu Ran flicked his right hand, and the Silent Night Blade spun toward a spot five meters away.

"Swish—"

A Straw Demon, just re-constituted, had its head cleaved off.

Immediately after, the bound straw body of the Straw Demon puffed up, and a pile of straw engulfed Lu Ran's lower legs.

Lu Ran watched the departing woman, and clenched his right hand.

The handle of the Silent Night Blade landed steadily in his palm.

He turned his gaze to Ge Bin, who was organizing the Wangyue Army to continue their mission.

The Evil Demon-Blood Skull, whose head he had just sliced off, had also dissipated into mist, vanishing into the atmosphere.

"Go on, Little Lu, don't worry."

Through his earpiece, Liu Yunlan's voice came through.

She was still healing the wounded, providing Lu Ran both courage and peace of mind.

Lu Ran looked distantly toward Liu Yunlan, nodded, and reversed, disappearing into the spreading Immortal Fog.

Thirty seconds in West River, thirty seconds in Hedong.

Lu Ran fought his way back, leaving behind the corpses of Evil Demons, rampaging through the city, and stormed into the Wu Lie Building.

"Brother!!"

In the center of the square, the elite team of Beijing continued their fierce battle.

Upon seeing the path through the Immortal Fog, Yuanxi promptly called out loud.

Right when Lu Ran stopped at the northern side of the square, another cattle-like head was sliced off.

Yuanxi strode forward, running swiftly toward Lu Ran.

"Slick—"

Lu Ran connected his strikes in a line, having just slain a Soul-splitting Demon, and then killed a Ghostly Eyes Ghost.

"Eh?" Yuanxi paused her steps, "Where's my brother?"

She followed the trail of Immortal Fog and found Lu Ran again.

Then, Yuanxi shifted direction, running toward Lu Ran.

"Whoosh~"

Yuanxi suddenly felt a chill breeze and a figure approached quickly.

Lu Ran stood in front of Little Yuanxi, and softly reminded, "The battle is not over yet."

Since the Dawn Blade had been constantly by Yuanxi's side, Lu Ran knew that his sister was safe and sound.

He wasn't too worried, but Yuanxi was different!

She hugged Lu Ran tightly, burying her face in his chest:

"I was scared to death! That was the River Realm Demon Monarch, Blood Skull!"

Her words were thick with lingering fear, and even her voice trembled.

A warmth spread through Lu Ran's heart as he patted Yuanxi's back.

The invasion by the River Realm Demon Monarch naturally triggered alarms.

The Moon Gazers stationed in various districts and streets would receive notifications from the command center immediately.

"It's all right now, see? I'm perfectly fine, aren't I?" Lu Ran consoled in a soothing voice.

Yuanxi's small hands clutched Lu Ran's clothing tightly,

as if fearing that the person before her would disappear the moment she let go.

She complained softly, "I told the Dawn Blade to help you, but it disobeyed, sticking by my side instead."

Lu Ran smiled and said, "Let's talk about that tomorrow, for now, go lead the battle."

"Um." Yuanxi was not obedient; instead, she rubbed her face against Lu Ran's chest in his arms.

No one knew what the girl had been through.

The advent of a Demon Lord was enough to terrify people.

And this Demon Lord was none other than the Evil Demon Leader·Blood Skull?

Including Lu Ran, there were only three Human Clan powerhouses in Rain Alley City.

To Yuanxi's dismay, she learned that the one facing the challenge was her own brother, Lu Ran.

She truly panicked then.

The Blood Skull clan was legendary in their ruthlessness, often accompanied by words like mass killing and mountains of corpses.

Yuanxi's heart was in her throat!

Now that she saw Lu Ran return safely, she was nearly beside herself with joy!

It was a feeling of relief and regained hope that ordinary people could not fathom.

"You're going to get an earful," Lu Ran joked with a smile.

This scene was set.

After tonight, who knows how the internet would tell stories about Little Yuanxi.

Lu Ran felt that instead of letting others speak, it was better for him to say it, to guide the narrative and ask for some leniency.

He casually launched the Silent Night Blade, his voice gentle,

"A River Realm Fifth Stage powerhouse, on the battlefield, secretly hugging her brother and crying?"

"Um..."

"Are you that afraid I'll die?"

"Ptooey, ptooey, ptooey! What are you saying!"

"Then how about you advance to River Realm soon, to help your brother in battle?"

The battlefield was chaotic, filled with roaring.

Yet, amidst this fearsome battlefield, the siblings conversed in gentle tones.

It was somewhat magical, somewhat warm.

"Don't worry big bro! Whoever dares to badmouth my wife, I'll be the first to disagree!"

"Ran Shen is so gentle~ I want a hug too [hug.JPG]"

"Ha ha, emperor Ran is completely whipped! He can't bear to push her away or scold her, can't even speak a little louder, can he?"

"Yuanxi: Did I hear you're Da Xia's number one Heavenly Pride? Stand at attention for me! Stand straight, and give me a hug ~"

"Blood Skull: No! Dude!! You were so fierce when you were killing me, now you don't even dare to breathe heavily, right?"

"Those who are favored are fearless~ [Red rose.JPG]"

The live-stream chat was full of joy, and due to Lu Ran's actions, mostly kind remarks prevailed.

On the screen, Lu Ran was finally able to comfort his sister, and everyone felt a pang of sympathy at the sight of Yuanxi's reddened eyes.

Lu Ran led Yuanxi back to their team, and they heard the hearty laughter of Niu Zhengzheng:

"Brother Ran is mighty! Hahaha! Did you slay the Blood Skull?"

Wang Ling also laughed heartily: "Brother Ran is mighty!!"

Lu Ran responded modestly: "I had help from the seniors, so I had nothing to worry about."

Guan Yiren hovered in the air, her flying swords whizzing freely around her.

She quietly watched Lu Ran, a flicker of concern in her eyes.

Lu Ran sensed something and looked up just in time to see Guan Yiren engage in Sword Flight again, slaughtering Evil Demons.

A moment later, Lu Ran suddenly said, "A senior just now, she is a disciple of Sword One.

She also bears the name Guan, do you know her?"

Guan Yiren continued fighting, not looking at Lu Ran, but simply nodded slightly: "My aunt."

Actually related?

Lu Ran silently nodded.

Since the disciples of Sword One were mortal enemies with the Blood Skull clan, then the Lady Guan Xiao was probably here for... Wait a second!

That's not right!

If Guan Xiao came after her sworn enemy, shouldn't she be fighting to the death like Wang Ling's uncle Wang Quan?

That would be the way to seek recognition.

But just now, Guan Xiao directly let Lu Ran go to kill Blood Skull.

This powerful disciple of Sword One, instead, chose to play the supporting role, blocking the Blood Skull clan's ultimate move for Rain Alley City.

This...?

Lu Ran pondered for a moment but didn't dwell on it, as the night was not yet over.

However, since Blood Skull's appearance, the latter half of the night in Rain Alley was relatively "calm."

And Lu Ran's earth-shattering battle with Blood Skull spread quickly online!

Before dawn broke, various reports had already flooded the official websites of major news media.

As usual, the scorecard for this period's "Heavenly Pride" would be announced on the 18th day of the lunar month.

But the people of Da Xia and various media had already acknowledged a fact.

This was evident in the comments from netizens and the headlines of the media:

"Dust Settles! The Youth of Rain Alley Ascends to the Summit of Heavenly Pride!"

"Nine ranks Immortal Goat Disciple, Da Xia's number one Heavenly Pride!"

"Evil Demon Leader? Slay!!"

"Amidst the world's banquets, only you dare attend the feast of Rain Alley City—Quoted from a live-stream chat user"

...

Unaware of these developments, Lu Ran continued to fight alongside the Beijing team, collecting Dead Souls.

From time to time, Lu Ran would leave for a while to patrol the city, harboring wandering lost souls.

As the sky gradually brightened, Lu Ran slowly let out a sigh of relief.

"It's finished, huh."

In the center of the square, Yuanxi stood beside Lu Ran, gazing up at the white expanse of the sky.

Rain Alley City

indeed suffered a cursed fate.

At least it wouldn't follow suit, learning to gild the lily.

The sky was filled with thick frost, the winter sun remained hidden, and beautiful dawn rosy clouds were nowhere to be seen.

"Let's go home," Lu Ran murmured, still thinking about the Silent Night Blade.

"Sure," Yuanxi nodded repeatedly, of course wanting to be alone with Lu Ran.

The poor sister had no idea that her brother's head was filled with thoughts of the blade...

"Congratulations, Brother Ran!" Wang Ling approached with a right fist clenched.

Lu Ran smiled back, bumping fists with Wang Ling.

He was not falsely modest.

If he scored less than 134 points tonight, the people of Da Xia would not stand for it!

"Haha, congratulations in advance, Brother Ran!" Niu Zhengzheng beamed, his fists as large as sandbags clenched tightly.

Lu Ran bumped fists with him in return.

"Yiren?" Wang Ling glanced at the woman standing alone to the side, gently prompting.

Guan Yiren did not step forward, just silently watching Lu Ran, lost in his gaze once again.

Lu Ran nodded and said, "Please thank Senior Guan for me."

What for,

you once saved my life, after all.

Guan Yiren did not speak but responded with a smile and nod.

"Shall we have hotpot the day after tomorrow to celebrate?" Yuanxi suddenly suggested.

"Sure!"

"Haha, it's settled then!"

The group of five chatted and laughed, feeling happy for Lu Ran.

However, the atmosphere in the live-stream was already changing.

One by one, the farewells scrolled across the screen, making everyone increasingly sentimental.

"Goodbye, this time it's a real goodbye [Crying.JPG]"

"Ran Dog, Ran Mei, Ran General, Emperor Ran, Ran Treasure, Ran Shen... Till we meet again."

"My heart feels empty."

"Is it really over? So warm, yet so sad."

"Will we meet again?"

"Thank you for keeping me company through those terrifying nights..."

Suddenly, the camera shifted.

Lu Ran's face appeared on the screen.

His hat, long lost in battle, to everyone's surprise, Lu Ran took off his black mask.

This wasn't the first time Lu Ran had shown his true face.

After all, in the past two months, Lu Ran had participated in two "Heavenly Pride" events.

But this time, Lu Ran was taking a selfie, the camera was real close.

The people of Da Xia had a rare opportunity to enjoy Little Yuanxi's special treatment.

Under the snowy sky, his smile was warm, his voice soft:

"Through mountains and waters, we shall meet again.

I wish you prosperity and a peaceful life."

Just a few seconds later, the once diverse barrage of comments gradually became uniform:

"I wish you prosperity and a peaceful life."

"I wish you prosperity and a peaceful life."

"I wish you prosperity and a peaceful life."

...

### Chapter 388: Three Magic Artifacts

After returning home, Lu Ran had a hearty shower before collapsing onto the bed of the small bedroom and fell into a deep sleep.

He paid no mind to the turmoil of the outside world.

Exhausted in body and mind, he slept soundly as the sky darkened.

It wasn't until dusk that Lu Ran slowly woke up.

"Mmm..."

Lu Ran rubbed his eyes, turned his head, and looked at the white wall next to his computer desk.

He placed one hand on the edge of the bed and gave it a gentle squeeze.

On the wall where the sword rack was, a Tang sword slowly slid out of its sheath and flew to Lu Ran's side.

"How about it? Have you figured it out?" Lu Ran asked in a soft voice.

Silent Night Blade: "Forbidden to all beings to cast spells."

Lu Ran's heart leaped: "Your Divine Weapon Domain, is it really silence?"

Silent Night Blade: "At first, I only wanted to silence the golden-winged bats, but that piercing squeal was just the way Evil Technique is cast."

Excited, Lu Ran gripped the handle tightly: "Yes, yes, yes! That's exactly the right way to think!"

The Silent Night Blade gently broke free and flew back to the wall, sheathing itself.

Lu Ran: ??

What does that mean?

Are you looking down on me?

I clearly took a shower, I'm not dirty...

Lu Ran suddenly realized: "You're a blade, you cut through blood and flesh every day, and you're disgusted by me?"

Silent Night Blade: "It has nothing to do with being dirty or clean; you're too loud."

Lu Ran: "..."

Can't even get excited?

Lu Ran looked at the Silent Night Blade on the wall and deliberately lowered his voice: "Is your path still obstructed?"

In his mind, a thought from the Silent Night Blade emerged: "Blocked. I am stopped outside, not allowed deeper insight."

Lu Ran's expression turned serious: "Can you sense where that Divine Weapon might be?"

Silent Night Blade: "I cannot."

"Cannot?" Lu Ran frowned slightly, "Divine Weapons overlapping in domains should always be able to sense each other's location!"

Silent Night Blade confirmed again: "I only know the other's existence."

But I cannot pinpoint the other's location."

Lu Ran was silent for a long time and sighed gently: "This is going to be difficult."

If that was the case, then there was only one possibility.

That Divine Weapon wasn't in this world!

Only when Divine Weapons are not in the same dimension are they unable to locate the enemy.

Therefore, that Divine Weapon was likely within a Demon Cave.

It could be in the possession of a human warrior, or it could belong to the ranks of the demonic.

Lu Ran hoped more it would be in the hands of the demons.

In that way, he would have no qualms about attacking.

But if that weapon really was in the hands of a demon itself...

Then, the Silent Night Blade might not be able to advance for a considerable time in the future.

How easy would it be to challenge a demon itself?

Fortunately, the demonic lords are all suppressed by All Gods and hidden deep within Demon Caves, unable to leave.

Otherwise, Lu Ran could be in danger any moment...

"Silent Night, I have a task for you."

"Mm."

"Always be vigilant, no matter the time or place, no matter how dangerous things get. Once you detect the enemy's location, you must inform me immediately!"

Lu Ran's words were stern.

Once Silent Night Blade locked onto an enemy, it would mean the enemy had brought the weapon to the human realm!

This was a matter of life and death for Lu Ran, involving his friends and relatives, and the safety of his city.

Silent Night Blade: "Yes!"

"Click."

Suddenly, the bedroom door was pushed open.

A little head peeked in, sneaking a look around.

A moment later, the siblings looked at each other and blinked.

"Brother!"

Qiao Yuansi immediately bounced through the door, her cheeks puffing up.

"Hello there, little pufferfish."

"You're the pufferfish!" Qiao Yuansi was visibly upset, "You've been asleep all day!"

Lu Ran was puzzled: "Didn't you also fight all night? Aren't you tired?"

Qiao Yuansi pouted: "I woke up hungry at noon!"

"Oh, oh!" Lu Ran got out of bed immediately, "I'll cook for you."

Qiao Yuansi's smile blossomed instantly, following Lu Ran into the kitchen with a bounce in her step.

After dinner, the siblings curled up on the sofa, watching TV.

Lu Ran also video-called Jiang Ruyi.

Interestingly, both Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi were quiet, while little Yuanxi on this end and Xianxian on the other were chattering away.

During the video call, the two Jiangs were in a house in Luoxian Village.

That was the house Lu Ran had arranged for Father Jiang and Jiang's mother; both were there.

Lu Ran and Qiao Yuansi greeted them warmly, and made plans to celebrate the New Year together after wrapping up their business.

One detail made Lu Ran somewhat emotional.

When talking with his uncle and aunt, Jiang's mother Zhuang Jingyi's eyes were clearly moist.

Even though the fifteenth night had passed, just thinking about what Lu Ran had gone through, she couldn't help but be worried and scared.

Lu Ran could feel that Zhuang Jingyi had come to regard him as her own child.

Originally, Jiang Ruyi had disguised herself well, always wearing a gentle smile.

But as her mother's emotions wavered, Jiang Ruyi's feelings also appeared to change...

Lu Ran felt very fortunate.

In a world filled with suffering, it was warming to have such family members who cared and waited for him.

Lu Ran even thought that this was a compensation given to him by the heavens.

As long as he lived with perseverance and effort, beautiful things awaited him.

In the blink of an eye, it was the eighteenth day of the lunar month.

That morning, the siblings sat in front of the computer, watching the "Heavenly Pride" official website, awaiting the announcement of the results.

"It's 7:59." Qiao Yuansi stomped her feet in excitement, constantly refreshing the page.

"It has to be first place." Lu Ran said with a smile, "I don't believe I can't score 134 points... uh."

Before he could finish, his mouth was covered by a small hand.

Qiao Yuansi frowned: "You can't jinx it! Don't tempt fate!"

Lu Ran nodded, his muffled voice emanating from the delicate little hand: "I believe in omens."

I do believe in omens!

In this world, you won't find anyone who believes more than me... no, that's not right.

To put it accurately, omens believe in me!

"Hmph." Seeing Lu Ran looking obedient, Qiao Yuansi let go of her hand, turned her head to look at the computer screen, and suddenly exclaimed, "It's eight o'clock!"

She hurriedly refreshed the page and saw a newly posted link:

"The Fifth Battle of Heavenly Pride (December 15) The Second Batch of Participants' Score List."

"Here it comes!" Qiao Yuansi clicked on it immediately, and her eyes caught the name Lu Ran in a glance.

points!

"Yoo-hoo~~~"

Qiao Yuansi leaped with excitement, cheering and jumping.

She turned around and hugged Lu Ran tightly, her cheeks flushed: "Didn't I tell you, you're the first!"

Lu Ran also smiled, yet casually said: "Wonder who it was that just told me to believe in omens."

"First place! This time it's the real deal!"

Qiao Yuansi ignored what Lu Ran said, turning her head back to the computer.

"Tsk tsk tsk~" She sat down on the chair, cupping her chin with small hands, and gazed contentedly at her brother's score.

As if watching it longer could make the score increase...

Lu Ran glanced at the score list, grinning wryly: "Getting promoted to River Realm is truly a sin, they deducted too many points.

After fighting Blood Skull like that, only 146 points?"

Qiao Yuansi, however, reasoned: "Is that not high enough?

Think about the night of October 15, after going through Night of Ghosts and battling Demon Lord Evil Spear Emperor, you only got 142 points, right?"

Lu Ran raised his eyebrows; she had a point.

Compared to that night, gaining a score for slaying a River Realm Demon Monarch, Blood Skull, indeed meant a significant bonus.

Qiao Yuansi, feeling delightful, said: "Let's see, how did the judges praise you?"

She clicked on the mouse, opening Lu Ran's score, also seeing the comments:

"The leading prodigy, Da Xia's fortune!"

"When I heard people cry, pray, and cheer for you, when I saw the devotion in their eyes as they looked at you, the score loses its meaning."

"Human realm as a test, the mountains and rivers give the answers."

"Create above the smoke, drink from the sweet springs, since ancient times, glory has belonged to the youth!"

Qiao Yuansi's eyes sparkled as she looked at Lu Ran, then back at the computer screen.

Her ponytail swung as her little head bobbed like a rattle-drum.

Lu Ran: "..."

Qiao Yuansi giggled: "Since ancient times, glory has belonged to the youth~"

Lu Ran patted her head: "What do those first six words mean?"

Qiao Yuansi: "Don't know?"

"Are you not a talented student from Jing University?"

"Cut it out~ I'll look it up later." Qiao Yuansi admired the comments for a good while longer, feeling sweeter the more she read.

Eventually, she went back to the official website, her eyes suddenly sharp.

"The Annual Heavenly Pride Leaderboard!"

Qiao Yuansi hurriedly clicked in.

"In the Gregorian year 2019, in the year of the Earth Pig according to the Chinese zodiac, here are the annual rankings of the hundred Heavenly Prides."

"First place, Lu Ran, Immortal Sheep Believer, located in Rain Alley City High School No. 1 / Wu Lie River University.

Total score: 729 points (Battle scores of 143, 149, 149, 142, 146)."

"Second place, He Qifeng, Martial Monk Believer..."

Qiao Yuansi was overjoyed, suddenly remembering something: "Oh right, brother, we can choose our rewards now!"

Lu Ran nodded immediately: "I thought you had forgotten."

"How could I!" Qiao Yuansi quickly searched for the rewards page, "Now they should have released the information on the Magical Artifacts!"

At this step, Lu Ran also became a bit excited.

"We have it!" Qiao Yuansi hurriedly looked at the Magical Artifacts.

The first artifact really was a Treasure Bead!

"Magical Artifact·Wind Barrier Treasure Pearl: By offering the Magic Artifact, one can summon a Wind Barrier that blocks incoming enemies..."

Qiao Yuansi's face took on a strange look: "Isn't this just a defensive technique? Wind Wall?"

Lu Ran speculated: "Since it's a Magical Artifact, the Wind Wall should be exceptionally large, the defensive effect should be especially strong, right?"

Qiao Yuansi grimaced, her eyes drifting to the second Magical Artifact.

Surprisingly, it wasn't a gourd, but rather seemed to be a wooden crutch?

The part that looked like a gourd-mouth was actually a small protrusion on the crutch...

"Nice!" Lu Ran laughed, "Heavenly Pride is fooling everyone."

"Magical Artifact·Dragon Whisker Treasure Staff: Upon summoning the Magical Artifact, the dragon whiskers can attack the enemy.

The Dragon Whisker Treasure Staff can also grow into a towering tree, with endless dragon whiskers that can protect a certain area, sheltering all living beings."

Qiao Yuansi's expression was odd: "Isn't this just Biwu Divine Skill·Biwu Tree?"

Lu Ran: "..."

It's at least a Magical Artifact.

Should be more powerful than the Biwu Tree, right?

Qiao Yuansi scrolled down, watching for the third Magical Artifact: "What's this... eh? A gourd?"

The world was mistaken about the second Magical Artifact, only for the third artifact, shrouded in mist, to indeed be a gourd.

Were everyone's guesses wrong, yet not entirely incorrect?

Qiao Yuansi read: "Magical Artifact·Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd: Can absorb Divine Power from heaven and earth, aiding in cultivation.

Can also Absorb Demons' corpse bones, refining their physical bodies, extracting their energy..."

Qiao Yuansi's voice grew fainter as she murmured: "Isn't this just a Divine Power Pearl?"

Lu Ran: "..."

...

Chapter 389: Delusional Infatuation

"Bro, maybe we should choose a Divine Weapon?"

Qiao Yuansi looked disgusted as she continuously scrolled the mouse wheel, eyeing three Magic Artifacts.

Lu Ran said, "Aren't Magic Artifacts more precious?"

Qiao Yuansi replied, "But these few Magic Artifacts, their effects aren't that great!"

With that, Qiao Yuansi grabbed Lu Ran's hand and rolled up his sleeve, "Take another look at your Rebirth Money.

It's just a fragment of a Magic Artifact, yet it's so powerful!

It can absorb and refine Dead Souls, even create flesh for them and control them in battle.

That's what I call a real Magic Artifact!"

Lu Ran, looking at the fragment of the Magic Artifact, Rebirth Money, on his wrist, nodded in agreement.

What did they say about "when you compare goods, you'll want to toss the inferior ones"?

Suddenly, Qiao Yuansi asked, "By the way, bro, have you ever created flesh for the Dead Souls inside the Copper Coin?"

Lu Ran was taken aback and then shook his head, "No."

"No?" Qiao Yuansi exclaimed, completely puzzled.

If she had such a Magic Artifact, she would've compelled all sorts of Evil Demon Dead Souls and then shaped flesh for them one by one, playing with them to her heart's content.

Lu Ran silently admitted his guilt.

Indeed, he hadn't used the Copper Coin to create flesh for Evil Demons.

What he had used was the God Demon Sculpture Garden to directly make Servants!

Lu Ran nodded, "After all, Rebirth Money is a fragment, and the flesh it creates for Dead Souls only lasts a short time.

The key is that shaping flesh consumes the Copper Coin's intrinsic energy, which is a loss not worth the cost."

"I see," Qiao Yuansi said with regret, her fingertips gently brushing over the Ancient Copper Coin, "Anyway, this is what I envision a Magic Artifact should be like."

Lu Ran patted his sister's little head with a smile, "Your starting point is too high."

When young,

it's not always good to encounter people or things that are too fantastic.

Otherwise, it's easy to get trapped by them for a lifetime.

"Pfft," Qiao Yuansi puffed her lips.

Is my starting point really too high?

That Wind Barrier Treasure Pearl, isn't it just the North Wind Divine Skill·Shattering Wind Armor?

That Dragon Whisker Treasure Staff, isn't it just the Biwu Divine Skill·Biwu Tree?

And that Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd, isn't that just a Divine Power Pearl?

I already have them, hanging several around my neck...

"This gourd looks pretty nice," Lu Ran turned his attention back to the screen.

Qiao Yuansi paused, "Do you want a Divine Power Pearl?"

Lu Ran: "..."

What kind of question is that!

Qiao Yuansi looked at the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd; setting aside its effectiveness, just its appearance alone was indeed striking!

The gourd seemed made of red jade, appearing smooth and exquisite.

With golden Phoenix Patterns adorning it, coiling and soaring.

Red jade with golden patterns,

truly exceptionally crafted!

Lu Ran said, "You know, whether it's Divine Weapons or Magic Artifacts, their growth is endless."

Qiao Yuansi blinked.

Lu Ran continued, "For instance, my Dawn Blade, which has activated the Divine Weapon Domain·Blessed Cloud, does that mean all is well?"

Of course not!

Activating the first Domain means being on the right path!

Lu Ran and the Dawn Blade need to cultivate deeply on this path and study endlessly.

Qiao Yuansi, resting her elbow on the table with her little hand supporting her cheek, carefully read the introduction of the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd.

Lu Ran went on, "What do you think, if I could cultivate the gourd to advance.

Turning 'Absorb Evil Corpse Bones' into 'Absorb Demons,' wouldn't that be different?"

This effect, this prestige!

Won't it climb up with just a push?

Qiao Yuansi's expression twisted as she looked at Lu Ran.

She wanted to say that her brother was daydreaming.

But seeing Lu Ran's expectant look, Qiao Yuansi held back and did not want to dampen the mood.

Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts share similarities in some ways.

How difficult it is to cultivate a Divine Weapon!

Activating its Domain is even harder!

And to evolve from the first effect, to continue developing and advancing, is nothing short of a fantasy.

Who can ensure that the path of a Divine Weapon is as you imagine?

Being passionate about it is not scary.

What's scary is presuming too much, and taking the wrong path.

What's scary is being too obsessed, striving in vain, and creating demons in your own mind.

However...

A thought struck Qiao Yuansi.

Her brother was no ordinary person!

The Dawn Blade was the best example, a weapon he personally cultivated.

And in front of countless people, it had activated its Divine Weapon Domain.

Doing what others cannot!

"What do you say?" Lu Ran looked down at his sister, winking.

Qiao Yuansi nodded, for once without any sarcasm, "If it gets rid of the word 'corpse bones,' then in my eyes, it truly deserves to be called a Magic Artifact."

Whether it's the River Realm or Demon Lords and Evil Lords.

Let's see if I can absorb you—that's it ~

Another point made Qiao Yuansi hold back her usual retorts.

Because the Lantern Sect's big move in the River Realm was to seal Evil Demons in lanterns and refine them with the lantern's flame.

The little girl is clever ~

If she criticized the gourd, it would be akin to cursing her own clan's ultimate move...

Lu Ran looked at the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd, the more he saw it, the more he anticipated, "To take a step back, even if your brother is fantasizing and doesn't succeed in a lifetime."

Lu Ran paused, his gaze burning brighter, "At least it's still a Magic Artifact that can aid in cultivating!"

It can draw energy from the heavens and the earth on its own.

After I fight a few rounds on the battlefield, I take out the gourd, tilt my head back, and gulp down Divine Power..."

How wonderful would that be?

What's more carefree than drinking on the battlefield?

Do you really think I'm pulling out a drinking gourd?

No,

what I'm pulling out is a plastic bag...

"That makes sense," Qiao Yuansi nodded.

Among the three Magic Artifacts, this was the only one that could assist in cultivation and sustain battles.

Choosing "battle endurance" under any circumstance is always right.

Qiao Yuansi thought so, while Lu Ran contemplated further.

If the effect of the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd could be advanced to Absorb Demons, would this gourd be considered an unusual spatial Magic Artifact?

Could his Servant squad be taken into it at any time?

Just the thought was delightful...

As for "refining" and other aspects, Lu Ran wasn't worried.

Whether to refine the Evil Demons inside the gourd was, of course, up to the Artifact Spirit.

As long as he communicated well with the Artifact Spirit beforehand, the Servant squad would not only be unharmed, but they could also enjoy the nourishment of the rich energy environment!

Ready to enter the fray at any time,

always in peak condition!

Of course, when there are Evil Demon Servants in the gourd, one should be cautious when drinking.

Be careful not to accidentally gulp down Yan Zhi.

Hmm, I can't reward her for nothing...

"Have you made up your mind about it, brother?"

"It's decided!" Lu Ran said with emphasis.

Meanwhile, the phone buzzed again.

While the siblings were chatting, Lu Ran's phone had been vibrating constantly.

Apparently, it was congratulatory messages from relatives and friends.

But this time, the continuous vibration was likely a call.

"Buzz~buzz~~~"

Lu Ran glanced at it and saw it was a call from the "Heavenly Pride" show crew.

He made a silencing gesture to Little Yuanxi before picking up, "Zhang brother?"

Zhang Quan, one of the leads of the "Heavenly Pride" show crew.

The last two times, Lu Ran's participation in offline activities was orchestrated by this man.

"Congratulations, congratulations, Lu Tianjiao, for topping the Heavenly List!" On the other end of the phone came Zhang Quan's hearty laughter.

"Thank you," Lu Ran responded with a smile.

The call lasted a full ten minutes before Lu Ran hung up with a frown.

This was the last month before Lu Ran challenged the Divine Ruins.

He had planned to cultivate the Tangled Silk Shadow and Barbaric Woman Evil Sculpture to the River Realm stage.

However, a call from "Heavenly Pride" had disrupted all of Lu Ran's plans.

All about activity arrangements!

Interviews, award ceremonies, public speaking, celebration feasts, book voice-over...

It was hard to imagine!

A Heavenly Pride who fought with real swords on the battlefield, was actually going to do voice-overs for bedtime stories?

Well... it does fit with the national mood.

At the very least, when Lu Ran was still an ordinary person living in trepidation, he would put in earphones and listen to various shows to fall asleep.

It's evident that Da Xia wants to fully utilize the energy of this batch of Heavenly Prides.

Being the top-ranked person, Lu Ran could certainly not be absent.

"Hee hee~," Qiao Yuansi giggled, "Brother is going to be a star again?"

Lu Ran imitated his sister's manner, smacking his lips.

Being a star was secondary.

The main thing was that during these activities, officials would inevitably come for discussions.

In this special era, Lu Ran wielded terrifying influence and was the spiritual support of millions.

Da Xia naturally hoped Lu Ran would shine.

For this, Lu Ran was more than willing!

He too had been one of the weak and knew how painful and oppressive it was to survive in this dark world.

But with the three months almost up, he was about to risk his life in the Divine Ruins!

It seems he'll have to use Lord Immortal Goat as a shield.

Instead of soothing people's emotions and encouraging them to survive, Lu Ran was more inclined towards another path.

Fundamentally, Lu Ran was a warrior.

He yearned to slay all the world's Evil Demons and eliminate mankind's calamities!

This was the way to solve problems at their root.

Eliminate the source of trouble!

"Bro, bro?"

"Huh?"

"What are you daydreaming about?"

"Sorry, Yuanxi," Lu Ran apologized, "I'm booked with 'Heavenly Pride' events until Chinese New Year's Eve, and the city unlocks tomorrow, I have to report."

Qiao Yuansi puffed up like a little blowfish again.

Her mouth pursed, cheeks bulging.

Lu Ran's voice softened, "Will you go to Yeyu City first? Once I'm done with everything, I'll come to Luoxian Mountain to find you."

Suddenly, Qiao Yuansi said, "I'll accompany you, and be your little assistant!"

Lu Ran: "Huh?"

Qiao Yuansi justified herself, "I have to watch over you for Sister Ruyi!"

You don't know how attractive you are, there are tigers outside, all eyeing you!"

Lu Ran: "Stop messing around."

Qiao Yuansi, with tear-filled eyes: "I don't care! We have so little time together, now you're pushed until year's end."

Lu Ran contemplated briefly, then nodded, "Alright, then we'll go together."

Qiao Yuansi opened her mouth to retort, "You just... eh? You agreed?"

Lu Ran's finger gently wiped under Little Yuanxi's eyes, laughing, "You should be the actor!"

Crying on cue, with no casting time at all."

Qiao Yuansi, initially overjoyed, now glared at Lu Ran, grinding her teeth in irritation.

Lu Ran, as if not seeing, picked up the phone to look at the official schedule of activities.

Before leaving, he would do everything he could to help people.

As for the Barbaric Woman and Tangled Silk Shadow sculptures...

Shameless eating is the way to go.

It was time to visit Forget Spring Believers·Li Rouyin.

Wondering how the leeks were doing...

...

Chapter 390: Heavenly Pride Peak!

The twenty-ninth day of the twelfth lunar month, evening.

In a house in Luoxian Village, a middle-aged man stood alone, still with a cigarette in hand.

"Phew..."

The man slowly exhaled a puff of smoke, closing his eyes as if to savor the moment.

Stars filled the sky, and the night breeze was gentle.

The village was peaceful.

Everything was so beautiful, until a voice rang out:

"Dad."

"Ah?" The middle-aged man instinctively turned his head to look.

He saw a tall figure standing at the gate of the house.

The girl was wearing a long white dress, floating like a fairy.

Those beautiful eyes were like the deep night sky, seemingly capable of leading one into a universe of dazzling stars and boundless vastness.

Seeing her father a little dazed, Jiang Ruyi spoke softly, "The award ceremony is more than halfway through, and it's almost Lu Ran's turn."

"Ah... Ah!" Jiang Zheng came back to his senses and quickly turned his back.

Though he was the father, he resembled a child caught in wrongdoing, using his broad figure to hide the small cigarette butt.

Jiang Ruyi shook her head with a smile and turned to enter the house.

Jiang Zheng hurriedly took another drag on his cigarette, the heavy smoke soothing his nerves, helping him calm down gradually.

It had been nearly three months since his daughter had ascended to the River Realm.

Jiang Zheng had never quite adjusted to her transformation.

Seeing Jiang Ruyi further Transforming upon their arrival at Luoxian Mountain, he was even more at a loss.

In the first few days of his visit, Jiang Zheng hardly dared to look directly at the fairy-like being.

In fact, both parents understood that from the moment their daughter successfully "Worshiped God," their family of three belonged to two different worlds.

Only, before Ruyi's advancement to the River Realm, the Jiang Family could still deceive themselves.

And the River Realm was like a watershed.

Completely separating the two groups.

Lu Ran had widened this gap to the extreme, as he had secured a Divine Blessing for Jiang Ruyi.

From then on,

Jiang Ruyi, the flower that blossomed above the high ridges, looking down on the world, was fully detached from the mortal realm, ascending to the clouds.

"Phew..."

Jiang Zheng exhaled another puff of smoke and smiled wryly to himself.

This was better, after all.

The journey of life is a process of parents and children gradually drifting apart.

The unique era made it so that families were cleanly and abruptly severed.

Since that day on the first of June, Jiang Zheng had been incapable of protecting his daughter.

He couldn't accompany her to the battlefield.

He was unable to shield her from the Evil Demon's fangs and claws, powerless to protect her as she moved forward.

Having someone like Lu Ran by his side, always with her, always protecting her, was, of course, extremely fortunate.

He could only hope that the young man would remain constant.

At the very least, he should always treat his daughter well.

"Dad." A slightly admonishing voice came once more.

"Coming, coming!" Jiang Zheng took one last drag, hurriedly extinguished the cigarette butt.

Jiang Ruyi, arms folded in front of her, watched her flustered father, a faint smile on her face.

This time, Jiang Ruyi didn't go inside first but waited for him to join her.

Lu Ran was about to go on stage to receive his award; Dad would surely want to watch.

The girl was still as gentle as ever.

She lowered her eyelids, avoiding her gaze, so as not to add any more pressure on her father.

In Luoxian Mountain,

She borrowed the tranquility and serenity from the setting sun and the evening sky.

In the star-studded Galaxy Bay,

She also borrowed the night stars, emulating Lu Ran's demeanor, incorporating them into the bottom of her eyes.

Unfortunately, at this point in time, this was the limit of what Jiang Ruyi could do.

She was still unable to "coexist peacefully" with the rest of the world.

"Ruyi?"

"Mhm." Jiang Ruyi detected the scent of smoke, and her brow slightly furrowed.

Jiang Zheng, looking embarrassed, hurried into the house.

Inside, Zhuang Jingyi's teasing voice could be heard: "You sure know how to put on a show.

Our Lady Luoxian had to invite you twice before you leisurely made your way in?"

Jiang Zheng smiled awkwardly.

"Mom~" Jiang Ruyi objected softly.

"Quick, come sit!" On the sofa, Si Xianxian waved her hand nonstop, "The song is ending, and it'll be Lu Ran's turn soon!"

Jiang Ruyi walked over and sat between her mother and Sister Xian'er.

Si Xianxian was fully equipped, not only watching TV with the family but also holding a mobile phone to watch the barrage of comments.

The atmosphere on the Da Xia channel's live webcast was fervent:

"How long is this song going to last? Can't they be considerate? I'm going to lose it!"

"Yeah! My Ran can clear a street in three seconds, slay Evil Demons eight times in five seconds, aren't they just delaying matters?"

"Looks like there'll be a reunion huh, haha! Going to see Ran again, Ran Dog!!"

"So looking forward to hearing what Ran Shen will say!"

"Recording ready, I'll fall asleep to Ran's voice tonight v"

Si Xianxian watched the barrage with a beaming smile, stealing a glance at Jiang Ruyi next to her before quickly typing:

"Love Ran the most~"

Beside her, Jiang Ruyi elegantly crossed her legs, watching the TV.

The singer, amid waves of applause, finally left the stage.

A glamorous female host appeared on the stage with a big smile: "Up to now, nine Heavenly Prides have taken the stage, sharing their growth experiences.

And this last one..."

While the hostess spoke, thunderous applause, cheers, and whistles exploded across the large auditorium.

The host continued to smile, her voice growing more emphatic: "Please welcome the first place winner of the 2019 annual Lunar Year of the Pig, Da Xia's genius..."

The name Lu Ran was completely drowned out by cheers.

In the dazzlingly adorned auditorium, thousands of spectators seemed ready to rip the roof off.

On the grand and stylish stage, a young man, guided by staff, emerged from backstage.

"Wow!" Si Xianxian immediately lit up with excitement.

Zhuang Jingyi snuggled up to her husband's shoulder, the more she watched, the happier she became, growing increasingly satisfied in her heart.

Jiang Ruyi's eyes also shone brilliantly.

Lu Ran had never dressed so formally before.

She was accustomed to seeing Lu Ran in school uniforms, combat attire, and casual wear.

But she had never seen Lu Ran in a trim suit.

His figure was just as upright, tall and slender, with deep and peaceful eyes, and a gentle smile on his face.

The epitome of a gentleman, refined as jade.

Perfectly fitting the style of the Immortal Sheep.

completely different from the Heavenly Pride Lu Tiangiao's slaughter on the battlefield.

The barrage of comments in the broadcast exploded, covering the scene of Lu Ran receiving the trophy.

"Is that truly my Ran Dog?"

"Big nephew... no, husband! Husband~~~"

"Wuuu, my Ran! My Ran!!"

"@Jiang Ruyi, don't get too cocky, you can't always be home, right?"

"Heh, a bunch of bumpkins! When I was young, at Lu Ran's age."

"Are you for real right now?"

"Baa'ing up~!"

Center stage, Lu Ran, cradling the trophy symbolizing his top ranking, weighed it in his hand.

It was quite exquisite.

Above the base, a gleaming golden pentagram.

The applause continued as Lu Ran looked down at the audience, seeing pair after pair of fervent eyes, and he gently gestured with his hand.

After some time, the auditorium finally quieted down.

Lu Ran moved closer to the microphone and said, "The director team told me to say something inspirational, something uplifting.

I think my attitude is already displayed in every episode of 'Heavenly Pride.'

Every battle, every swing of my sword..."

"Whistle~~~"

A whistle suddenly pierced the air, interrupting Lu Ran's speech.

Lu Ran grinned towards the front left, saying, "Don't forget to pick up your pay backstage after the show."

"Ha ha!"

"Hehehe..." Amidst the laughter, Lu Ran grew slightly more solemn.

"Life is suffering, all beings suffer.

No matter how poor or rich, strong or weak, no matter where you are, without exception.

It's as if being born is a sin."

The atmosphere in the hall slowly tensed.

"My hometown is a small and old city,

A place cursed.

It is constantly shrouded in dark clouds, buffeted by wind and rain.

Ghosts often roam at night, and the Demon Lord appears frequently.

I used to wonder why my hometown suffered such hardship.

Later, I realized,

It's not just Rain Alley City, it's the whole world."

"My father, Lu Xing, was an honorable soldier.

He fought at Rain Alley City, he died at Rain Alley City.

I also once wondered why I, so young, had to endure such parting through life and death.

Later, I realized,

It wasn't just me, it's the whole world."

Lu Ran's gaze swept over the solemn faces, speaking softly, "Will it always be like this?

I don't know.

Then... will things get better?"

The auditorium fell deadly silent.

Lu Ran paused for a moment before speaking, "Maybe."

"I believe in you!"

"It has to! I believe! I believe in you!" Suddenly, a flurry of voices rose from below.

Emotionally charged, their voices breaking.

In this very special era, Lu Ran's influence and charisma were unimaginable.

Lu Ran chuckled, "There's a few more now who need to collect money backstage."

But this time, there was no laughter in the hall.

Most people were solemn and silent, a few shouted loudly.

Lu Ran spoke out, quelling the shouts: "I'm trying, and thankfully, there are millions of people who share my ambitions and are also trying.

I think my performance in 'Heavenly Pride' is convincing enough.

Even if bloodied and beaten, even if shattered to pieces...

Maybe I'll fail in the end, but I'm telling you now, I'll try very hard!"

"Lu Ran!"

"Lu Ran!! Lu Ran!!"

The applause rose gradually, louder and louder.

Yet Lu Ran gestured with his hand, continuing, "I agree with a saying.

Life,

is not about waiting for the storm to pass.

It's about learning to dance in the rain."

Lu Ran once again looked at the crowd, his gaze passing over silent, contemplative, or eagerly anticipatory faces.

Finally, Lu Ran looked toward the camera, his eyes meeting thousands upon thousands through the screen.

"The rain in Rain Alley City is plentiful; I've already learned how to, now it's your turn."

"Live longer."

"Stride more gracefully through the rain."

Lu Ran nodded with a smile, speaking softly, "What if?"

These three words sounded disjointed and abrupt.

But people understood what Lu Ran was saying.

Perhaps not reaching deeper levels, but following Lu Ran's theme, they grasped one meaning:

What if this world could become better?

Boom!!

The auditorium exploded.

Amid resounding applause, voices surged like a tidal wave!

Top ten Heavenly Prides all went on stage to receive their awards, the previous nine shared their growth experiences and insights.

The nine Heavenly Prides also comforted and encouraged people to live on.

But no one would have imagined

that the young man standing at the pinnacle of the Heavenly Prides would say such words!

It was as if people suddenly understood something.

Compared to the scores, the rankings on the list that gave Lu Ran the name "first Heavenly Pride."

Perhaps, what truly brought Lu Ran to the summit of the Heavenly Pride

were his dreams,

his boundless ambitions!

Inside the broadcast room, the barrage of comments piled up, surging outward:

"What if?"

"What if?"

"What if?"

...