

Old Gods 431

Chapter 431: Ran Sect

At the bottom of the canyon, inside a small cave.

Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang were resting inside.

The cave, dug out by human hands, was square inside, giving it the feeling of a living room.

The cave entrance was rectangular, resembling a house door.

This cave was the masterpiece of the Dawn Blade and the Silent Night Blade.

After all, the Night Charm Evil Sculpture was still upgrading, and the Big Nightmare was unable to move easily. Her long legs were trembling and unstable, so Lu Ran didn't want to make her dig the mountain.

The two rested for a long time before the Night Charm Evil Sculpture settled down in Lu Ran's sculpture garden.

"Hah..."

Deng Yuxiang sat on the ground, leaning against the stone wall, and let out a long sigh.

Lu Ran said with a grin, "Your compatibility with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture is getting higher and higher."

Deng Yuxiang coldly glanced at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran pouted and muttered softly, "What's with the fierceness."

Deng Yuxiang squinted at him, "Little Lu Ran, you..."

Lu Ran hurriedly changed the subject, "Why don't we come up with codenames!

In the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, we won't use our real names."

Deng Yuxiang drew out a delicate dagger, playing with it carelessly, without saying anything.

Rather than being fierce, she was using anger to hide her embarrassment.

This darn Evil Sculpture!

If you want to upgrade, just upgrade. Why tremble together with me...

Lu Ran suggested, "How about we call you Nightmare as your codename?"

Deng Yuxiang snorted, "Is that what you called me when we first met?"

Lu Ran recalled something, "Or perhaps add some elements of the Night Charm and combine them?"

Dream Charm? Nightmare?"

Deng Yuxiang paused for a moment, then looked at Lu Ran, "At this stage, I am turning into the Night Charm.

But in the future, I will always be myself."

Lu Ran's eyes lit up, and he nodded emphatically, "Alright, Nightmare."

Deng Yuxiang lowered her head and suddenly shook it, laughing softly.

Getting hung up on a codename seemed quite childish.

But Lu Ran said, not only did he want her to become the Night Charm and replace it, but he also wanted her to surpass it.

That was her ultimate goal.

Maybe when she reached that stage, she could truly help him achieve his grand wish.

"What should I call myself?" Lu Ran pondered.

Mainly because she kept calling him "Little Lu Ran," which was quite annoying.

Deng Yuxiang, seeing his troubled expression, casually said, "If you can't think of anything, I'll just call you Mountain Master."

It didn't involve the words "Fallen Immortal" and didn't mention Lu Ran's name, perfectly aligning with his wishes.

Lu Ran was moved, "You should call me Sect Leader then."

Deng Yuxiang was puzzled, "Sect Leader?"

Lu Ran nodded, "Of course, that's the Ran Sect!"

From today, you are the First Protector of my Ran Sect."

Deng Yuxiang looked at Lu Ran, half-smiling, "What, you've heard there are many factions in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, and you want to create one too?"

Lu Ran was too embarrassed to say that he had long had this ambition.

He shrugged, "Who knows how long we'll have to battle in this realm? Maybe we'll find like-minded partners?"

Hearing this, Deng Yuxiang nodded in agreement.

"Then it's settled!" Lu Ran made the decision, taking off the Rebirth Money from his wrist, "Today is the joyous day of my Ran Sect's founding!"

Nightmare Protector is the first to join our sect.

Come on! Nightmare, this is a reward from your lord."

Deng Yuxiang: ???

Your lord?

Our little organization, all in all, only has two people, and you're already putting on airs?

"Take it!" Lu Ran tossed the Rebirth Money over.

Deng Yuxiang's expression was slightly stunned as she realized Lu Ran wasn't joking.

She caught the ancient coin and said solemnly, "This is a Magic Artifact!"

Lu Ran corrected, "It's a Magic Artifact Fragment."

"Little Lu Ran, you told me before, this was a gift from Lord Wang Quan."

"Didn't we agree, no real names?"

Deng Yuxiang looked at Lu Ran helplessly, tossing the Rebirth Money back, "I can't accept it."

Lu Ran caught the ancient coin, chuckling, "Good thing the Rebirth Money doesn't have an Artifact Spirit, otherwise it might curse us with how we're tossing it around."

Deng Yuxiang's face turned stern, "Keep it, I don't want it."

Lu Ran's expression turned peculiar, "Are you ordering me?"

Deng Yuxiang stared straight at Lu Ran, "If you keep messing around, it'll soon be."

Lu Ran: "..."

Well then~

Do you really want to order me?

That's outright rebellion!

Lu Ran got up and sat beside Deng Yuxiang, "I have my reasons."

Deng Yuxiang slightly frowned, letting Lu Ran lift her wrist, listening to his explanation.

As he wound the red thread around her wrist, Lu Ran said, "I need souls, whether they're human or evil spirits, I need them!"

During the battle today, the two of us were briefly separated, forming two battlefields.

In future battles, similar situations might occur.

If I can't make it back in time, I need you to help collect the souls."

Deng Yuxiang finally understood.

She no longer refused and nodded, "Okay, I understand."

Lu Ran continued, "This is a Magic Artifact Fragment, not a fully formed Artifact Spirit, just a hint of awareness."

Now, let me show you how to activate it."

Honestly, if it were in the human world, even if Lu Ran lost a couple of souls, he wouldn't care too much.

Even if it were a soul from the River Realm, Lu Ran would accept it.

But in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm?

He wasn't willing to give up any soul!

After all, you never know how much Holy Spirit Energy resides within an enemy's soul!

Take, for instance, the Night Charm Lu Ran's Ran Sect just defeated.

Directly boosted Lu Ran's Night Charm Evil Sculpture to Jiang Realm·Second Rank!

What kind of major supplement is that?

A true banquet feast!

How many fifteen nights would Lu Ran have to slaughter to achieve such an effect?

"Yes, infuse it with Divine Power..." Lu Ran patiently explained.

Within the sect of the Immortal Sheep, only Lu Ran could perform the Divine Technique·Pupil of the Netherworld.

Deng Yuxiang couldn't see the souls in another dimension.

But through the coin's reaction, she could indirectly determine whether a soul had been captured.

After a long while, Deng Yuxiang looked at Lu Ran, "This coin is still yours, you can come and get it anytime.

Or when we return home, I'll give the Rebirth Money back to you."

Lu Ran nodded, seemingly indifferent, and said, "Alright, let's give it a try! Although the Rebirth Money can't communicate with you, it can understand your intent.

Now, infuse it with Divine Power, convey your intention, and release one of the souls."

Deng Yuxiang didn't want to dampen Lu Ran's mood, so she didn't argue.

She raised her arm, wrapped with circles of thin red thread.

The ancient coin threaded through the red lines vibrated slightly.

Lu Ran opened his dual pupils and saw Lady Luo flying out.

He opened his palm, and a cloud of black mist rose.

Soul-splitting Demon Evil Technique·Soul Prison!

In Lu Ran's list of Evil Techniques, he had almost never used techniques for imprisoning and torturing souls.

Today, he intended to thoroughly have a go.

"You! How dare you!!"

Lady Luo raged, pointing a finger at Lu Ran.

"How dare I?" Lu Ran pouted.

This woman has been in a high position for so long that she can't come down?

Come on!

Today, I'll teach you how to lower your stature.

Lu Ran manipulated the black mist, overtaking the Pupil of the Netherworld, and enveloped Lady Luo.

"Do you know who I am? You! You!!"

Finally, Deng Yuxiang heard the woman's angry screeches.

When the soul of a human was imprisoned in Evil Technique-Soul Prison, Deng Yuxiang and the soul were in the same dimension.

"See her?" Lu Ran lowered the black mist slowly.

Lady Luo's face appeared on the black mist.

The scene was horrifyingly bizarre!

"Yeah." Yu Xiang nodded gently, looking at the gritting teeth of Lady Luo, "It seems she still doesn't understand her situation."

Lu Ran leaned against the stone wall, one leg bent, elbow resting on his knee, weighing the black mist in his hand.

He teased, "You're quite disgraced, Lady Luo! Having your plan thwarted, quite embarrassing, huh?"

When first meeting, Lady Luo had been always amiable, gentle, and polite.

All was to lure the two into a trap.

Now, fallen to this state, she finally revealed her true colors.

Lady Luo's eyes were filled with boundless hatred as she screamed curses, "You wretched couple!"

"Despicable thieves and sluts! You will die horrible deaths!"

"If I don't return in three days, my husband will surely come looking! He will tear you limb from limb!"

"Whoa~~~" Lu Ran was shocked!

Under extreme conditions, people respond in diverse ways.

And Lady Luo's response truly shocked Lu Ran!

Does she understand that her life is nearing its end, with no chance of survival, and hence, has completely let go?

Yes, I indeed cannot let you live.

But I... can make you beg me, allow you to die!

Cold frost covered Deng Yuxiang's face; from childhood to now, she had never heard such filthy language?

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple twitched, feeling the terrifying aura of the woman beside him.

"Little Lu Ran."

"Here I am!" This time, Lu Ran didn't mind the address.

"Soul Fire." Deng Yuxiang's thin lips parted slightly.

The Soul-splitting Demon Evil Technique-Soul Fire was the main method of torturing Human Clan's souls by the Soul-splitting Demon.

This method was specifically designed to roast souls!

"Whoosh~"

A black flame ignited within the black mist Lu Ran held.

"You filthy wretches! Curse... Aaaah! Aaaah!" Lady Luo's curses were abruptly cut off.

Replaced by her wailing screams.

It's often said that death is never the scariest thing.

The scene in front of him was the best example of that.

"Aaah, stop! I beg you to stop aaah..." Lady Luo's face contorted desperately.

When she occasionally opened her eyes wide, they appeared about to pop out.

Soul Fire is quite unique.

It cannot harm the flesh and blood of living beings. Nor can it directly harm Human Clan's souls while they are alive.

Only when people die does this method have its utility.

Deng Yuxiang surprisingly reached out and lightly touched Lady Luo's "black mist face," observing her agony under the soul fire's burning.

"Please, I beg you, I beg you ahhh!"

"Stop! Waaa~~~ I know I was wrong, I beg you, please, stop..."

"Let me die ahhhh! Kill me, kill me! I beg you to kill me ahhh..."

The Human Clan's soul in the Soul Prison was weeping, yet unable to shed a single tear.

From threats and curses, to complete breakdown, admitting her wrongs and begging for mercy, took less than half a minute.

Lu Ran looked at the soul in his hand, tormented by extreme pain, and silently sighed.

Over the past forty years, countless people have been tortured by Evil Demons beyond recognition.

"Sect Leader."

"Hmm?"

"You can start asking." Deng Yuxiang softly reminded.

"Oh." Lu Ran came to his senses and extinguished the Soul Fire.

He looked at the twisted face on the black mist, speaking in a deep voice, "Now, answer whatever I ask."

"Mm! Waaa..." The soul in the prison nodded repeatedly, sobbing uncontrollably.

Chapter 432: generations of servitude

In the small cave, Deng Yuxiang was like an emotionless interrogation machine.

Both sides exchanged questions and answers; the scene was relatively calm until Lu Ran heard something that made him exclaim:

"Collaboration? Humans collaborating with the Evil Demons?"

"Yes! Yes!" Lady Luo nodded hurriedly.

Lu Ran was briefly speechless, trying hard to digest this shocking news.

To survive and to collect Holy Spirit Energy, people truly do anything they can...

The Human Clan and the Evil Demon Clan have a deep-seated hatred!

For forty years, the atrocities of the Evil Demons against humans can't be described in a few words.

If not for the gods' intervention, humans might have been exterminated!

The blood and tears of humans have flowed for decades; how can such pain, shame, and deep hatred ever be washed away?

But within the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, can humans and Evil Demons coexist in collaboration?

Lu Ran pondered whether he could bend and flex like that himself.

He could be the master of Evil Demons, enslaving them.

But to collude with Evil Demons for the sake of tasks ordained by the gods, compromising to survive, advancing and retreating together?

What a joke!

Putting aside national righteousness, just speaking about Lu Ran's own family...

The Evil Demon Clan murdered Lu Ran's father!

Deng Yuxiang noticed Lu Ran's unease and gently patted his arm, comforting him softly, "Sect Leader."

"Hmm." Lu Ran snapped back to reality, his face still somber.

Since entering the Holy Spirit Mountain, Lu Ran's understanding had been continuously challenged.

Deng Yuxiang's voice was rare and gentle: "The Night Charm we saw just now is quite special; it must have a remarkable intellect."

Lu Ran mused, "This should be the foundation of human-demon collaboration."

If the Evil Demons charged at humans mindlessly, how could collaboration even be discussed?

Lady Luo hastily added, "The Evil Demons within the Holy Spirit Mountain differ fundamentally from those invading the Human World."

Clearly, Lady Luo had completely submitted, seemingly afraid of being tormented again, she hurriedly said, "The Evil Demons within Holy Spirit Mountain, like us, come with tasks!

Their purpose is to collect Holy Spirit Energy!

They kill, but they also assess the situation; their cruel nature is suppressed..."

"Boom!!"

A sudden roar interrupted Lady Luo's words.

Even at the bottom of the canyon, deep within the cave, Lu Ran was startled by this earth-shattering sound.

Deng Yuxiang tensed up, momentarily, then turned her eyes towards the Dead Soul imprisoned, speaking coldly:

"What's happening in the sky?"

Lady Luo, more invested, said flatteringly, "Madam, we believe that it is the real God Demon Battlefield up there.

The Holy Spirit Energy we collect should have fallen from the God Demon Battlefield."

Deng Yuxiang remained expressionless, "Is that so."

Lady Luo confirmed, "Yes, Madam! We have already found a pattern!

Every time there's such a noise, about half a day later, Holy Spirit Energy will fall within the mountain."

"Half a day." Deng Yuxiang pondered and seemed to correlate.

Yesterday, when Lu Ran and she first came to this realm, it was at sunset when they heard the commotion in the sky.

The deafening sound continued into the deep night.

Lu Ran and she, also for the first time, saw Holy Spirit Energy drifting down this morning.

"Our Human Clan is indeed pathetic." Lu Ran leaned his head against the stone wall and muttered.

So, the gods and demons fight in the sky.

The energy lost or scattered from their battles is for the ants on the ground to collect?

Then, how to return the collected energy to the gods?

With the lives of the Human Clan!

People's souls after death, sincerely dedicated to the gods they revere, delivering stream after stream of energy.

This makes the Evil Demon side seem somewhat better.

At least the Evil Demon underlings within Holy Spirit Mountain are creations of the Evil Demons themselves, merely energy forms.

And on the side of the gods, it's purely taking the lives of human believers to reclaim Source Energy.

Moreover, the divine camp is not very united either.

Each sect of believers does not cooperate but competes fiercely for Holy Spirit Energy, to take back to offer to their own master.

Perhaps the special situation within Holy Spirit Mountain is precisely orchestrated by All Gods?

If human believers didn't kill each other, how would people hasten to die, turning into Soul Bodies to return energy?

"Boom!!"

Another earth-shattering sound.

In the massive sound waves, Deng Yuxiang heard the low murmur from the person beside her: "Life is as cheap as grass."

Indeed, a human's life is like grass.

Deng Yuxiang looked down, her eyes bleak.

She had long known that humans were servants to the gods.

But since coming to this realm, she had gained a new understanding of the "humble" status of humans.

What kind of talent, piety, luck, and tears does it take for a person to cultivate bitterly to the River Realm?

This person, finally becoming a Great Power of the Human World, can protect his hometown, shelter his fellowmen within a piece of heaven and earth.

Yet...

Such a person, in the eyes of the gods, holds the greatest significance of just being a worker ant.

Why?

Since Evil Demons can create their underlings, why can't the omnipotent gods create energy bodies?

Even if they really can't, is there no other way?

Why can't the gods descend into the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm and collect some energy themselves?

Are the souls of humans really that delicious?

"Boom!!"

The roar startled Deng Yuxiang awake.

She slightly turned her head, looking at the person beside her: "Lu Ran."

"Why did you call my name again... what's wrong?" Lu Ran saw the woman's serious expression and immediately stopped pondering other matters.

Deng Yuxiang spoke softly, "You said you wanted to slay all Evil Demons and then eradicate the disasters of the Human World."

Lu Ran nodded.

Deng Yuxiang took a deep breath, hesitated for a long time, then slowly said:

"Do you think that the gods will allow your approach?"

Lu Ran: "All Gods?"

Deng Yuxiang nodded: "Have you thought about it? Do All Gods truly desire peace in the Human World?"

Some things she wasn't unaware of, but the education from childhood, family, schools, society, and so on, implanted such deep-rooted concepts that she deliberately didn't dare to think deeply.

Lu Ran, without batting an eye: "Why think so?"

After gathering enough intelligence and witnessing various signs...

The intelligent ones would struggle, trying to break free from the shackles of thought.

Deng Yuxiang lowered her gaze, whispering, "Do you think that the battle between the gods and demons in the sky is genuinely life and death, harrowing confrontation..."

Or is it just a match?"

"Why say it's a match?"

"Because of the result!" Deng Yuxiang's voice grew lighter, "Have you noticed, the outcome of the God Demon War results in an overall weakening of the Human Clan's strength.

The true meaning behind the God Demon War's existence...

Is it not a continuous harvest of the Human Clan's strong ones?"

Lu Ran's heart trembled, his gaze dark and uncertain.

He had always held a deep disrespect for the gods.

And the state within the Holy Spirit Mountain was also leading Deng Yuxiang to challenge the authorities in her heart.

As it turns out, once seeds of doubt are planted, they naturally grow uncontrollably.

Lu Ran continued to listen, planning to find a suitable opportunity to discuss his ideas with Deng Yuxiang.

Deng Yuxiang was lost in thought, drifting far with the topic: "Forty years ago, Evil Demons invaded the Human World. After three months of bloody massacre, gods descended.

At the critical moment concerning the survival of the Human Clan, the gods came to be saviors.

Since then, everyone has revered the gods, seeing them as the only saving straw of life.

Deng Yuxiang leaned slightly against Lu Ran's shoulder.

A rare gesture.

She was always the proud and assertive one, but for the words she was about to say, she seemed to need support?

"Since that time, Evil Demons invade the Human World on the fifteenth of every month, constantly reminding humans not to be complacent.

"The more ferocious the Evil Demon camp is, the more veneration and devotion humans have for the gods."

"Generation after generation, batch after batch, humans pour into each sect, continually offering the Power of Faith to the gods for survival."

"Without Evil Demons in the world, would humans still follow the gods with such fervor, this devotion, in such madness?"

"So Lu Ran, tell me..."

Deng Yuxiang turned her head: "You want to slay demons, will All Gods allow it?"

Lu Ran also turned, looking into her complex eyes: "I thought you'd ask me if the gods and demons are in cahoots."

Deng Yuxiang stared into Lu Ran's eyes: "All along, we only hold faith, or perhaps harbor fantasies. We neither want nor dare to speculate.

But whether we admit it or not, objectively speaking, the gods and demons have already become allies."

evil demons require the negative emotions of the Human Clan.

god needs the Power of Faith of the Human Clan.

the two sides perfectly achieve this goal through the fifteenth night each month.

whether gods and demons are enemies is another matter, but they must be partners.

"You, you two..." Lady Luo stared at the pair, speechless.

Decades of devout worship made her see this young couple before her as being so blatantly rebellious.

Mention not that the two of them were merely detecting some signs, rashly speculating; even if there was ironclad evidence here, Lady Luo, with her fanaticism towards the gods, would willingly cover her eyes, plug her ears.

Control over an individual or a group can take many forms.

such as emotional binding, such as interest binding.

And then... hmm.

people in front of the small Divine Sculpture, devoutly praying day after day, have already thoroughly washed themselves.

"Heh." Deng Yuxiang painfully closed her eyes.

Was she not also a believer?

She is even a mighty Vast River!

And the stronger a believer's strength, naturally, the more devout they become, the deeper their faith...

If not for her having been expelled by the North Wind Sect, almost having her life forcefully taken by Lord Beifeng, Deng Yuxiang's heart at this moment would likely struggle much more, suffer a hundredfold more pain!

"Boom!!"

Lu Ran also leaned against the stone wall, already accustomed to the earth-shattering sound.

He followed the woman's thoughts, combining with his own ideas, and spoke softly: "So, the realm of Holy Spirit Mountain is the burial ground for our Human Clan's strong ones.

gods and demons will never allow humans to rise.

Humans cannot be strong enough to defeat the Evil Demons, nor threaten the gods, the status quo must not change.

Therefore, the battle in the sky between gods and demons will never end.

As for the Human World...

Evil Demons will constantly invade the Human World, and human believers led by gods will never achieve victory.

The gods and demons each draw their needs from the Human Clan, devouring blood.

And we humans can only live generation after generation under the feet of gods and demons...

Deng Yuxiang lowered her head, following Lu Ran's words, softly said:

"Servants for generations."

"Servants for generations." Lu Ran sighed deeply, silently closing his eyes.

The truth,

Could it be like this?

"Boom!"

The massive sound once again shattered the earth and sky.

And amid this terrifying sound, a familiar phrase seemed to flash across his mind:

"Don't lose yourself."

Chapter 433: Enemies often cross each other's path

At dusk, on the cliff directly above the canyon.

Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang quietly gazed at the sky, waiting for the arrival of the Holy Spirit Energy.

As for the captured Dead Souls, Lu Ran had long since confined them within the God Demon Sculpture Garden.

Throughout the day, Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang had been interrogating and digesting various intelligence information.

Up to this moment, they had not yet completely digested it all.

"Sect Leader." Deng Yuxiang stood slightly behind Lu Ran and suddenly spoke.

"Hmm?"

"Are you alright?" Deng Yuxiang looked at his back.

Deng Yuxiang put herself in his position, somewhat worried that the impact on Lu Ran was too great, causing his Mental Realm to be unstable.

Previously, no matter how high and mighty the All Gods were, no matter how they treated human lives like Servants, at least the gods always had the image of saviors and protectors.

Just this alone was enough to make people devoutly worship and admire them.

But now, the gods had suddenly become entities colluding with Evil Demons, becoming a mountain oppressing the Human Clan.

Who could endure such a transformation?

"Do you know the name of this sword?" Lu Ran raised his hand and grasped the hilt on his shoulder.

Of the four swords Lu Ran bore, only this one's sheath was not inscribed with any words.

"Cloud Sea Dust Purity." Lu Ran asked and answered himself, "The name was given by my mother."

Deng Yuxiang remained silent, naturally knowing who Lu Ran's mother was.

Lu Ran, searching for the Holy Spirit Energy, continued, "She explicitly told me, what she meant by Cloud Sea referred to the gods."

Deng Yuxiang's heart trembled!

So, Senior Qiao Wanjun had paved the way for Lu Ran long ago?

Does this also indirectly confirm that the speculation of the two of them was correct?

Lu Ran gazed at the sky and sea of clouds: "Mom said, the Cloud Sea inevitably exists, but what's important is the Dust Purity."

Deng Yuxiang speculated: "Senior Qiao hoped you would use this sword to purge the dust within the Cloud Sea?"

"Yes, she also gave me six words."

"What?"

"Never lose yourself."

"Never lose yourself," Deng Yuxiang murmured in her heart.

The advice a mother gives to her son benefited Deng Yuxiang greatly.

Indeed, no matter how the myriad gods and demons wreak havoc, one only needs to remain steadfast in their goal.

Become a Night Charm, surpass the Night Charm, be qualified to walk alongside him and clear obstacles for him.

As for who the enemy is...

Deng Yuxiang's gaze grew colder.

All who stand in the way!

Lu Ran changed the subject: "My mother doesn't know my secret. In fact, regardless of her admonitions, I will not lose myself."

Deng Yuxiang listened to his firm voice, watching his back.

Back in Beifeng City, she realized he had already grown taller than her.

And shed the naivety of his youthful years.

He appeared increasingly heroic and imposing, able to provide an unparalleled sense of security to those by his side.

"Our goal is to eradicate the calamities in the Human World."

"That's why we embarked on this path of slaughtering demons."

"But if this path has more than just demons..." Lu Ran shrugged, the implication clear.

"Hehe." Deng Yuxiang chuckled lightly.

His meaning coincided precisely with her recent thoughts.

"Holy Spirit Energy." Lu Ran suddenly spoke.

Deng Yuxiang looked up, but her senses were not as sharp as Lu Ran's, and she couldn't detect it immediately.

Lu Ran reached to his side, first calling forth an Ancient Bronze Mirror, then turning it into a full-length mirror.

Evil Mirror Demon Technique·Mirror Flower Moon!

Another full-length mirror appeared horizontally in the sky.

The Holy Spirit Energy fell into it and emerged from the full-length mirror beside Lu Ran.

Lu Ran's eyes transformed into horizontal pupils, absorbing the wisp of white mist into them.

"Phew~"

The full-length mirrors in the sky and on the ground vanished without a trace.

Lu Ran still stood at the edge of the cliff, silently gazing at the sky.

Upon seeing this, Deng Yuxiang couldn't help but furrow her brows: "Sect Leader, next time, let the Holy Spirit Energy fall for a while longer before collecting it."

Lu Ran stood with his hands behind his back, proudly: "Are you teaching me... huh?"

Is my sister Xian'er also at Holy Spirit Mountain?

Lu Ran rubbed the back of his head with one hand, dissatisfied: "Aren't you my Sect Leader?"

What the hell!

I let my guard down, yet you smacked the back of my head?

Deng Yuxiang retracted her hand, taking two steps back: "Sect Master, did you remember?"

Lu Ran: "..."

What a treacherous rebel!

But when it comes down to it, this matter is indeed quite serious.

Lady Luo once provided intelligence: the high sky is a forbidden zone for the Human Clan.

Extremely perilous!

Even if the sky appears cloudless and empty, if humans recklessly fly upwards, they might be punished by an invisible energy!

Lady Luo said she personally witnessed someone, evading pursuit, continuously escaping upwards.

Because this mysterious energy does not always exist, the fugitive took a gamble and flew upwards desperately!

As it turned out, the pursuers hadn't even needed to act.

That invisible, mysterious energy suddenly appeared, instantly blasting the fugitive to pieces!

Fragments of flesh and bone rained down!

It was brutal...

This so-called Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, seemingly high and expansive, is actually a cage.

Lu Ran thought for a moment and decided to explain: "The Cloud Sea is less than a thousand meters from our mountaintop; Lady Luo said the high sky is even higher above that..."

Deng Yuxiang interrupted Lu Ran: "Hmm?"

Lu Ran hesitated and said, "Okay, I was reckless, hmm... let's do this!"

Lord Guardian, you kneel first, and I'll apologize to you."

Deng Yuxiang was speechless and ignored Lu Ran.

Lu Ran also paid no attention to the treacherous rebel, instead focusing on his mental world.

"Buzz~"

Within the God Demon Sculpture Garden, the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture finally began to ripple.

It seems the energy is sufficient!

Lu Ran's heart settled; even without the presence of the Immortal Sheep, he could actively activate the Divine Sculpture/Evil Sculpture.

In his mind, he quickly recalled the Divine Techniques of the Fierce Heavenly Sect.

Behind him, Deng Yuxiang's eyes sharpened!

Lu Ran casually reached out, grasping an illusory giant hammer, its surface covered in cracks.

The usually calm and collected Deng Yuxiang was momentarily stunned: "This, is it?"

Lu Ran finally regained a bit of his Sect Leader's dignity, asking, "What is it?"

In an instant, Deng Yuxiang realized the seriousness of the matter!

"Is this the Fierce Heavenly Skill-Fierce Heavenly Hammer?"

"Yes." Lu Ran casually dispersed the Fierce Heavenly Hammer. "Fierce Heavenly Hammer."

Deng Yuxiang suppressed the turmoil in her heart, her mind racing with thoughts: "Does your Evil Demon Sculpture Garden also have statues from the divine camp?"

Lu Ran finally turned around and looked at Deng Yuxiang: "That's why I won't lose myself.

Because my goal has never been just Evil Demons."

Deng Yuxiang lifted her gaze, looking into Lu Ran's lifeless horizontal pupils.

After a while, she suddenly lowered her head and laughed softly: "Heh."

Deng Yuxiang once thought she knew Lu Ran well.

Not long after Lu Ran became a Believer, she met him, and then she took him on missions, accompanying him until now.

However, reality had given Deng Yuxiang slap after slap.

After the battle in Beifeng City, she was shocked to discover that the human boy, who had been with her through life and death, was actually the Evil Demon Lord.

And today, she had received another huge shock.

Lu Ran was not just the Evil Demon Lord.

Should she call him... God Demon Lord?

"You..." Deng Yuxiang's expression was complex, "How many more secrets do you have that I don't know about?"

"Only these," Lu Ran said apologetically, "Sorry for hiding it from you for so long."

Only?

Just these?

Isn't this already too many?!

You have a Sculpture Garden, with Evil Sculptures and Divine Sculptures coexisting!

All the gods and demons in this world, you can replace them all...

Deng Yuxiang was momentarily speechless, unsure of what to say.

She indeed felt unhappy about being deceived.

She believed Lu Ran could trust her!

But Deng Yuxiang also understood that this secret was too shocking; only when she abandoned her reverence and illusions toward gods could Lu Ran share it.

More accurately, only when he was thoroughly sure she wouldn't leave him would he reveal it.

Deng Yuxiang tidied her windswept hair, as if organizing her thoughts, and softly sighed: "Do you have all the gods in your Sculpture Garden?"

Lu Ran: "Almost."

Deng Yuxiang tentatively asked: "Planning to deal with Lie Tian first?"

In her mind, a stunning face emerged.

In the future, the maid beside Lady Luo would also become her colleague, right?

Lu Ran shrugged: "Lie Tian Believers are neither human nor ghost, unable to integrate into society, with too many casualties.

And they are too dangerous; too many people have died at their hands."

Deng Yuxiang recalled something, her expression turning serious: "When you are mentally connected with the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture, do you become emotionally agitated?"

Lu Ran reassured: "How is that possible? I often closely connect with the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture!

I haven't become mindless, biting people everywhere."

Deng Yuxiang: "..."

Lu Ran said, "Actually, compared to me, you have more authority to speak.

You've already completely bonded with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture; do you feel your personality has been influenced by it?"

Deng Yuxiang, now at ease, gave a firm answer: "I am who I am."

Lu Ran nodded: "Right, you haven't become cruel, nor developed a craving for fresh blood and tender flesh.

You are an inheritor, receiving the Night Charm's abilities, replacing her identity, and taking her position.

You inherit external things.

But internally, your heart, it always belongs to... Oh! The Holy Spirit Energy!"

Deng Yuxiang: "..."

Lu Ran hurriedly summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror.

Deng Yuxiang immediately reminded: "Distance."

Lu Ran paused his actions.

Alright, being cautious is ultimately correct.

Lu Ran patiently waited for a moment, until the Holy Spirit Energy was tens of meters away from the cloud sea, only then did he turn the Basic Technique of the Ancient Bronze Mirror into a full-length mirror.

The Holy Spirit Energy floated out again from the mirror, and Lu Ran, with his cold horizontal pupils, absorbed the Holy Spirit Energy into them.

"Buzz!"

The Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture vibrated once more.

Mist Realm Second Rank... Third Rank... Fourth Rank... Fifth Rank...

Stream Realm·First Rank!

"Hiss!" Lu Ran gasped, casually dispersing the full-length mirror.

Whoa!

The previous and this wisp of Holy Spirit Energy together successfully activated the statue.

This latest wisp of Holy Spirit Energy pushed the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture from Mist Realm First Rank to Stream Realm First Rank?

Roughly converting, one wisp of Holy Spirit Energy is equal to one River Realm soul?

It truly is an exquisite, immense supplement produced during the battle between gods and demons.

Just now, having equipped the Divine Technique·Fierce Heavenly Hammer, now I have two more techniques.

Divine Technique·Fierce Earth Thousand Flames: A hammer strike on the ground sends a sea of fire roaring forward.

Divine Technique·Explosive Sky: A ranged attack technique, throwing a blazing War Hammer which can be detonated to cause area damage.

The ultimate output of the Fierce Heavenly Sect is no joke!

And Lu Ran, to kill beyond his level, needs the Divine Technique·Fiery Fire Sky Leader, which is suitable at River Realm·First Rank.

"Hmm..." Lu Ran was full of anticipation, brimming with enthusiasm.

To speak loudly before Sea Realm Great Powers, he must continue to nurture the Divine Sculpture!

"Someone's here!" Lu Ran suddenly tilted his head, listening carefully.

Deng Yuxiang immediately turned around, looking towards the mountain forest.

A moment later, she slightly lifted her head, seeing a few men and women flying swiftly close to the treetops.

There were six people in total, two wearing white robes, and the other four in dark clothing.

Without exception, they were all surrounded by Jade Tokens.

Who are these people... Jade Talisman Believers?

On the surface, Deng Yuxiang remained calm, but inwardly she sank!

She noticed a distinctive long-haired man, with an oval-shaped birthmark, like a fingerprint, on the right side of his face.

Isn't this the lover of Lady Luo, the Village Chief of Tiantu Mountain, Luo Tiantu?

Chapter 434: Like watching knives, huh?

"You two Daoists, you seem unfamiliar."

Among the six people, the woman in the white robe landed on the treetop, looking down at Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang.

Lu Ran: "..."

Do all your people on Tiantu Mountain have the same opening line?

Speaking of which, the woman didn't recognize Lu Ran, but Lu Ran recognized her!

From the dead souls of Lady Luo and the old believer of Nuoshua, Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang gathered quite a bit of intelligence.

At this moment, the woman asking from the treetop appeared to be in her mid-forties.

Though she was past her prime, her charm remained.

Her long hair was elegantly arranged, her demeanor composed, and coupled with her particularly powerful aura and the privilege of wearing a white robe, her identity was obvious.

Lady Kong!

One of the wives of the Village Chief Luo, she was considered the first wife.

The Lady Luo that Lu Ran had killed earlier was the lesser one.

Although Lady Luo was the first to be with Luo Tiantu, Lady Kong, with her outstanding methods and husband management skills, managed to rise to become the rightful wife from being the third party.

The original rightful wife, Lady Luo, dared not speak out, only able to bend in submission and accompany with a smiling face.

It was said that Lady Luo even had to pay respects to Lady Kong from time to time.

When Lu Ran first heard this news, he was a bit dumbfounded.

This is 2020... well, okay, this is Holy Spirit Mountain, isolated from the world.

There are no laws to speak of, only the power speaks.

Reverting to ancestral tradition it seems.

Though Lady Luo was humiliated, she dared not leave the Tiantu Mountain stronghold, as she needed a reliance and protection.

Moreover, even being the lesser wife was still to be the Village Chief's wife!

She held a high status within the village, and she naturally couldn't bear to part with such power.

The root cause of the "third party rising to the top" was Lady Kong's formidable strength, having reached the Sea Realm!

Sea Realm!

Within the Tiantu Mountain stronghold, there were only two great powers in the Sea Realm: one was Luo Tiantu, and the second was this Lady Kong.

"You two!" a young woman said arrogantly, pointing at Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang.

Her tone was unfriendly, and she said sternly, "Our Village Chief's wife is speaking to you, can't you hear?"

Lu Ran looked up, only to see a plain-looking woman standing on the treetop behind Lady Kong.

Is this the sharp-tongued maid Mei Ling'er?

When mentioning this person, Lady Luo would grit her teeth, calling her "a mere River Realm lowlife" and "a sycophantic dog."

Now, Lu Ran finally matched the face to the name.

"No harm done." Lady Kong casually waved her sleeve.

Mei Ling'er immediately shut her mouth, still glaring unfriendly at Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang.

Lady Kong looked down at Deng Yuxiang, "Have the two of you perhaps seen the Evil Mirror Demon clan nearby?"

Deng Yuxiang remained silent outwardly, communicating mentally: [Two Sea Realm, cannot be confronted head-on.]

Lu Ran replied loudly, "We've not seen the Evil Mirror Demon."

He said this out loud, while mentally communicating: [Indeed, we probably can't break through the defenses of both the Village Chief Luo and Lady Kong.]

The suppression of strength and realm is quite terrifying!

River Realm believers who use River Realm Divine Techniques find it hard to break through the defenses of River Realm great powers.

Likewise, folks from the River Realm find it hard to hurt Sea Realm great powers.

The Human Clan's Universal Skill: Water Flow Armor practically eliminates the possibility of cross-realm slayings!

That is why the Fierce Heavenly Sect stands out so prominently.

It is worth mentioning: when humans advance to the Sea Realm, the Water Flow Armor will undergo a qualitative change.

Sea Grade Water Flow Armor is not just pure defense!

During defense, the Water Flow Armor can also convert a small portion of the enemy's output into Divine Power to repair the armor itself.

Worthy of the Sea Realm name, it has the potential to encompass all rivers!

For River Realm people to break this kind of "endless, perpetual cycling" Water Flow Armor is really as hard as climbing the sky.

"Which deity are you believers of?" Suddenly, the main person spoke up.

Luo Tiantu hovered in the air, his gaze covering the two.

His white robe fluttered, long hair scattered, face stern, and his eyes extraordinarily cold.

The overwhelming pressure attacked, enough to make all beings tremble!

The might of the Sea Realm, terrifying to such an extent!

Lu Ran loudly said, "If I say I am a disciple under the Jade Talisman person, would Senior spare our lives?"

He spoke while continuing the mental communication:

[Four Divine Weapon auras, both this couple and the twins have them.]

[These should be as Lady Luo said: the Blood-Crying Waist Blade, the Jade Flower Hairpin, the Heaven Trace Sword, and the Earth Trace Sword.]

[These guys are really good at snatching, aren't they?]

Divine Weapons or Magic Artifacts, both are extremely precious and rare items.

Yet, these six people on the opposite side seem to be mass-producing them?

Clearly, the people of the Tiantu Mountain stronghold have been rampaging in the Holy Spirit Mountain realm for so long, snatching quite a few treasures from their fellow Human Clansmen!

Luo Tiantu still kept his expression unchanged, coldly looking at Lu Ran.

The high and mighty Sea Realm great power didn't seem to like Lu Ran's demeanor.

In an instant, the atmosphere between heaven and earth became even more oppressive.

"Hehe." Lady Kong pursed her lips and smiled, "Observing you two, so young, you must have not been in this realm for long. Unexpectedly, you do know the rules."

In the forest below, three men in black moved.

They formed a half-encirclement, surrounding Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang at the cliff's edge.

Among them, two men in black, equally stern in temperament and very similar in appearance.

Lu Ran glanced over and knew immediately.

These two must be the brothers Yu Lengshan and Yu Lenghe.

It is said that these two are Luo Tiantu's right-hand men, and both are at the peak of the River Realm, with formidable combat capabilities.

The only one among the six that Lu Ran couldn't match a name to was the long-haired man who was approaching the cliff step by step.

His gaze swept over the knife handles on Lu Ran's shoulder, his smile not reaching his eyes, saying:

"Since you understand the rules, why don't you present your knives one by one, for our Village Chief to inspect?

If you please the Village Chief, maybe you'll be spared a complete corpse."

"Hehe." Lu Ran also laughed.

Holy Spirit Mountain, what a nice set of rules indeed!

There's nothing about being kind to others, not even any twists and turns.

As long as they are not from the same sect or faction, they are competitors, meeting means life and death!

Believers, in order to complete the tasks assigned by deities, to grab more resources for their masters...

Each of them, truly willing to be dog slaves!

"Hoo!"

A surprising momentum suddenly surged from the long-haired man in front.

His eyes were vicious, coldly saying, "Kid, you like to laugh?"

Lady Kong's beautiful eyes also enveloped Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang, examining from above, teasingly saying, "He can laugh, naturally he has some skill."

Yuan Ying, the two of them have at least four Divine Weapons each, possibly five.

You better be careful, hehe~"

The long-haired man called Yuan Ying was momentarily stunned, then instantly brightened up with excitement subtly suppressed.

These two barely-touched-kids, having four Divine Weapons each?

Possibly even five?

Today seems to be a lucky day!

How could their group of subordinates get Holy Spirit Energy when accompanying the Village Chief and the Village Chief's wife on a campaign?

Unexpectedly, on the way, they met two young people, holding so many treasures?

Must perform well later!

Maybe the master, in a good mood, will grant him one due to his years of service, then his combat power could rise further!

Divine Weapons!

They're the Divine Weapons countless people dream of!

Clearly, Yuan Ying had fallen into a beautiful fantasy.

As for losing, getting hurt, or dying...

What a joke?!

With no less than two Sea Realm great powers in formation, no matter what kind of believers this pair of young men and women are, they can't cause a stir!

Kneeling and begging for mercy, being executed, is the only outcome for them.

"Do you want to inspect?" Lu Ran looked at them with a faint smile, raising his hand to grip the knife handle on his shoulder.

At the same time, he communicated mentally, commanding: [Run!]

"Swoosh—"

Deng Yuxiang did not hesitate, with the Immortal Fog at her feet, she darted straight back.

Although there was a cliff behind, the momentum of the Immortal Hoof was enough to carry Deng Yuxiang across the gorge and onto the opposite cliff.

"Immortal..." Yuan Ying's once vicious gaze filled instantly with disbelief, "Immortal Sheep believer?"

A goat like you dared to come to Holy Spirit Mountain?

Are you seeking death?

Immortal Sheep believers are generally not powerful, and their Divine Techniques are just so-so, not considered a threat, this is universally acknowledged.

But just on the aspect of speed, these Jade Talisman believers indeed can't catch up with the Immortal Sheep disciples!

For a moment, several people's faces looked a bit bad.

Regarding fleeing, the Immortal Sheep sect is really an expert!

"Ha." Lady Kong let out a snort, with a demanding gaze.

Upon discovering Deng Yuxiang was an Immortal Sheep believer, Lady Kong held a contempt from the bottom of her heart.

From the midst of her high-pinned long hair, a jade hairpin suddenly shot out.

It seemed to be of white jade material, with floral patterns carved on the head, quite exquisite.

"Whoosh~"

The magic artifact, Jade Flower Hairpin, automatically locked on the target, swiftly shuttling, stabbing straight at the fleeing Deng Yuxiang.

At the same time, Yuan Ying stared viciously at Lu Ran, tossing a piece of white jade token.

"Shua~" Lu Ran's body suddenly tilted backward, his figure disappearing without a trace.

Yuan Ying was wide-eyed: ???

Instant Teleportation Technique?

This... the Spear Withering Divine Skill-Cloud Piercing Shadow?

You're a damn Spear Withering disciple, swinging four knives around?

Where's your spear?

No wonder this pair of young men and women are so fearless.

One can run fast, the other can teleport directly!

No wonder these two could snatch so many good items!

But a disciple of the first-class God mixed up with a disciple of the ninth-class God... well, it makes sense.

That Immortal Sheep female disciple is indeed very pretty!

She's probably being forcibly tied by this Spear Withering disciple, harmed every day, right?

Yuan Ying's thoughts transformed rapidly, and that inexplicable smile made people look on in disgust.

"Ding!"

Lu Ran reappeared above the gorge, holding a blade, fiercely slashing at the Jade Flower Hairpin.

At this moment, everyone finally realized they encountered a tough one!

Even when faced with two Sea Realm great powers, this young man did not flee pathetically but instead slashed at the Sea Realm elder's magic artifact?

No doubt, this young man... is an extremely strong-willed master!

The Spear Withering sect's Divine Technique gave him full confidence!

"Bastard!" Mei Ling'er got anxious, not only loyal to her master but also protective of her master's treasures, shouting shrilly, "Stop it! Do you want to die?"

Lady Kong looked angry, surrounded by jade tokens, her figure suddenly flying forward.

She reached out with one hand, trying to retrieve the magic artifact Jade Flower Hairpin, and with the other hand, fiercely threw it forward.

A white jade token wrapped in electricity flew forward rapidly.

"Crack!"

In the blink of an eye, Lu Ran made another slash upward.

His cutting was extremely precise, hitting the same spot twice!

The sharp Dawn Blade, combined with Lu Ran's terrifying power, managed to chop a notch at the middle of the magic artifact Jade Flower Hairpin.

Along with it, a crack extended across the entire Jade Flower Hairpin.

"Sizzle~sizzle~"

The white jade token shattered, endless electric currents, like fine snakes, crazily roamed and climbed everywhere.

The entire sky above the gorge was instantly shrouded in blue-purple electricity.

The extent of its coverage made people gasp in disbelief!

"Pierce!"

The blade pierced flesh!

Mei Ling'er widened her eyes, the cold blade pierced from the back of her head, emerging from her forehead.

Do not teleport first before making a move.

Slash with the blade first, then teleport!

Ran Sect Blade Technique Third Form·Shuo Star!

Almost simultaneously, Luo Tiantu quickly turned his head.

However, it was too late.

Mei Ling'er on the treetop at a distance had already been pinned through the head with a knife!

The Jade Talisman Formation encircling her failed to defend.

The Golden Jade Eight Talismans, capable of automatic combat, didn't even react!

And with the master's demise, the jade tokens shattered and vanished.

"Ling'er!!"

Above the gorge, amidst the brilliant electric currents, Lady Kong clutched the cracked Jade Flower Hairpin, her eyes fixed on Lu Ran.

The former elegance disappeared entirely, leaving just boundless rage.

Lu Ran, however, seemed not to notice the stares of the two Sea Realm elders.

He smiled at Yuan Ying on the nearby cliff, "She just had to cut in line.

You mentioned liking to look at knives just now, didn't you?"

Chapter 435: Smart Dog

"Gulp." Yuan Ying swallowed nervously.

He was quite certain that Lu Ran was of the Jiang Realm because he didn't exude the overwhelming aura of the Sea Realm.

Yet, Lu Ran's cold, piercing gaze, with that chilling smile directed at him...

It sent shivers down Yuan Ying's spine!

Indeed! Disciples under the First-class God-Gun Ruin are never weak!

Moreover, this young man was surrounded by several Divine Weapons, most likely seized from others—a testament to his glorious achievements!

Though they had the advantage in numbers, with Village Chief Luo and Lady Kong backing them.

But the master is the master, with an absolute superiority in realm, so there's no need to worry about their safety.

However, Yuan Ying himself was only in the Jiang Realm-Third Rank...

"What?" Yuan Ying exclaimed in shock, his expression changing dramatically!

He suddenly realized that the forest environment had vanished, and he had fallen into a deep crimson world.

The next moment, countless red threads assaulted him, densely packed!

Beautiful, yet dangerous!

Each thread's tip, like a fine needle, pierced his skin and penetrated his entire body.

A thousand arrows through the heart?

This was far more terrifying—ten thousand threads piercing the body!

"Ahhhhh!" Yuan Ying covered his head with his hands, his face twisting with pain, retreating several steps.

"Crack." Suddenly, the sound of a jade token shattering echoed.

Lu Ran was startled and quickly teleported away.

"Zizz~zizz!"

With Luo Tiantu at the center, endless electric currents, like frenzied thin snakes, crawled in all directions.

In just an instant, a "Thunder Ball" with a 500-meter diameter appeared centered on Luo Tiantu.

meters!

What does that mean?

The vast thunder domain tinted the sky a blue-violet hue.

Clearly a control-type skill, yet within this 500-meter radius, trees shattered into pieces from the electricity, ultimately turning to dust.

"Goodness gracious."

Lu Ran was secretly alarmed, his figure appearing on the cliff on the other side of the canyon.

Thanks to the Evil Sense and Evil Sensitivity, his reaction was quick enough.

Otherwise, he would have been caught by the instantaneously erupting currents!

Also fortunate was the 1,000-meter teleport distance of the River Grade-Evil Shadow Flash.

Otherwise, he would have been controlled to death in the thunder domain!

The Sea Grade Divine Technique is truly terrifying...

In that fleeting moment, Lu Ran narrowly escaped from death.

However, several villagers from Tiantu Mountain were entirely encompassed by the thunder domain.

But the Jade Talisman Believers possessed the Divine Technique-Jade Talisman Formation.

The White Jade Stone surrounding them, with its Electric Shackles Talisman, could absorb the currents released by other Electric Shackles Talismans.

The issue was that Luo Tiantu was too powerful!

In his rage, he unleashed all his might and crushed the Sea Grade-Electric Shackles Talisman.

Yuan Ying and the Yu brothers were of the Jiang Realm Believers, so their Divine Techniques were naturally of River Grade too, which meant the three could only exempt themselves from part of the current's control.

The Yu brothers looked distressed, in great pain, only able to struggle and use their arts in resistance.

As for Yuan Ying...

He was electrified to the point of numbing!

Because before being engulfed by the thunder domain, Yuan Ying was hit by an Evil Technique-Silk Pupil!

Merely one round of "ten thousand threads piercing" couldn't take Yuan Ying's life but was enough to cause him excruciating pain, interfering with his spellcasting.

Adding to that, with the outrageously strong Village Chief Luo Tiantu, how could Yuan Ying withstand their master's fury?

"Opportunity!" Lu Ran thought to himself.

The dazzling currents were practically blinding to him.

Lu Ran didn't dodge but instead squinted his eyes for a closer look.

Utilizing his fresh memory, aided by his vision, Lu Ran suddenly raised his hand and sheathed his knife.

"Crack!!"

In the instant Lu Ran raised his hand, amidst the dazzling and blinding thunder light, two rows of fangs appeared out of thin air at the cliff where Yuan Ying was.

Silently,

Because the crisp sound of the fangs clamping shut was drowned out by the chaotic buzzing of the electric currents.

Whish~

The thunder domain suddenly vanished, bringing clarity to the world.

Luo Tiantu's icy gaze swept through, intending to search for Lu Ran but instead finding Yuan Ying, severed at the waist, at the cliff.

Instantly, Luo Tiantu's face turned grim!

Lady Kong's eyes widened slightly: "This..."

Due to the dense and glaring light of the electric currents in the thunder domain, the two of them had no idea what had occurred within.

How did Yuan Ying... die?

The Yu brothers, Yu Lengshan and Yu Lenghe, were both shocked and furious!

Despite the currents still entwining their bodies, they desperately activated the Divine Technique-Jade Talisman Formation, strengthening their Water Flow Armor, hastily retreating.

On the opposite cliff, Lu Ran still held his hand up, gripping the knife handle on his shoulder.

His gaze was cold, staring into the distance.

The world was silent.

The not-so-wide canyon separated them.

"Heh, heh, hahahahahaha!" Luo Tiantu suddenly laughed.

As he laughed, his voice grew louder.

Lu Ran's mouth also curved slightly upward, looking at the extremely agitated Sea Realm master.

He knew this was a laugh out of extreme anger.

Because Lu Ran could sense Luo Tiantu's rage.

It's no exaggeration to say the entire atmosphere of this realm was "ignited" by the Sea Realm master's fury.

Lu Ran didn't disturb him.

He wished Luo Tiantu would laugh longer, giving himself more time.

After all, in another dimension, Yuan Ying's dead soul needed to float from the other cliff to this one...

Too bad, he had hoped for Yuan Ying to witness his blade.

But plans can't keep up with the changes.

Well... blame your Village Chief Luo for being too ferocious.

If I didn't make a move, I'd be letting down your Village Chief Luo for controlling the field!

"Good! Good, good, good!" Finally, Luo Tiantu ceased his laughter.

He gazed into Lu Ran's eyes, enunciating each word: "Young friend, brave and skillful!"

It seemed that compared to Lu Ran's unobtrusive assassination of Yuan Ying, Luo Tiantu was more concerned with Lu Ran's audacity.

Luo Tiantu had ascended to the Sea Realm long ago.

In his world, there were several categories of people.

One type was the kind of people who were obsequious and servile.

The other type was those who knelt and begged for mercy.

However, young men like Lu Ran hadn't been seen by Luo Tiantu in the Holy Spirit Mountain boundary for a long, long time.

"To possess such strength at such a young age, young friend, truly admirable." As Luo Tiantu spoke, his anger began to dissipate.

He continued, "Why not join my Tiantu Mountain, and let's endeavor together? What do you say?"

Lu Ran: "..."

No! Sea Realm big shot!

I just killed two of your villagers right under your nose, it really doesn't matter?

Or is this the so-called cold-blooded indifference of superiors?

"Hoo~"

Lady Kong flew to Luo Tiantu's side, returning to her previously dignified and graceful manner.

She placed the cracked jade hairpin back into her hair, praising with a smile: "Young friend indeed has superb skills, deeply admirable."

After confirming that Yuan Ying's soul had entered the garden, Lu Ran stated directly, "The rivers are long, until we meet again."

Immediately, Lu Ran disappeared without a trace.

He didn't intend to clash to the death with two Sea Realm masters!

Just now, Luo Tiantu merely showcased a bit of his power, nearly pinning Lu Ran down for good!

His heart nearly jumped out...

Lu Ran's only advantage was his spiritual output.

But Luo Tiantu and Lady Kong, after all, were of the Sea Realm. Even if the Jade Talisman Sect lacked Spirit Defense Techniques and both would fall for it, they could rely on the spiritual intensity of the Sea Realm to quickly react and re-engage.

On the physical level, Lu Ran found it hard to break through their defenses.

Only by relying on the Dawn Domain could he possibly try to take them down.

In short, Lu Ran could take them on.

But it had to be a life-risking struggle!

So... no need!

Why not wait until I develop the Divine Sculpture of the Lie Tian, then come back to challenge the two Sea Realms?

Why not wait until I cultivate the Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture, utilizing the Jade Talisman Formation to absorb their attacks while hacking them to death with random strikes, isn't it worthwhile?

"Hmph." With Lu Ran's disappearance, Luo Tiantu's face suddenly darkened.

Lady Kong's expression turned serious: "Tiantu, how did Yuan Ying die?"

Luo Tiantu slightly raised his head, gesturing with his chin towards Yuan Ying's corpse.

Yu Lenghe immediately stepped forward, examining it carefully.

Lady Kong furrowed her brows slightly, adding, "Before Yuan Ying was engulfed by the electricity, it seemed he suffered some kind of mental assault?"

Luo Tiantu's gaze was unreadable: "The Gun Ruin Sect only has Spirit Defense Techniques, no offensive spiritual skills."

Lady Kong analyzed, "This kid has at least three Divine Weapons or Magic Artifacts; it might be a corresponding ability?"

"Village Chief!" Yu Lenghe shouted.

"Speak."

Yu Lenghe kneeled beside Yuan Ying's corpse, looking up at the village chief: "Yuan Ying's body, it's like it was bitten off."

"Bitten off?"

"Yes, Village Chief, come and see the fracture on his body."

Both Sea Realm masters descended, closely inspecting.

As they looked, Lady Kong was struck by a thought, and she said softly, "That kid probably isn't a disciple of the Gun Ruin Sect!"

"Oh?"

Looking at the corpse broken in two, Lady Kong said in a deep voice, "This looks like it was bitten by fangs, uneven."

That kid might already be on a demonic path. He's a disciple of Evil Demon, an Evil Dog Follower?"

Yu Lenghe, bowing low, addressed them: "Village Chief, Lady. All the Gun Ruin disciples I've seen never go without using a spear!"

Luo Tiantu thoughtfully nodded.

So, it turns out that the so-called Spear Withering Divine Skill·Cloud Piercing Shadow is actually the Evil Dog Skill·Evil Shadow Flash?

Well,

deceptively convincing.

That kid even tilted his body deliberately during his first casting to create the illusion of using Cloud Piercing Shadow...

Lady Kong's eyes flickered: "No wonder he reacted so quickly, able to evade the Electric Shackles Talisman, using the Evil Technique of the Evil Dog Sect."

It's well known that the lightning released by shattered Electric Shackles Talismans is almost instantaneous for ordinary people!

Lu Ran's ability to dodge was truly astonishing.

Lady Kong suddenly furrowed her brow: "But if he is a disciple of Evil Demon and an Evil Dog Follower, why is his mind so clear?"

Luo Tiantu, hands clasped behind his back, contemplated: "The Evil Dog desires more Holy Spirit Energy and naturally requires a clear-minded servant.

As things stand, if he were not clear-headed, not fleeing in haste, he'd already be dead by my hands."

Lady Kong took hold of Luo Tiantu's arm, her face showing concern: "Tiantu, this child's young, gifted eminence.

To wreak such havoc before you and me, despite being merely of the Jiang Realm, he'll surely become a great threat in the future!

This child cannot be left alive!"

Luo Tiantu reached out, his fingertips brushing a jade hairpin in Lady Kong's hair, gently tracing the cracks on it.

Though his movement was gentle, a terrifying oppressive aura spread out.

Yu Lenghe, kneeling at his feet, couldn't help but tremble.

Even Yu Lengshan, who was alert not far away, felt as if he was sitting on pins and needles, not daring to breathe heavily.

Luo Tiantu said indifferently: "I'll take a trip to Thunder Mountain."

Lady Kong's phoenix eyes sparkled, a gentle smile appearing on her face: "Indeed, the Evil Dog Clan dreads those loud voices."

Though saying this with her mouth, Lady Kong sighed heavily inside.

The Holy Spirit Mountain stretches endlessly!

This little dog is both clever and a good runner.

If he avoids us this time, how hard it will be to find him again?

The real fear is not finding him on our side, but rather in years, him seeking us out...

Chapter 436: I'm coming to see you!

Night fell, deep in the mountain forest.

A man and a woman hurriedly made their way until they stopped at a cliff.

"Lake!" Lu Ran spoke.

The cliff provided a great view, gazing into the distance, a vast expanse of forest unfolded.

In the dense woods, a large and relatively open area was hard to miss.

A lake on a mountain?

Lu Ran was a bit excited, lowering his voice: "We've been heading north all along; maybe this is the Night Charm Lake Lady Luo mentioned?"

He used his extreme eye power to observe the lake's surface closely, seemingly looking for the Night Charm Clan playing in the water.

Yet after observing for a long time, Lu Ran saw no trace of the demon on the lake's surface.

"Seems not." Lu Ran said disappointedly, muttering to himself, "Lady Luo said Night Charm Lake lies below the snowy mountains."

The nearby mountains aren't tall enough, with no snow covering the peaks."

Talking to himself for a long time, he realized Deng Yuxiang hadn't spoken in a while.

In the evening battle, Lu Ran killed two Jade Talisman disciples and then withdrew.

He and Deng Yuxiang transmitted messages to each other, finally meeting in a dense forest more than ten kilometers away.

At that time, Deng Yuxiang was emotional, holding his arms and looking him up and down, asking if he was injured.

Lu Ran wanted to reassure her, boasting:

"Heh, just two Sea Realm, nothing more."

Deng Yuxiang wasn't amused, nor did she scold him.

She just stared with a complicated expression, remaining silent.

Then they headed north, staying away from disputes, intending to find the Night Charm Clan's lair.

Even now, Deng Yuxiang remained silent; Lu Ran had forgotten the last time she spoke.

"Nightmare?" Lu Ran turned around and saw her expressionless face.

He frowned slightly, extending his hands to hold her arms.

Just like when they met, she checked him carefully.

"What's wrong?" Lu Ran asked softly.

Deng Yuxiang finally spoke: "I don't have night vision capabilities, so I can't make a judgment."

That night, the sky was clouded, no shining stars visible.

Holy Spirit Mountain was pitch dark, with no light at all; she indeed lacked vision.

Lu Ran comforted: "The terrain has been so complicated all the way, yet you've kept up closely!"

This proves you're becoming more compatible with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture, and your sound positioning skills are getting more precise."

The Night Charm Clan's hearing wind ability doesn't come from evil techniques, but from racial traits.

Deng Yuxiang slightly lowered her head: "Mm."

Lu Ran's smile faded, his eyes full of concern: "Sister?"

The sudden change in address had quite an impact.

Deng Yuxiang smiled helplessly; Lu Ran had always spoken softly, and she could naturally feel his genuine care.

After hesitating for a moment, she still said softly: "I'm fine. Just a bit frustrated for not being able to help."

It's not just about not being able to help?

Deng Yuxiang realized she was a burden.

In the evening skirmish, Lu Ran could only fight recklessly once she left and ensured safety.

Later, while Deng Yuxiang waited in the forest, the feeling of anxiety and helplessness made her loathe it!

Proud as she was,

she indeed found it hard to cope.

Lu Ran raised his hand, patting her shoulder, playfully said: "Know your place, Lord Guardian!

I am the Evil Demon Lord, and you...

are just a little evil god under my command."

Deng Yuxiang: "..."

Little evil god?

An evil god is still a god, the supreme being in a certain domain!

Is it appropriate to add "little" in front of such a title?

Why does it sound a bit cute?

Lu Ran continued: "You must also recognize my power! Not just anyone dares to challenge the Sea Realm powers while still in the River Realm!

Heaven and earth, Spirit Mountain and human world.

Looking around, it's just me!"

Lu Ran raised his hand and ruffled Deng Yuxiang's hair: "So don't be sad, Nightmare Guardian, you're already very impressive."

Deng Yuxiang: ???

What kind of gesture is this?

It's simply reversing the Tai Sui curse!

Deng Yuxiang swatted Lu Ran's hand away, just about to say something when she heard his annoying voice:

"Yo! You alive~"

Deng Yuxiang, both angry and amused, lifted a long leg, and kicked at the shadow ahead.

I dodge~

Lu Ran retreated several steps, standing near the cliff's edge.

He turned again, his gaze piercing through the thick night, looking down at the distant forest and the still calm lake's surface.

"Do you blame me for not letting you bond with the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture?"

In the darkness, Lu Ran's voice came through.

Deng Yuxiang replied irritably: "You're the Evil Demon Lord, naturally whatever you say, I'll listen."

After a brief silence, Lu Ran said: "Actually, binding you to the Night Charm Evil Sculpture was Immortal Sheep's idea."

Deng Yuxiang raised an eyebrow, somewhat surprised.

She thought it was Lu Ran's decision.

The Night Charm Clan and North Wind Sect's skills are similar; the fighting style of one person, one charm fits her so well that she didn't need to adapt or adjust, she could just dive in.

Lu Ran's decision made sense.

But she didn't expect it to be the god's suggestion?

Deng Yuxiang pondered, parting her thin lips: "If Immortal Sheep made this decision, there must be a reason."

Lu Ran nodded slightly: "Mm, so we've agreed then, no blaming me in your heart.

Debts have their source, grievances their owner~

You can't teleport, can't use evil sensitivity or evil sense, can't taunt Sea Realm great powers, you'd better go question Immortal Sheep."

"You!" Deng Yuxiang lowered her voice, laughing and scolding, "Show some respect."

Lu Ran shrugged: "I'm a bit curious too, why Immortal Sheep insisted you... never mind, it's done, not worth mentioning."

Deng Yuxiang's voice turned serious: "Indeed, there's no need to mention it again.

I'm very suited to Night Charm, and I don't regret binding with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture."

"Good!" Lu Ran nodded, "Let's rest for a while, then when the night deepens, we'll go check the lake."

"Yes!"

They moved away from the cliff, heading under a large tree, sitting down.

Lu Ran focused his attention on his mental world, entering the God Demon Sculpture Garden.

Soon, he found the Divine Sculpture·Jade Talisman.

In the misty Sculpture Garden, Lu Ran stood silently in front of the Jade Talisman, looking up at its solemn features.

Lu Ran's emotions were incredibly complex.

After all, as a child, he had followed his father in worshipping the Divine·Jade Talisman.

The boy's obsession has always troubled him.

He imagined following in his father's footsteps, completing his father's unfinished business.

Alas, it was all his wishful thinking.

The Divine·Jade Talisman had never acknowledged him.

Lu Ran gradually smiled, gazing at the dignified Divine Sculpture.

You won't acknowledge me, huh?

Fine, just wait for me, Jade Talisman...

I'm coming for you!

Through this fake deity statue, Lu Ran's mind filled with the little Jade Talisman statue in his family's shrine during childhood.

Now Lu Ran knows, not a single one of the gods in the heavens is good.

The gods and demons joined forces, overshadowing the Human Clan, not allowing the slightest change in the current state, eternally oppressing and exploiting, enslaving each generation.

Therefore, whenever Lu Ran thought of his past devotion, kneeling before the Jade Talisman shrine day and night...

He found it even more ironic!

"Buzz!"

The Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture abruptly trembled.

Successfully activated!

Mist Realm First Rank... Second Rank... Third Rank...

Stream Realm First Rank... Third Rank... Fifth Rank...

Under the big tree, Lu Ran opened his eyes suddenly, both surprised and delighted.

Mei Ling'er was only a River Realm believer, and Yuan Ying was a River Realm believer.

Typically, just these two souls wouldn't even activate the Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture.

After all, two River Realm souls barely equate to 2000 Mist Realm souls.

But this is Holy Spirit Mountain!

The souls of Mei Ling'er and Yuan Ying contained a lot of Holy Spirit Energy.

This innate energy also poured into the Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture along with the two dead souls.

River Realm·First Rank!

Two souls could push the Divine Sculpture to River Realm·First Rank?!

Of course, Divine Sculptures are relatively easy to cultivate initially.

For instance, with the Divine Sculpture already activated, just a single River Realm soul could elevate it from the Mist Realm to the Stream Realm!

However, advancing the Divine Sculpture further would exponentially increase the difficulty.

"Heh..." Lu Ran sighed deeply, calming his excitement.

Tsk~

Mei Ling'er, that little maid, really hitched onto a big leg!

She drank quite a bit of soup following Sea Realm great power Lady Kong?

Lu Ran licked his lips, growing more eager.

If the day comes when he captures Lady Kong's soul into the God Demon Sculpture Garden...

Wouldn't it take off?

Apart from Lady Kong, there's also Luo Tiantu!

How much Holy Spirit Energy stored in their souls?

"Whoo~"

A wave of energy surged, and in the pitch-black forest, a faint light flickered.

Deng Yuxiang's eyes focused!

She saw Lu Ran sitting cross-legged under the tree, surrounded by four white jade tokens.

Jade Talisman Divine Skill·Jade Talisman Formation!

Four white jade tokens corresponded to Electric Shackles Talisman, Bursting Flame Talisman, Frost Talisman, Quicksand Talisman.

The faint light emitted from the Electric Shackles Talisman and Bursting Flame Talisman.

After all, these two white jade tokens had blue-purple electric currents entwined, and beautiful sparks splashing.

"So, after Lie Tian, it's the Jade Talisman?" Deng Yuxiang spoke softly.

Though Lu Ran was still in the nascent stage of growth, his ambitions were evident for all to see!

As the saying goes: Two suns cannot coexist in the same sky!

In the same domain, there can't be two supreme gods.

"We'll see, these two gods are of equal priority." Lu Ran replied casually.

His plain tone didn't sound like discussing god-slaying matters.

The powerful aura he inadvertently exuded made Deng Yuxiang secretly apprehensive.

Deng Yuxiang nodded gently, adding: "Now, you no longer need to fear Jade Talisman believers."

Electric Shackles Talisman, Bursting Flame Talisman, Frost Talisman, Quicksand Talisman...

All could be absorbed by the Divine Technique-Jade Talisman Formation!

To defeat Lu Ran, a Jade Talisman believer would have to use ultimate moves.

Or rely on an overwhelming gap in realm, divine technique grade, supplemented by divine weapon artifacts and martial arts to battle Lu Ran.

Lu Ran reached out, grasping a jade token entwined with electric currents:

"Currently, the Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture is only River Realm, the Jade Talisman Formation is just River Grade; needs more cultivation."

Deng Yuxiang suggested: "The people of Tiantu Mountain commit murder and robbery, do all kinds of evil.

We can wipe out the bandits, just in time to cultivate your Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture, weaken the enemy, while boosting ourselves.

Of course, the premise is to avoid those two Sea Realm powerhouses."

Lu Ran waved his hand, and the four white jade tokens vanished completely.

He looked at the cold-eyed, murderous-looking Deng Yuxiang, advising: "No rush!

Today, such an event occurred; Tiantu Mountain will surely be on guard.

Let's first find Night Charm Lake and nurture you well."

In the pitch-black environment, she listened to his soft words.

Her cold gaze gradually softened, her heart growing warmer, she responded softly,

"Mm."

Chapter 437: Dragon Carp in the Lake

Although Deng Yuxiang had already bonded with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture and was still merging with it, at the moment, the realm advancement of one person and one Evil Sculpture was still separate.

Deng Yuxiang was cultivating Divine Power, currently at Jiang Realm·Third Rank.

The Night Charm Evil Sculpture was cultivating Holy Spirit Energy, currently at Jiang Realm·Second Rank.

Here lies the problem: How can Deng Yuxiang truly replace the Night Charm Evil Sculpture?

According to the Immortal Sheep, there is a precondition, a hard index for perfect synergy: both parties need to reach a high realm of power!

How high?

As high as three or four floors, perhaps~

Of course, those aren't the exact words of the Immortal Sheep.

But the Immortal Sheep's original words were more infuriating: "Very high, very high."

How vexing.

In Lu Ran's judgment, both parties' strength realms must at least reach the Sea Realm, right?

Or perhaps... Sea Realm Peak?

No matter what, Lu Ran needs to work hard on nurturing the Night Charm Evil Sculpture, and definitely not hold back the Big Nightmare.

The night grew deep, the forest grew silent.

The two-men group of the Ran Sect rested for a long time and cultivated for a long time as well.

The energy within the realm of the Holy Spirit Mountain is very dense, incomparable to the Human World; the speed at which the Human Clan cultivates in this realm is three times faster than kneeling before a small shrine.

In the darkness, Lu Ran's voice came: "Have you rested well? Shall we go check by the lake?"

"I've hit a bottleneck in my cultivation."

"Oh?" Lu Ran was delighted.

This is good news!

Deng Yuxiang closed her eyes, carefully feeling the surging rivers within her body.

Before, she was always in Beifeng City, closed-door training under the feet of the god in person.

The concentration of Divine Power in Beifeng City is naturally top-level in the Human World.

With immensely powerful talent, combined with extreme diligence, she was molded into a 22-year-old Jiang Realm-Third Rank great power.

Of course, compared to Lu Ran, who at just 19 has reached Jiang Realm Second Rank, Deng Yuxiang was still a step behind.

"Don't rush, prepare more." Lu Ran immediately advised.

Nowadays, the two of them have over ten Divine Power Pearls, all at least River Grade, and if they were all filled, the energy would be substantial.

Lu Ran possesses the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd, too!

Sufficient enough to assist Deng Yuxiang in advancing.

Her own mental and emotional adjustment is crucial!

"Yes." Deng Yuxiang replied softly.

She would, of course, be extremely cautious!

The higher one's strength realm, the less they can afford the consequences of a breakthrough failure.

Before the River Realm, it's like climbing a hill, where falling means you can still get back up with effort.

After the Jiang Realm, it's more like mountain climbing, and the road upwards grows steeper and steeper!

If you're careless and fall at this time, the consequences are unimaginable.

"Let's go." A black cloud emerged beneath Lu Ran's feet.

Wind waves propped under Deng Yuxiang's feet, listening for sounds, she stepped through the air, following Lu Ran towards the lake below.

Lu Ran had fully activated the Evil Technique·Evil Recognition, carefully scrutinizing the surrounding environment.

The closer he got to the lake, the more unease he felt.

It's too quiet here!

So quiet it's eerie.

In this vast mountain forest terrain, such a highland lake suddenly appearing should have attracted the attention of some members of the Human Clan or Evil Demons, right?

The very presence of Lu Ran and his companion was proof enough!

He frowned, slowly hovering above the lakeshore, reaching out a hand to his side.

As the Ancient Bronze Mirror emerged, the Dawn Blade at his back sent a thought: "Master, there's a Divine Weapon at the bottom of the lake."

Lu Ran was shocked!

He quickly glanced at the Ancient Bronze Mirror in his hand, rapidly brushing it off.

"Gulp." After a moment, Lu Ran's Adam's apple squirmed slightly.

In this deathly silent lakeside, the faint sound he made was so pronounced.

Deng Yuxiang stood on a treetop behind him, whispering, "What's up?"

Lu Ran directly switched to sound transmission mode: [There's someone at the bottom of the lake!]

[Someone?]

[Yes, a man.]

Lu Ran responded, carefully examining the image in the Connection Mirror.

It was a young man, looking about twenty-eight or twenty-nine years old.

He had rather handsome features, holding a folding fan in his hand, resembling an elegant gentleman from ancient times.

His broad white robe billowed gracefully in the lakewater along with his long black hair.

This ethereal, otherworldly aura left Lu Ran in awe.

This guy... isn't he suffocating?

And that paper fan, isn't it going to soak and break?

Suddenly, the gentleman opened his eyes.

Lu Ran immediately tensed up, signaling via sound transmission: [He's coming, the other party possesses a Divine Weapon too and has sensed our presence!]

Sure enough, in the Connection Mirror, the man at the lake's bottom swam upwards.

Soon, Lu Ran was presented with the sight of a beauty emerging from the bath.

Clearly a man, but born with such handsome looks, it was rather excessive.

"Leave." The voice of the white-robed gentleman was clean and clear.

Lu Ran hesitated for a moment, and then from afar said, "Sir, you're the first person I've encountered in the Holy Spirit Mountain who, upon seeing me, doesn't ask which Divine God I'm under."

The meaning is obvious.

Everyone Lu Ran met in this realm was hostile, ready to draw their swords at finding he wasn't one of their own.

Only this person did not harbor murderous intent.

Lu Ran's voice, once it appeared, surprised the other party.

Because the voice sounded very young!

In the pitch-black night, the white-robed gentleman could not see the visitor's features, only locking onto the position of the other party's Divine Weapon through his own.

It's well-known that most entering the Holy Spirit Mountain are cultivators in their thirties and forties, with few young ones!

Presumably, the other party is a gifted first or second-class God believer.

"Leave." The white-robed gentleman said again, "This is my last mercy, you picked the wrong target."

Lu Ran: ?

Deng Yuxiang analyzed: [You have quite a few Divine Weapons on you, the other side probably thinks we're bandits.]

Lu Ran nodded slightly, does he think so?

He immediately said, "If I were to say, all my Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts were cultivated by myself, would you believe it?"

White-robed gentleman: "..."

Lu Ran chuckled, "Sir, you're quite unique. In this Holy Spirit Mountain realm, it's the first time I've heard the word 'mercy'."

Gradually, the white-robed gentleman smiled.

Accompanied by his beautiful face and gentle demeanor, his smile was like a serene spring: "Young one, knowing people and knowing faces don't mean knowing hearts."

In this Holy Spirit Mountain realm, friendship and bonds aren't advisable.

I advise you to leave soon, if you delay, I might change my mind, and you might not be able to leave."

Lu Ran also smiled: "Unless I'm mistaken, sir should be a Dragon Carp believer?"

In the Divine God sequence of Da Xia, gods who play with water aren't many.

Some Divine sects involved with water elements still train land-fighters.

But someone like the white-robed gentleman, able to reside underwater for a while, wasn't too hard to guess.

Moreover, his gentle scholarly demeanor was evident.

Third-class God-Dragon Carp!

Along with the Mountain Lord, Sky Phoenix, Greedy Wolf, and other beast-like gods, they belonged to the "Eight Celestial Demons."

Most of its believers are gentle and kind-hearted.

Perhaps because of the healer's benevolence!

The Dragon Carp Sect is one of the rare Healing System sects.

Additionally, being a water combat talent, most sect disciples are concentrated in coastal areas of Da Xia.

In the Moon Gazer team of Rain Alley City, you definitely won't see Dragon Carp believers.

If you're a student who honored the Dragon Carp on the God Worship Platform, you'd likely be transferred to the coastal areas for careful nurturing by the next day.

That's just what has to be done.

Water combat believers are too rare, and Healing System believers are also scarce!

With the combination of these two, it's a perfect combination!

Even in talent-rich Beijing, you're unlikely to see Dragon Carp believers...

"Hehe~" The white-robed gentleman chuckled, "Young one, I might not be like those Dragon Carp believers you think of, who save lives."

His figure slowly rose, his upper body surfacing above the lake: "I've had to kill to survive until now, what do you think?"

Lu Ran: "Baa~"

The white-robed gentleman was stunned!

What...what sheep noise?

Lu Ran chuckled: "Quite the coincidence, isn't it?"

I'm an Immortal Sheep Believer!

You're kind-hearted, I value peace.

Together we can definitely get along well!"

White-robed gentleman: "..."

"Sis, you should baa too." Lu Ran elbowed Deng Yuxiang, "Declare our noble identity as Immortal Sheep believers!"

Deng Yuxiang looked disgusted, dodging to the side.

"Come on, baa! Reassure the doctor to use the Voice of Compassion... Sis, you should baa!"

Saying this, Lu Ran kept elbowing.

Deng Yuxiang was a bit embarrassed, her fair face blushing unprecedently.

Who forces others to baa?

She grabbed Lu Ran's mischievous elbow, whispering: "Don't make me slap you."

Lu Ran: "Huh?"

Is my Xian'er sis acting up again?

Get off my Big Nightmare!

The gentleman in the lake was equally baffled.

No way!

Why are they flirting?

This is the Holy Spirit Mountain! I'm a Sea Realm great power!

Can you two small fry have some respect for me?

Chapter 438: Origin

"Cough, cough."

A light cough interrupted the playful banter between the two.

Lu Ran grumbled, "Alright, alright, if you don't want to be called, I won't call you. No need to get so angry."

Deng Yuxiang almost laughed in exasperation!

If it were necessary during battle, she wouldn't mind using the Voice of Compassion and the Sound of Despair.

But now?

Having to bleat timidly in front of an outsider?

Deng Yuxiang was tempted to give Lu Ran a kick!

However... considering there was an outsider present, she decided to save some face for the Evil Demon Lord.

Deng Yuxiang released Lu Ran's elbow, her face cold.

"May I ask your name, sir?" Lu Ran quickly changed the topic, loudly inquiring.

The young man in the lake had a peculiar expression.

The Holy Spirit Mountain is fraught with danger, undoubtedly a cold, harsh battlefield; he hadn't felt such a warm, playful atmosphere in years.

Normally, he should be indifferent to these two lambs.

He could even draw his slaughtering knife directly.

But...

The youth in the lake thought for a while and finally responded, "Yu, as in fish swimming freely."

Yu as in fish?

Not a common surname.

Lu Ran licked his lips, suddenly realizing he hadn't eaten for days.

He really wanted some grilled fish!

And steamed fish, braised fish, spicy boiled fish...

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple moved.

This damn Holy Spirit Mountain, lacking all sorts of food and game, is really no place for people to stay.

If someone from the River Realm came here, they might die of thirst or hunger!

Deng Yuxiang gently nudged Lu Ran's shoe.

Lu Ran came to his senses and clasped his fist in salutation: "Mr. Yu Deshui, I..."

Yu Changsheng's handsome face seemed to streak with black lines, his mouth twitching:

"I just said my surname is Yu!"

The pitch-black night was a good concealment, making expression management unnecessary for young master Yu.

That innate noble demeanor showed signs of faltering.

It looked quite amusing~

How did Yu Changsheng know that Lu Ran took in all his expressions?

"Mr. Yu." Lu Ran chuckled, "My surname is Lu, as in 'land immortal' Lu."

With this one sentence, Yu Changsheng regained his gentlemanly poise.

He toyed with a folding fan, giving it a gentle wave.

"Pop~"

A peculiar sound echoed.

Was that... the sound of a fish blowing bubbles?

Lu Ran immediately revoked the Evil Technique and descended to the ground, with Deng Yuxiang reacting quickly, following suit.

Meanwhile, on the lake's surface, a light golden Dragon Carp broke the water and swam into the sky.

It looked like a small carp, yet much more noble and beautiful than a regular one.

It had large, adorable eyes, and its fins and tail were like thin, light gauze, or like the long train of a wedding dress, gently floating in the air.

Dreamlike and ethereal, breathtakingly beautiful.

"Pop~"

The Dragon Carp opened and closed its mouth, making another peculiar sound.

Soon after, a golden rain began to fall from the sky.

Strictly speaking, it wasn't rain but fine beams of light, like golden threads, dazzling and radiant.

The elegant, cute little Dragon Carp swam in this "golden drizzle," gracefully floating in the air.

Divine Technique of Dragon Carp: Rain-inviting Carp!

This technique is a type of Domain Technique, powerful enough to rival the Divine Technique of the South Sea Bow Sect: Canglong Sea Domain.

It can purify and also has a sensing effect!

This dual-effective Divine Technique is almost cheating, showcasing the strong support abilities of the Dragon Carp Sect.

The golden rain's brilliance illuminated the world.

Deng Yuxiang finally saw the true appearance of the young master from the lake.

The astonishingly handsome face truly surprised Deng Yuxiang!

Was this person... male or female?

Beauty to the point of being indistinguishable is indeed a rare sight.

Yu Changsheng also saw the two of them.

Compared to the sensing effect from the Divine Technique, he preferred to watch with his own eyes.

These two were even more remarkable than he imagined.

Truly an exceptional pair!

The young man was tall, heroic, exceedingly youthful, with a smile on his face.

The woman was tall, dazzling, striking a bold presence, standing slightly behind the young man, with a hint of curiosity in her eyes.

For someone like Yu Changsheng, a person's appearance and temperament wouldn't stir feelings.

The Holy Spirit Mountain is filled with outstanding talents, so what types of people has Yu Changsheng not seen?

Yet, looking at the two standing by the lake, he gradually lost himself.

Yu Changsheng saw "living" people.

It had been a long time since he saw such vitality and liveliness, like seeing his former self.

"Some people are alive, but already dead."

In the Holy Spirit Mountain, this saying is particularly fitting.

Looking around, everyone you encounter is often just a walking corpse.

But in this pair, Yu Changsheng sensed a... vibrancy of life!

Perhaps because they were new to this realm, not yet battered by Holy Spirit Mountain's challenges.

Not yet hunted, schemed against, or betrayed.

Not assimilated yet.

Or perhaps, they hadn't yet seen the ugly face of the deities, still full of hope for life.

Fantasizing about returning home, about their future life.

Thinking of such people eventually passing, Yu Changsheng suddenly lost interest.

Be it actual death or the gradual death of the heart, it's an unavoidable fate for the two.

Chased by compatriots, struck by the harsh truth of the world, losing all hope...

Holy Spirit Mountain has many knives.

There will always be one that ends the life of these two young ones.

"Mr. Yu, why the sadness?" Lu Ran suddenly asked.

Yu Changsheng snapped back, casually replying, "Leave."

With that, he dispelled the little Dragon Carp floating in the night sky.

The golden rain vanished without a trace, and the endless blackness once again filled the lake area.

Lu Ran slightly frowned: [He dived back into the lake.]

Deng Yuxiang responded: [His eyes just now were very complicated.]

Lu Ran pondered: [First surprise, then nostalgia, then regret, and finally disappointment.]

Lu Ran's eyesight was top-notch, along with an exceptional ability to observe.

All the subtle changes in Yu's eyes and expressions were noted by Lu Ran.

Deng Yuxiang pondered for a moment, evidently unconcerned about a stranger's psychological state:

[This person should be from the Sea Realm, although he showed no hostility, he repeatedly asked us to leave. We should go.]

Suddenly, Lu Ran replied: [Night Charm.]

[Hmm?] Deng Yuxiang immediately listened attentively.

Lu Ran slowly drew the Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade, and in the pitch black, he swung it forward, his figure flashing simultaneously.

"Crack!!"

The sharp blade slashed at the seemingly soft Night Charm robe, producing a shattering sound.

With just one strike, Lu Ran broke through the Night Charm's defensive clothing, leaving a deep sword trace.

Apparently, it was just a Night Charm from the River Realm.

"Screech!" The Night Charm shrieked and flew backward.

But waiting for her behind was Lu Ran.

"Buzz~"

In a critical moment, the Night Charm split into three.

"Slash!"

The Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade swung horizontally, beheading all three Night Charms.

The Soul Splitting Power granted Lu Ran immense strength.

The Evil Dog Sensitivity gave Lu Ran unimaginable attack speed!

Even without these two Evil Techniques, Lu Ran's sheer physical prowess in the River Realm could achieve this.

Activating the two Evil Techniques was more like an insurance for a quick resolution.

Lu Ran stood in place, listening to the continuous sound of breaking bodies, while the Blazing Phoenix pattern gourd behind his waist absorbed the mist, and he performed Soul Binding on the spot.

Suddenly, dazzling golden rain descended again.

The darkness dissipated.

Lu Ran turned to the lake, smiling: "A Night Charm showed up just now, sorry for the disturbance, sir."

The Night Charm's scream just now was indeed loud.

Yu Changsheng looked at Lu Ran smiling gently in the golden rain and slowly spoke:

"Aside from that sheep bleat, one wouldn't guess you're an Immortal Sheep disciple."

Lu Ran shrugged, downplaying it: "Just a River Realm Night Charm. If I couldn't beat it, now that would be a joke."

He then shifted the topic: "Does Mr. Yu tarry at the lake bottom for meditation? Or perhaps you're hunting the Night Charm Clan?"

The Night Charm loves playing in water; everyone knows that.

Yu Changsheng looked into Lu Ran's eyes.

How could he not know Lu Ran's little intentions?

It's nothing more than encountering a powerful, kind-hearted Dragon Carp believer and seeking some protection.

That's why he repeatedly initiated conversation.

Yu Changsheng was also prepared, perhaps the young man's innocence was just an act, full of calculations inside.

Just the disparity in power and realm kept the young man from revealing his true self.

Ha, who knows.

After staying in the Holy Spirit Mountain for so long, everyone seems neither human nor ghost.

Yu Changsheng was well aware that he shouldn't develop too much fondness for the unfamiliar young man.

But...

Perhaps it was because the other was only at the River Realm, posing little threat.

Or because he was an Immortal Sheep disciple.

Or maybe... the young man's eyes were too pleasing.

Deep and tranquil.

Truly not like someone scheming and vicious.

Golden beams of light spread all around, landing on the young man's body, slowly diffusing.

It was as if Yu Changsheng personally coated Lu Ran in a layer of Golden Body.

"Leave, my young friend." Yu Changsheng spoke slowly, uncharacteristically adding, "Don't be so reckless next time."

"Reckless?"

"To survive in this realm, trust no one. Don't assume someone's character based on their sect."

After he finished speaking, a smile appeared on Yu Changsheng's face: "On that note, as an Immortal Sheep believer, you should have the most to say."

Lu Ran also smiled, meeting the handsome young master's eyes: "Thank you for your advice, sir!"

You're doing well, still kind, still compassionate."

"Ha." Yu Changsheng chuckled in response.

Lu Ran didn't further entangle, turning to leave: "I'm off."

He was indeed quite interested in the Dragon Carp believer, wanting to learn more.

This was a great healer from the Sea Realm!

More precious still, the person seemed to retain some level of human compassion.

But the young master had already issued a guest expulsion order thrice, so Lu Ran couldn't stay longer.

Finding and fostering good relations in the Holy Spirit Mountain is indeed difficult.

People naturally harbor suspicion and immense hostility.

In which case, enjoy your bath!

I'll go nurture my Big Nightmare~

With the mountains and roads vast, let's leave it to fate.

Chapter 439: Mistakenly Smelling the Fragrance of Flowers

Seven days later, on the snow mountain.

In the lush Snow Forest, a floor mirror suddenly activated, and two figures darted out one after the other, shattering the tranquility of the area.

Deng Yuxiang fell heavily to the ground, her body trembling and rolling repeatedly in the snow.

Lu Ran, on the other hand, was sent flying back, standing on a black cloud.

"Swish~ Swish~!"

One after another Night Charm Blade flew out from the floor mirror, madly pursuing the two humans.

Close!

Lu Ran, extremely anxious, shouted angrily in his heart, desperately trying to close the floor mirror.

At the same time, Lu Ran donned a Big Red Robe!

He reached out, and the dragon-embroidered cuff suddenly expanded, absorbing a string of Night Charm Blades.

Vermilion Paper Evil Technique·Yan Zhi Sleeve!

At such critical moments, it's always Sister Yan Zhi who has my back~

"Huff!!"

Lu Ran landed steadily, sliding backward and stirring up endless frost and snow.

What a group of Night Charms!

Truly damn vicious...

Lu Ran recalled the extremely perilous moment just now, cold sweat dripping from his forehead.

In the past few days, the two of the Ran Sect traveled northward.

As the altitude climbed higher, the lush forests turned into snow-covered Snow Forest.

The two finally entered the Night Charm Clan's territory.

In fact, they had yet to see the legendary Night Charm Lake.

But Lu Ran knew clearly in his heart that he had already entered the Night Charm Clan's sphere of influence!

In this territory, all the Holy Spirit Energy descending from the sky belonged to the Night Charm Clan.

For someone like Lu Ran, once discovered, he would naturally be executed on the spot!

Two days ago, when Lu Ran was collecting Holy Spirit Energy, he encountered the Night Charm Clan, and since then, a chase and counter-kill battle lasted for two full days!

The thrill of it made Lu Ran shiver even in hindsight!

This group of Night Charms were highly skilled in martial arts, their knife techniques deadly and aimed at vital points!

Moreover, in this area, the Night Charm Clan was numerous and exceedingly united.

And because this clan did not perceive the world with their eyes, even entering the night did not hinder their mountain-searching and pursuit.

This kind of high-intensity pursuit day and night, even Lu Ran was finding it hard to hold up.

Fortunately, he had fully prepared before challenging the Divine Ruins and mastered a move, the Evil Mirror Demon Technique·Mirror Flower Moon, allowing him to activate the Transmission Mirror!

Otherwise...

For Lu Ran, it was uncertain, but Deng Yuxiang would have likely fallen here already!

"Nightmare?" Lu Ran hurriedly looked around, spotting the shivering woman under a distant cedar.

Her lower garments were torn, revealing a bloody hole in her abdomen.

Blood gushed forth, blooming like flowers in the pure white snow.

A Night Charm Blade had once pierced through her waist and abdomen.

However, following Lu Ran's dispersal of the floor mirror, the Night Charm Blade lost contact with its owner and naturally vanished without a trace.

"Huff~"

Lu Ran instantly flickered to her side, black flames ignited in his hand, quickly pressing against her abdomen.

He felt both heartache and guilt, his form of address changing: "Sorry, sis, the evil sculptures in the garden automatically advance, I can't interrupt them."

Originally, Deng Yuxiang was retreating while fighting, maintaining great discipline.

But as a sudden thud occurred in Lu Ran's mind, the Night Charm Evil Sculptures advanced abruptly, and Deng Yuxiang suffered accordingly.

In such a perilous battlefield, a single mistake could lead to irreversible consequences!

Especially given that their opponents were the extremely dangerous Night Charm Clan!

Coincidentally, Lu Ran was unable to predict when the evil sculptures in the garden would advance.

Because in Holy Spirit Mountain, one simply cannot know how much Holy Spirit Energy each enemy's soul holds.

"N-no problem." Deng Yuxiang forced a weak smile.

Seeing Lu Ran's guilty demeanor, Deng Yuxiang reached out, trembling, to touch his face.

Yet there was no tender moment as imagined.

Her icy fingers pinched Lu Ran's cheeks hard.

"Hiss!" Lu Ran couldn't help but inhale sharply in pain.

Deng Yuxiang patted Lu Ran's cheek, whispering, "Alright, we're even now."

Lu Ran, half-smiling and pained: "You're really generous, huh!"

Deng Yuxiang wanted to say more but mainly grimaced from the pain.

Of course, she didn't blame Lu Ran; she just wanted to divert his attention.

Counting heads alone, since their pursuit started, they had only managed to kill around forty Night Charms.

Half of them were of the River Realm rank.

Who would've thought that the Jiang Realm Night Charm they just killed would have such a substantial stockpile in its soul!

As if opening a blind box, they immediately unveiled a golden legend!

Deng Yuxiang transformed from the mighty Qin Liangyu to the fragile Lin Daiyu...

"Let's go." Lu Ran grabbed her up.

He glanced around, dispelled the conspicuous Big Red Robe on him, and dashed into the depths of the Snow Forest.

Ten minutes later, inside a natural small cave.

Lu Ran, massaging his humming head, propped up the blazing Deng Yuxiang and slumped against the stone wall.

"Phew..."

Lu Ran sighed in relief, his nape against the stone wall.

The sudden advancement of the evil sculptures was also quite troubling for him.

Beside him, Deng Yuxiang was still trembling, but her condition began to warm up, her body gradually becoming warm under the black fire.

She leaned against the stone wall, letting out a long breath and slightly curling her lips.

The smile was somewhat self-mocking.

What Evil Demon Lord, Ran Sect protector, didn't even see the shadow of Night Charm Lake, yet driven to flee in panic...

"Woo~~~"

Outside the cave, the cold wind began, like ghostly wails and wolf howls.

Inside the cave, it was dimly lit and silent.

After an unknown period, Lu Ran's head finally stopped buzzing, the Night Charm Evil Sculptures advanced successfully.

Jiang Realm·Third Rank!

Deng Yuxiang also calmed down, the wound on her body had long been completely healed by the Jiang Grade·Caged Fire.

"Alright, retract the Caged Fire now."

"Let's burn a bit longer, stay warm," Lu Ran whispered.

Deng Yuxiang hesitated for a moment, then chose not to refuse and instead replied softly, "That Divine Weapon dagger escaped in the chaos."

Lu Ran snorted coldly, "I saw it, it knows how to seize opportunities."

Divine Weapons naturally recognize their masters.

To that dagger, perhaps Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang were no different from the bandits of Tiantu Mountain.

On their continuous journey these past days, the Ran Sect duo had also attempted communication with the dagger.

Unfortunately, the Artifact Spirit was quite proud, disdaining to chat with the two.

According to Lu Ran, the dagger's Artifact Spirit sealed itself off, isolating from everything.

Unexpectedly, the dagger didn't shut out everything!

It seized the opportunity to escape precisely.

"Let's talk about something happier," Lu Ran shifted the topic, "In just a few days, the Night Charm Evil Sculptures have advanced again, congratulations."

Deng Yuxiang nodded gently, the last time the evil sculptures advanced, was it seven days ago?

Or six days? She couldn't quite remember, thinking the longer they were in Holy Spirit Mountain, the more the concept of dates would blur.

Lu Ran: "Your fusion with the sculpture is also becoming deeper and deeper."

Deng Yuxiang: "..."

She naturally sensed that this time the Night Charm Evil Sculptures' advancement profoundly affected her body.

The upside was that Deng Yuxiang became more sensitive to the wind.

She knew that before long, she would use the Night Charm's inherent traits to effectively activate the North Wind Divine Skill-Wind Listening.

By then, her combat power would reach a new level!

"Sect Leader."

"Hmm?"

"Let's rest for a night, and I'll also start advancing."

"Are you ready?" Lu Ran looked at the woman beside him, slightly worried.

After all, she had just taken a trip to Ghost Gate.

Lu Ran's Caged Fire could heal her body and soothe her mind, but her Mental Realm needed her self-effort to stabilize.

"Can't wait," Deng Yuxiang responded.

After the Jiang Realm, every minor rank advancement brings substantial enhancement to her physical fitness and spell intensity!

She indeed couldn't wait.

Lu Ran pondered for a while, then said: "Let's go a bit further, leave the Night Charm Clan's territory.

This group of assassins is indeed highly disciplined, searching tirelessly, with ever-sensitive ears."

Truthfully, Lu Ran felt a bit conflicted inside.

Because the stronger the Night Charm Clan, the happier he was...

Once the Night Charm Evil Sculptures elevate to the Sea Realm, Lu Ran could create Jiang Realm Night Charm minions!

By then, Lu Ran planned to summon several, forming a squad to raid Night Charm Lake!

Thinking about this, a question dawned on Lu Ran, "How do you think they distinguish between us?"

These past days, Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang tried donning Night Charm clothing to blend into the Evil Demon's ranks.

Yet each time, the Night Charms could identify the stealthy duo.

Deng Yuxiang mused, "The Night Charm Clan perceives the world not with their eyes, and they're all cut from the same mold.

Our behaviors, including bodily scents, could be the reason we're exposed."

Sniff~

Lu Ran suddenly made a strange face: "Is there something wrong with my nose? Why do you still have the scent of camellia on you?"

"Hmm?" Deng Yuxiang was puzzled; all she could smell was the scent of blood.

Lu Ran was somewhat embarrassed right after speaking.

He hurriedly cleared his throat, causing the black fire to burn hotter: "What's that, let's rest for a bit, and we'll be off."

In this realm, the two had been struggling for about ten days, having participated in numerous battles, yet they remained quite clean.

From an internal perspective:

Both were Jiang Realm great powers, already beyond the Human Clan's scope.

They didn't need food or water, surviving purely on the energy between heaven and earth, their bodies frighteningly clean from inside out.

Externally:

The Water Flow Armor presented in a fluid form had cleaning and purifying capabilities, gradually cleansing their skins and blood-stained clothes.

Therefore, after so long, there shouldn't have been camellia scent lingering on Deng Yuxiang.

It could only be something psychological for Lu Ran.

Deng Yuxiang turned and looked at Lu Ran, slightly raising an eyebrow, teasing, "Do you miss that smell?"

Or perhaps are you homesick?

In this Holy Spirit Mountain, many things he was used to, countless worldly affairs did not exist.

Yet Deng Yuxiang didn't voice this last thought.

Too straightforward.

Fearing it would hurt his pride, or perhaps make him genuinely saddened.

However, Lu Ran's mouth was tough.

He appeared indifferent, muttering: "I don't miss it. I just asked offhandedly, I must have been hallucinating earlier."

You're right here beside me, accompanying me every day, why would I miss the flower scent?"

Deng Yuxiang's gaze fell silently on Lu Ran.

Seeing him summon the Ancient Bronze Mirror, looking quite preoccupied, endlessly searching for something.

After a long while, she lowered her head and chuckled softly, quietly responding with "Mhm."

Lu Ran: "Let's go, let's find a safe spot to level up, hide out for a couple of days, then we'll charge back and elevate the Night Charm to the Sea Realm!"

Deng Yuxiang: "Mhm, okay."

Chapter 440: This wave is stable

The teleportation skill of the Evil Mirror Demon Clan, known as Mirror Flower Moon, at the River Grade, has a maximum range of 100 kilometers.

Lu Ran opened the landing mirror several times, bringing Deng Yuxiang to the edge of the Snow Forest.

Standing atop the mountain, looking north, it was a vast expanse of white snow.

Looking south, the white gradually transitioned into green forests and mountains.

"Let's stay nearby; we're already far from the Night Charm Clan's territory," Lu Ran suggested.

"Okay." Deng Yuxiang glanced around, recognizing this peak.

Previously, as they traveled northward, the two had stood on this Boundary Ridge, gazing south and north.

Returning here was no coincidence.

Lu Ran had retraced their path, and the destination chosen by using the teleportation Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon wasn't random.

Within a hundred kilometers, he could reach places he could see or areas where he had previously opened maps and recorded spatial coordinates.

Lu Ran looked at the woman, "Should we wait for a snowy day?"

Inadvertently, he noticed the beautiful curvature of her abs.

Not long ago, she had been pierced by a Night Charm Blade through her waist and abdomen, leaving her clothes in tatters.

This revealed her aesthetically pleasing waistline.

Lu Ran quickly turned his head, pretending to observe the surroundings.

But as soon as he turned his head, he scolded himself inwardly. Why feel guilty?

Even if she exposed her waist, what of it?

In this day and age, of course both men and women can show their alluring... cough, cough... their health and vitality!

Yes, that's right!

"Hmm, it's best to wait for one," Deng Yuxiang was deep in thought, unaware of anything unusual.

Advancing in rank really was a tricky matter!

Once she began her advancement, it would surely cause quite a stir.

In the perilous Holy Spirit Mountain, there would surely be opportunists ready to take advantage!

If she was attacked by enemies during her advancement...

Survival aside, if Deng Yuxiang got disturbed during her advancement, it might be impossible to regroup and breakthrough again!

"Let's go, down the mountain," Lu Ran's feet rose as a black cloud formed beneath him, "We need to head into the deep forest, find a secluded spot."

"Okay!"

The two flew down the peak, plunging straight into the forest.

For this advancement, the two from the Ran Sect had specifically opened up a hidden cave, a long tunnel extending deep into the mountain.

The two patiently waited for several days, finally getting a stormy, snowy night.

In the pitch-black silent cave, Deng Yuxiang sat cross-legged, holding a dozen energy-filled Divine Power Pearls.

The glow from the beads illuminated her face, which wore a grave expression.

"Nightmare," Lu Ran suddenly spoke.

"Here."

"Whatever happens, focus on advancing," Lu Ran's voice was particularly stern, "This concerns not just your future, but the Ran Sect's future as well."

Deng Yuxiang remained silent, nodding gently.

She was fully aware of the gravity of the situation; on this upward journey, a single misstep could lead her plunging into an abyss.

Lu Ran picked up the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd, sighing inwardly, "If only Little Blazing Phoenix could absorb life to let Nightmare advance in the gourd, that would be great..."

"Buzz~"

The gourd lightly trembled, the golden phoenix pattern gradually lighting up.

Though Lu Ran didn't hear the Artifact Spirit's words, he felt Little Blazing Phoenix's intention.

He smiled, fingers brushing over the golden phoenix pattern, "Alright, let's work hard. But for now, let's focus on helping her advance."

The phoenix pattern shone brightly, radiant.

Lu Ran sent it forward with one hand, the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd slowly floating into Deng Yuxiang's embrace.

"I'll go stand guard," Lu Ran turned to leave, but paused at the tunnel's entrance, "Remember, no matter what happens outside, do not lose focus!"

"Yes."

"That's an order." Lu Ran emphasized firmly.

"Yes!" Deng Yuxiang bowed slightly, clutching the dozen Divine Power Pearls tightly in her hands.

Lu Ran began walking, traversing the long tunnel, turning corner after corner, before finally reaching the cave entrance.

The entrance was inconspicuous, more like a crack, barely enough to allow a person to pass sideways.

Before the entrance was a dense forest, further concealed by a large snow-covered pine.

"Wooo~~~"

In the pitch-black night, the wind howled, frost and snow swirling.

Listening to the ghostly wailing wind, Lu Ran strangely felt a bit more at ease.

Observing for a moment, he squeezed back into the crack, advancing several meters before leaning the tunnel wall and closing his eyes.

"Boom!!"

Suddenly, a resounding noise penetrated the fury of the howling wind and snow.

Lu Ran jumped in fright!

His face turned grim, rubbing his ears with both hands, nearly stomping and cursing.

For vigilance, he had maxed out the Evil Technique-Evil Recognition, focusing intently!

"Damn." Lu Ran cursed, reluctantly lowering the grade of his Evil Recognition.

Only after quite some time, sensing the increasing richness of divine energy in the air, did his mood improve.

Could it be that Nightmare had broken through the bottleneck and begun advancing?

Back against the tunnel wall, eyes closed, Lu Ran envisioned a bright future.

If she successfully advanced this time, she would become a Jiang Realm·Fourth Rank great power of the Human Clan.

With the abundant divine energy in the Holy Spirit Mountain realm, ideal for cultivation, Deng Yuxiang needed just one more minor rank to reach the Jiang Realm Peak!

Once at this height, it was only a matter of insight.

Could the Sea Realm be far behind?

Looking back, Deng Yuxiang had undergone a major life change.

Fortunately, with Lu Ran's careful support, this radiant camellia's Mental Realm remained relatively stable.

Her goals were clear and unwavering, neither lost nor dejected.

However, compared to her insight while breaking through from the River Realm, her path to godhood had surely changed by now?

She had already bonded with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture, aiming for the position of an Evil God!

Lu Ran fell into contemplation.

Deng Yuxiang was undoubtedly a shattered and reassembled person.

It was only because of Lu Ran's presence that her reassembly process was quite swift, almost seamless.

She had just plummeted into an abyss and shattered, only to be pieced back together by Lu Ran, leading her down this path.

So, could it be that her insight, in the big picture, was set?

To replace the Night Charm, embodying the Evil God, and vanquishing the calamities of the human world?

"Hmm." The more Lu Ran thought about it, the more it seemed plausible.

Once she reached the Jiang Realm·Fifth Rank, he could discuss it with her.

Perhaps it could drastically shorten her insight and advancement time!

Oh, the thought of personally nurturing a Sea Realm great power...

"Boom!!"

Lu Ran jumped in shock, his face turning ashen.

What the hell *&...%¥&!!!

This pack of dogs!

One day, I'll go up there and cut them all to shreds!

Lu Ran cursed inwardly, helpless against the ones above, forced to endure in silence.

The night swiftly passed.

Lu Ran had no intention of searching for Holy Spirit Energy; at such a crucial moment, it was best not to complicate matters.

By the next day, the sky was swirling with clouds, the forest still caught in a snowstorm, putting Lu Ran at ease.

However, a Jiang Realm great power's advancement would take at least two or three days, and he had to stay alert.

By the third morning, the sky still hadn't cleared, and the storm raged on!

Lu Ran was overjoyed, his heart fixated on one word—steady!

"This round is so secure~"

Lu Ran, standing sideways in the narrow tunnel, peered through the crack a few meters away, gazing at the snowy scene outside.

Truly heaven-sent!

Blow harder!

The stronger the wind, the thicker the snow, the more... huh?

Lu Ran's heart sank, hastily closing his eyes to listen.

Did he faintly hear the flapping of wings?

It was...

Meanwhile, in the swirling snowstorm.

A man with icy-blue butterfly wings flew around the mountain with his eyes closed.

Evidently, he was a believer under the Fifth-class God, Ice Butterfly.

"Brother Chen." A middle-aged woman, also with butterfly wings, came fluttering up and said urgently, "This person seems to be in the mountain! The frost and snow don't touch them, so we can't detect their presence."

Chen opened his eyes, looked coldly at the woman, "Did I need you to point that out?"

The woman pouted, feeling wronged, but dared not retort.

Seeing her about to argue, Chen snorted coldly, "Fine, you go report to the higher-ups then."

"Ah? I... I go?" The woman's face changed, eyes showing a hint of fear.

"Aren't you worried the master will be anxious? Go!" Chen said coldly, flying away.

The middle-aged woman's face turned pale as she looked skyward.

In the snow, a white-clad woman stood atop a flying sword.

The middle-aged woman hesitated for a long time, struggling internally, before finally forcing herself to fly upward.

"Mas... Master," the middle-aged woman said shakily.

One could feel the fear from her very core, even the rhythm of the wings on her back was off.

Yet, the one she feared to this extent was a young and beautiful woman.

Only mid-twenties, with long black hair and a flowing white dress.

The young woman stood on a flying sword, confirming her identity—a Sword One Disciple.

"Speak," the Sword One Disciple said, eyes fixed on the mountain below.

The Ice Butterfly's disciple, head lowered and trembling, reported nervously, "We've circled the mountain many times, felt no living being, no ambushes in the forest. The per... person should be advancing inside the mountain."

The Sword One Disciple looked down, her icy gaze meeting the Ice Butterfly Disciple.

The energies of heaven and earth gathered toward this mountain, who wouldn't know someone was advancing inside?

"Ma... Master..." The middle-aged woman shivered, bowing even lower.

It's hard to imagine such an aged Ice Butterfly disciple addressing a young Sword One Disciple like this.

In the Holy Spirit Mountain realm, there was no law.

The weak had no dignity.

The Sword One Disciple spoke slowly, her flat voice carrying boundless pressure:

"What follower are they of, how many people, exact location."

While speaking, she laid a hand on the head of the Ice Butterfly woman, feeling the trembling servant under her palm: "I'll give you three more minutes."

"Yes!" The Ice Butterfly woman replied shakily, urgently flying downward.

"Xiaojin." Suddenly, a clear voice called from afar.

The Sword One Disciple turned to look, her face immediately softening, "The sisters are here."

Over the sky in the northwest, three Sword One Disciples flew over on their swords...