

Old Gods 451

Chapter 451: Flame Flood Dragon

Lu Ran and his companions traveled eastward for over half a month, maintaining relative peace along the way.

During the journey, Lu Ran gathered a considerable amount of Holy Spirit Energy, advancing the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture to the River Realm·Third Rank!

As of now, Lu Ran equipped himself with all the first six mystical techniques of the Fierce Heavenly Sect.

These included the Basic Divine Technique·Fierce Sky Hammer for summoning weapons; the Divine Technique·Fierce Earth Thousand Flames for sending forth vast seas of fire.

There was the long-range Divine Technique·Fierce Burst Sky for explosive flame warhammer attacks; also the Divine Technique·Fierce Heavenly Power for amplifying strength.

There was the Divine Technique·Fiery Fire Heavenly Leader for cross-level slaying and boosting output damage.

And the Divine Technique·Thousand Miles of Barren Land for throwing the flame warhammer into the sky, burning all worldly objects, scorching the earth and withering vegetation.

The most useful technique for Lu Ran was "Fiery Fire Heavenly Leader"!

He experimented with it, and upon activating this "divine skill," his entire being ignited.

Afterward, the blazing Lu Ran fiercely unleashed his power on Yu Changsheng...

However, the water flow armor on Yu Changsheng remained intact.

It was as if mocking Lu Ran's incompetence.

That really is... I'm just standing here letting you hit me!

I'm giving you a chance, yet you're still useless?!

Doused with cold water, Lu Ran found the reason!

His Divine Technique·Fiery Fire Heavenly Leader was of the River Grade!

Even with a certain level of damage bonus, it was difficult to break through the Sea Grade·Water Flow Armor.

It seems that the River Grade·Fiery Fire Heavenly Leader is needed to effectively harm a Sea Realm Great Power!

What else can I say?

Continue collecting Holy Spirit Energy!

Though there was one thing that comforted Lu Ran's wounded spirit.

Ordinary Fierce Heavenly believers, once they activate Fiery Fire Heavenly Leader, cannot stop until both their divine power and vigor are completely exhausted.

And that's not the end of it!

Subsequently, Fierce Heavenly believers still have to lie in bed for several days before barely recovering.

Lu Ran needed none of that!

As the master of the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture, Lu Ran could freely switch the divine techniques on or off anytime.

This also eased a weight off Lu Ran's heart.

In the future, binding the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture to Sister Xian'er should also allow her to operate in this manner.

Another noteworthy point: Typically, gods of the third rank or above have Sea Realm Techniques.

But Fierce Heavenly is an exception!

This deity, though ranked seventh, possesses a seventh mystical technique.

Even...not just a Sea Realm Technique?

Fierce Heavenly even has Sea Realm Techniques!

In other words, Fierce Heavenly should be in the first or second rank, merely sitting humbly in the seventh rank due to exceptionally special circumstances...

The Jiang Realm technique of the Fierce Heavenly Sect could summon a hundred-meter-long flame warhammer, crashing down along with an earth-shattering explosion!

Lu Ran has reason to believe that this sect's grand move is fiercer than those of other sects' Jiang Realm techniques!

He had a great urge to summon a "Fierce Heavenly Divine Hammer," and smash it against Sword Mountain Peak fiercely!

Crush that group of Sword One Sect bastards... cough, cough.

What a sin, what a sin.

Mother is also a disciple under the Sword One Sect, can't go firing full map cannons indiscriminately...

In the past half month, the newly joined Jing Hong performed exceptionally well.

Just as Yu Changsheng expected, once Jing Hong realized the essential difference between Lu Ran and the people of Sword Mountain Peak, her gratitude towards Lu Ran became overwhelming.

Seven years of servitude had made Jing Hong forget the meaning of dignity.

Aside from her life, everything she could lose had already been lost.

And Lu Ran...treating her as human!

Really treating her as human!

Initially, Jing Hong dared not believe it, thinking she was living in a dream.

As days went by, and as Jing Hong gradually recognized her surroundings, tears were often in her eyes.

The kind of tears from overwhelming joy.

Jing Hong realized belatedly that she found blessings in disguise!

Unexpectedly, by participating in an ambush, she was instead rescued from suffering by the cruel Evil Demon disciple.

No, the Sect Master is more than just an Evil Demon disciple.

He seemed... capable of anything!

All kinds of divine techniques and evil techniques could be effortlessly wielded by the Sect Master, as easily as turning a hand.

Jing Hong, aside from her gratitude towards Lu Ran, was also filled with awe for him.

Deng Yuxiang was naturally pleased to see such a scene.

She intentionally guided Jing Hong to show absolute loyalty to Lu Ran, and thereby to the Ran Sect.

After all, Jing Hong was a human great power at the Jiang Realm·Fourth Rank.

Although the servitude life had utterly extinguished Jing Hong's vitality and spirit, blending her into the crowd.

But Jing Hong's strength and rank were evident here!

As a supportive believer, as long as Lu Ran arranged and commanded appropriately, extraordinary results would naturally follow.

Time flowed by as tears occasionally streamed from Jing Hong's eyes, leading into the early March.

On this day, gale winds arose!

The sky was covered with dark clouds, with thunder and lightning.

"Is it going to rain?" Lu Ran looked up at the sky, quite surprised.

Since entering the Holy Spirit Mountain Boundary, it was his first encounter with such weather.

Deng Yuxiang listened intently and casually commanded, "Jing Hong."

"Yes!"

Jing Hong took several quick steps, climbed atop a giant rock, and summoned a phantom horn in her hands.

The horn was of an ancient design, exuding an aura of antiquity, like some sort of beast's fang artifact.

"Oooo~~~"

Jing Hong tilted her head back, her short hair fluttering wildly in the gale.

Jing Hong's plain appearance, typical of a Jiang Realm great power, had long been trampled and crushed by the Sword One disciples.

Only when she focused on blowing the horn, accompanied by her towering figure, could she exhibit some degree of aura.

"Oooo~~~"

The deep, lingering sound of the horn traveled far and wide.

War Horn Divine Technique·Echo Horn!

Everything touched by the horn's soundwave would provide Jing Hong with corresponding feedback, allowing her to construct a map in her mind.

This technique has an extensive detection range but also a fatal flaw—a lack of precision!

Jing Hong could only detect relatively notable enemies and roughly survey the terrain, unable to finely discriminate.

"I seem... I seem to see a dragon!"

Jing Hong shut her eyes tight, furrowed her brows, striving to construct a special world in her mind through echoes.

"A dragon?" Lu Ran blinked his eyes.

Yu Changsheng's heart stirred, "Are you referring to the Evil Demon Clan·Anger Sea Flame Jiao?"

"Probably, it's quite massive." Jing Hong's expression was grave, looking respectfully at Lu Ran, "Master, beyond the mountain is the sea."

Yu Changsheng nodded slightly, "That fits."

The Anger Sea Flame Jiao, an evil demon, frequently roams along coastal areas.

"Finally found the sea?" Lu Ran was invigorated.

According to Yu Changsheng's description, the sea serves as a border for the Holy Spirit Mountain, far from the group's starting point.

A half-month journey naturally made it difficult to see the sea, but Lu Ran occasionally used the Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon as they traveled.

Each transmission covered hundreds of kilometers, accelerating the group's travel progress.

Lu Ran raised his head, gazing toward the distant peaks, "Follow along."

As he spoke, his figure flashed.

Yu Changsheng and Deng Yuxiang exchanged glances and immediately followed.

Jing Hong could not fly and had no high-speed movement techniques, so she could only run headlong.

To date, she had utterly abandoned any thoughts of escape.

Her gratitude and awe for Lu Ran left her with no dissenting thoughts.

Moreover, should she run away, she might get killed or become enslaved again.

But here with Lu Ran, Jing Hong could be a person!

"Boom, boom, boom!"

This time, it wasn't the mysterious sound from the high heavens, but truly the sound of thunder.

Deng Yuxiang, in high-speed traversal, seemed to sense raindrops falling.

She looked towards Lu Ran's back, mists swirling at her feet, soon reaching the peak and standing firmly beside him.

Before she could speak, Deng Yuxiang's eyes narrowed!

Black clouds churned in the sky, with lightning and thunder.

Beyond the rolling mountains was an endless sea, the crashing waves instilling fear.

A colossal figure swam back and forth between the heavens and the sea.

It resembled an Eastern dragon, with scales all blood-red.

Savage and fierce, with imposing might!

Evil Demon·Anger Sea Flame Jiao!

"It's truly eye-opening." Lu Ran sighed as he spoke, "Lucky this creature doesn't appear inland."

Such a massive beast, if it descended upon Rain Alley City...

How could anyone survive?

The Anger Sea Flame Jiao race has no small individuals!

Even the lowest realm Mist Realm·Anger Sea Flame Jiao measures over a hundred meters in length!

Deng Yuxiang squinted, gazing at the terrifying evil demon playing wildly between the heavens and sea, similarly sighing:

"The Anger Sea Flame Jiao clearly possesses fire-type evil techniques, yet prefers to roam the sea—truly baffling."

Lu Ran nodded in agreement, "No wonder it's Fierce Heavenly's arch-nemesis, ha."

Deng Yuxiang: "Hmm?"

Lu Ran raised his hand, tapping his temple, "Its mind's not right, huh."

"Hehe~" Deng Yuxiang couldn't help but laugh.

In the far background, Yu Changsheng, flying toward the mountain peak, saw the two talking and smiling.

He thought, this pair of men and women indeed suits each other well.

Mutually warming and relying on each other.

In this dirty and brutal world, they were each other's medicine, with no fear of losing themselves.

Yu Changsheng was very discerning, yet this peak, he had to climb!

Having chosen to join the Ran Sect and assist Lu Ran, Yu Changsheng intended to give his all, holding high self-expectations. As a part-time military strategist, naturally, he couldn't let the Sect Master wait long.

He soon reached the peak and saw the arrogant yet imposing behemoth above the raging sea.

Yu Changsheng promptly spoke: "Sect Master."

"Mr. Cong Long?"

"You told me before you enlarged yourself by absorbing souls."

"Slam!" Lu Ran slapped his forehead, somewhat regretful.

Seeing such a creature for the first time invoked such a visual impact that Lu Ran was busy marveling and forgot his main task!

At this moment, the Anger Sea Flame Jiao was causing havoc on the sea.

If there were other evil demons in the water, wouldn't it be slaughtering them all?

Lu Ran immediately activated his cross eyes, gazing between the heavens and sea.

There were indeed dead souls!

Is that? The dead soul of an Evil Demon·Fisherman?

This was also his first time seeing such an evil demon in person.

You old thing, why did you provoke the Anger Sea Flame Jiao... damn!

Freshly "baked" Evil Demon·Mo Li's dead souls!

Just emerging from the water!

One, two, three...

Lu Ran's eyes gleamed, and his figure flashed again!

A huge gain!

...

Third update complete, requesting some monthly tickets!

Chapter 452: Epic Duel Between Heaven and Sea

Lu Ran flickered a few times and arrived at a peak relatively close to the sea.

The view here was excellent, with trees standing in clusters, making it convenient for Lu Ran to hide.

He hid behind a large tree, his face a bit excited, and used Extreme Eye Power to look closely.

"Roar!!"

On the distant sea, the roar of the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon shook the clouds.

It spewed out a massive pillar of fire, wildly spraying across the sea!

The ferocious fire pillar was extremely impactful, even able to penetrate the seawater and incinerate the creatures hiding within.

Evil Technique·Sea-piercing Flame!

"Damn..."

Lu Ran secretly clicked his tongue.

He watched as Mo Li Dead Souls continuously floated up from the sea surface.

No wonder the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon was so irritable and stirred up a fuss, it turned out it encountered a school of Mo Li fish?

Lu Ran targeted a few Mo Li Dead Souls that had already floated up to the sky and cast a spell immediately.

As a floor mirror appeared beside him, another floor mirror suspended in the skies over the sea.

Without saying a word, Lu Ran leaned his upper body into it!

In the Pupil of the Dead World's view, the Mo Li Dead Souls were struggling madly, their fish tails flailing, small fish mouths opening and closing, none willing to cooperate.

"I'm gonna get rich! I'm gonna get rich..."

Lu Ran murmured as he collected five Mo Li Dead Souls into his eye pupil.

"Roar!!"

A huge roar came again from heaven and sea.

Lu Ran's expression stiffened!

"Hiss..." He took a cold breath, hurriedly pulled his upper body back, and scattered the floor mirror in a smooth motion.

Jeez!

Why are you roaring so loudly?

Lu Ran was full of resentment, rubbing his ears with his hands.

Fortunately, the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon clan didn't have sound-type Techniques, which was a rare stroke of luck from the heavens.

The sound such a gigantic creature could emit, if supplemented by an Evil Technique, would be catastrophic, wouldn't it?

Hmm... Lu Ran felt he was being PUA'd by this cruel world.

Instead of cursing the Evil Demons for descending and harming the Human World, he was thankful they weren't equipped with sound-type Evil Techniques?

"I am really sick!"

Lu Ran cursed under his breath, observing the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon's movements.

He locked onto a few Dead Souls far from the battlefield and called out the Ancient Bronze Mirror again.

Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon: "Roar!!"

Lu Ran's vision went black: "I **% ¥#@!!"

I stand on the mountain, and you don't shout.

I poke my head into the mirror, and you start roaring like crazy, right?

"Boom!!"

Black clouds churned in the sky, and thunder rumbled.

Lu Ran: "..."

His heart ached.

It's bad enough to be bullied by the Flood Dragon, but now even the heavens are joining in?

Are they unhappy seeing me get something for nothing, gorging on feast?

Thinking of this, Lu Ran felt somewhat comforted.

He hurriedly pulled his head back and scattered the Ancient Bronze Mirror, cautious.

"Come on, more debts don't weigh you down!"

Lu Ran steeled his heart and simply activated Evil Sculpture·Mo Li.

Anyway, his head has been buzzing non-stop, compared to the dragon's roar and thunder, Evil Sculpture's tremor is rather trivial.

"Buzz!!"

The Mo Li Evil Sculpture trembled instantly.

Mist Realm First Rank... Third Rank... Fifth Rank!

Stream Realm First Rank... Second Rank... Third Rank...

In a trance, Lu Ran saw countless black carp rushing out from the sea.

The densely packed Mo Li formed a massive school of fish, charging diagonally into the sky, fiercely attacking the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon.

Each small carp was as black as ink, mysterious and exquisite.

Like the Dragon Carp, Mo Li also had long and thin fins that danced gracefully, much like luxurious black wedding dresses.

"Sea Grade Evil Technique."

From another mountain peak behind, Yu Changsheng suddenly spoke.

The Dragon Carp Sect and the Mo Li Clan were mortal enemies, and their Techniques had certain similarities.

Yu Changsheng judged the Grade of the Evil Technique through the size of the fish school and further deduced the strength realm of the Mo Li in the sea.

So, a Sea Realm Mo Li came from the sea?

It was not happy seeing its clan being wantonly bullied and slaughtered like this?

It's known that the Evil Demons in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm differ from those invading the Human World.

Not to mention the intelligence of these Evil Demons, at least their goals were very pure - to collect Holy Spirit Energy!

Now, a Sea Realm Mo Li appeared to protect its clan.

So this battle might end without a conclusion.

After all, all actions of the Evil Demons revolve around "collecting Holy Spirit Energy."

If both sides were seriously injured, it wouldn't benefit anyone!

However, this battle might have variables.

Given one side of the battle is the Evil Demon·Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon, a creature whose emotions are extremely unstable, it may disregard the big picture if it gets into a rage.

This point should be well utilized...

Yu Changsheng pondered, mumbling: "No, can't let the battle end hastily."

The more fiercely and widely the battle spreads, the more the Sect Leader stands to gain.

"Jing Hong!"

"Lord Cong Long?" Jing Hong had just climbed up the mountain and responded immediately.

Yu Changsheng immediately said: "Let's go to the mountain peak ahead, get closer to the battlefield. Blow the horn toward the sea and fuel the fire; we cannot let the battle stop."

Jing Hong: "Understood!"

Yu Changsheng turned to Deng Yuxiang: "Nightmare Guardian, please ask the Sect Leader to come and pick us up?"

Deng Yuxiang nodded lightly.

"Roar!!"

As they spoke, a dragon's roar pierced the clouds and split the rocks!

In the distant sky and sea, after dodging several waves of attacks, the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon opened its bloody mouth and sent another Sea-piercing Flame.

The highly penetrating fire pillar shot towards the fish school.

At the same time, the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon summoned five small Flame Flood Dragons.

Evil Technique·Flood Dragon Flame Coil!

[Sect Leader!]

[Huh?] On the mountain peak near the sea, Lu Ran dumbfoundedly watched the battle.

Although he was mentally prepared, he was still a bit intimidated upon seeing five small Flame Flood Dragons.

Five! This meant it was the Sea Grade Evil Technique·Flood Dragon Flame Coil!

The big creature wreaking havoc between sea and sky was at least a Sea Realm Evil Demon.

[We're still on the previous mountain, open Mirror Flower Moon and pick us up.]

[Okay.] Lu Ran reached out to the side.

"Hiss!"

"Hiss!" On the battlefield, the five small Flame Flood Dragons spiraled downwards with the fire pillar, finally plunging into the sea like tigers entering a sheep flock!

Any creature caught by the small Flame Flood Dragon would be mercilessly strangled, torn apart, incinerated...

Instantly, even more Mo Li Dead Souls floated up from the sea surface.

Lu Ran's eyes lit up again!

So many fish!

So many fish...bring on more!

Deng Yuxiang and the others had just emerged from the floor mirror when they heard a strange sound.

"Pop~"

She almost thought she was hallucinating!

At this moment, with lightning and thunder in the sky, and fierce dragon roars, the sea roared with massive waves, a grand commotion.

The battlefield was extremely chaotic, with all sorts of loud and noisy sounds, deafening.

Yet, in this environment, the "fish blowing bubbles" sound was so clear?!

What...?

Deng Yuxiang looked out and suddenly saw a gigantic Mo Li breach the surface, possibly 800 meters in length!

Such an overwhelming presence left people dumbfounded.

It could fully rival the Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat, Yu Changsheng's Sea Grade Divine Skill released earlier.

Evil Technique-Mo Li Sinking Boat!

The towering Mo Li raised monstrous waves, with a posture of extreme toughness!

It faced the fierce Sea-piercing Flame head-on, charging diagonally into the sky, rushing towards the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon.

Yet compared to the Dragon Carp Sect's Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat, the Mo Li Sinking Boat's flight speed seemed slower.

The fundamental reason was the difference in the focus of the two Techniques.

While the Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat had some defensive capabilities, its essence was an offensive Skill.

The Heavenly Boat's flight speed was faster, and its momentum, therefore, more ferocious.

Mo Li Sinking Boat, however, was a Defense Skill.

The Sinking Boat moved slower, heavier, but its defensive power was incredibly strong!

"The Mo Li is using a Defense Skill, not a River Realm ultimate move; it's a signal for reconciliation." Yu Changsheng immediately ordered, "Jing Hong, the Charging Horn! Go all out!"

"Understood!"

Jing Hong stepped forward a few steps and once again summoned an ancient, earthy beast horn.

"Woo~~~"

Jing Hong stood tall, messy short hair flying in the sea breeze.

This time, the horn sound was no longer low but high and resonant!

The sound, full of penetration, floated towards the sea.

War Horn Divine Skill·Charging Horn!

When the Charging Horn is blown, its effect rivals the charged horn blown by the Da Xia Corps in the counterattack against the Japanese invaders last century!

In this unique sound, the warriors' fighting spirit was elevated infinitely!

Excited and bold, they charged fiercely.

Dare to step on fire, dare to wade in boiling water!

"Woo~~~"

Amidst the thrilling horn sound, dragon roars shook the earth!

"Roar!!!"

The Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon roared wildly, its body igniting with flames.

Deng Yuxiang's voice was strong and resonant, struggling to suppress the urge to fight: "Mr. Cong Long, a brilliant strategy!"

The flames burning on the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon were not just ordinary flames.

In the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon's list of Evil Techniques, many were named with the word "Flood Dragon."

Only one Technique was named with the word "Dragon."

Evil Technique·Dragon Flame Body!

Once this Technique is activated, the output of the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon's various Techniques will be greatly enhanced.

Similar to the Fierce Heavenly Divine Skill·Fiery Fire Sky Leader, this Technique has a fatal flaw: once activated, it cannot be interrupted.

Only exhaustion can stop it!

This means that regardless of the outcome of this epic battle...

Lu Ran was guaranteed to obtain the Sea Realm·Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon's Dead Soul.

The question is: Will the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon stand still, waiting to be drained of energy and exhausted?

Before that, wouldn't it slay through all the creatures in this realm?

"Roar!!"

The dragon's roar shook the heavens and the earth.

Under the rolling black clouds, the massive Flood Dragon burned fiercely, its arrogance towering!

As if it wanted to incinerate all the dark clouds shrouding the world.

"Pop~"

The Mo Li Sinking Boat was still flying into the sky, its relatively slow speed not difficult for a Sea Realm Evil Demon to dodge.

Yet, the Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon chose to confront it head-on!

It charged down diagonally, straight at the Mo Li Sinking Boat, completely losing its head...

Moreover, its charge was incredibly fast, exceeding the normal flight speed.

Because this was a terrifying Evil Technique for high-speed movement and attacking enemy forces - Flood Dragon Flame Chariot!

Between the sea and sky,

A Flood Dragon and a Mo Li approached each other infinitely...

...

Chapter 453: Bo~

"Crack!!"

An extremely piercing sound came through.

The Angry Sea Flame Dragon actually shattered the Mo Li Sunken Boat?!

The Evil Technique·Mo Li Sunken Boat is known for its defense. Normally, output of the same level cannot do anything to it.

But it just so happened to encounter an existence with an extremely explosive output!

After the Angry Sea Flame Dragon shattered the Sunken Boat, it didn't slow down at all and charged straight towards the sea.

"Boom!" A loud noise rang out!

The dragon entered the water, causing monstrous waves.

Furthermore, as the Angry Sea Flame Dragon was burning with fierce flames, a massive amount of steam instantly rose from the sea.

"Sect Master, this is a rare opportunity!" Yu Changsheng quickly said.

Without needing Yu Changsheng's reminder, Lu Ran had already started casting spells.

In the eyes of others, there were only raging waves between the sky and sea, but in Lu Ran's Pupil of the Dead World, he saw a large number of Mo Li dead souls!

Now that the Flame Dragon had entered the sea and the battlefield had shifted, how could Lu Ran let such a good opportunity pass?

He instantly summoned four ancient bronze mirrors, arranging them in a semi-encircling formation, all floating in front of him.

In the next moment, the four oval bronze mirrors transformed into full-length mirrors.

Additionally, four full-length mirrors appeared in the distant sky.

Lu Ran, moving quickly, leaned his upper body into the leftmost mirror, staring with his Pupil of the Dead World, absorbing voraciously.

"Buzz!"

In the God Demon Sculpture Garden, the Evil Sculpture of Mo Li trembled once more.

Stream Realm Fourth Rank... Fifth Rank!

"Come, come, hurry up," Lu Ran captured the last Mo Li dead soul nearby into his eyes and immediately withdrew his head.

He took a step forward to the left, seamlessly mirroring into the second full-length mirror.

River Realm First Rank... Second Rank!

Lu Ran collected souls wildly, each Mo Li dead soul carried Holy Spirit Energy, quickly nurturing the Evil Sculpture·Mo Li.

He devoured voraciously on this side while in the sea, the battle had already reached a fever pitch!

"Roar!" The Angry Sea Flame Dragon roared incessantly, turning the rivers and seas upside down.

The Mo Li that had not shown itself was clearly no easy target. At this point of life and death, Mo Li naturally couldn't care about the big picture.

The two Great Demons of the Sea Realm fighting caused unbearable suffering to the surrounding beings.

Which made Lu Ran unable to contain his laughter~

He was so busy his feet hit the back of his head, casting spell after spell, constantly adjusting the position of the full-length mirrors to collect all the Mo Li dead souls.

"Buzz~"

River Realm Third Rank... Fourth Rank... Fifth Rank!

"More!"

Lu Ran ate joyfully but was still not satisfied, he carefully scanned the sky, looking for any fish that might have escaped the net.

"Crack!"

Suddenly a lightning bolt struck down, startling Lu Ran.

He immediately shut off the Evil Dog Evil Skill·Evil Recognition, after all, the thunder was about to come.

However, before the thunder reached the battlefield, torrential rain had already fallen first.

The clouds in the sky churned, and gale-force winds raged.

On the sea, the battle between the Draconic Fish turned the waves monstrous.

War Horn Believer·Jing Hong was still holding his head high, blowing the horn of battle.

In this grand and tragic scene, a wave of apocalyptic atmosphere hit us.

The members of the Ran Sect felt a chill run down their spines.

"Boom!!"

The sound of thunder exploded, resounding through the sky.

Lu Ran released his hands from his ears and pulled Evil Technique·Evil Recognition to its full extent again!

He used Extreme Eye Power to search for the souls wandering in the rain.

"Here!"

Lu Ran repeated the same trick, casting spells, probing, and completing Soul Binding in one go.

"Buzz~"

In the spiritual world, the Evil Sculpture of Mo Li never stopped trembling, heading towards the River Realm.

When an Evil Sculpture is nurtured to the level of the River Realm, it cannot advance in a short period of time.

Lu Ran couldn't receive feedback immediately either.

"Wow!" Lu Ran quickly retracted his head, swiftly closing the full-length mirror.

In the giant waves, two massive creatures tangled together, breaking through the sea's surface.

The Angry Sea Flame Dragon tightly wrapped around the gigantic Mo Li, biting fiercely into its body with its blood-red mouth.

The Sea Grade·Mo Li was indeed 800 meters in size!

Its true form and the Evil Technique·Mo Li Sunken Boat it used were almost identical.

These Great Demons of the Sea Realm, especially those in the sea...

Are truly terrifying!

Even without using any evil technique, just with their size advantage alone, they could crush the cities of the Human Clan.

Yet the Mo Li is so beautiful, not at all like an Evil Demon!

Especially those fins and tails, as thin and long as soft black gauze, fluttering in the heavy rain, giving an impression of ultimate beauty.

They are completely out of place with the apocalyptic atmosphere of this scene.

"Roar!!"

The Angry Sea Flame Dragon roared furiously, tightly coiling around the Mo Li, its flames flaring up as if to burn it to ashes.

Suddenly, countless small Flame Dragons erupted from inside the Angry Sea Flame Dragon.

Lu Ran was secretly shocked, was this the Evil Technique·Flame Dragon Killing Domain?

This technique was a Domain Technique, and once activated, it could summon a large number of small Flame Dragons to fly wildly around the caster.

Within the Killing Domain, the small Flame Dragons would autonomously attack and destroy any invading enemies.

Mo Li struggled frantically!

Despite its huge size, it gave off a pitiable feeling...

The Angry Sea Flame Dragon certainly wouldn't allow its prey to escape. It coiled tightly around the Mo Li, letting the numerous small Flame Dragons bite into Mo Li's body.

The Water Flow Armor was a common technique of the Human Clan.

A demon like Mo Li naturally wouldn't use it, and the Mo Li Clan itself lacked armor-type evil techniques.

This resulted in it being scorched and charred all over, and even countless small Flame Dragons bit into its flesh, drilling into its fish meat.

The scene was extremely tragic.

Yu Changsheng nodded silently, of course, hoping the Mo Li would die in battle.

This way, the Sect Master could absorb the energy of this Great Demon of the Sea Realm.

After Mo Li's death, there was no need to worry about the Angry Sea Flame Dragon either, as it had already activated the Evil Technique·Dragon Flame Body, its life entering the countdown.

"It's enough, Jing Hong, come back."

"Yes!"

"Plop~"

As they spoke, amidst the torrential downpour, the sound of a fish blowing bubbles suddenly came through.

The surging energy shook the heavens.

Another enormous Mo Li emerged!

Inside it emerged countless small Mo Li, launching an attack on the Angry Sea Flame Dragon.

"Not good!" Yu Changsheng clenched his folding fan, this was the Mo Li Clan's River Realm ultimate move·Ink-colored Evil Li.

This technique was a spiritual output type skill.

The target impacted by the small Mo Li would suffer immense spiritual trauma.

And that Mo Li in the sky would continually emit "pop" sounds, which would likewise disturb the hearts of all beings and tear at the nerves of all creatures!

"Let me handle it!" Lu Ran pressed down on Yu Changsheng's hand.

Lu Ran knew that Yu Changsheng wanted to activate the Purification Skill·Praying Rain Li, to help the members of the Ran Sect stabilize their minds.

But in this dark weather, the pale golden fish's light was bright, rather conspicuous.

"Hiss..."

Thick Immortal Fog quickly spread beneath Lu Ran's feet.

Jade-faced Snake Evil Technique·Immortal Realm!

Even though Lu Ran was using a River Grade·Immortal Realm, in the laws of the God Demon world, the Purification Skill still holds a higher status.

Yu Changsheng couldn't help but raise an eyebrow slightly.

Under the continuous "pop" sounds of the Ink-colored Evil Li, Yu Changsheng wondered: "Judging by the form of this technique..."

Is this the Jade-faced Snake Clan's evil technique?"

Amidst the miserable scream of the Angry Sea Flame Dragon, Lu Ran silently nodded.

Yu Changsheng: "..."

Sect Master,

you always come up with new tricks!

Every time Yu Changsheng thought he knew enough about Lu Ran, the Sect Master would always pull out something, giving him a hard hit.

The Jade-faced Snake Clan was the mortal enemy of the First-class God·Monk.

Their ultimate move was extraordinarily effective!

Yu Changsheng suddenly asked, "Can the Sect Master activate the Jade-faced Snake Clan's ultimate move and transform into the White-Scaled Immortal Heavenly Python?"

Now it was Lu Ran's turn to be silent.

What do you mean?

You want me to transform into a giant python and fight these two Great Demons of the Sea Realm?

Let alone that I'm a flesh-and-blood being and can't transform into a snake, even if I could...

The River Grade·White-Scaled Immortal Heavenly Python is only a hundred meters long, these two Great Demons of the Sea Realm are both 800 meters in size, it's not a match in terms of size!

Lu Ran continued observing the battlefield, uttering, "Don't be ridiculous."

Yu Changsheng: ?

"Pop~ Pop~ Pop~"

The Mo Li's fish mouth opened and closed, spreading the strange sound throughout the heavens and earth.

"Ooh..."

The more rampant the Angry Sea Flame Dragon was before, the more miserable it was now.

The Angry Sea Flame Dragon Clan had a rather apparent weakness: insufficient mental strength!

Coincidentally, the Mo Li Clan's ultimate move was spiritual output!

If it were just pain, the Angry Sea Flame Dragon could at least harm the Mo Li, allowing the Ran Sect to reap the benefits.

The problem was, the Angry Sea Flame Dragon was bombarded into a hazy stupor, seemingly about to lose its strength and release the Mo Li...

This couldn't be allowed!

Lu Ran immediately suggested, "The Angry Sea Flame Dragon seems to be losing control!"

Mr. Cong Long, in a moment, I'll summon the bronze mirror, and you call out the Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat, deliver a fatal blow to them!"

Don't be fooled by Yu Changsheng's small size, only 1.84 meters tall.

But he is a true Great Power of the Sea Realm!

With heavy rain pouring down, Yu Changsheng's vision was a bit obstructed, he diligently observed the battlefield situation: "When the Sect Master activates the mirrors, it's best to be far from the battleground, allowing me a distance to charge in."

"How about a thousand meters?"

"Good!"

Lu Ran gazed far onto the battlefield, the Angry Sea Flame Dragon was indeed at a disadvantage, seized by the Mo Li at its critical point, fiercely attacked!

Yet the Sea Grade Mo Li was also scorched with burnt fish meat, its body riddled with holes from bites.

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple bobbed slightly.

He wasn't craving grilled fish but was instead quite excited inside!

Couldn't imagine, such terrifying beasts could provide so much Holy Spirit Energy!

Can it succeed?

Can it be slain... huh?

Lu Ran's pupils slightly contracted, noticing that the Angry Sea Flame Dragon's tail drooped down.

This was a sign of fading consciousness!

"Now!" Lu Ran let out a fierce shout, the ancient bronze mirrors he had prepared immediately transformed into full-length mirrors.

Yu Changsheng acted without hesitation, reaching a hand inside, energy surging in front of his palm.

Sea Grade Divine Skill·Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat!

The massive golden Dragon Carp pieced together from the head, rushing forward as it formed.

Dazzling brilliance lit up the dark world!

In the torrential rain, a luxurious, magnificent golden fish swam faster and faster.

"Pop~"

This came from the Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat.

"Pop~"

This was Lu Ran puffing his cheeks, pressing his lips, and then suddenly opening them to create his own sound effects.

The battle between the two Great Demons of the Sea Realm was indeed spectacular, weren't they both tired?

Now,

it's our turn to blow bubbles!

"Boom!!"

The Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat, bearing an incredibly heavy body, with a massive momentum, slammed fiercely towards the entangled dragon and carp.

...

Chapter 454: eating a lot

The dark clouds rolled, and the rain poured heavily.

In a sky shrouded in darkness, a large fish of pale gold shone brilliantly.

Lu Ran watched as the Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat fiercely collided with a flood dragon and carp.

"Wooo~~~"

The wailing of the furious sea flame flood dragon echoed between the sky and sea.

Lu Ran was overjoyed at the sound!

Mo Li, although it did not wail, was also heavily damaged!

The majestic body, already charred and covered with wounds, was now bent from the collision.

The Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat continued its rampage!

It pushed against the flood dragon and carp, flying toward the nearest coast.

"Strike while the iron's hot, Sect Leader!" Yu Changsheng immediately said, "This time, bring the mirror closer. I'll release the school of fish."

"Mm." Lu Ran summoned an Ancient Bronze Mirror, carefully observing it for a moment, turning it into a full-length mirror.

And the other full-length mirror actually appeared on the path of the Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat's impact!

Truly, high skill emboldens the courage!

Yu Changsheng dared not delay, reaching his hand into it.

Sea Grade Divine Skill·Dragon Carp Break!

A terrifying school of fish swam out, charging forward, ruthlessly ravaging the bodies of the flood dragon and carp.

Without any armor-type skill, even with the strength of two Sea Realm Great Demons, they could not withstand such a bombardment.

Lu Ran could no longer hear the wails of the furious sea flame flood dragon.

And the scorched, shattered Mo Li was equally on the brink of death.

"Cease!" Lu Ran commanded.

Yu Changsheng immediately retracted his hand, and the full-length mirror in front of him disappeared in an instant.

The Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat still carried the two Sea Realm Great Demons, flying across the sea.

Lu Ran cast another spell, steady as ever: "Continue!"

Yu Changsheng was ready to pounce: "Yes!"

Master Lu joined forces with the Dragon Guardian, and after casting spells three times in succession, the Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat finally reached the coast, crashing towards the clifftop.

"Boom!!"

The cliff shattered with a thunderous crash, causing the ground to shake!

But for Lu Ran, the whole world seemed to quiet down.

With his lifeless Dead Sheep Eyes, he gazed at the collapsed mountain from afar.

The Pupil of the Dead World allowed Lu Ran to see dead souls.

Thus, he need not risk his life to check the battlefield; he only needed to look from afar to see if any souls emerged.

After just a few seconds, Lu Ran frowned deeply.

Not dead yet?

How much had the flood dragon and carp been ravaged?

Could the life force of a Sea Realm Great Demon be so tenacious?

Lu Ran immediately said, "We will continue... huh?"

His eyes widened as he saw an enormous, ethereal Soul Body—the furious sea flame flood dragon!

Yet, he still did not see Mo Li's dead soul!

Um...

The Mo Li Clan, like the Dragon Carp Sect, is skilled in healing techniques.

Perhaps it's using the Mo Li Evil Technique-Resurrection Carp to maintain its own life!

Lu Ran suddenly raised his hand: "Nightmare, watch the direction I swing my blade!"

"Yes!" Deng Yuxiang immediately responded, swiftly raising his right hand.

Night Charm Clan River Realm Ultimate Move-Night Charm Evil Blade!

Beneath the rolling dark clouds, two hundred-meter-long Night Charm Evil Blades emerged one after the other.

The two giant blades were like cleavers, chopping down on the fish meat laid out on a chopping board...

It cannot be denied that the Divine Technique performed by Yu Changsheng was of a higher grade and had an extraordinary effect.

But the only two offensive techniques of the Dragon Carp Sect, whether Dragon Carp Break or Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat, relied on impact to attack and triumph.

In the absence of armor on the Sea Realm Great Demon, even if Lu and Deng used River Grade techniques, they could kill across levels.

The sharp Night Charm Evil Blade was also more suited for slaying fish!

"Boom!!"

The twin blades smashed the collapsed rocks, brutally chopping into the already broken, shattered fish body.

Deng Yuxiang, without hesitation, once again activated the ultimate move, summoning another Night Charm Evil Blade.

But before her second strike fell, Lu Ran saw Mo Li's dead soul.

At last!

Lu Ran smiled with surprise.

What a resilient Sea Realm Great Demon, its life was truly formidable!

Yet, no matter how powerful, it was still just a fish and feared the cleaver.

"Mission accomplished!" Lu Ran placed a hand behind his waist, gripping the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd, and with the other hand, he quickly summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror.

Regardless of whether it's the furious sea flame flood dragon or Mo Li, the bodies of these two Evil Demons remain after death, not dispersing into mist.

Perfect for little Blazing Phoenix to refine!

"Boom!"

Deng Yuxiang's second blade still slashed down.

Nearby, Jing Hong cautiously watched Deng Yuxiang, then quickly lowered her gaze.

In the Ran Sect, the Sect Leader and Mr. Cong Long are relatively easy to get along with, but this Nightmare Guardian... well, the name speaks for itself.

She only occasionally shows a gentle side when facing the Sect Leader.

Deng Yuxiang's presence is like a mountain, constantly weighing down on Jing Hong.

As the saying goes: One cannot manage soldiers with kindness.

Even though Jing Hong harbors no ulterior motives and has completely pledged herself to the Ran Sect, Deng Yuxiang remains harsh, adhering to the role she set for herself early on.

"Let's go!" Lu Ran summoned the full-length mirror and was the first to step inside.

The group arrived at the beach, and Lu Ran, holding the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd, extended it forward: "Eat up!"

"Buzz~"

The Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd happily flew forward, bobbing up and down.

It flew out in a wavy line~

With his sideways pupil, Lu Ran absorbed the two giant dead souls.

"Hiss... roar!!"

The furious sea flame flood dragon roared angrily, the giant dead soul uncontrollably pouring towards Lu Ran.

Lu Ran grinned.

Oh, little flood dragon~

Listless and droopy-tailed when alive, and spirited in death?

Unknown how much Holy Spirit Energy this Sea Realm dead soul carried.

Should he activate the furious sea flame flood dragon Evil Sculpture?

Lu Ran pondered.

As a River Realm, Lu Ran has 16 activation slots for sculptures, having already activated 14 statues.

There are temporarily only 2 slots left.

To earn more activation slots, he must wait until reaching the Sea Realm.

Currently, Lu Ran hasn't even activated the Sword One Divine Statue. Is there truly a slot to spare for the furious sea flame flood dragon?

He must consider carefully.

Currently, Lu Ran does not lack offensive techniques.

He lacks techniques with various effects.

For example, he activated the Mo Li Evil Sculpture without hesitation to survive underwater.

Exploring the field of "naval battles"!

Also gaining healing, control, and strong defense skills like Mo Li Sinking Boat.

The furious sea flame flood dragon's skills are almost entirely offensive, with only the output-enhancing skill·Dragon Flame Body being tempting.

The question is, can the Evil Technique·Dragon Flame Body and the Fierce Heavenly Divine Skill·Fiery Fire Sky Leader stack their effects?

Lu Ran has no confidence.

In any case, the Fierce Heavenly Power, Wilderness Power, and Soul Splitting Power, these power-enhancing techniques, cannot stack their effects.

"Phew~"

While Lu Ran pondered, the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd had already absorbed the massive body of Mo Li.

The scene was quite magical.

After all, the Sea Realm·Mo Li was enormous, while the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd was only slightly larger than a palm.

The gourd's mouth was even smaller!

Yet as it absorbed, it also shrank Mo Li, smoothly absorbing the remains.

In the dim sky, the golden phoenix patterns on the gourd gleamed brightly.

Was the little Blazing Phoenix... happy with its meal?

Lu Ran sensed the Artifact Spirit's joyful emotions and went along with it: "Grow strong, little Blazing Phoenix!

Just absorbing remains is no fun. What's our goal?"

The Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd wobbled, flying left and right.

Lu Ran nodded repeatedly: "Yes, directly absorb living beings!"

The Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd flew down, circling around Lu Ran.

The interaction lasted no more than two seconds before it flew back, its mouth aimed at the corpse of the furious sea flame flood dragon.

Lu Ran: "..."

Your way of coaxing me is really perfunctory!

The massive remains of two Sea Realm Great Demons are worth only a single circle around me?

Little Cheating Phoenix!

Lu Ran silently grumbled, staying busy as well, collecting the two giant souls entirely.

And before the Mo Li dead soul entered the garden, the Mo Li Evil Sculpture was still trembling.

It never stopped!

Lu Ran was full of anticipation, eager to see how high the soul of this Sea Realm·Mo Li could elevate the Mo Li Evil Sculpture...

While the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd absorbed the flood dragon, Lu Ran turned his head toward the sea.

The earth-shattering battle had only just ended.

Perhaps, in the sea, there were still Mo Li Clan members affected, whose souls had not yet emerged.

Yu Changsheng, however, misunderstood, watching Lu Ran's actions and asking, "Shall I collect the remains of the Mo Li tribe for the gourd to refine?"

Lu Ran was in a great mood, smiling: "No need to trouble you, sir."

As he spoke, he walked step by step towards the sea.

Lu Ran chose neither to teleport nor fly but seemed to be heading into the sea?

Yu Changsheng was moved; it seemed their Sect Leader had also mingled in with the Mo Li tribe's ranks?

"Hoo~"

Suddenly, several strands of black gauze appeared, slowly swirling around Lu Ran.

Strictly speaking, these were not gauze but the tails and fins of the Mo Li tribe.

But they did not grow on Lu Ran; instead, they danced around him.

Mysterious and beautiful.

Mo Li Evil Technique·Mo Li Dance!

This technique allows the caster to travel freely through the sky and sea.

In the torrential rain, Lu Ran just floated up like that, then dove into the sea.

"Splash!"

Yu Changsheng sighed deeply, silently watching this scene.

"Let Mr. Cong Long accompany him." Deng Yuxiang softly suggested, genuinely happy for Lu Ran, as he filled another weakness.

"Alright." Yu Changsheng readily agreed, escorting Lu Ran on his first sea journey.

Jing Hong, who was on alert not far away, secretly felt anxious as she noticed a pattern!

After Lu Ran slays an Evil Demon, he gains their abilities!

Lu Ran has also demonstrated abilities of the Immortal Sheep, Fierce Heavenly, and other divine sects.

Does this mean he can also acquire abilities by slaying believers of the gods?

Thinking this, Jing Hong's heart became increasingly uneasy.

Would Master Lu aim his blade at her for the abilities of the War Horn Sect?

Probably... not.

This young man is upright, a good person.

Being a member of Sword Mountain's peak and having participated in the ambush against him, Lu Ran had many reasons to act.

But he didn't do that, instead giving her a chance at life.

A new beginning!

Jing Hong silently clenched her fists.

Suddenly, a cold voice came from beside her: "Come out!"

Jing Hong quickly snapped back to reality, following Deng Yuxiang's gaze into the distance. The collapsed cliff extended like a slope, stretching into the distant forest.

No sign of any people could be seen in the woods.

Deng Yuxiang beckoned, and the well-fed Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd immediately flew down.

She held the gourd, placing it at her waist, her voice cold:

"Must I invite you?"

...

Chapter 455: Immortal Island?

In the sea, Lu Ran was having a great time.

Rather than swimming, it was more like he was "suspended" in the sea.

A light and thin black gauze formed a spiral pattern, encircling Lu Ran's body, creating a domain.

A domain that belonged solely to Lu Ran.

While within it, he could traverse the heavens and seas with agility, and the black gauze provided him perfect protection, meeting his combat requirements.

Underwater, he didn't need to breathe nor felt any sensation of suffocation.

The Evil Technique·Dance of the Mo Li, truly formidable!

Just as Lu Ran was marveling at the wonder of the Evil Technique, he suddenly felt someone was calling him.

Lu Ran immediately connected mentally with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture.

[Nightmare?]

[Someone's coming.] Deng Yuxiang's serious voice echoed in his mind.

[I'll return immediately.]

Meanwhile, by the coast.

"Woooo~~~~"

Jing Hong sounded the Echo Horn; the low horn sound swept across the forest.

Finally, from behind a large tree, a figure flashed and appeared.

Actually, the War Horn Divine Technique·Echo Horn can't precisely detect targets, but if there were too many people hiding in the woods, Jing Hong always sensed something.

Unexpectedly, there was only one?

Judging by the figure, it seemed to be a man.

He wore a bamboo hat woven from leaves, head lowered, the brim almost covering his entire face.

He was dressed in a loose raincoat and wore straw shoes.

Perhaps, this person had been in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm for a long time, and the clothes brought from the Human World could no longer be worn, being locally sourced instead.

"I apologize for disturbing, I mean no harm, will leave at once."

From afar came the deep voice of a middle-aged man, a sense of ancientness pervaded.

Deng Yuxiang's breath hitched slightly.

She felt a hint of invisible oppression!

Is this a Great Power from the Sea Realm?

Deng Yuxiang observed carefully, but the dimness of the sky, heavy rain obscuring vision, and the opponent's low hat brim...

The man in the forest already turned around, paused briefly before stepping forward.

Jing Hong immediately tensed up, as if facing a great enemy.

Unexpectedly, the man in the forest turned his head slightly and said, "Thank you for ridding the populace of evil."

Deng Yuxiang remained expressionless, though a scornful laugh echoed within.

Ridding the populace of evil?

In this Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, are there any innocents to protect?

At best, it is "ridding evil with evil."

"Daoist, please wait." Suddenly, a gentle voice passed through layers of rain, reaching everyone's ears.

Yu Changsheng drifted in, landing on the beach.

Lu Ran, holding a Divine Weapon, landed beside Deng Yuxiang.

Before drawing the butcher's knife, Lu Ran was more than willing to put on a facade.

In the forest, the mysterious raincoat-clad man frowned slightly, clearly sensing the formidable presence approaching from behind, likely of extremely high power and realm.

He hesitated for a moment, and repeated, "I mean no harm, will leave at once."

Yu Changsheng smiled lightly, "We naturally see you mean no harm, otherwise, you'd have already engaged my companions."

The raincoat-clad man also smiled, "You managed to kill two demons from the Sea Realm, how could I dare to act rashly?"

"You jest, Daoist," Yu Changsheng looked at the other's back, "May I ask Daoist's esteemed name?"

The raincoat-clad man's expression darkened, he turned around and slowly raised his head.

Beneath the brim of the bamboo hat were penetrating black eyes, "So, now you're not letting me leave?"

Just one sentence, and this seemingly world-weary man turned into a sharp blade.

A terrifying pressure overwhelmed.

This was undeniably a warning!

Yu Changsheng continued to smile, calm and collected, "We also mean no harm, merely wish to understand the situation here."

The raincoat-clad man swept his gaze over everyone, unexpectedly landing on Lu Ran.

A few seconds later, he slowly spoke, "Good knife."

Lu Ran scrutinized him carefully, nodded in acknowledgment, "Your knife is sharp as well."

This man seemed in his thirties or forties, with sharp eyes.

But between his brows, there seemed to linger an unshakable sense of melancholy.

To carry such an ancient aura at the prime of life, he too must have been tortured by the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm.

Deng Yuxiang naturally knew they weren't appraising each other's weapon, especially since the raincoat-clad man wasn't carrying any.

They were appraising each other as individuals.

The raincoat-clad man turned to Yu Changsheng, eyes cold and sharp, "Answer my question, and I'll be allowed to leave?"

Yu Changsheng adjusted his paper fan and bowed amicably, "Is there any presence nearby?"

"There once was."

"There once was?"

The raincoat man slightly raised his head, indicating towards the sea, "It's said there's an Immortal Island overseas with an abundance of Holy Spirit Energy to be gathered.

To win favor from the divine, to return to the Human World early, two nearby factions contended and merged, then set out to sea seeking the Immortal Island."

"Immortal Island?" Yu Changsheng raised an eyebrow.

The raincoat man gently nodded, "With power as formidable as yours, able to slay demons from the Sea Realm, you could seek it."

Lu Ran suddenly chimed in, "Uncle, you're fooling us?"

The raincoat man visibly froze.

The sudden address caught him off guard.

Lu Ran, full of disbelief, "You too are a Great Power of the Sea Realm, why don't you go?

Don't you want to return home?"

The raincoat man: "..."

Everyone knows how dangerous the sea is.

Even in coastal areas, there are terrifying demons like the Flame Flood Dragon and the Ink Fish, let alone further out.

Venture out to sea?

It's certain to be a life-or-death situation!

The raincoat man turned and left, calling back from afar, "Believe it or not, that's up to you."

Everyone exchanged glances.

Yu Changsheng hesitated for a moment, then said, "Sect Leader, he's certainly a Sea Realm Great Power. Since he means no harm and insists on leaving, we shouldn't push him too hard.

Let's find a place to rest for now?"

Lu Ran looked at the receding figure of the raincoat man, nodding lightly.

At this moment, his head was still buzzing, and he certainly did not wish to quarrel with such a power.

Yu Changsheng, cautious as ever, suggested again, "Let's keep our distance."

One may know a person's face but not their heart!

If that person gathers reinforcements and comes back for an ambush, that could be disastrous.

To survive in this Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, even one misstep leads to an irreparable end.

Lu Ran picked up the Blazing Phoenix-patterned gourd, "I'll absorb the corpses of the Mo Li on the surface, then we'll leave."

"Okay."

"Understood!"

...

The heavy rains had ceased, and night fell.

Dozens of kilometers away, near the top of a steep sea cliff, a small hole was chiseled on the rocky face.

Though called a hole, it was just big enough for one person to sidle through and quite hidden.

Waves continually crashed against the cliff, rumbling loudly.

Lu Ran stood at the entrance, juggling the Blazing Phoenix-patterned gourd in hand, watching the waves below, deep in thought.

"Not taking a break?" a gentle voice came from behind.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran turned his head to see Deng Yuxiang's concerned eyes.

"Let Jing Hong keep watch," Deng Yuxiang suggested softly.

Lu Ran pointed to his temple, transmitting weakly, [The Mo Li Evil Sculpture is still leveling up, my head's been buzzed all day, I couldn't sleep even if I wanted to!]

"Hehe~" Deng Yuxiang couldn't help but chuckle gently.

She continued transmitting, [It's a good thing, if it buzzes for three days and nights, it'd be better if it buzzed straight to the Sea Realm.]

Lu Ran grimaced, [It shouldn't take that long, it's already at the Jiang Realm·Fourth Rank now.]

Deng Yuxiang's eyes lit up, [Fourth Rank?]

The leveling of the evil sculpture far outpaced that of the Human Clan.

Previously, when Deng Yuxiang ascended to Jiang Realm-Fourth Rank, it took her a full three days.

While the Night Charm Evil Sculpture within the Jiang Realm ascended in a matter of hours.

Nevertheless, as fast as the evil sculpture levels up, Lu Ran's head had been buzzing from morning till night.

The man was on the brink of collapse...

Lu Ran rubbed his temples thoroughly, quite troubled, [The Sea Realm Mo Li had stored so much Holy Spirit Energy, perhaps it can really propel the evil sculpture to the Sea Realm.]

Deng Yuxiang, looking at Lu Ran's pitiful expression, hesitated a moment, then moved his hand aside, her slender fingers settling on either side of his head.

She was more patient, her actions gentler, helping massage his temples.

Lu Ran: "..."

It actually seemed to help a bit?

Was it a placebo effect?

On the side, Jing Hong was secretly observing them.

The usually cold and harsh Lord Guardian was unexpectedly so gentle.

It felt surreal.

Unintentionally, Jing Hong became engrossed in watching.

Who knows how long had passed before Lu Ran spoke softly, "Do you think there really is an Immortal Island on the sea?"

Deng Yuxiang continued her gentle movements, casually saying, "It's likely a trick to send us to our deaths."

In this realm, every living being encountered is naturally a competitor.

She continued, "The fact that they didn't strike may be due to fearing our strength."

"Pop~"

Lu Ran suddenly raised a hand, a tiny Mo Li appeared in his palm.

Its fish mouth opened and closed as it danced with beautiful black gauze, flying toward Deng Yuxiang.

The Mo Li Evil Technique·Resurrection Carp!

"Poof~"

As the tiny Mo Li touched Deng Yuxiang's hand, it shattered into dense energy, flowing into her.

Deng Yuxiang's eyes widened slightly!

A surge of vibrant life force flooded within, and more tangibly, a recovery of physical and mental strength.

In the domain of Divine and Evil Techniques, the meaning of life force encompasses a wide range.

Lu Ran had previously used the Black Lamp Evil Technique·Cage Fire (Bath) to heal Deng Yuxiang, but the healing methods of the Black Lamp Clan were considered gradual.

Whereas the Mo Li Clan's Resurrection Carp truly had a rebirth significance.

Though the Resurrection Carp was small, the divine power consumed by Lu Ran when performing this skill was astonishingly large!

"A reward." Lu Ran smiled.

Whether he acknowledged her answer or appreciated her continuous patient and gentle gesture, it was unclear.

Deng Yuxiang looked at Lu Ran with amused irritation, wanting to tap him on the back of his head, but remembered others were in the cave.

Hence, she refrained, giving the Sect Leader some face.

Unbeknownst to Lu Ran, he had unwittingly dodged a bullet, "I'm quite certain that when we were absorbing demon corpses on the beach, he wasn't in the forest.

He probably came afterward, attracted by the commotion.

But it's hard to say how much of my secrets he witnessed, or how many Evil Techniques I demonstrated."

Deng Yuxiang: "Once your condition stabilizes, should we go find him?"

Lu Ran displayed a trace of worry, "He is, after all, a Sea Realm power; it won't be easy... Me? Lights out!"

He immediately sidestepped back, pulling Deng Yuxiang aside to hide.

"Sect Leader?" Yu Changsheng swiftly obeyed the order, dispersing the golden little Dragon Carp.

"Shh!" Lu Ran peeked out, secretly watching.

In the pitch-black night, a man wearing a bamboo hat and a raincoat was rushing over the waves toward the shore.

Isn't that the Sea Realm Great Power from earlier?

In his hand...

A sack of Mo Li?

Do Sea Realm big shots still need to eat?

Chapter 456: Valley Bottom Cave Heaven

"I saw that man in the straw raincoat earlier; he brought back a basket of Mo Li, probably just returned from fishing."

"He's very fast in the water, wrapped in currents; could it be the Divine Technique·Clear Water Flow?"

"He's a Believer under Yan Qing, the Third-class God!"

Lu Ran spoke quickly, lowering his voice, reporting the situation to the Ran Sect members inside the cave.

Yu Changsheng was quite surprised. For everyone's safety, they deliberately relocated, moving tens of kilometers away from the battlefield, before finding a secluded place to settle.

Yet... they still encountered this?

Deng Yuxiang nodded thoughtfully, "No wonder he's active near the sea; turns out he's a disciple of Yan Qing."

Yan Qing, the Third-class God!

This deity holds a decisive position in Da Xia.

Because his sect's Divine Technique granted disciples the ability for water combat!

Da Xia has numerous deities and almost a hundred sects, but very few truly excel in water combat.

Every night of the fifteenth, the disciples of the Yan Qing sect are the absolute main force defending Da Xia's coastline.

"Already at Sea Realm, could he be someone who's tempted by food?" Lu Ran frowned, watching the straw raincoated man skimming across the sea towards the distant shore.

Joking!

As people advance to the River Realm, so-called Great Powers begin to show "Divinity."

The need for eating vanishes, with cravings for meals dropping sharply.

Yu Changsheng pondered for a moment and speculated, "Perhaps this person uses this way to remind himself of his identity and maintain humanity?"

Lu Ran watched the straw raincoated man melting into the night, "I'll go have a look."

"Hm?" Deng Yuxiang, who was already standing behind Lu Ran, grabbed his arm upon hearing this.

Lu Ran reassured her, "Don't worry! I'm familiar with the skills of Yan Qing's sect, he can't do anything to me."

Deng Yuxiang's tone was stern, "At least he's a Sea Realm while you're not in a good state right now."

Lu Ran indeed persisted, "I'll follow from afar, see if I can find his lair; this is a rare opportunity!

If I find anything, I'll instantly teleport back, absolutely avoid any risk."

Lu Ran's tone grew slightly more serious, issuing orders to the others, "Stay here, and without my command, do not leave."

Despite his stern words, his mental transmission was gentle: [Sis, don't worry, I'll be right back.]

With that, Lu Ran's figure flashed.

If he wanted to leave, naturally, no one could stop him.

Deng Yuxiang pressed her lips together, standing at the small cave entrance, looking at the pitch-black night outside.

Normally, the dark night should have been Lu Ran's camouflage.

But the skills of Yan Qing's sect were mostly equipped for water combat.

Yan Qing's disciples possessed the Divine Technique·Clear Water Eye, which allowed them to clearly see the battlefield underwater or even in the deep sea, so they could naturally pierce through the night on land.

In the pitch-black cave, Yu Changsheng spoke softly, "The Nightmare Guardian doesn't need to worry too much. With the Sect Leader's strength, few in this world could hold him back."

Deng Yuxiang didn't respond, also knowing that her concern was causing chaos.

Lu Ran, even when facing Sea Realm disciples of Sword One alone, could consecutively defeat two generals and retreat safely.

Let alone against Yan Qing disciples?

Just hoped that Mo Li's Evil Sculpture could quickly finish advancing, to improve his condition a bit.

In the dark night, Lu Ran flashed into the forest, hiding behind a tree.

He secretly revealed half of his face, observing the shadows in the distant forest.

Stealthily observing.jpg.

Yan Qing's disciples moved swiftly in water, but on land, they weren't as agile.

Lu Ran easily trailed behind the straw raincoated man, following him across the forest.

The man was obviously cautious, frequently checking the surroundings, while Lu Ran maximized his Evil Technique-Evil Agility, reacting incredibly fast!

Each time the straw raincoated man looked around, Lu Ran managed to hide his presence in advance.

Lu Ran followed all the way to a steep cliff, seeing the man jump down before his eyes.

Does his lair lie at the valley bottom?

Lu Ran cautiously stepped forward, peering down to see dense trees, with the man already out of sight.

Can't see him?

No problem!

He flashed to the valley bottom, twitching his nose.

Scent~

To escape from Lu Ran's clutches would naturally be as challenging as ascending to the heavens!

Following the fishy scent, a black cloud lifted beneath Lu Ran's feet, silently trailing him without a trace of footsteps.

What makes one a good dog... uh, excellent tracker?

"Goodness~" Lu Ran murmured, following the scent into a crevice in the mountain.

Does the straw raincoated man live so secludedly?

How many detours, how many steps to get home?

Silently tracking Lu Ran experienced what they call "Initially narrow, just enough for a person"!

After winding through the labyrinth-like mountain tunnel for a long while, his view suddenly brightened!

Lu Ran saw an expansive woodland, marveling in his heart.

It was truly another world!

This place was surrounded by mountains, with just a small patch of sky visible above, yet the dense trees completely concealed the valley bottom.

Lu Ran had just flashed behind a tree when his heart trembled heavily!

Even though his brain buzzed, he heard two joyful children's voices.

"Daddy!"

"Daddy's back!"

The tender childlike voices were quite cheerful and not at all small.

Lu Ran stood there, frozen.

Children?!

In this filthy and brutal Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, there are... children?

Lu Ran calmed his turbulent emotions, quietly revealing half of his face, observing from afar.

He saw the man in the straw raincoat holding a basket of fish, standing in front of a fenced courtyard.

Inside the courtyard, a small campfire provided some light.

A boy and a girl about five or six years old were clinging to the man's legs, happily chatting on either side.

A tall figure stood in front of the wooden cabin inside the fence.

She appeared to be in her thirties, with long black hair cascading over her shoulders, exuding a gentle temperament.

Her bright and clear eyes were full of tenderness as she spotted the returnee.

Lu Ran silently watched the happy family of four.

He felt as if this wasn't the Holy Spirit Mountain.

No wonder this Sea Realm Great Power would venture out to fish, it was for the children.

No wonder he was so cautious, setting his foothold in such a secluded location.

Perhaps to the man in the straw raincoat, this wasn't just a foothold.

This was his home.

"Alright, alright, let Daddy roast fish for you," the woman said softly, gently approaching the children.

The man in the straw raincoat wore a loving smile, stepped into the fenced courtyard, and closed the door...

It was at this moment that his expression froze.

Behind a distant tree, hit by the enormous impact, Lu Ran forgot to hide.

And the ever-cautious straw raincoated man, aided by his Clear Water Eye, pierced through the darkness, clearly seeing that half a face.

His wife's footsteps instantly stopped, she sharply turned to her husband and asked, "What's wrong?"

Because of the children, the straw raincoated man made every effort to curb his aura, striving to exhibit a loving side, to coexist with his children.

But at that moment, his demeanor changed!

"Take the children inside," the man in the straw raincoat said deeply, setting down the fish and stepping out.

His wife frowned slightly, her gentle appearance vanished, unintentionally exuding a hint of formidable aura.

"Ugh."

"Ma, Mama..." The two little ones trembled, instinctively hugging their mother out of natural fear.

Yet, she ironically became the source of their panic and terror.

"Friend, impressive skills!" The man in the straw raincoat stepped into the woods, speaking deeply.

In a mere sentence, the temperature in the valley plummeted, murderous intent filling the air.

He felt like a beast whose territory had been invaded, filled with fury.

"I have no ill intent," Lu Ran responded softly.

The man in the straw raincoat suddenly attacked, tossing his hand, several streams of water lashed out like whips.

Yan Qing Divine Technique·Clear Water Whip!

Lu Ran slightly leaned back, with his figure disappearing silently.

The man's pupils contracted violently!

It's over!

Everything's over...

This young man, turned out to be a Qiang Xiu disciple?

Under the Instant Teleportation Technique, how could he protect his family?

"Uncle, I really mean no harm," Lu Ran called out again in front of a tree further away.

The man in the straw raincoat stayed silent.

The youth before him was just at River Realm, certainly could not harm him, nor his wife.

But... they had two children.

The River Realm youth could withdraw at any time and could also reappear at any moment, posing a severe threat to the children.

At the beach encounter during the day, this youth even had a Sea Realm companion.

The man in the straw raincoat grew more regretful!

Why?

Why did I fail to notice anyone was following me?

What should I do now?

As a dignified Sea Realm Great Power, facing a River Realm Believer... I could only pray the other really bore no ill intent.

"You..." Lu Ran's face was complex, "In this kind of place, you formed a family."

The man in the straw raincoat grew more silent.

The color of his face grew more unpleasant.

Indeed, he shouldn't have let these lovely little ones be born into this sinful world.

It was extremely irresponsible.

He should be damned, a thousand cuts awaited him.

"Yifei?" came a woman's voice.

"Don't come over!" The man in the straw raincoat seemed to explode, "Stay at home!"

In truth, his wife was merely standing at the doorstep, with no intention of coming over.

But upon hearing her husband's harsh words, her heart also sank to the valley bottom.

Lu Ran let out a deep sigh, "I know, as long as I stand here, no matter what I say..."

The man in the straw raincoat suddenly interrupted, "You said you mean no harm."

Lu Ran: "Yes."

The man in the straw raincoat spoke deeply, "Then please leave! If you want intelligence and information, I'll give you everything.

Tomorrow morning, let's meet at the beach where we encountered."

Lu Ran nodded silently, saying nothing more, leaning his body slightly and flashing away.

The man in the straw raincoat stood for a moment, his face stern, then turned and strode back to the fence yard.

Inside on the bed, his wife was softly soothing the children. Seeing her husband's return, she immediately got up to meet him, "Who was it?"

The man in the straw raincoat glanced at the two huddled children on the bed, whispered, "Possibly a Qiang Xiu disciple."

Hearing this, his wife's expression changed.

He looked guilty, softly saying, "I'm sorry."

His wife didn't get angry; instead, she quietly leaned into his arms, "How did you handle it?"

"He kept saying he bore no ill will, and I set up a meeting with him tomorrow on the beach, then he left."

With her lips close to his ear, her gaze icy, her voice tinged with a touch of murderous intent, "Tonight, we'll take the children somewhere else."

Tomorrow, I'll go with you."

"Uh-huh."

...

Chapter 457: Mingmen

At the sea cliff, within the hidden cavern.

Lu Ran sat leaning against the cave entrance, gazing into the vast night as he recounted his observations.

The story of a family of four left everyone with complex emotions.

Deng Yuxiang leaned against the wall and spoke softly, "No wonder that man thanked us for eradicating the menace; he has family in this realm."

"Eradicating the..." Lu Ran's voice trailed off, holding his head with a hand.

The Mo Li Evil Sculpture had finally upgraded!

Jiang Realm-Fifth Rank!

What startled Lu Ran was that the sculpture showed no sign of stopping its vibration, as if it planned to upgrade further?

Was it aiming for the Sea Realm?

Lu Ran grinned broadly, overjoyed!

Who would have thought, in his life, his first Sea Realm Evil Sculpture would be a Mo Li?

This Sea Realm Great Demon must have been stirring up trouble in this realm for a long time, collecting a lot of Holy Spirit Energy.

In the end, it all served as a wedding dress for Lu Ran!

How satisfying~

"Before you and Cong Long returned to the beach, that person expressed his gratitude to us." Deng Yuxiang explained, noticing Lu Ran's ever-changing expression, and immediately making her move.

With the tenderness of her previous move, this time she hesitated not, gently kneeling behind Lu Ran, her actions quite skillful.

Lu Ran closed his eyes, feeling the cool fingertips by his temples...

She really is so gentle~

Is this still the Big Nightmare?

If Deng Yutang saw this, wouldn't his eyes pop out?

Yu Changsheng watched this scene, patiently waiting.

Until the furrows between Lu Ran's brows gradually smoothed, he asked, "Sect Leader, what realm is the opponent's wife at, and which god is she a believer of?"

Lu Ran: "I'm not sure, I can guess that she isn't weak, and she likely isn't a disciple of Yan Qing."

After all, Lu Ran had seen the woman's face clearly.

She shouldn't have the Divine Technique·Clear Water Eyes, otherwise, she would have noticed Lu Ran.

Yu Changsheng pondered for a moment, saying, "Sect Leader, this couple might have arranged for you to be away, then move their home overnight and not meet tomorrow."

Lu Ran asked, "What's more likely?"

Yu Changsheng contemplated and said, "They will meet tomorrow as agreed. This matter may not end well."

"What do you mean?" Lu Ran turned to look at his strategist.

"Don't move." Deng Yuxiang reprimanded softly, turning his head back.

Lu Ran: "..."

How dare a technician get angry at a customer?

Hmm... fine, I didn't pay.

Yu Changsheng's face turned serious, "Sect Leader's existence has threatened their very foundation!"

The cavern fell silent.

Yu Changsheng: "Even if the Sect Leader doesn't mean to harm them, you know their secret.

For the vast majority of parents, their children are their Achilles' heel!

Your existence every day risks exposing information, and if others learn about it, it equates to holding the couple's lifeline."

Lu Ran's expression darkened.

He wanted to consider some things but it felt like there was an electric toothbrush inside his head.

It was very distracting!

Now, with Cong Long's point, Lu Ran naturally realized the issue.

Yu Changsheng looked at Lu Ran: "In this Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, humanity is what should not be trusted! Does the Sect Leader believe this couple will allow you to live?"

Deng Yuxiang gently massaged Lu Ran's temples; upon hearing this, her fingertips applied slightly more pressure.

Yu Changsheng sighed, "The Sect Leader also mentioned their child is already five or six years old.

Given that the child could safely grow to this age, this couple must be extremely cautious and decisive!

Meeting tomorrow, they should do everything in their power to eliminate potential risks."

Lu Ran exhaled a word: "I."

Yu Changsheng: "All four of us."

Lu Ran was silent for a moment, then inquired, "Does Mr. Cong Long think we should keep our meeting tomorrow?"

Yu Changsheng played with his paper fan, his eyes flickering.

Indeed, the children are a good point of entry, a direct grasp on the couple's lifeline.

However, Lu Ran might not agree with such means.

In Yu Changsheng's eyes, Lu Ran was still young, relatively upright.

Lu Ran has ambition, and capability.

Reckless for big things, if fortune favors him, could become a hero of sorts.

But not a tyrant.

"Swoosh~"

Yu Changsheng opened the fan, gently waving it, "The child is a very good entry point."

Lu Ran remained silent, waiting for more.

Yu Changsheng spoke slowly, "This couple can protect the child for a moment, but they can't protect them for a lifetime.

The Holy Spirit Mountain Realm is isolated from the world.

Children born in this realm cannot naturally receive divine favor!"

Lu Ran caught on quickly, already understanding Yu Changsheng's strategy.

Indeed, these two children can only remain ordinary people, in this dangerous and cruel world, their fragile lives could end at any moment!

Yu Changsheng looked directly at Lu Ran, "In this Holy Spirit Mountain Realm...

The Sect Leader is the only god!"

Lu Ran nodded, "Yes, I can make contracts with the children, giving them the qualifications to cultivate Divine Power, bestowing them with corresponding skills.

For the sake of their children's growth and lives, the couple will not only refrain from harming me but will desperately protect me."

Yu Changsheng gently waved his paper fan, exuding a sense of strategic mastery, "Exactly so!

Sect Leader, let me go alone tomorrow to negotiate!

If they aren't willing, so be it, we'll part ways forever after.

If they are willing, we must assess their character thoroughly."

Lu Ran looked at his strategist with genuine gratitude, "Thank you for the guidance, much obliged."

Lu Ran did not refuse Yu Changsheng's voluntary offer.

The Dragon Carp Sect is not only known for healing but also for their agility!

Leaving a small Dragon Carp in the cave, Yu Changsheng can relocate and teleport back anytime.

Unfortunately, the mortal enemy of the Dragon Carp Sect, the Mo Li Clan, lacks such life-saving skills.

"It's my duty, no need for thanks." Yu Changsheng smiled and nodded.

Lu Ran closed his eyes, feeling immensely fortunate to have encountered Yu Changsheng.

However, he wasn't aware that Deng Yuxiang, Yu Changsheng, and Jing Hong shared the same sentiment towards Lu Ran.

Encountering Lu Ran...

A blessing indeed!

As waves crashed against the shore and night turned to day.

When the sky became bright in the early hours, a smile finally appeared on Lu Ran's face.

A smile of joy, a smile of relief.

The Mo Li Evil Sculpture's upgrade succeeded!

Sea Realm·First Rank!

Lu Ran could now create Jiang Realm Mo Li minions!

However, the demons from the sea are surprisingly large.

If Lu Ran recalled correctly, a Jiang Realm Mo Li measured about 300 meters, and upon reaching the Sea Realm, it swelled to 800 meters!

Of course, the larger the size, the more noticeable it becomes, with a greater area to be attacked.

For ordinary people and human cities, the sea demons are undoubtedly a nightmare presence.

But Lu Ran's opponents were demons!

He couldn't even imagine bringing a Jiang Realm Mo Li to tackle the Night Charm Lake, the consequences would be...

The Mo Li would be shredded instantly?

However, he could use the Mo Li's large size to draw forces, diverting the tiger from the mountain?

Lu Ran turned to the side, seeing Deng Yuxiang leaning against the stone wall, napping with her eyes closed.

Her sleep was not deep; as Lu Ran looked, she opened her eyes too.

"Finally, I can sleep peacefully." Lu Ran said with a smile.

"Yes, go ahead." Deng Yuxiang responded immediately.

Inside the cavern, Jing Hong also woke up, immediately heading to the entrance to take her guard duty.

Lu Ran and Deng did not refuse.

Lu Ran walked into the cave, not at all like a master, and collapsed straight to the ground.

As for Yu Changsheng, he had already left the cavern yesterday after setting the plan, aiming to hide in the sea before the meeting.

To avoid any ambush.

Lu Ran slept in a deep slumber.

Only awaking in the afternoon.

By then, Yu Changsheng had returned to the cave, sitting cross-legged beside him.

"Awake?" Deng Yuxiang's voice came from beside.

"Ah." Lu Ran sat up.

Deng Yuxiang waved her wrist, indicating with an ancient copper coin, "Want some grilled fish? I caught three."

This Rebirth Money was merely a Magic Artifact Fragment, able to host at most three Dead Souls.

Deng Yuxiang's words were somewhat indirect, reminding Lu Ran to absorb the Dead Souls.

"Sure, thank you!" Lu Ran smiled at Deng Yuxiang.

Deng Yuxiang also smiled at Lu Ran, with a subtle thought, energy surged from her wrist.

In a dimension not visible to her, the Rebirth Money released three Mo Li Dead Souls one by one.

Lu Ran looked over at Yu Changsheng, who evidently had been waiting for some time.

"Mr. Cong Long?"

Yu Changsheng promptly said, "They are very interested and eager to acquaint with the Sect Leader."

"Oh." Lu Ran responded, not surprised by the result, "Tell me about them."

Yu Changsheng reported, "The man's name is Xun Yifei, 31, Sea Realm Second Rank, a follower of Yan Qing.

His wife's name is Luo Ying, 29, Sea Realm Fourth Rank, a follower of Ash."

"Wow~" Lu Ran grinned.

Two Sea Realm Great Powers?

The gentle and elegant woman was a believer under the Second-class God·Ash?

The South Sea Bow among the Four Generals?

Lu Ran could not help but think of his high school classmate, and briefly teammate—Class President Wu Shanshan.

In a trance, Lu Ran felt as if it was a different world.

He graduated in the summer of 2019, and now, human seasons should imply spring of 2020.

It hasn't even been a year since high school graduation!

Why does it feel like Wu Shanshan, Kou Yingquan, and his classmate Ma Tianchuan from high school, were such distant existences?

Hmm... this life, damn it's been exciting!

One year like ten.

Lu Ran calmed his mind before asking, "What does Mr. Cong Long think about them? Suitable to join our Ran Sect?"

Two Sea Realm Great Powers!

And skilled in naval battles, filling a huge gap in the Ran Sect!

To say Lu Ran wasn't tempted would be a complete lie.

Yu Changsheng softly said, "It's just one meeting, can't know much, but their love for their child is genuine.

Additionally, our proposal is rather shocking; the couple wishes for us to provide corresponding proof."

Lu Ran: "I can cast some Evil Technique in front of them."

Yu Changsheng shook his head, "No, they proposed signing a contract with you."

"Huh?" Lu Ran questioned, "Their kids are so young, they can't handle it, can't sign now!"

Yu Changsheng sighed, "Xun Yifei intends to voluntarily sever his contract with the Divine-Yan Qing.

Henceforth, revere you."

Lu Ran's mouth hung slightly open, "To verify in such a way? Xun Yifei is a servant of the divine, the weaker side!

If he tears the contract, he'll face severe backlash!"

Yu Changsheng nodded to confirm, "That's the couple's only request."

Lu Ran stared in disbelief, processing it for a while, "If I really am a fraud, wouldn't that make Xun Yifei crippled?"

Yu Changsheng: "They are not reckless. The Sect Leader will have to show corresponding ability; only then will he sever the contract, for final verification."

Lu Ran fell silent.

He saw it, this couple's love for their child truly wasn't feigned.

No, he had to persuade them carefully!

A grand Sea Realm Great Power, joining my Ran Sect only to fall back to the Jiang Realm...

Wouldn't that be a huge loss for me?

...

Chapter 458: Thief of the Gods!

Three days later, at the beach where the Flame Flood Dragon and Mo Li perished together.

In the forest, two figures wearing bamboo hats and raincoats were silently waiting.

The sky was filled with dark clouds, pouring down rainwater.

Gale winds rampaged, stirring the wide raincoats of the two and unsettling Xun Yifei's heart.

"Stay calm," Luo Ying softly advised, noticing her husband's distracted state.

Xun Yifei let out a deep sigh.

Calm?

How can I be calm...

The excessively handsome and powerful protector from the Ran Sect boldly claimed:

His Sect Leader... is a god.

His Sect Leader is also the only god people can revere within this Holy Spirit Mountain Realm.

He could grant children the eligibility to cultivate Divine Power!

Eligibility! Eligibility...

In the human world, powerful figures and villains were constantly sent to Holy Spirit Mountain by various deities.

People schemed against each other, fighting brutally.

In such a filthy and cruel world, even if you are a strong River Realm figure, you could become a servant, suffering oppression and torment, only finding release upon death.

Not to mention two fragile ordinary people!

More importantly, if this mysterious Ran Sect Leader possesses such mighty means, then...

Can he return to the human world?

Xun Yifei looked at the dark clouds above with a hint of unrealistic fantasy in his heart.

Even if he and his wife can't return, could the Ran Sect Leader send their children back to the human world?

The children are innocent and just ordinary people; leaving this purgatory shouldn't incur the deity's ire!

The ones with the greatest sins, those deserving of suffering and punishment, are us—these two selfish and irresponsible parents...

"Yifei, calm down." Luo Ying reached out her gentle hand, lightly touching her husband's face.

Xun Yifei held his wife's hand, closed his eyes, and silently felt her warmth.

Xun Yifei considered himself lucky.

In the early years of entering this world, dazed and confused, he met her, equally bewildered.

If both had deeply understood the true nature of Holy Spirit Mountain when they first met, they likely wouldn't have become a couple, sharing their lives together.

Yet this very stroke of luck brought about a disaster.

And the true bearers of the consequences were not the couple but their innocent offspring...

Every day, Xun Yifei lived with conflicted emotions.

Guilt, regret, self-reproach.

But every time he saw his children's innocent and bright smiles, he felt warmth and happiness.

"Someone's coming!" Luo Ying suddenly spoke, releasing her hand.

Xun Yifei immediately turned to look, seeing several figures approaching through the dense forest.

Two women led the way, one on the left and one on the right, clearly scouting the environment.

The young woman to the left was brimming with vigor and striking beauty, matching her aura of strength.

The tall woman to the right, however, was quite unremarkable.

Luo Ying frowned slightly, almost imperceptibly.

She had encountered too many of such tall women before.

Breaking the spirit of a Great Power of the River Realm was not something that could be done overnight!

In other words, this woman must have gone through long-term oppression and enslavement, only to be trampled and utterly diminished.

Luo Ying observed for a moment and then shifted her gaze.

The handsome man she had seen before was now walking a bit behind, slightly lagging to the side of the young man.

And the young man...

He was absurdly young.

Luo Ying's beautiful eyes were fixed on Lu Ran, examining him closely.

Could he be twenty years old?

At this age, he should still be in school. Should he really appear in Holy Spirit Mountain?

"No need to worry, Ms. Luo." The young man suddenly spoke, indicating towards Jing Hong, "She was someone we rescued.

Our side is not as dark and chaotic as other factions."

Jing Hong's heart tightened!

This couple were two Great Powers of the Sea Realm, whom the Sect Leader wished to recruit. If she ruined things because of herself, it would be a colossal sin.

She opened her mouth to explain something, but then heard Lu Ran say, "It's alright, go stand guard."

Jing Hong felt apologetic, bowed slightly to Lu Ran, and said, "Yes, Sect Leader."

Luo Ying gave Lu Ran a deep look.

She realized that her subtle expressions had been noticed by the other party, and her psychological activities had been deduced.

This young leader was indeed astute and perceptive.

Indeed, since Lu Ran's mind stopped buzzing, his state had recovered.

He could perceive all around him and think clearly.

Xun Yifei cupped his fists in apology, speaking loudly, "It was rash of me last time; it was my mistake for not recognizing Mount Tai, my apologies!"

Lu Ran also cupped his fists, apologizing, "I was the one stealthily tailing you. Mr. Xun took action to protect his family, as he should."

Seeing Lu Ran's attitude, Xun Yifei felt somewhat reassured.

Holy Spirit Mountain is not a place of reason.

Might is the truth.

And there's no attempt to conceal it.

Now that the couple sought favor from Lu Ran, they were naturally in an inferior position, no matter what attitude Lu Ran had or how excessive his actions might be; they had to endure it.

Xun Yifei, seemingly a bit anxious, apologized and directly asked, "We heard from Mr. Cong that Sect Master has a noble status and can recruit Human Clan believers?"

Lu Ran nodded slightly, "Indeed, that's the case."

Xun Yifei suppressed his turbulent emotions, once again cupping his fists, "Is it true that Sect Master can represent Master Qiang Xiu and recruit believers?"

Yu Changsheng hadn't informed Xun Yifei of such, but Xun Yifei still asked this way.

Out of hope, out of perception.

Lu Ran shook his head and said, "I am not a disciple of Qiang Xiu, and the Instant Teleportation Technique you saw is not the Spear Withering Divine Skill·Cloud Piercing Shadow."

Xun Yifei: "Oh?"

Lu Ran raised his hand towards the side, energy surging in his palm.

"Crack!"

Suddenly, two rows of uneven canine teeth appeared in the open space, snapping shut fiercely.

Xun Yifei's pupils slightly contracted!

Luo Ying's beautiful eyes narrowed!

This young man was from the demonic path, an Evil Dog Follower!

The next moment, the couple's expressions froze.

Because atop Lu Ran's head, a pair of thick bull horns suddenly appeared.

"Is this..." Xun Yifei hesitated for a moment, then inquired, "Soul-splitting Demon Horns?"

Lu Ran did not respond, instead sending a hand forward.

Suddenly, a large group of Black Lanterns spread out!

Xun Yifei: !!!

The evil techniques of the Black Light faction mostly manifest as black flames.

If Lu Ran only summoned Black Fire, it would be difficult for others to determine what kind of evil technique it was.

However, the evil technique of the Black Light Clan at River Realm·Third Rank involves summoning a large number of Black Lanterns to control groups of enemies and slow down their actions.

"Pop~"

Lu Ran waved his hand again, and the group of Black Lanterns quietly dispersed, revealing a mysterious little Mo Li swimming out.

"Gulp." Xun Yifei swallowed, his heart churning with great waves.

This...?

This mysterious and powerful Ran Sect Leader is a disciple of the Evil Demon, that much is certain.

The real question is: which sect of Evil Demon believers does he belong to?

"I know what you're thinking, and I'll tell you clearly, I am not a disciple of the Evil Demon," Lu Ran said with a smile, looking at the shocked couple.

Great Powers of the Sea Realm held supreme status and could destroy everything.

Yet, to see such rich and vivid expressions on the couple's faces...

It's quite amusing~

"Swish~"

Lu Ran casually motioned, picking up an exquisite Ancient Bronze Mirror.

He gazed at Deng Yuxiang's beautiful face in the mirror, "Whether god or demon, neither would tolerate having unfaithful, dual-serving believers beneath them."

Luo Ying, who had been silent, finally spoke, "So, Sect Master, you are..."

Lu Ran grinned, "I am not an Evil Demon believer, I would never bow below an Evil God.

You can think of me as...

A person who steals the power of Evil Gods!"

Luo Ying's heart trembled, "Steal power?"

"Buzz!"

Lu Ran's body quivered, and two dark charms suddenly burst out from within.

Gauze fluttered, figure alluring.

Night Charm Evil Skill·Night Charm Shadow!

Lu Ran no longer looked at the woman in the mirror, turning his gaze to Deng Yuxiang not far away, "I can use this stolen power to strengthen myself and develop my own faction."

He slightly nodded, which Deng Yuxiang understood, her figure also shuddering.

"Buzz!"

Two Night Charms shot out from her body.

Lu Ran said, "Immortal Horn, tell them your true believer identity."

After past experiences, Lu Ran no longer made Deng Yuxiang bleat in embarrassment.

Deng Yuxiang decisively followed the command, and a pair of robust, coiled sheep horns sprouted from her temples.

Immortal Sheep Divine Technique·Immortal Horn!

Luo Ying's eyes slightly widened.

Deng Yuxiang could be a Night Charm believer.

But she cannot be both a believer of the godly faction·Immortal Sheep and the demonic faction·Night Charm!

This... it's an impossible thing!

Even though all of this happened right before Luo Ying's eyes, she couldn't accept it.

All the education she received since childhood, her presumed profound understanding of this world, collapsed in this moment!

Lu Ran dispelled the evil technique, "Therefore, there's no doubt about my ability to recruit your offspring as believers."

Xun Yifei and Luo Ying exchanged a glance, seeing the same emotion in each other's eyes.

"With me, your children have many choices, and even more, will come," Lu Ran said, gripping his hand casually.

Suddenly a small Paper Mache Man was in his grasp.

Not only the couple but even Yu Changsheng was a bit stunned.

Yan Zhi Clan?

Evil Technique·Paper Mache?

Luo Ying's face turned pale, with an overwhelming killing intent in her eyes!

If Lu Ran only had Instant Teleportation, the couple might at least guard their children and withstand to some extent.

But when Lu Ran took out the small Paper Mache Man...

Luo Ying knew she was powerless.

If Lu Ran wished, he could easily crush their children's bodies.

What Lu Ran held was a Paper Mache?

No, those were living lives!

The fate of powerless resistance.

Lu Ran didn't need to approach the target, nor did he need to reveal himself; everything could unfold silently.

"Ms. Luo," Deng Yuxiang sternly addressed her.

Luo Ying immediately came to her senses, reining in her murderous intent.

An imposing Great Power of the Sea Realm·Fourth Rank, bowing and apologizing to Lu Ran, a River Realm man:

"Sorry, I..."

"No problem," Lu Ran interrupted, "You are a mother."

Once again, Lu Ran deduced Luo Ying's inner thoughts.

Luo Ying lowered her gaze, her heart quivering lightly.

Lu Ran continued, "Here, there's no distinction between gods and demons; your children learning evil techniques does not mean falling into the demonic path.

Because, they are not following an Evil God, they are following me."

Xun Yifei had been fixated on Lu Ran.

No matter how hard he tried to hide it, the fervent eyes betrayed his inner thoughts.

Lu Ran shifted his tone, "Of course, demons have a bad reputation; if your heart is resisting, I understand.

Here, your children can also walk the path the world considers righteous."

"Righteous path?" Luo Ying lifted her head.

Lu Ran casually grabbed a War Hammer with fracture-like patterns.

Fierce Heavenly Divine Skill·Fierce Heavenly Hammer!

At this point, the couple absolutely didn't believe that Lu Ran was a Fierce Heavenly believer.

And sure enough!

In the next moment, a circle of Jade Tokens spread out from Lu Ran's body.

Jade Talisman Divine Skill-Golden Jade Eight Talismans!

"Whether it's a god or a demon, whatever you want your children to venerate...

Lu Ran looked at the couple, word by word:

"I am that one."

Chapter 459: Shuanghai! Ran Sect!

When it comes to pulling out a plastic bag, Lu Ran is definitely a master.

Xun Yifei and Luo Ying were truly shocked, struggling to digest this startling news.

After a long while, Xun Yifei finally spoke, "Sir, may I also join your ranks and serve you henceforth?"

Unconsciously, even the way he addressed Lu Ran had changed.

"Of course, you can." Lu Ran understood Xun Yifei's intention and continued, "But for now, I don't want you to sever your contract with the Divine Being-Yan Qing."

Xun Yifei hesitated for a moment, "Does sir want a loyal believer? But this lady..."

His meaning was obvious, Deng Yuxiang was both an Immortal Sheep disciple and a Night Charm believer.

Her current state in the world was serving two masters.

Lu Ran shook his head and said, "The contract you signed on the God Worship Platform is unequal, you're a servant of the Divine Being.

A lowly servant, what right do you have to part ways with your master just like that?

Forcibly breaking the contract will cause you extremely severe backlash."

Lu Ran looked directly at Xun Yifei, "I heard you are at the Sea Realm·Second Rank. If you fall back to the River Realm, or become unable to further your cultivation in the future, it would be a great loss."

Xun Yifei, "But I..."

Lu Ran waved his hand, interrupting him, "Once we return to the Human World, I have a way to appropriately sever the contract between you and the Divine Being."

Xun Yifei was greatly moved, "Does sir have a way to lead us home?"

Under the hopeful gazes of the couple, Lu Ran slowly shook his head, "Not for the time being."

In the distance, Jing Hong, who had been secretly excited, heard this statement and couldn't help but darken her gaze.

Lu Ran continued, "The road, is made by people walking it."

However, such comforting words couldn't raise the spirits of the people.

Lu Ran casually summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror and transformed it into a standing mirror.

Evil Mirror Magic·Mirror Flower Moon!

He looked at the couple and said, "If I could steal enough power from the Evil Mirror Clan to constantly improve the grade of Mirror Flower Moon..."

Luo Ying's eyes brightened!

Xun Yifei immediately understood, "Mirror Flower Moon can take us back to the Human World?"

Lu Ran dispelled the Mirror Flower Moon, "I can't give you a definite answer, but for me personally, I hold onto this hope."

Xun Yifei immediately asked, "How does sir steal the power of the Evil Mirror Demon?"

Lu Ran, "By slaying this clan."

Luo Ying nodded, finding it straightforward and brutal.

Lu Ran added, "The way home isn't limited to this; in the Human World, there are also people who have returned from the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm.

They must have found the right path.

So, don't be disappointed."

As he spoke, Lu Ran glanced at the distant Jing Hong, repeating the previous words, "The road is made by people walking it."

Jing Hong's heart trembled deeply!

She almost forgot how sharp her sect leader could be.

Jing Hong immediately knelt on one knee, filled with anxiety, lowering her head to Lu Ran.

Lu Ran was quite helpless.

He didn't mean to blame her.

Disappointment and doubt are very natural; Lu Ran was encouraging Jing Hong.

But Jing Hong had an unimaginable past; she lived far too cautiously.

Xun Yifei didn't have the energy to concern himself with others; he requested, "Sir, I still wish to follow..."

Lu Ran looked at the man in the bamboo hat, "Do you want to pave the way for your child, lay the last brick?"

Xun Yifei fell silent.

Lu Ran sighed inwardly, "What a good father."

Deng Yuxiang timely spoke up, "My existence has already proven this path is viable, there's no need for you to sever an arm."

Xun Yifei still looked at Lu Ran, his eyes carrying a hint of pleading.

Persistent.

Yu Changsheng, who had been very quiet, suddenly spoke, "If Brother Xun truly wants it for his child, he should maintain his strength, so he can better protect them."

Our side has already provided adequate evidence; Brother Xun need not be stubborn.

Perhaps the one he should really overcome is himself."

Xun Yifei turned to look at Yu Changsheng.

Yu Changsheng smiled, "Insisting on tearing up the contract seems less like love for your child and more like deep guilt and numerous debts.

Do you want to reduce your guilt by using this self-punishing method?"

Xun Yifei's face immediately changed!

Lu Ran couldn't help but feel secretly stunned!

Goodness~

Who would've thought from this angle?

Besides, is Mr. Cong Long brave enough to say that?

Yu Changsheng continued to smile.

Some people need to hear words spoken bluntly, deep and piercing, to truly awaken.

Whether such words would offend...

No matter.

Xun Yifei and Luo Ying's loyalty to the sect leader was enough.

Moreover, if they were sensible and broad-minded enough, Xun Yifei would be grateful for this guidance once he truly came to understand.

Tearing up the contract means you lose more than a rank; your future might also stall!

"Yifei." Luo Ying gently patted Xun Yifei's shoulder.

Xun Yifei had good self-control, but became increasingly silent.

Lu Ran's voice came through, "We'll be in this Holy Spirit Mountain Realm for a long, long time, enough to get to know each other.

You don't need to prove it in such an extreme way.

Join the Ran Sect; starting now, we will evaluate each other."

Luo Ying pressed on Xun Yifei's shoulder, applying a slight downward force, and the two knelt on one knee together.

Heaven showed mercy and granted a glimmer of hope.

Luo Ying chose to grasp it tightly!

Her way of expressing her attitude was also extreme, completely abandoning her status as a Great Power of the Sea Realm.

Luo Ying, with Xun Yifei, imitated Jing Hong's previous gesture and performed the ritual.

Lu Ran immediately stepped forward, greatly delighted!

A great deal! A great deal!!

These are two Sea Realm Great Powers!

He quickly helped the couple up, very kindly saying, "We will evaluate each other."

Deng Yuxiang quietly watched this scene, quite satisfied with the couple's attitude.

She always believed that as the sect leader, Lu Ran should have an absolutely noble status.

This is the only way to lead a team effectively.

In the Human World, you can use favor and friendships to rally partners.

But here in this lawless Holy Spirit Mountain!

Favor alone is not a reliable means of gathering people.

You must use benefits, and you must use power.

"Swoosh..."

The gale subsided, but the rain fell even harder.

Lu Ran patted Xun Yifei on the shoulder, laughing, "I used to call you uncle, but you're only just over thirty."

Xun Yifei, "..."

Although barely over thirty, given your age... calling you uncle doesn't seem wrong?

Lu Ran continued to smile, "You do look quite young; it's just your aura is too weathered. It fooled me back then."

It must be from years of internal torment that led Xun Yifei to develop such a unique aura.

Luo Ying suggested, "Sect Leader, shall we find a place to shelter from the rain and talk further?"

This address of "Sect Leader" really pleased Lu Ran~

"Alright!" He immediately raised his hand to cast a spell.

As the standing mirror formed, he led them back dozens of kilometers away to a secluded sea cliff cave.

"Boom!"

A thunderbolt suddenly boomed in the sky.

Lu Ran's expression slightly changed, not looking too good.

He went to the narrow cave entrance, gazing at the rolling dark clouds overhead, "One of you should return to check on the children."

The couple was quite surprised, not expecting Lu Ran to consider this.

The two exchanged looks, communicating with their eyes, and Xun Yifei clasped his hands in farewell, "Sect Leader, I'll go check."

Lu Ran opened a mirror for Xun Yifei, leading directly to the hidden valley.

He didn't suggest a visit or ask if the children were home.

Given the couple's cautious nature, they must have hidden the children before leaving.

"The valley." Lu Ran only said two words and said no more.

Xun Yifei hesitated for a moment but still walked in silently.

"Your children are too young, currently unable to sign a contract." Lu Ran dispersed the standing mirror.

Children cannot sign a contract because their fragile bodies cannot bear this mysterious foreign power.

Once Divine Power enters their bodies, it could hinder growth and development or even cause disability.

"Sect Leader, I know." Luo Ying removed her bamboo hat, responding softly.

As she took off her hat, a long braid fell down.

The last time Lu Ran saw her, she wore her hair long and flowing. Now, this hairstyle had a bit of a resemblance to the Divine Being·Ash.

Yet, Luo Ying's bright eyes and perfect natural beauty were quite unlike Ash.

Because the features of the Divine Being·Ash... well, let's say average at best.

Lu Ran turned and leaned against the cave entrance, gazing at the heavy rain over the sea, "Since you as a couple choose to join us, we will also strive to help you, to protect them as they grow."

Luo Ying looked at Lu Ran's back, expressing gratitude, "Thank you, Sect Leader."

Lu Ran added, "Maybe, before that day comes, we'll be able to return to the Human World."

Luo Ying did not respond further.

The hopes and dreams of the past were worn away day by day.

Lu Ran was still young, new to this realm, and Luo Ying understood why he still held hope.

No matter how, Lu Ran's incredibly astonishing abilities could greatly resolve her family's significant challenges!

Luo Ying lowered her gaze, clutching the brim of her bamboo hat.

"Is there really an Immortal Island on the sea with abundant Holy Spirit Energy?" Lu Ran shifted the topic.

Luo Ying organized her thoughts, responding, "A few disciples of Yan Qing once ventured out to sea, fleeing back with this news."

Subsequently, two nearby forces merged completely and sailed out en masse.

Judging by the result, this news is likely true."

Lu Ran gazed at the endless sea, marveling, "Those Yan Qing disciples were truly daring, venturing out to sea?"

Luo Ying softly said, "Maybe, they also wanted to return home. With no way to the heavens and no door to the earth, the sea was chosen."

"Mr. Cong Long."

"Sect Leader?"

"Shall we go and see for ourselves?" Lu Ran asked.

Now, with two Sea Realm Great Powers joining Ran Sect!

Even if one must stay to watch the children, the other is enough to significantly boost Ran Sect's combat strength!

This sea can definitely be crossed!

Yu Changsheng responded, "The fallen Holy Spirit Energy within the mountain is collected by many Human Clan and Evil Demons.

Although there are also Evil Demons in the sea, their numbers are relatively fewer."

Lu Ran nodded in agreement.

Yu Changsheng continued, "While there are sea Evil Demons capable of flying or landing, their habits predominantly favor staying in the sea.

Holy Spirit Energy descending onto some islands, lingering and accumulating, seems plausible."

Lu Ran's gaze penetrated the layers of rain, looking towards the turbulent sea, murmuring:

"Sir, you've truly tempted me..."

...

Chapter 460: Surprise News

Lu Ran was indeed tempted!

Regarding cultivating the statues in the Sculpture Garden, Lu Ran currently has two methods.

The first is to seize by force, cultivating statues through slaughtering Evil Demon henchmen and Human Clan believers.

However, this method is directional, as various Dead Souls will autonomously embrace the corresponding statues.

The second is through the Holy Spirit Energy.

This method is more flexible, giving Lu Ran absolute autonomy to choose his favorite statues to cultivate.

Having been in this realm for so long, Lu Ran has figured out many ways.

Each wisp of pure Holy Spirit Energy contains energy equivalent to that of a single River Realm soul.

Currently, Lu Ran's Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture is at River Realm·Third Rank.

That is to say, every 10 wisps of pure Holy Spirit Energy can help the River Realm Divine Sculpture advance a small rank.

But once the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture advances to the Sea Realm, it will require 100 wisps of Holy Spirit Energy to advance a small rank.

The demand is too great!

Up to now, Lu Ran has not seen any Fierce Heavenly believers within the Holy Spirit Mountain.

About venturing out to sea to search for islands that have accumulated a lot of Holy Spirit Energy, Lu Ran is naturally tempted!

Lu Ran leaned against the cave entrance, watching the surging waves, "Sister Luo, discuss with Brother Xun after you go back, and choose someone to accompany us on the sea expedition."

As for the one left behind, naturally it's to protect the child.

Furthermore, ordinary people need to eat, so someone must go out to sea to fish.

"Yes." Luo Ying almost thought she heard wrong.

Sister Luo? Brother Xun?

It's not wrong, their ages are indeed there.

But this mysterious and powerful Sect Leader actually condescends to call herself and her husband in this way?

Through their interactions so far, Luo Ying has come to know Lu Ran a bit and thinks this young Sect Leader is rather gentle and treats people kindly.

With such a person as the leader, the Ran Sect indeed seems unlike other chaotic forces.

However, Jing Hong was apprehensive, and Deng Yuxiang behaved properly.

Even Yu Changsheng was respectful and served this young man as his leader.

Naturally, the lofty status of the Ran Sect's leader has been established in the couple's hearts.

Therefore, Lu Ran's casual form of address was indeed quite powerful!

"Right, you guys should come up with a code name for yourselves," Lu Ran looked at Luo Ying, "If all goes well, you'll get to be a Divine General."

As he spoke, Lu Ran also laughed to himself.

Who would've thought that when he casually thought about setting up the "Four Great Protectors" and the "Eight Divine Generals" in the Ran Sect, it would actually come true step by step?

Luo Ying,

A Sea Realm·Fourth Rank Ash believer!

No doubt, this is a freaking world-destroying cannon!

Lu Ran, lacking in experience, had never witnessed such super terrifying existence firsthand.

So much so, Lu Ran found it difficult to even imagine how astonishing Luo Ying's true combat prowess could be!

This "Ran Sect Eight Divine Generals" sequence, Luo Ying definitely qualified to enter.

Xun Yifei is also a genuine Sea Realm powerhouse, specializing in water battles, and if all goes well, he counts as having joined in the Ran Sect's formative years.

More importantly, he's Luo Ying's husband...

Xun Yifei taking a place among the Eight Divine Generals is naturally not a problem.

"Yes," Luo Ying slightly bowed her head.

No matter how approachable and friendly Lu Ran was, she dared not overstep her bounds.

Those who seek something must lower themselves.

Luo Ying just felt lucky that the leader she followed was unlike other ruthless and cold-blooded faction leaders.

"Oh right, let me ask you about some people," Lu Ran suddenly thought of something.

He then inquired about Cheng Xin, Qin Yanzhi, and others' whereabouts.

Unfortunately, Luo Ying had neither heard of nor seen them.

But what made Lu Ran unexpected was that as he continued to inquire, he actually came across some big news!

"You said the North Wind Sect's base is in the north?" Lu Ran was both surprised and delighted.

Neither the previously captured Lady Luo nor the later Yu Changsheng knew where the North Wind's base was.

Luo Ying nodded and said, "From our location heading north, you have to go very far. After seeing the snow-capped mountains, you need to delve deeper into the north.

Near an area with a great frozen river, there is a particularly towering peak.

That's where the North Wind disciples are active."

Deng Yuxiang, hearing Luo Ying's words, was equally thrilled!

So it turns out the North Wind Sect is located in the northeastern region of the Holy Spirit Mountain realm, stationed over there near the Ice River?

"Whoosh~" Yu Changsheng folded his fan and gently tapped his forehead.

Lu Ran looked over curiously: "Mr. Cong Long?"

Yu Changsheng chuckled and shook his head: "It's my stupidity for not realizing this point.

Now it seems, the North Wind disciples selected their location based on the areas within the Da Xia realm where the divine North Wind resides."

Lu Ran nodded.

Indeed, the northeastern area within the Holy Spirit Mountain realm, close to rivers and seas, is exactly like this.

Deng Yuxiang looked at Lu Ran, hesitating to speak.

Her friend Yan Shuangzi has been missing for a long time, and she doesn't know whether she's alive or dead.

But as the Sect Leader, Lu Ran had just enthusiastically set a new mission objective, and she didn't want him to change his plans or disrupt his growth strategy.

"We head north, accompany me to find someone first!" Lu Ran gave the order without hesitation.

Deng Yuxiang, looking at Lu Ran, felt a warmth in her heart.

Lu Ran turned to Luo Ying: "You and your husband don't need to choose, since it's a land-based mission, you come with me!

Let your husband stay home and watch the kids."

Luo Ying: "..."

The words full of everyday life left her a bit stunned.

"Go back, rest for a day, and we set off tomorrow morning." Lu Ran waved his hand, creating a floor mirror for Luo Ying.

Luo Ying hesitated for a moment, then said, "If the Sect Leader doesn't mind, you can rest at our home."

Lu Ran couldn't help but secretly admire.

Luo Ying was undoubtedly a cautious person but with enough boldness!

Once she set her mind, there was no more hesitation.

Her inviting Lu Ran home to stay, and interacting with the kids, seemed like a kind of alternative pledge of loyalty?

"Sect Leader?"

"No need," Lu Ran shook his head, declining, "We don't know how long we'll be in the north, spend time with your family, I won't disturb you."

Tomorrow morning, same place, I'll open the Mirror Flower Moon."

Luo Ying slightly bowed: "Yes, Sect Leader."

As she turned to leave, four people remained in the cave.

"Phew..." Lu Ran let out a long sigh, feeling like he was living in a dream.

River Realm powerhouses are called Vast Rivers.

Sea Realm Great Powers rise above large rivers, able to accommodate hundreds of streams, and are known as "Yangyang Sea"!

As a result, I suddenly gained two of them!

Tsk, tsk~

In this instance, life in the Holy Spirit Mountain seems quite pleasant as well!

If it were in the human world, the Yangyang Sea probably wouldn't even glance at me, right?

But in this realm, these peerless powerhouses are respectful to me.

Truly dreamlike~

"Congratulations to the Sect Leader, on gaining yet more capable ministers." Behind, Yu Changsheng smiled, congratulating him.

Lu Ran's undisguised emotion naturally affected the atmosphere within the cave.

"Congratulations to you too." Lu Ran smiled in response.

Indeed, the beginning is the hardest!

Remember when I first arrived in this realm with the Big Nightmare, being chased around in such distress and embarrassment.

Later, with the joining of Yu Changsheng, our situation improved a lot.

Lu Ran recruited the versatile Jing Hong, and now even had the couple Xun Luo following.

Four big characters: Things are looking up!

"I seldom see you so happy." Deng Yuxiang walked to Lu Ran's rear side, her gaze passing over his shoulder, gazing at the rain-filled sea.

Lu Ran leaned against the cave entrance, speaking softly, "We'll be happier when we find Yan Shuangzi."

"Hmm," Deng Yuxiang responded quietly.

"She's like you." Lu Ran said abruptly.

Deng Yuxiang looked at Lu Ran, puzzled.

The two are very good friends and indeed share similar dispositions.

Lu Ran looked at the woman, comforting her warmly: "What I mean is, you don't need to worry too much, she won't give up easily."

Deng Yuxiang was silent but nodded gently.

To say she wasn't worried would be untrue.

Lu Ran grinned: "She's probably like you, quite hard to kill."

"Hehe." Deng Yuxiang laughed too.

Seeing the young man earnestly comforting her, she couldn't resist reaching out to ruffle his hair.

As Lu Ran's head shook back and forth, his thoughts drifted far away.

If I could truly find Big Nightmare's close confidant, sharing a heart-to-heart, that would be wonderful...

The days in the Holy Spirit Mountain are indeed becoming more hopeful!

...

Apologies for the late update, I rewrote everything and didn't want to take a leave, truly sorry.

With limited capacity, striving to be punctual, I really worked hard, nearly waking up at 6 a.m.... perhaps I should push the time later a bit.

Just to inform you all, the daily two updates will now be changed to:

Afternoon 2 o'clock, evening 8 o'clock.