

Old Gods 461

Chapter 461: Above the sea?

Next morning, the sea cliff cave.

Lu Ran had just opened a floor mirror inside the cave when a figure walked in.

She was dressed in a rain cape and bamboo hat, with the brim pressed down a bit low.

It looked particularly mysterious.

She was carrying several rain capes and four stacked bamboo hats in her arms.

"Sect Leader." Luo Ying slightly bowed her head, respectfully greeting, "The northern mountains are high and the weather is cold. I noticed everyone's clothes were somewhat damaged, so I brought a few pieces."

Lu Ran slightly frowned, as he clearly heard a sobbing sound when the woman spoke.

Is she... crying?

Is it because she's going to be separated from the children?

Lu Ran: "You..."

"Sect Leader, please wait." Luo Ying unusually interrupted, placing the clothes aside, then walking toward the narrow cave entrance.

Lu Ran watched her back, feeling like he had committed a grave sin!

Luo Ying's journey north was indeed uncertain of when she would return, and no one even knew if they could come back...

Though several of them were quite strong, in this Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, who dared to claim they were absolutely safe?

Lu Ran watched the back of the young mother, feeling a bit uneasy in his heart.

But without Luo Ying, it wouldn't work; the Ran Sect still needed her help to guide the way.

"We'll depart and return quickly," Deng Yuxiang, understanding Lu Ran's kind heart, interrupted his thoughts directly.

She spoke as she approached the pile of clothes, picking up a large rain cape.

"Hoo~"

Suddenly, a gust of wind swept in from the narrow cave entrance.

With a "snap" sound, Luo Ying reached outside the cave and grasped a Divine Weapon!

It was a beautifully crafted traditional bow, with elegant and smooth bow limbs, entirely light brown in color.

Although it wasn't raining today, the wooden bow was somehow wet.

"Why didn't we see you carrying it before?" Deng Yuxiang, while holding the chosen bamboo hat and rain cape, walked over to Lu Ran.

Luo Ying explained, "We didn't dare bring the Divine Weapon home, worrying it might attract other Divine Weapons' attention, so we hid it in the sea."

As she spoke, Luo Ying wiped the wet water stains from the bow limb.

"Buzz~" The wooden bow slightly trembled.

Deng Yuxiang removed the tools from Lu Ran's back and draped a rain cape over him, casually asking, "Have you activated the Divine Weapon Domain?"

Lu Ran wanted to dress himself but was given a gentle glance by Deng Yuxiang, then...

Then he obediently stood there, letting her handle it.

Luo Ying truthfully replied, "My bow hasn't, but Yifei has a three-pronged blade, which has activated its domain."

Both the husband and wife actually have Divine Weapons?

Lu Ran was slightly surprised, and then suddenly understood something!

The first time he saw Xun Yifei, Lu Ran felt something wasn't right.

Xun Yifei did have a blade, but it also seemed a bit like a spear.

Turns out the opponent was using a three-pronged two-edged blade!

As he pondered, Deng Yuxiang had already draped the rain cape over Lu Ran and placed the bamboo hat on his head.

She stepped back two steps, looked at Lu Ran's new appearance, and couldn't help but nod secretly.

Green cape and blue hat.

It indeed had the air of a reclusive expert?

The rain cape was wide enough to group the Tang Blade in two, hanging on both sides of the waist, effectively concealing them.

As for the Blazing Phoenix patterned gourd, there was even more room to hide it.

Lu Ran looked at Luo Ying: "What is the name of your bow?"

Luo Ying's eyes dimmed, softly saying, "Colorful."

Lu Ran tilted his head slightly, looking at the bow limb extending from the woman's back, its monotonous light brown color didn't match with the word "Colorful" at all.

Everyone quickly changed into brand new gear, uniform and aligned.

Under the powerful aura, this team seemed particularly mysterious.

Lu Ran looked at Luo Ying, his expression solemn: "We'll depart and return quickly."

"Yes!" Luo Ying gently nodded.

After everyone organized their gear, they immediately set off.

Soon, Luo Ying realized that the Sect Leader wasn't just saying it, but gave her a promise.

Lu Ran quickly activated the floor mirror!

He often gazed at distant mountains, each time casting the Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon, leading everyone across nearly a hundred kilometers of journey.

Lu Ran did this for two reasons:

First, a child is waiting for their mother to come home.

Lu Ran was once a child too, standing expectantly at the window of his small bedroom, looking at the corner of the next building, hoping for his father's figure to appear.

Secondly, no one knew Yan Shuangzi's current situation.

What if she was suffering?

When she arrived, she was only at River Realm·Fifth Rank!

If Yan Shuangzi were truly in the North Wind Sect, perhaps the situation might be a little better.

Everyone was a disciple of the same sect, even if the weak are preyed upon by the strong, they might at least consider her status a little.

But if Yan Shuangzi wasn't there...

Sigh.

Lu Ran really didn't want to think too deeply.

In any case, visiting the North Wind Sect early would at least ease the minds of himself and Deng Yuxiang.

With the help of Evil Mirror Magic-Mirror Flower Moon, their journey speed was incredibly fast!

"Sect Leader!"

"Hm?" In the deep mountain forest, as Lu Ran just raised his hand, his movement slightly stiffened.

Yu Changsheng couldn't help but advise, "I know the Sect Leader is eager to complete the mission, but haste makes waste.

This realm is dangerous; if we continue quickly entering and exiting Mirror Flower Moon and moving long distances, problems may arise."

Lu Ran gazed at the distant mountain peaks, continuing his spell, "I'm aware, I carefully observe before opening the mirrors, rest assured."

As he spoke, another floor mirror quickly formed.

Yu Changsheng felt a bit helpless, looking toward Deng Yuxiang.

The woman understood, following Lu Ran into the mirror: "Let's slow down a bit."

Lu Ran: "..."

Deng Yuxiang gently pressed Lu Ran's shoulder, softly advising, "Cong Long is right, let's steady our pace."

After a moment of silence, Lu Ran still nodded.

Yu Changsheng watched this scene and couldn't help but smile wryly in his heart.

Indeed, it had to be Deng the Great Protector speaking to have an effect...

Luo Ying watched the pair closely, naturally realizing their relationship wasn't merely that of superior and subordinate.

"Having this Mirror Flower Moon technique, the world is vast, and nowhere is unreachable." Yu Changsheng looked at the distant sky, filled with emotion.

For him, reaching from the highland lake where he once stayed to the boundary of Holy Spirit Mountain and the easternmost sea took countless months.

But by Lu Ran's side, half a month was enough.

This was even as he focused on gathering Holy Spirit Energy, occasionally using Mirror Flower Moon.

Look at now!

Lu Ran was entirely focused on traveling, at his speed, it won't be long before they reach the northeastern edge of the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm.

"This is just the beginning." Lu Ran murmured, "Each time it's only a hundred kilometers."

Yu Changsheng: "..."

Do you know how long it takes for others to travel a hundred kilometers?

Lu Ran looked at the distant mountain summit, confirmed the safety, then cast the spell again: "Once Mirror Flower Moon reaches Sea Grade, it will greatly improve, allowing us to leap three thousand kilometers in one go."

Three thousand kilometers!

Such a teleportation distance is indeed far enough.

But it seems... still not enough to take everyone home.

Lu Ran stepped into the mirror, moving from one peak to the next.

He suddenly asked, "Above Sea Realm, is there another realm?"

Yu Changsheng confirmed: "Yes."

Lu Ran's heart stirred, asking, "What is it called?"

"I don't know, but there must be something!"

Lu Ran looked surprised, turning to Yu Changsheng: "Cong Long, are you so sure? Have you seen such a strong person?"

Yu Changsheng wore a solemn expression: "I once saw a person fly towards the sky and eventually disappear.

The distance between us was great; that person merely glanced at me, but I felt a pressure!

I believe that person is definitely one major realm above me!"

Lu Ran steadied his emotions and said: "So, that's why Cong Long mentioned before that the old man Cheng I'm looking for might be in the sky?"

Yu Changsheng nodded, taking the opportunity to advise: "There are always higher skies! The Sect Leader should still be cautious."

Lu Ran: "..."

He silently looked northward, at the towering peaks, choosing a preferred teleportation point.

Higher skies, above Sea Realm...

Enough, better not think about it.

After all, I'm just a little minion at Jiang Realm·Second Rank...

...

Chapter 462: kneel, or die?

At dusk, the setting sun was like blood.

At the peak of a snow-capped mountain, an earthly mirror suddenly opened, and several mysterious figures wearing bamboo hats and clad in raincoats emerged.

"Ice River!" Jing Hong reported immediately.

The weather today was exceptionally good, with no gale howling.

Under the sunset's glow, the entire snow-covered world appeared tranquil and beautiful.

Lu Ran stepped forward, gazing into the northern distance.

A wide, frozen river stretched across the mountain range.

Luo Ying, with her back to the sunset, looked east along the Ice River, her eyes narrowing: "Sect Leader, it's that peak! The tallest one!"

"Oh?" Lu Ran gazed afar, his line of sight gradually rising.

It was a majestic and magnificent snow mountain, its peak towering with an imposing aura of breaking through the nine heavens!

The base of the North Wind Sect was truly impressive.

It could rival the Sword Ridge Peak!

"Sect Leader!" Yu Changsheng timely spoke, "We'd better not rush in recklessly."

Lu Ran: "..."

No!

What kind of person do you think I am in your heart?

How foolish would I be to dare to drive the Ancient Bronze Mirror directly into their lair?

Yu Changsheng noticed Lu Ran's resentful look and smiled: "We are here to gather intelligence, so it's best to avoid conflict. Both the Sect Leader and Nightmare Guardian have the Night Charm Evil Technique, which we can leverage."

Deng Yuxiang gazed at the North Wind Sect's mountain peak: "Cong Long means we should impersonate North Wind Disciples?"

The North Wind Sect and the Night Charm Clan indeed had many similarities in their skills.

Such as the Flying Wind Order and the Night Charm Blade.

Both were in the form of Wind Blades.

Yu Changsheng nodded: "The North Wind Sect is full of strong and cold individuals; they might find it hard to communicate kindly with us as outsiders."

Lu Ran winked at Deng Yuxiang.

Spot on~

Strong and cold, eh?

Deng Yuxiang's face darkened, resisting the urge to kick Lu Ran.

No, I must hold back!

The Sect Members are watching from behind, and I can't let the Sect Master's reputation falter.

Yu Changsheng was well aware that Deng Yuxiang was a former North Wind Disciple.

Though she had become a "North Wind Outcast", Yu Changsheng's assessment of North Wind Disciples still applied to Deng Yuxiang.

Yu Changsheng paused, then added: "This is the North Wind's stronghold, with numerous and formidable adversaries, their conduct is bound to be tougher.

It may be even harder for them to engage us amiably."

Deng Yuxiang shot a covert glance at Lu Ran, then respectfully asked:

"Sect Leader, shall the two of us go to gather information while the others hide in the Snow Forest, ready to assist at any moment?"

Lu Ran: "..."

So fierce!

How would I dare say no?

The group quickly devised a plan, and Lu Ran activated the Transmission Realm, allowing everyone to step into the mountain forest.

"Don't move recklessly or use any Divine Technique to avoid any Divine Power fluctuations," Deng Yuxiang cautioned.

Out of caution for the North Wind Divine Skill-Wind Listening, the Ran Sect members hid far away.

The North Wind Sect's snow mountain stood on the northern side of the Ice River.

Lu Ran took Deng Yuxiang through the woods, heading northward, intending to boldly cross the Ice River since they planned to engage in identity deception.

However, before they set foot on the Ice River, Lu Ran sensed an ambush by the forest edge at the riverside!

"Whoosh~"

Lu Ran casually flicked his hand, and a Night Charm Blade shot out swiftly.

The blade lodged deep into the wood but did not pierce through the tree entirely.

Evidently, this wasn't an attack but a gesture of identifying oneself.

"North Wind Disciple?" From behind a tree emerged a tall and slender middle-aged man.

His face was rugged, his demeanor stern, dressed in a simple white martial outfit.

This was just too North Wind, wasn't it?

"Yes." Deng Yuxiang scrutinized the man beside the tree in the distance, "We were teleported by Lord Beifeng to the southern continent, and after overcoming numerous hardships, we finally arrived here."

The white-clad man remained expressionless outwardly but was inwardly surprised.

Unexpectedly, the woman was so young?

Both Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang had their faces partially obscured by bamboo hats.

The white-clad man observed closely for a moment before gesturing with his hand: "Since you are fellow junior disciples, follow me; let's discuss further within the camp."

Lu Ran grew wary.

Isn't this a bit too easy?

Did merely a Wind Blade suffice to confirm their identities?

Without even learning more about why and how they sought this place... hmm, the counterpart wanted a detailed conversation upon entering the camp.

This so-called "camp" might be easy to enter but difficult to leave.

Deng Yuxiang and Lu Ran exchanged thoughts silently: [This feels off.]

Lu Ran: [Just ask Yan Shuangzi about it.]

"This senior brother!" Deng Yuxiang called out loudly, "Have you heard of our sect's disciple, Yan Shuangzi?"

The expression of the white-clad man slightly changed.

The subtle change was caught by Lu Ran's keen eyes.

This man had maintained a constant expressionless face, even upon seeing Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang.

Why did his expression change upon hearing "Yan Shuangzi"?

White-clad man: "Who?"

"Yan Shuangzi." Deng Yuxiang began to describe, "She's about my height, the same age as me.

She wields a distinctive weapon, a long blade, about 2 meters in length."

The white-clad man pondered for a moment, then slowly shook his head: "There is no such person in Sword Ridge Peak."

Lu Ran's heart sank.

This person is obviously lying!

Then the white-clad man asked: "What is your relation to her? Why are you looking for her?"

Lu Ran interceded, saying: "Senior Sister Yan and both of us were part of the same group challenging the Divine Ruins. Among over ten of us, only she succeeded."

Now, the two of us have also been sent to Holy Spirit Mountain by Lord Beifeng, hoping to find her."

The white-clad man remained unfazed, listening quietly.

Lu Ran played the role to the hilt, displaying a look of helplessness and lament: "This world is too perilous, completely overturning our preconceived notions."

Finally, the white-clad man showed a slight emotion, a faint sneer.

A superior attitude like one who has experienced it before.

Coldly sneering at seeing young people suffer painful lessons.

Lu Ran continued with a sigh: "Senior Sister Yan has long arrived in this realm; if she hasn't perished, she must be extremely powerful!"

We are old acquaintances with some rapport, hoping to join her, striving for survival together.

Together we gather Holy Spirit Energy for Lord Beifeng!"

Especially the last sentence, Lu Ran spoke with a sense of righteousness.

The afterglow of the sunset fell on him, seemingly casting Holy Light...

Deng Yuxiang remained silent, feeling somewhat peculiar.

Lu Ran kept calling out "Lord Beifeng", "Divine Lord" repeatedly, fervently pledging loyalty, maintaining a tone of utmost reverence!

Yet back when Lu Ran made a scene in Beifeng City under the very eyes of Divine Beifeng...

He was wild beyond measure!

"It seems you two have endured much hardship," the white-clad man stated, "Indeed, Holy Spirit Mountain is fraught with dangers, but upon reaching Sword Ridge Peak, you needn't live in constant fear any longer.

Sword Ridge Peak will protect you, follow me."

Saying so, the white-clad man turned to continue on his way.

[We can't go.] Lu Ran commanded mentally, [Also, this guy is lying; he probably has heard of Yan Shuangzi.]

Deng Yuxiang frowned slightly but remained still: [Should we capture him for interrogation?]

"What?" The white-clad man turned back, seeing the both of them unmoving.

He sneered contemptuously: "Were you both educated harshly by Holy Spirit Mountain and now can't even trust your sect?"

Lu Ran, appearing tormented, ultimately said: "Since Senior Sister Yan is not here, we'll seek elsewhere."

White-clad man: "Having reached home, what reason is there to leave again?

You can settle at Sword Ridge Peak initially, perform tasks with fellow disciples, and together seek our sect's disciples."

"Bu Ming, you truly are weak, unable to even control two young juniors." Suddenly, a woman's voice chimed in.

Her tone carried a trace of mockery, undisguised: "How did you infiltrate our North Wind Sect?"

The man named Bu Ming immediately turned toward the voice, replying softly: "Junior Sister Kong seems idle."

Lu Ran also looked in that direction, seeing a short-haired woman float over, followed by two stern-looking men.

These North Wind disciples, judging by aura alone, seemed cut from the same mold.

[I sense four, what about you?] Deng Yuxiang listened closely.

[Just four, perhaps assigned to guard this area?] Lu Ran responded mentally, slowly turning to face the woman who had landed a few meters in front.

The four North Wind disciples formed a surrounding formation around Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang.

The short-haired woman wasn't very old, at most thirty.

Her eyes were particularly icy and full of arrogance, her terrifying aura pressing towards Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang.

She should be at a high level of the River Realm.

Lu Ran felt the oppressive force of higher levels.

Deng Yuxiang: [These ones are all in the River Realm, and this Kong and the Bu behind us are probably at the River Realm Peak.]

"Kneel." Kong Jingqi stood with hands behind her back, slightly raising her chin, coldly gazing at them.

Deng Yuxiang's face turned cold.

Lu Ran remained motionless.

"Can't you hear my command?" Kong Jingqi's voice became even colder, "I told you to kneel!"

Lu Ran spoke, "Since the person we're looking for isn't here, we will depart. As fellow disciples, serving Lord Beifeng, we ask you not to trouble us..."

Behind Lu Ran, Bu Ming remained expressionless, silently watching the scene unfold.

However, Bu Ming's quiet observation still made it challenging for Kong Jingqi to maintain her façade.

Previously mocking that Bu Ming couldn't control young juniors, now...

She couldn't seem to control them herself either?

Kong Jingqi forcefully interrupted Lu Ran's words, her eyes turning fierce, her mouth uttering three words:

"Kneel, or die."

second, 2 seconds, 3 seconds...

Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang remained unmoved.

"Seems Holy Spirit Mountain hasn't taught you how to behave yet!" Kong Jingqi sneered, casually summoning a Wind Blade, "Remember, you brought this upon yourselves!"

Deng Yuxiang's eyes grew cold, suddenly she spoke: "Did it teach you?"

Kong Jingqi paused, incredulous at Deng Yuxiang.

Such audacity! How dare she speak to me like that?!

Can't she read the situation?

Indeed, the young woman standing before her had considerable strength, likely at a high level in the River Realm.

But... does she truly think she's so strong?

She must want to die!!

[Push me.] Lu Ran telepathically signaled, stepping forward, loudly exclaiming, "No, don't don't don't!"

He blocked in front of Deng Yuxiang, turning to look at the short-haired woman a few meters behind them, his expression anxious, continuously pleading:

"Senior Sister! Senior Sister, please restrain your anger. We'll follow orders; we'll kneel right away..."

"If you want to kneel, you kneel, scram!" Deng Yuxiang shoved Lu Ran aside.

"You!" Lu Ran staggered, seemed to lose balance, but suddenly lunged forward!

Kong Jingqi's expression drastically changed!

Instinctively, she raised her weapon to block, her figure retreating rapidly.

The young man clad in green raincoat and bamboo hat no longer showed any signs of panic or pleading.

As his raincoat fluttered, a glimmer of red magically appeared!

Their eyes met briefly, causing the short-haired woman to grow both furious and aghast.

The raincoated man's eyes were icy cold, his gaze flickered with a demonic dark red.

Holy Spirit Mountain,

did indeed teach me a lot.

But...

Perhaps it didn't teach you well?

...

Chapter 463: Dirty Mountain

"Ahhh!!"

As a trace of red flashed through Lu Ran's eyes, the woman instantly screamed in agony.

Under the intense pain, her figure flying backward became twisted; her Water Flow Robe and the newly activated Divine Technique-Shattering Wind Armor both turned extremely unstable.

Lu Ran, darting forward at high speed, moved with seamless fluidity.

In his right hand, he wielded the Dawn Blade, delivering a vicious diagonal slash, while his left hand gripped the Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade, thrusting forward fiercely!

"Stop!"

"Halt!"

Several exclamations sounded alongside the tearing of the woman's robe.

In a life or death moment, Kong Jingqi exploded with a tremendous will to survive!

Enduring the extreme pain as if stabbed by a thousand needles, she couldn't care about anything else and desperately flung out a Tornado beneath her feet.

North Wind Divine Skill-Northern Wind Roar!

She attempted to use this method to halt the enemy's attack and disrupt his rhythm.

But Lu Ran...

His right hand cleaved with the Dawn Blade, breaking through the enemy's defense, while the left hand holding the Silent Night Blade thrust fiercely, suddenly releasing the hilt.

"Whiz!"

The Silent Night Blade, propelled forward, flew rapidly!

There was still a tear left on the woman's Water Flow Armor from the Dawn Blade.

The Silent Night Blade had a clear target, and under Lu Ran's aim, its thrust was extremely precise!

It followed the tear, plunging straight into Kong Jingqi's chest.

"Ssz!"

The blade pierced flesh.

Kong Jingqi, already in immense pain, felt a chill spread through her heart at this moment.

She stared with wide eyes, incredulous, at the young man standing in the snow.

The Tornado had yet to sweep through; the icy blade pierced through Kong Jingqi's heart, leaving her without the strength to maintain the Divine Technique.

"Ssz!"

The blade pierced into wood!

The Silent Night Blade, thrusting through the woman, nailed into a massive tree.

Bu Ming's breath hitched.

The faces of the other two North Wind believers changed dramatically!

Everything happened too quickly.

A moment ago, the cloaked young man was pushed away angrily by a female companion, told to get lost.

The next moment, Kong Jingqi was already penetrated into the tree, her armor ripped, her heart pierced by the cloaked young man!

To an outsider, the process seemed so simple.

Lu Ran merely took advantage of a sneak attack, relying on the power of a Divine Weapon—

But not so!

In places unknown to most, Lu Ran utilized his skills to an extreme!

In this world where hierarchical structures are rigid, even slaying someone one rank higher is challenging.

But Lu Ran, using his Evil Technique to the utmost!

The Evil Technique·Silk Pupil outputted mentally, causing his opponent's brain to suffer injuries, leaving her unstable both in form and armor.

The Evil Technique·Evil Agility granted Lu Ran rapid reactions and increased his speed drastically!

The Evil Technique·Soul Splitting Power amplified his strength, aided by the Divine Weapon—Dawn Blade, instantly tearing through the defense of a Jiang Realm·Fifth Rank expert.

The Evil Technique·Evil Recognition assisted the Silent Night Blade to aim its thrust accurately.

Fluid and seamless, all executed in one go!

Is Lu Ran just a sneaky little man profiting from a surprise attack?

Yes... he is.

But that's not all.

Lu Ran is far more insidious and ruthless than anyone imagines!

"You!" Kong Jingqi still stared wide-eyed.

Finally, she seemed to realize her life's end was near.

The noble and dignified demeanor entirely dissipated, replaced by endless terror.

Lu Ran looked at the woman; under the brim of his bamboo hat, his eyes were chilling cold.

The Holy Spirit Mountain indeed taught me a lot.

How's this tactic of 'internal strife before battle' for you?

"You damn bastard had enough of living!"

"Seeking death!" Two North Wind disciples exclaimed in shock and anger, soaring into the air while distancing themselves from Lu Ran, continuously casting spells.

In an instant, the storm and Wind Blades swept forth.

Bu Ming retreated as well, but did not cast spells.

More like... intending to retreat?

A Jiang Realm·Fifth Rank peak expert, facing a young opponent of inferior power realm, opts for retreating?

Considering Lu Ran killed his companion right at the foot of Sword Ridge Peak!

Bu Ming disregarded the companionship or Sword Ridge Peak's honor, even ignoring his own dignity, and attempted escape?

Astonishing indeed!

By comparison, the other two Jiang Realm·North Wind disciples reacted more logically.

Deng Yuxiang violently flung out a string of Night Charm Blades, and Lu Ran flickered away, activating a standing mirror behind a distant tree.

Bu Ming was startled in his heart!

Instant... Instant teleportation?

Bu Ming, having deep conflicts with Kong Jingqi, didn't share the bitter grief shown by the other two North Wind disciples.

Moreover, throbbing at his temples, Bu Ming harbored a constant feeling that there was something wrong with the cloaked couple!

A martial artist's intuition made Bu Ming abandon the dignity of a Jiang Realm power, opting for flight. He never anticipated that even with such keen insight, he still couldn't escape?

Just what kind of believer is the cloaked young man?

More importantly, where did he—hmm?

Bu Ming's retreating figure abruptly halted, realizing there was an energy fluctuation behind him.

Without hesitating, he spun around, throwing out a string of Wind Blades.

Yet, there was no one behind, only two rows of jagged teeth.

"Whoosh~Whoosh~Whoosh~"

For some reason, the sounds of breaking the void overlapped with each other.

Besides Bu Ming's flung Wind Blades, there were also Water Flow Arrows piercing through from the Snow Forest.

Ashar Divine Skill·Continuous Sky Bead!

"Stop! Fellow Daoists, let's talk this out!" Bu Ming shouted loudly, hurriedly throwing out Wind Blades.

He knew full well that there must be an auto-tracking effect accompanying the Water Flow Arrows.

Dodging, it was impossible.

To escape, he must destroy the arrows!

Bu Ming tried to negotiate here, but to no avail, the furious output of the North Wind disciple in the forest roared back:

"This is Sword Ridge Peak! Not a place for your misconduct, are you tired of living?"

Bu Ming: "..."

"Crack! Crack..."

At this moment, a series of shattering sounds came forth.

Wind Blades and Water Flow Arrows pierced at each other, like pointed needles meeting the whetstone.

But the very first Water Flow Arrow easily shattered an entire string of Wind Blades as if sweeping through bamboo!

Bu Ming's pupils constricted violently!

This... is this a Sea Grade arrow?

Bu Ming rapidly flung down a Tornado, then couldn't wait to turn and fly straight toward Sword Ridge Peak.

While shooting forward, he continued to toss out Tornadoes, attempting to disrupt the speed of the arrows.

Yet the Sea Grade Divine Skill·Continuous Sky Bead, with its arrows charging vehemently, pierced through the rapidly forming Tornadoes.

And in the next moment...

Two rows of jagged teeth appeared suddenly before Bu Ming's eyes.

"Crack!"

In the blink of an eye, Bu Ming desperately adjusted his direction, flying toward the right front.

But before him, a figure flickered.

Green cloak and bamboo hat, with eyes chillingly cold.

"Gulp." Bu Ming swallowed his saliva.

By this moment, he couldn't be bothered to ponder why the cloaked young man had so many skills.

Not simply because the situation was urgent, but also because as his vision blurred, he was drawn into a deep red world.

"I... Ah!!"

Bu Ming cried out in pain.

All his limbs felt stabbed by countless needles, and truly fatal was the Water Flow Arrow striking from behind at the same time.

"Crack! Crack..."

The force of the Water Flow Arrow was so strong, penetrating Bu Ming's back and propelling him forward, bending his whole body like a bow.

And directly before Bu Ming, Lu Ran quietly flickered away.

"Ah... Ah!!" The piercing scream abruptly ceased.

"Ssz—"

Deng Yuxiang's gaze turned sharp, the mist swirling at her feet.

She wielded the broken blade, killing her way in, staring at the North Wind disciple chased by arrows into a hasty flight, dragging a long sword trace with her blade.

Nearby, Jing Hong was shocked, staring at a corpse riddled with a thousand holes.

This North Wind disciple's eyes were bulging, crimson blood soaking the pristine snow forest.

Yu Changsheng gently waved a paper fan, admiring the Ran Sect Divine General—Luo Ying.

Finally!

Finally, I can return to auxiliary healing.

Luo Ying slightly raised her head, on the battlefield, she displayed no gentleness whatsoever.

Even though the sunset's glow painted a warm hue on her figure, her eyes filled with murderous intent still sent a chill down Jing Hong's spine.

In this filthy Holy Spirit Mountain, from the moment Luo Ying became a mother...

Her progression and climb in cultivation only accelerated.

Her heart turned more resolute.

Her arrows, sharper.

"Is it secure?" Lu Ran hurried over, clutching a fog of black mist in his hand.

Strangely, a man's face appeared on the black mist.

Soul-splitting Evil Technique·Soul Prison!

Deng Yuxiang naturally knew what Lu Ran referred to; she glanced at the distant corpse full of holes: "Still missing one!"

Lu Ran opened his eyes, resembling slits, and dashed over.

Absorbing the Dead Soul as he went, summoning the Ancient Bronze Mirror: "Everyone, retreat!"

"Someone from the mountain is coming!" Luo Ying suddenly warned, drawing her bow and notching an arrow.

Across the river, on the towering Sword Ridge Peak.

Several men and women were flying at great speed.

Leading them was a white-haired elder, his aura overwhelming!

Clearly not one to be trifled with!

"Ignore it for now, we're leaving!" Lu Ran ordered as a giant Wind Blade quickly materialized in the high sky above.

North Wind Sect Jiang Realm's great move- Northern Wind Divine Blade!

The Jiang Grade Divine Blade, extending about a hundred meters in length.

Faced with this, the Divine Blade suspended above everyone's heads fearfully spanned a thousand meters!

No doubt, it's a Sea Grade Divine Skill!

"Quickly, quickly!" Lu Ran urged everyone into the mirror, finally grabbing the rear Yu Changsheng and pulling him in.

The next moment, everyone appeared a hundred kilometers away in another snow forest.

"Ha..." Lu Ran exhaled a long breath.

He certainly had confidence, but he wasn't so arrogant as to directly challenge a sect's headquarters.

That'd be tantamount to seeking death, wouldn't it?

Lu Ran, feeling still unstable, repeatedly employed the Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon, leading everyone all the way south, hiding in a valley bottom hundreds of kilometers away.

Throughout the transition, he continuously clutched a ball of black mist.

"Speak! Is Yan Shuangzi on Sword Ridge Peak?" Lu Ran finally halted his fleeing steps, eyeing the face on the mist.

Bu Ming's expression turned grim, remaining silent.

Lu Ran's hand surged with energy.

Soul-splitting Evil Technique·Soul Fire!

Bu Ming's face twisted instantly, yet in just a few seconds, the seemingly tough guy gasped in agony: "Ah! Ahhhh..."

Lu Ran flipped his left hand, conjuring another black mist ball: "Nightmare, give me one more."

Deng Yuxiang promptly extended her palm forward, her wrist's Rebirth Money trembled slightly.

No one else saw anything until another woman's face emerged on the black mist ball...

Kong Jingqi shrieked: "You! You two... Ah! Ahhhh!"

Even someone as strong as Luo Ying, witnessing this scene, couldn't help but shiver inside.

She looked at the souls in the Soul Prison enduring extreme agony, then lifted her gaze toward the Sect Leader.

"Speak!" Lu Ran eyed the black mist ball imprisoning Bu Ming, retracting the Soul Fire.

Bu Ming: "She's there! Don't burn anymore, Yan Shuangzi is on Sword Ridge Peak! Please stop burning!"

Kong Jingqi continued screaming: "I'll tell you! You seek Yan, Yan Shuang, Zi, she's there ahhh..."

Lu Ran withdrew the Soul Fire on both sides, his eyes chilling cold, staring at Bu Ming: "When I asked before, why did you lie?

Mentioning the name Yan Shuangzi, why do you change your expression?"

Against expectations, Bu Ming fell silent again!

It was hard to imagine that under such severe torture, Bu Ming still withheld his full confession?

What exactly is he hiding...

Lu Ran hadn't yet pressed further, but Kong Jingqi urgently cried out: "He's too ashamed to say! Too ashamed to say!"

Yan Shuangzi's eyes were gouged out! She's been imprisoned, tortured, defiled by them..."

"You!" Deng Yuxiang, maintaining vigilance nearby, suddenly turned and strode over.

Her face turned pallid, lips trembling: "You... what did you just say?!"

...

Chapter 464: Save someone!

At the bottom of the snowy mountain valley, inside a newly carved small cave.

At the entrance of the cave, Jing Hong stands guard tremblingly. Compared to the potential enemies outside the cave, the people inside make Jing Hong even more fearful.

Especially Deng Yuxiang, who is leaning against the wall.

She is terrifyingly silent, like a beast that might erupt in fury at any moment.

"Sect Leader..." Yu Changsheng spoke softly, breaking the death-like stillness.

As if giving Jing Hong a way out, a chance to catch her breath.

"Hmm." Deep inside the cave, Lu Ran sat leaning against the stone wall, holding two clusters of dark mist in his hands.

Within the Soul Prison were the faces of Bu Ming and Kong Jingqi.

The two lowered their eyes, quiet and cautious, not daring to make any sounds for fear of provoking Ran Sect members again.

Kong Jingqi answered truthfully about all that Yan Shuangzi encountered at Sword Ridge Peak.

And those words made everyone indignant and furious!

Kong Jingqi said...

"Yan Shuangzi spread heresy, disrupting the army's morale, claiming that Holy Spirit Mountain was a slaughterhouse for the Human Clan."

"She said that the powerful Human Clan was continuously being thrown into Holy Spirit Mountain, not to collect Holy Spirit Energy, but because the gods wanted people to kill each other and die!"

"Yan Shuangzi dared to question Lord Beifeng..."

"She said if this continues, the Human Clan will have no day to see the light."

"She thinks she's smart and noble! Everyone else is drunk while she alone is sober!"

"She couldn't reason with people and tried to find the Peak Master, but Elder Xing stopped her, punished her to kneel for three days, and then to three months of slavery..."

"Yan Shuangzi was discontent and secretly tried to persuade a fellow disciple to leave Sword Ridge Peak with her but was reported by that person, thoroughly angering Elder Xing."

"She was captured during her escape and was brought back, made to kneel outside the Divine Temple, and punished in public!"

"Elder Xing didn't execute Yan Shuangzi but imprisoned her, continuously punishing her, showing all the disciples of Sword Ridge Peak the fate of betraying the gods and the sect, and inciting colleagues..."

Kong Jingqi's words pierced Deng Yuxiang's heart like knives.

It hurt.

It suffocated Deng Yuxiang even more.

Wasn't what Yan Shuangzi said... correct?

Who is truly blind?

The world has worshiped the gods for too long. The higher their realm, the deeper their faith, completely brainwashed.

Or perhaps, some are not blind.

They just intentionally covered their eyes and ears.

"Sect Leader." Yu Changsheng approached Lu Ran, looking down at him, "Sword Ridge Peak is the base camp of the North Wind Sect.

The two captives also said there are seventeen Sea Realm experts residing in the peak!

That Peak Master, who has been in seclusion, has unfathomable strength. Even the North Wind disciples don't know his realm. What if he is...

In any case, we must not confront them head-on!"

Beifeng is a Second-class God, and the North Wind Sect is a solid major sect. The disciples under it are extraordinarily gifted, and their success rate is naturally higher.

In front of such a large sect like Sword Ridge Peak, an organization like Tiantu Mountain is simply a joke.

"Hmm." Lu Ran played with the dark mist, his face expressionless.

Yu Changsheng advised, "We must rescue her! But we must act with caution."

Yu Changsheng spoke softly and earnestly, knowing very well that Lu Ran's potential was limitless, but feared premature death.

Lu Ran asked, "What clever plan does Mr. Cong Long have?"

Yu Changsheng turned his head, looking at Luo Ying, who was silently polishing the Divine Bow alone.

The Divine General Luo!

She is also a disciple of a Second-class God, frighteningly powerful at the Sea Realm · Fourth Rank, with explosive output capability.

Luo Ying alone cannot withstand many Sea Realm experts.

And Ash's sect doesn't have battlefield, escape movement skills, or the like.

Yet the North Wind disciples are extremely fast; if Luo Ying is not cautious, she could truly be surrounded and die a tragic death.

But Ran Sect has Lu Ran!

He has the Mirror Flower Moon at his disposal—it has great versatility!

"Sect Leader, why don't we..." Yu Changsheng and Lu Ran meticulously planned together.

After a while, Lu Ran's face darkened: "We'll do as Mr. Cong Long said."

Then, Lu Ran added, "I can also cast the River Realm Technique of the Mo Li Sect, Mo Cai Xie Li."

Evil Technique · Mo Cai Xie Li: The caster can summon a giant Mo Li to roam the skies. The big fish will release countless small Mo Li within, disrupting all minds.

The giant Mo Li will also continuously release "pop" sounds, delivering mental shocks to all creatures.

Unfortunately, Lu Ran is only at the River Realm, so he can only cast River Grade techniques.

The Evil Sculpture · Mo Li in the Sculpture Garden is already at the Sea Realm. If Lu Ran were also at the Sea Realm, it would be perfect.

Charge and kill those dogs at Sword Ridge Peak!

Yu Changsheng immediately nodded: "Good, the North Wind Sect has no Spirit Defense Techniques; Mo Cai Xie Li is sure to bring significant trouble to Sword Ridge Peak!"

The River Grade · Mo Cai Xie Li is hard to confuse the minds of Sea Realm experts and affect their combat capabilities.

But it can absolutely create chaos!

This is beneficial for Lu Ran to carry out the rescue.

"Sect Leader, at dusk today, we just killed four North Wind disciples, so Sword Ridge Peak must be on alert now. How about we..." Yu Changsheng's voice trailed off as Lu Ran shook his head.

Lu Ran declared directly: "We will act tonight!"

Who cares if they're on alert!

Ran Sect's current strength indeed cannot contend with Sword Ridge Peak.

Each Sea Realm Great Power is like a cloud hanging over Lu Ran's head.

The ever-reclusive Peak Master of Sword Ridge Peak, with his unfathomable strength, is even more like a sharp sword hanging over everyone's heads.

Lu Ran is indeed worried.

But he fears that delay might lead to the Peak Master coming out of seclusion.

Lu Ran's face remained stern.

We must rescue her!

Sooner rather than later!

Yu Changsheng hesitated for a long time but eventually said nothing more.

Now that Lu Ran knows Yan Shuangzi has been suffering, he indeed can't wait any longer.

"Everyone." Lu Ran's gaze swept over the crowd, "Come."

Even Jing Hong, who was on guard at the cave entrance, quickly approached at Lu Ran's signaling.

Lu Ran nodded slightly towards Yu Changsheng: "Sir."

Yu Changsheng immediately spoke, arranging everyone: "For this rescue mission, Jing Hong will take the initiative."

Jing Hong immediately nodded: "Yes!"

The members of Ran Sect are stronger one by one. In terms of pure combat strength, Jing Hong ranks at the bottom.

But as a War Horn Believer, Jing Hong is extremely functional!

Among the six skills of the War Horn Sect, five involve playing the horn.

There's the Charging Horn to increase battle intent; the Echo Horn for terrain scouting.

The Calming Horn to soothe minds; the Shocking Heart Horn to instill fear and retreat.

And the Thunderclap Horn, which causes dizziness and confusion!

Only the Divine Technique · War Horn Will is a Spirit Defense Technique, protecting the caster from any mental harm.

Lu Ran looked at Jing Hong, speaking in a deep voice: "Isn't the North Wind Sect known for their sharp ears?

I will place the bronze mirror directly at the peak. You blow the Thunderclap Horn and blow out their eardrums for me!"

Jing Hong lowered her head respectfully: "Yes!"

Given the special abilities of the North Wind Sect, Lu Ran wants to sneak into the mountain—it's as difficult as climbing to the sky.

Yu Changsheng planned a strategy of sowing confusion.

Based on the intel from the captives, the Peak Master's secluded region is not on the mountain but within the mountain, in the mid-to-lower area, isolated from the outside world.

Therefore, Lu Ran and Yu Changsheng dared to let Jing Hong cast like this.

Once the people on Sword Ridge Peak start moving, Lu Ran can act freely.

Yu Changsheng timely added: "The Sect Leader will join you, casting Mo Cai Xie Li; you have the War Horn Will, so no need to worry."

Then, he looked at Luo Ying: "We need your arrows to help us retreat properly."

Luo Ying nodded slightly.

Luo Ying had some feelings about Yan Shuangzi's experience.

But not too many.

Having stayed in this world too long, Luo Ying has witnessed many tragic stories.

She has become numb.

If not for having something to hold onto, two children to raise...

Luo Ying believes she would have long lost herself and become a walking corpse.

Now, she only wishes to serve the master loyally, hoping one day the Sect Leader will fulfill his promise to grant her children the qualification to cultivate Divine Power and endow them with life-saving Divine Techniques.

Yu Changsheng looked at Luo Ying, continuing: "Prepare in advance, once the Sect Leader returns with Yan Shuangzi, he will activate Mirror Flower Moon again."

We need your arrows to wound the enemy, delay their counterattack and search, and mislead them in the wrong direction."

Luo Ying looked towards Lu Ran, seeking instruction: "Does the Sect Leader need the Canglong Divine Arrow or the Ten Thousand Dragons Subdue Sea Arrow?"

The River Realm Technique · Canglong Divine Arrow is a massive Water Flow Arrow.

The arrow shaft is entwined with two Canglongs, adding speed and impact force to the giant water arrow, its destructive power astonishing!

As a Second-class God disciple, Luo Ying is naturally superior.

She also has the Sea Realm Technique · Ten Thousand Dragons Subdue Sea Arrow.

This method is even more terrifying; she can truly shoot a giant Canglong!

The gigantic dragon, during its flight, will break into countless small Canglongs, roaring and assaulting the enemy, akin to a "volley of ten thousand arrows."

Lu Ran, contemplating Luo General's capabilities, couldn't help but have his emotions surge.

People often say, Human Clan Great Powers can destroy the heavens and the earth.

This is indeed true.

The vast Yangyang Sea, especially strong god disciples like Luo Ying, cannot be too many in the Human World.

If there were several Luo Generals, jointly guarding Da Xia...

Every full moon night, how could the Evil Demon minions cause "tons of" panic to the Human Clan?

What would the Evil Demons eat?

If the crisis level isn't enough, how could All Gods gain a batch of devout, death-defying Believers?

It seems, being thrown into Holy Spirit Mountain to fend for oneself is the ultimate fate for people like Luo Ying.

Here, she won't disrupt the balance and framework of the Human World.

The great play between gods and demons can go on forever.

Lu Ran pressed down his heavy thoughts, looked at his subordinate Divine General, and spoke in a deep voice: "Can I have both?"

Luo Ying bowed her head: "As you command!"

...

In the deep of the night, the sky full of stars.

The rolling snow-capped mountains lay silent.

The people of Ran Sect hurriedly moved, as one bronze mirror after another opened on the ground, silently heading north.

"Here it is!" Lu Ran suddenly spoke.

At the top of a snowy mountain peak, Lu Ran utilized his Extreme Eye Power, staring tens of kilometers away at Sword Ridge Peak, his gaze growing colder.

"Whew~"

Lu Ran summoned three Ancient Bronze Mirrors.

He gazed at the starry sky, the Sword Ridge Peak piercing the night sky: "Prepare."

Jing Hong had already summoned an illusory beast fang horn. She stepped forward, arriving before an oval-shaped bronze mirror floating mid-air.

Yu Changsheng also stepped forward, standing before another Ancient Bronze Mirror, ready to release the Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat, to divert the enemy's attention and create more chaos.

"3...2...1!"

Energy surged in Lu Ran's palm, and the three oval-shaped Ancient Bronze Mirrors transformed into floor mirrors in succession.

At the peak of Sword Ridge, between the cracks in the stones, a floor mirror suddenly opened.

Jing Hong immediately leaned forward!

She protruded the upper half of her body from the mirror, clutching the horn close to her mouth, and blew mightily:

"Crack! Crackle!!"

The sound of the horn should have been melodious or deep, but blown by Jing Hong, it resembled thunder and lightning!

War Horn Divine Technique · Thunderclap Horn!

The silent night was utterly shattered.

The thunderous sound was deafening!

It battered the brains and eardrums of everyone on Sword Ridge Peak, and it also heralded the call to arms!

Ran Sect has come to rescue.

...

Chapter 465: The person who'll kill you,

"Hiss! It hurts..."

"Wha...what's that sound?"

"Who? Who is...an enemy attack?"

"Damn it! How dare you sneak attack Knife Ridge Peak, courting death?!"

Amidst the terrifying thunderclaps, curses erupted from various residences on Knife Ridge Peak.

Some even turned pale then flushed, only feeling their heads about to split.

Lu Ran reached into the mirror with one hand, desperately channeling Divine Power.

He dared not thrust his upper body into it.

For Lu Ran, as long as his head remained outside the mirror, the sound from Thunderclap Horn seemed to come from mountain peaks dozens of kilometers away.

"Pop~"

A huge pitch-black Mo Carp began to piece itself together from the head as it flew towards the peak of Knife Ridge Peak.

As the enormous Mo Carp flew, countless small Mo Carps surged from within.

Mo Li Evil Technique·Ink Color Evil Carp!

"Bastard...ugh!"

"Mo Carp! The Mo Carp Clan!"

"Shut down Divine Technique·Wind Listening! All disciples heed the order, immediately shut...hiss..."

Many North Wind Disciples staggered out of their residences, furious and eager to locate the enemy.

But the moment they stepped outside, their faces changed drastically, like they had seen ghosts!

In the night sky, a massive 'black cloud' drifted over!

Moreover, around the black cloud, countless small black dots scattered chaotically.

It blotted out the sky, densely packed!

The Ink Color Evil Carp, a Jiang Grade, was a staggering 300 meters in size!

The night in Holy Spirit Mountain Realm still had some light, as after all, the sky was filled with stars.

Yet under the invasion of the Ink Color Evil Carp, the snowy peak's night sky was to be shrouded by the black cloud!

"Pop~"

The enormous Mo Carp opened and closed its fish mouth, emitting a peculiar, highly penetrating sound!

Even amidst the deafening thunder, everyone could still hear the 'pop pop' sound.

"Ahhh!"

"Blades...slice quickly...hurry!" Amidst the cries, a gale erupted, and in the high sky, numerous North Wind Divine Blades converged.

Similarly, many North Wind Disciples had muddled minds, contorted expressions, trembling in pain.

Wretched wails sounded incessantly.

The sound of thunder, the fish's 'cry'.

The two sounds mixed together, crazily bombarding the North Wind Sect on Knife Ridge Peak.

In the mountain, in front of a courtyard.

A North Wind Disciple descended from the sky, crashing to the ground, crawling with difficulty:
"Elder...Elder Xing! Enemy attack!"

In front of the house stood a tall, thin old man, his white hair disheveled.

As a Great Power of the Sea Realm, Elder Xing, relying on his absolute mental strength, barely suppressed the mental shock of the two skills.

Yet his complexion still looked awful!

"The enemy appeared out of thin air...ugh." The disciple's voice stopped abruptly.

The pitch-black night suddenly lit up.

On the western side of Knife Ridge Peak, another giant fish flew out from an unknown origin.

The fish was luxurious and exquisite, emitting a faint golden glow all over, dazzling.

Dragon Carp Divine Technique·Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat!

Lu Ran's Jiang Grade Evil Technique produced a black fish 300 meters, while Yu Changsheng released a Sea Grade Divine Skill, creating a golden fish 800 meters.

Truly covering the sky and blocking out the sun!

Elder Xing whipped his head around furiously, his cloudy eyes wide open!

First came the thunder, then the Mo Li Evil Technique, and now, the Dragon Carp Sect's Divine Technique?

Undoubtedly, this was a premeditated ambush.

How did they suddenly appear near the peak?

Moreover, the Dragon Carp Sect and the Mo Li Clan are sworn enemies!

Could it be that some from the Human Clan fell into the demonic path, became Mo Li believers, and ended up in the same team with Dragon Carp believers?

Why would such a team attack Knife Ridge Peak?

Are they tired of living?!

Elder Xing's eyes turned icy. Despite his thoughts, his actions were swift.

He raised his aged palm high, and in the night sky, a thousand-meter-long gigantic sword rapidly took shape.

Sea Grade·North Wind Divine Blade!

"Go organize the manpower, find the enemy for me, and kill without mercy!" Elder Xing's voice roared, his raised palm slashing down fiercely.

The terrifying giant blade rapidly chopped down, directly cleaving at the enormous Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat.

Simultaneously, the sound of thunder quietly vanished.

Dozens of kilometers away, at the peak of a snowy mountain, Yu Changsheng withdrew his hand from the mirror, and Jing Hong also retracted his upper body.

The three Ancient Bronze Mirrors all vanished.

In front of Lu Ran, another Ancient Bronze Mirror transformed into a standing mirror, into which he stepped alone.

The next moment, a figure in green cloaks quietly appeared on the eastern mountainside of Knife Ridge Peak.

Why did both the Ink Color Evil Carp and the Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat come from the west?

Because the cave imprisoning Yan Shuangzi is on the east side of Knife Ridge Peak!

Lu Ran had everything within grasp, and before setting off, he had interrogated the four Dead Souls in batches, extracting substantial information.

After ensuring foolproofness, he embarked on his mission.

Moreover, to ensure the success of this rescue, Lu Ran even entrusted Deng Yuxiang to safeguard the Dawn Blade, Silent Night Blade, and Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd.

There's also someone wielding a Divine Weapon inside Knife Ridge Peak!

Lu Ran could teleport or fly, and even if there were disturbances while searching, this chaotic peak top was enough to help cover his tracks.

Yet if he appeared with three Divine Weapon Artifacts at once, it might catch someone's attention as unusual!

"Hoo~" Lu Ran stood on a layer of wind and wave under his feet, levitating.

He quickly looked upward, then his figure flickered.

This mountain, quite majestic.

Besides the highest pointed peak in the middle, there were four other peak tops in east, west, south, and north.

Lu Ran flickered again, heading straight for East Peak.

The terrain here was quite complex, with multiple pointed summits surrounding the peak of East Peak.

According to the information provided by the captives, Lu Ran targeted the western side of the main peak, focusing on the depression between the second and third pointed peaks.

"Swoosh!" Lu Ran flickered again, disappearing into it.

He was caught between two peaks, plummeting downwards.

Maxing out Evil Sense!

Lu Ran observed as he fell.

He was well aware that the cave imprisoning Yan Shuangzi wasn't at the bottom, but in the middle.

There were absolutely no paths here, naturally no guidance, only a group of flying North Wind disciples could freely come and go.

Yan Shuangzi was coerced by Elder Xing to tear up the contract with the deity.

"How dare you question the divine lord," "Traitor! Not worthy as a North Wind believer"...

Yan Shuangzi lost her Divine Technique, couldn't fly anymore, and in such a position, it was utterly inaccessible!

Suddenly, Lu Ran's eyes narrowed!

Falling rapidly, he finally saw a cave entrance on the mountainside.

"Who's there? What's happening at the peak?" Suddenly a woman's voice called out, loudly asking.

At the pitch-black mountain wall cave entrance, the silhouette of a white-clothed woman appeared.

Lu Ran's heart surged with killing intent!

Was it this short-haired woman torturing Yan Shuangzi repeatedly?

Knife Ridge Peak people were sincere in dealing with traitors!

The information given by the captives was accurate, and this prison had a dedicated guard.

First, to prevent Yan Shuangzi from committing suicide, second, to keep her alive and constantly punished, reminding North Wind disciples not to stray from devotion to the divine lord.

"Who? Speak!" The woman shouted sternly, "Or don't blame me for being rude!"

"Me!" Lu Ran yelled deeply.

The woman in white was momentarily stunned: "Who are you..."

Before she finished speaking, the white-clothed woman's expression changed, realizing an energy fluctuation behind her.

She turned sharply, in the instant she flew out of the cave entrance, a Wind Blade was already in her hand.

"Ahhh!!"

The white-clothed woman suddenly screamed miserably, the piercing scream echoing through the mountains.

For in the pitch-dark environment, Lu Ran's eyes glowed a deep red, so captivating!

The woman instinctively looked over, hence fell into a deep red world.

"Buzz!"

Lu Ran gripped Eight Desolate Annihilation in his left hand, Cloud Sea Purity in his right, slashing both blades forward fiercely, his body flickering along!

Ran Sect Blade Technique Third Form·Shuo Star!

Who am I?

I'm the one here to kill you!

"Swoosh!"

A flash of blade light!

A black cloud rose beneath Lu Ran's feet, and the dual blades pierced straight into the white-clothed woman's heart, driving into the cave.

"Swoosh—"

The moment Lu Ran's feet touched the ground, the Immortal Fog churned beneath his feet!

Piercing the woman, he suddenly darted into the cave, energy boiling within, fully activating the Soul Splitting Power.

Several black lines rushed into the woman's body along the blade's tip.

Evil Spear Emperor Evil Technique·Evil Cloud Entanglement!

These black mists could penetrate the Water Flow Armor, infiltrating the target's body, disrupting their Divine Power flow, obstructing their spell casting!

"Crack! Crack..."

The sound of Shattering Wind Armor breaking, Water Flow Armor shattering, the blade sinking into flesh, all transmitted simultaneously.

Lu Ran's eyes gleamed with killing intent!

After piercing the woman's heart, he drew the dual blades fiercely to both sides.

Blood splattered!

Sprayed all over Lu Ran's face!

The prison guard was sliced open from the chest, the body split into two and fell to the ground.

Lu Ran's gaze swept over the cave interior, seeing a woman curled up on the ground deep inside.

A woman as thin as a skeleton.

The icy wind howled, gusting into the cave through the entrance.

The woman was only clad in tattered clothes, looking like she had frozen to death, completely motionless.

"Yan Shuangzi?" Lu Ran flickered, sheathing his blades.

He reached out to her solitary arm, gripping her wrist.

The pulse was there!

She wasn't dead.

But she seemed...as if she already was.

Even with such a commotion from Lu Ran's kill of the North Wind Disciple in the cave, Yan Shuangzi had no reaction.

Watching her unmoving, deathly grey face, Lu Ran's heart trembled!

Recalling last year's first month, Yan Shuangzi was still so radiant, her beautiful eyes full of pride.

Now, she was left with only two sunken eye sockets.

She once shattered the door of the Divine Ruins amidst the cheers and applause of countless people.

Lu Ran was also one of the audience.

He, alongside Si Xianxian, witnessed how such an Unrivaled Charm female warrior transformed into a legend.

Yet he hadn't expected, no one had expected, that behind that sacred and grand door was such a world!

What Yan Shuangzi risked everything for, what she opened with her own hands, turned out to be such a fate.

"Hoo~"

An Ancient Bronze Mirror emerged swiftly, becoming a standing mirror.

Lu Ran cautiously picked up the cold body, striding into the mirror.

"Luo Ying!" As Lu Ran stepped onto the summit of the snowy mountain.

"Here!"

"Kill for me!"

...

Chapter 466: Today, it is not suitable to break through!

"Shuang, Shuangzi?"

Deng Yuxiang hurried forward, trembling as he stretched out his hands to take the emaciated woman from Lu Ran's arms.

When he touched her cold body, Deng Yuxiang felt as if an invisible hand had gripped his heart tightly.

Painful, suffocating.

Deng Yuxiang lacked night vision, so he could only vaguely make out the woman in his arms under the starlit sky.

Yan Shuangzi was unreasonably thin.

Her body was so cold, much like a stiff corpse.

Throughout, Yan Shuangzi showed no reaction, only her faint breathing assuring Deng Yuxiang that his friend was still alive.

Her life was hanging by a thread.

"Pop~" Suddenly, a mystical sound was heard.

Mo Li Evil Technique: Resurrection Carp!

A small black fish was released from Lu Ran's hand and plunged into Deng Yuxiang's arms.

The moment it touched Yan Shuangzi, it shattered into pure energy and merged into her body.

It wasn't that Yu Changsheng wouldn't help, but that his Divine Technique: Longevity Carp was too dazzling in the darkness of the night.

"Shuangzi..."

Deng Yuxiang murmured, lowering his head against the woman's chilly forehead, holding her tightly.

Lu Ran said solemnly, "Are you ready?"

Luo Ying was already in position to draw the bow and arrow: "Ready, Ten Thousand Dragons Quelling the Sea Arrow!"

"Good!" Lu Ran immediately summoned an Ancient Bronze Mirror.

His eyes were cold as he gazed far into the distance at the towering Sword Ridge Peak, and the Ancient Bronze Mirror beside him immediately transformed into a floor mirror.

Luo Ying leaned forward, entered into the mirror.

At the same time, several kilometers high in the sky on the west side of Sword Ridge Peak.

A floor mirror hung in the air, revealing the upper half of a woman in a green raincoat and bamboo hat.

The bow was drawn like a moon, the arrow like a Canghai Dragon!

"Twang!"

This was the sound of the woman releasing her fingers from the sinew string, the bowstring vibrating.

"Hiss!"

This was the roar of the Canghai Dragon, its sound echoing through heaven and earth!

What was clearly a water arrow on the bowstring, upon release, transformed into a massive dragon head composed of water.

The Canghai Dragon bared its claws and fangs, its aura overwhelming!

As it lunged forward, the body behind the dragon head rapidly formed.

The scene was truly magical!

Small humans, from a small wooden bow, shot a massive Canghai Giant Dragon!

Sea Grade: Ten Thousand Dragons Quelling the Sea Arrow!

Amidst the skies on the west side of Sword Ridge Peak, there were many North Wind disciples searching for the enemy.

Previously, Lu Ran had activated the Transmission Mirror there, allowing Yu Changsheng to release the Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat.

The brilliant golden fish illuminated the dark night, attracting a large number of North Wind disciples to search for the enemy.

The North Wind disciples searched through heaven and earth, determined to find the enemies.

The elder said: Live to see the person, dead to see the corpse!

Indeed... to see bodies.

The bodies of their companions, their own bodies!

"Hiss..."

The sound of a dragon's roar pierced the night sky, shaking the heavens.

"That... is that?" A North Wind disciple turned pale, looking towards the further west.

Overwhelming pressure descended from the dark sky.

"Gulp." Another female North Wind disciple swallowed her saliva.

The imposing dragon roar filled her with fear, an intense danger permeating the heavens and earth.

"Not good! Ash believers! Run!"

"Dragon, Dragon Arrow...."

"Retreat! This is a Sea Grade Technique, retreat! Quickly retreat!"

"Everyone use North Wind Roar, stop it for me!"

The sky was in chaos.

At Sword Ridge Peak, Elder Xing, who was stationed on the main peak, was both shocked and angry!

He raised his old hand, his shout echoing through the night sky: "Spread out! Wind!"

Following his command, a terrifying tornado sprung up in the western sky.

The North Wind disciples scattered to save themselves, simultaneously following the elder's order to cast spells towards the direction of the attacking Canghai Dragon.

A tornado appeared out of nowhere, attempting to intercept the Canghai Dragon.

"Bam!!"

The Canghai Giant Dragon shattered with a deafening crash, scattering countless little Canghai Dragons.

They roamed wildly, crazily charging!

They pierced through the tornados, lunging directly at the enemies.

"Help, hel..."

"Aaaaah!"

"Hurry, faster..."

Elder Xing's face was ashen, gritting his back teeth, continuously casting spells.

The storms he summoned were large and fast enough to halt the charge of the little Canghai Dragons.

But the tornadoes from other River Realm and River Bound disciples were not powerful enough to stop the little Canghai Dragons.

"Hoo!!"

On the western peak of Sword Ridge Peak, a mind-boggling energy suddenly surged.

A middle-aged woman stood at the peak, her gaze icy, her long black hair reaching her ankles!

She faced west, expressionless, slowly raising her hand.

"Whizz~ Whizz~ Whizz!"

"Whizz~ Whizz~ Whizz!"

In an instant, endless Wind Blades appeared before the woman, shooting towards the west.

Covered the sky, densely packed!

North Wind Sect's Sea Realm Technique: North Wind Myriad Blades!

The noble disciples of the Second-class God naturally possessed Sea Realm Techniques.

Elder Xing didn't use it because he was sitting at the main peak, where, once activated, everything along the way would be destroyed.

Yet, at the forefront of the battlefield, the west peak female elder decisively activated this technique.

Thousands of Canghai Dragons VS thousands of Wind Blades!

True immortal battle of spells!

With the current strength of Ran Sect, wanting to annihilate Sword Ridge Peak was clearly out of reach.

Sword Ridge Peak had 17 Sea Realm Great Powers!

Any one of them could easily deflect Ran Sect's great attack technique.

However...

Those North Wind disciples who hadn't managed to escape the battlefield were trapped with no escape, facing certain death!

Dragon in front, blade from behind!

And occasionally, the tumultuous tornadoes that caused the sky to be chaotic.

What do you rely on to survive?

The skill of Sound Positioning?

Who needs Sound Positioning? Sound is everywhere, killing moves are everywhere!

"Ah! Ah..."

"Hiss... Help, save me!"

"Whimper... I don't want to die, not yet... uh!"

Cries, screams, and sobbing filled the air.

The North Wind disciples were torn apart by the Canghai Dragons, pierced by Wind Blades, while the long-haired female elder of the west peak remained indifferent and unmoved.

Indeed, she was protecting Sword Ridge Peak, but more so safeguarding a concept, protecting her "sect".

As for the specific people within the sect...

She did not care.

The issue was, fundamentally wasn't Sword Ridge Peak composed of individual North Wind disciples?

At the same time, on the snowy mountaintop dozens of kilometers away.

Under the drowsy night sky, Ran Sect members were like "blind men," only Lu Ran could perceive a thing or two.

Everyone clearly noticed that Lu Ran's killing intent was growing stronger.

"Can you still manage?" Lu Ran asked in a deep voice.

"I can still use Canglong Divine Arrow." Luo Ying immediately replied.

The Ash Sect's Sea Realm Technique and the North Wind Sect's Sea Realm Technique: North Wind Myriad Blades were both kind of "one-shot deals."

Unlike the Sword One One Sect's Sea Realm Divine Technique: Frost Sky Sword Fall, which once started, couldn't be stopped.

However, the cost of divine power for Luo Ying's arrow was extraordinarily high!

Even though she belonged to the Sea Realm: Fourth Rank, she couldn't fire a second Ten Thousand Dragons Quelling the Sea Arrow in a short time.

"Alright! Let's blast through Sword Ridge Peak!" Lu Ran summoned an Ancient Bronze Mirror.

He had heard, the Peak Master of your Sword Ridge Peak is in seclusion?

Since it is seclusion, it means attempting to break through to a new level.

But! How! Can! Anyone! Allow this?

How could Lu Ran let the enemy advance another level?

Wouldn't that just make avenging Ran Sect more difficult?

Holy Spirit Mountain indeed taught Lu Ran much.

Just like how Sword One One Sect's Dongfang Ning treated Ran Sect back then, Lu Ran intended to treat Sword Ridge Peak in the same way.

The only difference is:

Dongfang Ning acted without grudges against Ran Sect; there was originally no animosity.

But Lu Ran's move against Sword Ridge Peak was purely revengeful retaliation!

He turned his head, glancing at the woman in Deng Yuxiang's arms, the woman with an arm severed, eyes gouged out.

The flame of anger in Lu Ran's heart surged upwards!

The grudge between Ran Sect and Sword Ridge Peak was now set in stone.

Yes, Ran Sect currently lacks strength to deal with these Sea Realm Great Powers.

But don't dream about your Peak Master breaking through!

And your headquarters, this mountain of yours...

Dream on!

"Hoo~"

Lu Ran urged the Ancient Bronze Mirror, transforming it into a floor mirror: "Tilt the firing angle slightly downwards."

And the location where another Transmission Mirror appeared was quite concealed!

It turned out to be inside the cave that previously imprisoned Yan Shuangzi!

"Yes!" Luo Ying was long ready, drawing her bow, mounting her arrow, leaning into the mirror.

"Twang!"

The bowstring quivered!

"Rumble!!"

The cliff shattered, the mountain shook thunderously.

Lu Ran located the floor mirror too close to the target, even directly into the peak!

Thus, the Canglong Divine Arrow fired by Luo Ying practically didn't travel or gather momentum.

But it didn't matter!

The majestic dragons entwining the arrow would independently grant the arrow additional force.

"Rumble!!"

Ordinary stone couldn't withstand the onslaught of the giant arrow.

The Canglong Divine Arrow penetrated smoothly, piercing straight into the middle of the main peak's mountain body from the East Peak.

Hitting the bull's eye!

Dear Peak Master, tonight, the moon is dark and the wind is high, unsuitable for cultivating breakthroughs!

Stop the seclusion.

The arrow, is here!

"Damn!" Elder Xing, stationed on the main peak, couldn't help but curse.

The western battlefield was already chaotic, and now there's trouble in the east again!

Elder Xing turned towards the east, faintly hearing dragon roars...

He also felt the entire mountain tremble!

Elder Xing's face turned from blue to purple, he raised his hand rapidly, calling forth tremendous Wind Blades.

Using the skill of Sound Positioning, he searched for the giant arrow flying inside the mountain body.

But how fast was the Divine Technique: Canglong Divine Arrow?

Moreover, the arrow was coiling around two Canglongs, making the arrow faster!

If it were the Dragon Carp Divine Technique: Dragon Carp Heavenly Boat, Elder Xing might have shattered the East Peak, directly severing the Dragon Carp to limit losses in time.

Elder Xing understood, at this point, as long as he could prevent the Peak Master's stone chamber from collapsing, it would be a success!

Later, when receiving punishment, he would have a chance to speak up.

The Peak Master, in consideration of his years of loyal service, might not resort to extreme punishment.

However, faced with the sudden, swiftly charging Canglong Divine Arrow, what could Elder Xing possibly use to stop it?

Moments later, the giant arrow had already pierced through the mountain body of the main peak!

"It's over..."

Elder Xing's hand was still raised, and the Wind Blades in the high sky dispersed quickly due to the caster's unsettled mind and lack of focus.

The Canglong Divine Arrow penetrated the mountain body at a downward angle.

The majestic mountain rumbled and continuously collapsed...

Moments later, Elder Xing came back to his senses, his furious roar echoed through the night sky:

"Find! Everyone get out and look! In every direction, above ground and below! Everyone! Find the enemy for me, go find!!"

"You old Sea Realm fools, all of you come out! Don't pretend to be dead!"

"Home is being destroyed!"

"Sword Ridge Peak is being collapsed by someone, aren't you going to..."

Elder Xing's body suddenly trembled, his face exceptionally rigid.

A terrifying aura emanated from the collapsed mountain body, enveloping his high and thin frame.

If it were a Sea Realm colleague, it couldn't exert this level of pressure on him.

A look of profound fear surfaced in Elder Xing's dim eyes.

The Peak Master had been disturbed.

The Peak Master... had emerged from seclusion!

Meanwhile, on the snowy mountaintop dozens of kilometers away.

"Hmph." Lu Ran let out a cold snort, looking at the collapsing, towering mountain.

The mountain peak toppled, massive boulders crumbled and rolled, thick dust billowing.

Lu Ran waved, summoning the Ancient Bronze Mirror, his broad raincoat fluttering, he said solemnly:

"Ran Sect, move out!"

...

It's the end of the month, requesting some monthly votes.

Chapter 467: Insanity

Hundreds of kilometers away, at the bottom of the snow valley, in a hidden cavern.

Previously, the Ran Sect people had set off from here, and now upon their return, there was an additional person.

Lu Ran casually summoned a blazing Lie Tian Hammer.

The hammer burned with fierce flames, dispelling the chill within the cave.

Deep within the cavern, Deng Yuxiang sat leaning against the stone wall, holding a motionless Yan Shuangzi, gently brushing her disheveled hair.

Her eyes were full of heartache as her fingers lightly caressed her friend's deeply sunken eye sockets.

Golden fish continuously appeared from Yu Changsheng's hands.

Light illuminated everyone in the cave, restoring the life force of all.

Yan Shuangzi's deathly pale face gradually gained a trace of color, and the shocking wounds on her body, including hidden ailments within, were being healed.

However, the sunken eye sockets under Deng Yuxiang's fingers did not fill out.

Nor did Yan Shuangzi's severed arm grow back.

Lu Ran's expression was not very good.

His Jiang Grade Evil Technique · Resurrection Carp could not temporarily restore severed limbs.

And could Yu Changsheng's Sea Grade Divine Skill · Longevity Carp not achieve this either?

Yu Changsheng understood Lu Ran's expression and apologetically said, "Sect Leader, the Longevity Carp can replenish life force for the target, helping the wounded recover.

However, it cannot yet regenerate severed limbs."

Severed limbs cannot grow back.

Naturally, Yan Shuangzi could not regrow her eyes.

Lu Ran nodded silently.

Yu Changsheng continued, "Once I cultivate beyond the Sea Realm and elevate the Longevity Carp by another grade, perhaps it will be possible."

These words were not merely for comfort.

Yu Changsheng was well aware of his healing Divine Skills. The Sea Grade · Longevity Carp was already at its peak in terms of filling life force and healing injuries!

If it were increased by another grade, it would likely achieve a qualitative change and explore higher domains.

After speaking, the cavern fell silent.

Yan Shuangzi's skin gradually turned smooth and fair, but this was only a superficial effect.

The true horror of a Sea Realm Grand Healer was that the Longevity Carp he released could rejuvenate Yan Shuangzi's nearly lifeless body from the inside out with an absolute magnitude of life force.

Reviving it anew!

Lu Ran quietly waited, noticing Luo Ying sitting alone nearby, he said, "Thank you for your efforts, Divine General Luo."

Luo Ying looked over, nodded slightly in acknowledgment to Lu Ran.

She had no prior association with Yan Shuangzi and was long accustomed to tragic stories, but she liked Lu Ran's demeanor.

In treating his people, Lu Ran was so relentless, risking everything to rescue them...

This was good!

One day, Lu Ran would treat her the same way.

Luo Ying became more certain that her loyalty and efforts would be rewarded as they should.

Lu Ran glanced towards the cave entrance, where Jing Hong was diligently on guard.

He spoke up, "Well done."

Jing Hong's Thunderclap Horn had indeed signaled the start for the Ran Sect.

Just as Lu Ran was encouraging his soldiers, he heard a faint nasal sound.

He turned his head and saw Yan Shuangzi's fingers twitch slightly as she emerged from her coma.

"Shuangzi?" Deng Yuxiang also became aware.

Yan Shuangzi's body trembled slightly.

Deng Yuxiang's voice was softer than ever, "Shuangzi?"

Yan Shuangzi was stunned for a full twenty seconds before incredulously asking, "Deng... Deng Yuxiang?"

Her voice was unusually hoarse, and her lips trembled slightly.

Deng Yuxiang's nose stung as she pulled Yan Shuangzi into her arms, "It's me, it's me."

Yan Shuangzi struggled to raise an arm, her dirty hand fumbling across Deng Yuxiang's face.

"Deng Yuxiang... Deng Yuxiang..."

Yan Shuangzi murmured, her fingers tracing over Deng Yuxiang's brow, across her nose bridge, and lips.

Having lost her eyes, she constantly touched her friend's face, recalling her appearance in her mind.

But those memories seemed long past.

So long that she almost forgot her former close friend.

Or perhaps it should be said that the long period of captivity and suffering had made Yan Shuangzi forget many things, and her memories were blurred beyond recognition.

"How... how are you here?!" Yan Shuangzi suddenly raised her voice.

Only in the second sentence did her emotions completely lose control.

Yan Shuangzi frantically groped Deng Yuxiang's face, "How can you be here? You shouldn't be here! Go, you... quickly... were you also captured by them?"

Suddenly, Yan Shuangzi's movements ceased.

She seemed to lose all strength, her lonely arm drooping down.

She shook her head continuously, mumbling, "No, you shouldn't have come here, no, no..."

As she spoke, two lines of tears flowed from her hollow eye sockets.

Deng Yuxiang felt heartbroken and immediately explained, "This isn't Sword Ridge Peak; we rescued you!"

Yan Shuangzi couldn't hear any words, immersed in her own world, muttering, "You shouldn't have come to Holy Spirit Mountain; it was all a trap!"

No, you shouldn't... they can't do this to you..."

"Yan Shuangzi!" Deng Yuxiang raised her voice, trying to awaken the delirious woman, "This isn't Sword Ridge Peak, Lu Ran rescued you!"

Yan Shuangzi fell silent.

Deng Yuxiang soothed her back repeatedly, "No one will harm you anymore, never again."

After a long time, Yan Shuangzi trembled and said, "Did I... did I leave Sword Ridge Peak?"

"Yes, Lu Ran rescued you. Do you remember Lu Ran?"

"Lu... who is that..."

"Teacher Yan." Lu Ran spoke softly, "Last New Year, we met in Beifeng City, and you taught me."

Because of her connection with Deng Yuxiang, Yan Shuangzi had shown Lu Ran considerable care in Beifeng City back then.

She also taught Lu Ran about the three realms of the Swordman:

Body and Blade Unity, Heart and Sword Unity, Human and Sword Unity.

With clearer theoretical guidance, Lu Ran then began to see other powerful martial artists as weapons.

"Lu Ran..." Yan Shuangzi frowned deeply, trying to remember.

The endless days of darkness had caused her mind to be in turmoil, and she seemed unable to recall.

"Don't think about it, Shuangzi, let's not think about it for now." Deng Yuxiang quickly advised upon seeing her friend's pained expression.

"Mm... mm." Yan Shuangzi's head drooped.

Her dirty face buried in Deng Yuxiang's shoulder.

Within mere seconds, she began sobbing again, "Fake, Yuxiang, it's all fake, fake..."

It was clear that Yan Shuangzi's mental state was quite concerning.

"I'm real, I'm right here, everything is real." Deng Yuxiang displayed an unprecedented gentleness.

As if calming a child.

Yet, Yan Shuangzi once again failed to hear the words spoken.

She kept mumbling, "The gods are not saviors, it's all a lie! The whole world has been deceived, everyone has been deceived!

There's no way out, no hope; the Human Clan will never see the day of victory!

It's at the gods' behest, the Evil Demons will always slaughter us, it's all orchestrated by the gods..."

Yan Shuangzi appeared mad, her words slurred and blasphemous.

If she dared say such things in the Human World, she might also be imprisoned by Beifeng City, forcibly "treated."

"Mm, I know, I know."

Deng Yuxiang was extremely patient, holding the emaciated woman, constantly soothing her.

Yan Shuangzi shook her head vigorously, filled with despair, "No, you don't know! The North Wind you worship isn't what you think it is..."

"I know, Shuangzi!" Deng Yuxiang cupped Yan Shuangzi's face, instinctively wanting to look into her eyes.

Deng Yuxiang suddenly realized the other party's eyes were already gouged out.

Those few Beifeng captives had said it was Elder Xing's orders.

Elder Xing had announced to everyone that Yan Shuangzi was blind in sight and heart, unworthy of eyes, and then, under everyone's gaze, Yan Shuangzi's eyes were gouged out.

Elder Xing did not gouge out Yan Shuangzi's heart.

After all, he needed her alive to use her tragic fate as a warning to all North Wind Disciples not to disrespect the gods.

"You don't know, you..." Yan Shuangzi continued to struggle, frantically.

Deng Yuxiang said sternly, "I have already cut off the contract with the North Wind!"

Yan Shuangzi's body suddenly stiffened.

Deng Yuxiang held Yan Shuangzi's face, wiping her continuously streaming tears with her thumb, "Months ago, I stopped believing in the gods."

"You... you broke the contract?"

"Yes! This Holy Spirit Mountain is a burial ground the gods created for our Human Clan, aren't the gods expecting us to be slaves for generations? Why should I believe in these so-called gods?"

Listening to Deng Yuxiang's words, Yan Shuangzi's mouth hung slightly open.

A few seconds later, Yan Shuangzi suddenly laughed.

Really like a lunatic, crying, laughing, shouting, and making a scene.

Had she finally found a kindred spirit, was she overwhelmed with joy?

Was she weeping with happiness, finally being understood?

Or was she lamenting the ugliness of the world, crying out in despair?

Perhaps... all of these.

The Ran Sect members watched in silence at the hysterical, crying, and laughing woman.

Just how much bitterness did a person's heart have, what kind of inhuman torment had they endured to become like this?

And this time, no matter how much Deng Yuxiang tried to console, it was of no use.

Lu Ran commanded, "Soul Soothing Horn."

At the cave entrance, Jing Hong immediately summoned a primitive horn and placed it to his lips.

"Woooo~~~"

The horn sound was not loud, very low and echoed within the small cavern.

Divine Technique · Soul Soothing Horn: It eliminates mental influences while calming people's emotions and helping stabilize their mental state.

In the low horn sound, the exhausted Yan Shuangzi, nestled in Deng Yuxiang's arms, fell into a deep sleep.

After a long while, Lu Ran lowered his hand.

The Soul Soothing Horn ceased, and the tormented soul finally had some peaceful rest.

Deng Yuxiang's cloak was wide enough, and her embrace was warm enough.

Yet, Lu Ran did not find this scene comforting; instead, it felt sad and bleak. He lowered his head, turned, and walked towards the cave's entrance.

"Whoosh~"

The cold wind of the valley blew as Lu Ran looked up at the night sky, taking a deep breath.

In the midst of the blowing wind, he faintly felt someone calling him.

Lu Ran immediately connected mentally with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture, imprinting the woman's words in his mind.

[Little Lu Ran.]

[Hmm?]

[I don't have many friends; apart from Jiaojiao, there's only her.] Deng Yuxiang paused, then requested, [Help me, take her in as a believer, like you did to save me, nurture her back to health, can you?]

[Sure, which sculpture do you want her to worship?] Lu Ran didn't hesitate.

He gazed at the starry sky, his eyes bright.

Of course, it's good!

If it meant helping Yan Shuangzi exact revenge, allowing her to personally gouge out Elder Xing's eyes...

That would be even better.

...

Chapter 468: cheap lives

The next morning, deep within the cave.

A straw cloak served as a blanket on which Lu Ran lay, sound asleep.

The cave was empty, save for the tall figure of Jing Hong, blocking the narrow entrance securely, diligently standing guard.

"Hmm..."

After a long time, Lu Ran groggily opened his eyes, looking around in confusion.

It took him a while to realize where he was.

Holy Spirit Mountain...

Lu Ran sat up and rubbed his head, feeling that his hair had grown a bit long and needed trimming.

"Jing Hong?"

"Sect Leader, you are awake." Jing Hong looked at Lu Ran in his dazed state, slightly taken aback.

A freshly awakened Lu Ran was less imposing and appeared more approachable.

By age, his children were about the same age as the Sect Leader, weren't they?

Jing Hong pondered silently.

No, the Sect Leader was actually only nineteen years old, younger than his kids by a few years.

He wondered how they were faring in the human world.

"Where is everyone?" Lu Ran rubbed his eyes.

"They were afraid of disturbing your rest, so they all left," Jing Hong whispered.

Lu Ran frowned slightly, "Call them back."

The condition and mental state of Yan Shuangzi were not suitable for running around outside without proper rest.

"Yes!" Jing Hong obeyed and left.

Lu Ran got up, picked up the straw cloak from the floor, and dusted it off.

As he donned his coat, the Ran Sect members filed in one after another.

"Oh?" Lu Ran immediately looked at Yan Shuangzi, exclaiming in admiration.

The woman was still frail, but her vitality had significantly improved, her skin fair and moist, no longer appearing in a sorry state as she did yesterday.

Though she couldn't compare to her former glory, at least she now appeared to be "alive."

"Mr. Cong Long, it's miraculous!" Lu Ran said with a smile.

Yu Changsheng also smiled, "I can only heal her body; the illness of the heart, that is up to the Sect Leader to cure."

Lu Ran: "..."

Alright!

Today, I will show you what it means to be a master healer!

While the two were talking, Deng Yuxiang had already brought Yan Shuangzi in front of Lu Ran.

"How do you feel?" Lu Ran inquired with concern.

Yan Shuangzi had clearly cleaned up, no longer dirty and showing a fresh face.

Yan Shuangzi lowered her voice, "It feels like a beautiful dream near death, all unreal."

Lu Ran paused thoughtfully, "I meant, how does your body feel?"

Yan Shuangzi barely managed a smile at the corner of her mouth, "Pretty good."

The blindness and the severed arm constantly reminded her that this was no dream.

So, indeed, it was pretty good.

Deng Yuxiang combed Yan Shuangzi's long hair, "I have informed Shuangzi about our situation."

"Hmm." Lu Ran nodded lightly.

Deng Yuxiang sighed, "She no longer wishes to worship the Divine Sculpture of North Wind."

Sending Yan Shuangzi to worship the Divine Sculpture·North Wind was a decision Lu and Deng had discussed last night.

Yan Shuangzi had always been a disciple of North Wind; worshiping the Fake God·North Wind in the Sculpture Garden would require no adaptation, allowing for a seamless transition.

Don't underestimate the significance of a "seamless transition"!

To take Divine Technique·Flying Wind Order as an example, Lu Ran possessed the same Evil Technique·Night Charm Blade.

Even to this day, Lu Ran couldn't quite handle the Night Charm Blade!

If summoned in too great a number, he couldn't control them.

But for people like Deng Yuxiang and Yan Shuangzi, who have dedicated themselves to this craft over the years, they can easily wield a large number of Wind Blades at their will.

"Teacher Yan, your situation is quite unique; we currently cannot heal your eyes. However, the North Wind Sect possesses the Divine Technique·Wind Listening..."

"Lu Ran." Yan Shuangzi suddenly spoke.

"Hmm?"

"Don't make me worship North Wind," Yan Shuangzi said, her head lowered, her voice small and light.

So light that it tugged at the heart.

Lu Ran's voice was exceedingly gentle, "You have to understand, the statue you worship is not the true Divine·North Wind, but rather my own Divine Sculpture.

Who knows, in the future, you might overthrow North Wind, replace him, and seize the Divine Position of North Wind.

Return a hundredfold the deception North Wind has wrought on you, and all the direct or indirect harm he has caused you!"

Yan Shuangzi trembled, raising her hand to find Lu Ran's shoulder, gripping tightly, "Lu Ran, I have grown to despise him, despise everything about him.

They gouged out my eyes with Wind Blades and repeatedly opened up wounds on my body with Wind Blade.

Don't make me pick up the Wind Blade again, don't let me touch it..."

The cave fell into silence, the only sound being the slightly choked-up voice of the woman.

Lu Ran's expression was fearsome in its darkness.

He knew Yan Shuangzi had suffered greatly, but in his mind, it was just a concept of "being tormented."

When Yan Shuangzi articulated the specific actions at Sword Ridge Peak, Lu Ran's anger surged uncontrollably.

Those evil bastards!

They were truly loyal to Divine North Wind, weren't they?

"All right, all right, we won't touch it, won't touch it." Deng Yuxiang gently wrapped Yan Shuangzi in her arms.

Deng Yuxiang also knew that Yan Shuangzi was better suited for North Wind.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have discussed this result with Lu Ran.

However, the deep-seated aversion within Yan Shuangzi, that near physiological repulsion, was something she herself couldn't control, let alone suppress.

"Okay, Teacher Yan, we won't touch it." Lu Ran suppressed his anger, apologizing to the nearly collapsing woman.

"Lu Ran, Yuxiang has told me a lot, about your goals, your abilities, the path you have..."

"Does Teacher Yan have any favored Divine or Evil Demon?" Lu Ran's voice grew ever more gentle.

He still had two activation slots; in this Holy Spirit Mountain realm, anything was possible.

Yan Shuangzi broke free from Deng Yuxiang's embrace, faced Lu Ran, and said something that left everyone dumbfounded:

"Make me into that dog."

"Ah?" Lu Ran froze for a second.

Why speak in such a manner?

Why abase herself?

Yan Shuangzi once more raised her solitary left hand, gripping Lu Ran's shoulder tightly, "It suits me well."

Lu Ran pondered deeply.

Yan Shuangzi couldn't see the world, but the Evil Dog Clan possessed Evil Technique-Evil Recognition, which indeed suited her for combat and life.

The only problem was that the Evil Dog Clan lacked a formidable technique.

Though its various minor skills were quite practical, its combat strength ceiling was slightly lower.

In the God Demon Series, there were other gods and demons with perception techniques, like the Mountain Lord and Greedy Wolf from the "Eight Celestial Demons" series.

They possessed good perception techniques, along with powerful techniques.

Among them, the Divine-Mountain Lord was a second-class god, possessing not only a River Grade technique but even a Sea Grade technique!

Including the arch-nemesis of Mountain Lord, the Evil Demon-Ferocious Tiger Clan was also complete in techniques.

As Lu Ran was contemplating, Yan Shuangzi continued, "In the human world, I was like a dog.

I knew nothing and willingly became North Wind's loyal hound."

Her words were a rebuke to many people.

Jing Hong quietly gazed outside the cave, Luo Ying silently wiped the divine bow, Yu Changsheng could only smile and shake his head.

Lu Ran hadn't thought that Yan Shuangzi considered it suitable from such a perspective.

Yan Shuangzi spoke softly, "After arriving at Holy Spirit Mountain, I lived even more like a dog at Sword Ridge Peak.

A wretched life, devoid of dignity.

To them, to the North Wind Sect, I was just a blind dog."

Deng Yuxiang's face turned somewhat unpleasant, "Shuangzi..."

Yan Shuangzi paid no heed to her dear friend, her heart seething with boundless hatred, she said in a heavy voice, "Let it be as they wish."

Lu Ran: "Oh?"

Yan Shuangzi lowered her head, trying to conceal her distorted expression, "I'll become that evil dog, tearing their flesh, crushing their bones..."

Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang exchanged a glance.

Her eyes carried a slight sense of inquiry, he nodded lightly.

The Evil Dog Clan indeed had no terrifying techniques, but talent comes in different forms!

It's not necessary to move mountains and fill seas to be an extraordinary powerhouse.

Transform into an evil dog, you might not have the ability to destroy worlds, but you can silently kill those who do!

Perhaps the unique path Yan Shuangzi was looking for was this one?

Evil Recognition was a necessity for Yan Shuangzi.

Evil Sensitivity would allow Yan Shuangzi to face the extraordinarily fast North Wind Clan with more agility and swiftly take on North Wind believers one-on-one.

Evil Technique-Evil Shadow Flash would grant her the ability for ghostly assassin feats.

As for the remaining three techniques, they all have substantial uses.

Long-ranged casting of Evil Teeth, provocation technique Evil Bark, and the lesser-used skill by Lu Ran, summoning illusions to confuse enemies with Evil Shadow.

In fact, River Grade Evil Shadow could already summon clones,

But these clones were quite unstable and could shatter at any moment; at this stage, the method's primary use was as bait, confusing enemies.

Once Evil Shadow ascended to Sea Grade, it might truly be used as a clone!

Yan Shuangzi: "Yuxiang said, you aim to destroy gods and demons, to change the landscape of the human world, is that so?"

Lu Ran's voice was serious, "That is the goal of our Ran Sect."

"Good!" Yan Shuangzi lowered her left arm, clenching her fist, her shoulders trembling slightly, "I believe in you! Take me in, Lu Ran! From now on, my humble life belongs to you..."

Lu Ran interrupted, "You are my sister's dear friend, our like-minded partner!"

Deng Yuxiang held onto Yan Shuangzi's shoulder, gently pressing down.

Yan Shuangzi dropped to one knee.

Lu Ran turned to look at Deng Yuxiang, who returned his gaze with an expression of calm.

A moment later, Lu Ran looked back at Yan Shuangzi, "Is it definitely the Evil Dog?"

Yan Shuangzi said firmly, "Yes."

Luo Ying, seated not far away, halted her bow-wiping action, looking up in this direction.

Her husband Xun Yifei once intended to break the original contract to verify Lu Ran's abilities, but such a notion was persuaded otherwise by Lu Ran.

Now, Luo Ying could witness everything with her own eyes!

"Hoo!!"

Suddenly, a massive phantom unfurled from Lu Ran's body.

The entirely pitch-black, gigantic evil dog looked dreadfully fierce, with crimson eyes glaring, its aura especially terrifying.

It lowered its head, staring intently at the human being kneeling before its master.

Slowly, Lu Ran extended a hand downwards.

The dog's head descended as well, its nose overlapping with Lu Ran's hand, resting on Yan Shuangzi's head.

Yan Shuangzi: !!!

Her body gave a heavy tremor, as waves of energy gradually surged forth.

For a long time, the massive phantom slowly converged, merging into Lu Ran.

And Yan Shuangzi...

She slightly tilted her head, seemingly listening to something, then wrinkled her nose.

Though she had no eyes, she was no longer "blind."

Evil Technique·Evil Recognition enhanced her perception in all aspects.

In this quiet cave, even if everyone remained speechless and motionless, she could clearly perceive the subtle energy fluctuations from everyone's bodies!

This enabled her to pinpoint everyone's locations.

The unique aura of each member also allowed Yan Shuangzi to easily distinguish different people.

Yan Shuangzi was so overwhelmed with excitement that she was speechless.

She had once been a powerful martial artist, with sharp eyes and ears that listened to the wind, familiar with every detail of the battlefield.

But when she lost everything, the enormous sense of disparity and bitterness was unimaginable to most people.

Lu Ran, Lu Ran...

Yan Shuangzi lowered her head, pressing her lips tightly.

First, he saved her life.

Then, he rebuilt her.

Everything taken from her was returned by him.

He even granted her the qualification for revenge, providing a road to breaking chains and overturning the world.

What could possibly repay such a debt?

Merely this humble life of hers...

Is it really enough?

...

Chapter 469: Broken Dao Heart

[What is her power level?] Lu Ran looked at Yan Shuangzi, who was secretly excited, and asked through their link.

[River Realm·Fifth Rank.] Deng Yuxiang also lowered his head to look at Yan Shuangzi, his feelings complicated.

[What?]

River Realm·Fifth Rank?

Of course, Lu Ran noticed that Yan Shuangzi's energy fluctuation was very weak, but he had always thought it was because her body was too frail.

He never imagined that Yan Shuangzi was actually in the River Realm?

Once upon a time, Yan Shuangzi could rival Deng Yuxiang!

She even surpassed Deng Yuxiang!

Because Deng Yuxiang had returned to his hometown and stayed in the small Rain Alley City, while Yan Shuangzi remained in Beifeng City.

But not everyone has the qualification to remain in the Holy Land.

There, the presence of gods resided, the energy in the world was extremely rich, and the sect's elders did not hesitate to provide guidance, naturally offering greater prospects!

The fact proved that Yan Shuangzi developed very well there too.

She became the only one to successfully challenge the Divine Ruins, becoming an undisputed leader among the younger generation of the North Wind Sect!

But look at her now!

Deng Yuxiang had reached the Jiang Realm·Fourth Rank, with a stable mental realm, steadily moving towards the peak of the Jiang Realm.

Yet Yan Shuangzi was just at the pitiable River Realm·Fifth Rank...

[She dropped from her rank.] Deng Yuxiang's eyes were complicated, [Shuangzi had once been at Jiang Realm·Second Rank, but that was long ago.]

Hearing this, Lu Ran felt even heavier.

Deng Yuxiang leaned down tenderly, gently caressing Yan Shuangzi's back: [She said when she first entered this realm, she was busy struggling for survival.]

[She dodged and hid for an unknown long time, with neither the time nor the energy to think much.]

[Until one day, she luckily encountered a North Wind disciple, went back with the team to Sword Ridge Peak, and struggled to cultivate and grow for a while under various lies and deceits.]

[Later, she repeatedly confirmed that gods and evil demons were colluding together...]

[Her faith collapsed, becoming more and more dispirited, muddling through the days for a long time.]

Lu Ran had been listening all the way, unable to help sighing.

This was Yan Shuangzi's Dao Heart shattering.

At the moment she severed the contract, she must have suffered severe backlash, severely damaging her.

With her foundation already impaired, subsequently, she lived on while being constantly suppressed, imprisoned, and tortured. How could her power level remain stable?

River Realm...

This realm doesn't demand much from the believers' mental realm.

That is to say, Yan Shuangzi should have fallen as far as she could, only stopping at the brink of failure.

"Are you pitying me?" Yan Shuangzi suddenly spoke.

Deng Yuxiang's hand paused in mid-action.

Indeed, she couldn't help but leaned down to smooth Yan Shuangzi's back and accidentally rubbed her head.

If any other person in the River Realm dared to speak to a Jiang Realm Great Power like that, it would be pure suicide!

But Deng Yuxiang didn't get angry, instead, she apologized: "Sorry, I didn't mean to."

The ever powerful Big Nightmare, when was she ever so humble?

Today, Lu Ran witnessed it.

However, he could understand Deng Yuxiang's mindset.

After all, in essence, Deng Yuxiang and Yan Shuangzi were the same kind of people.

Deng Yuxiang knew clearly that pity was a great humiliation for both of them!

Deng Yuxiang held Yan Shuangzi's arm: "Besides, I'm not pitying you, I'm feeling sorry for you."

Yan Shuangzi didn't get up, pursing her lips, remaining silent.

"Get up." Lu Ran casually beckoned, and the Silent Night Blade flew over with its scabbard.

Only then did Yan Shuangzi rise to her feet.

From this small gesture, it seemed she had determined something in her heart.

She was indeed the same kind of person as Big Nightmare...

Lu Ran handed the Silent Night Blade over: "You've already formed a contract with the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture, now you have ears and a nose, let me lend you an eye."

As a divine weapon, Silent Night had a unique perspective on the world.

As long as Yan Shuangzi held the blade, the Sword Spirit could transmit information to her.

Naturally, Lu Ran couldn't ask too much of Silent Night, its nature was to love quiet, only needing it to remind Yan Shuangzi at critical moments would suffice.

In nature, it was more appropriate for Lu Ran to lend out the Dawn Blade.

But the Dawn Blade had a domain!

In this dangerous world, Lu Ran might at any time activate the Divine Weapon Domain·Blessed Cloud.

As for the Silent Night Blade...

It was firmly blocked at the road's mouth by another divine/evil weapon, not allowed to delve further.

Who knows where that weapon is now.

Lu Ran lent Yan Shuangzi the divine weapon for another reason: she was a swordman; how could she be without a handy weapon?

Lu Ran might not have much else, but he had plenty of blades!

He said, "The Holy Spirit Mountain is full of scoundrels, they've killed and plundered, so they have quite a few divine weapons and seeds.

When we seize some divine weapons, return this eye to me."

"Yes!" Yan Shuangzi gripped the Silent Night Blade tightly, complying with the command.

She understood very well the gap between herself and the others.

To perform missions with the Ran Sect, she indeed needed a divine weapon to assist her.

Deng Yuxiang once more transmitted a message: [Shuangzi's weapon wasn't lost or damaged; it was allocated by Elder Xing to other North Wind disciples.]

Lu Ran, with a cold expression: [Alright, when we gather enough strength, when we fight our way back, we'll snatch the blade again!]

He paused, transmitting a message again: [Yan Shuangzi isn't an Evil Dog Follower, what I signed with her is an inheritance contract, talk more with her, share some experiences.]

[Okay, can Shuangzi and I communicate through our link?]

[I'm afraid not, you two are colleagues, independent entities... hmm, why don't you give it a try?]

[Hmm, I'll give it a try.] Deng Yuxiang thought for a moment, having some conclusions in her heart.

Both could be considered sculptures within the God Demon Sculpture Garden, standing within Lu Ran's mental world.

As the owner, Lu Ran should be able to communicate with each sculpture.

But sculpture to sculpture contact should be impossible, right?

"Stay firm to your path, return to the Jiang Realm soon!" Lu Ran expressed his hope to Yan Shuangzi,
"When you regain your grace, the day I recognize you, I'll make you a protector."

Who was Yan Shuangzi?

An proud martial artist, a replica of Deng Yuxiang!

Although Lu Ran didn't have much interaction with Yan Shuangzi, he knew Deng Yuxiang very well, naturally knowing how to apply the right remedy.

But pity for Sister Xian'er.

She'll have to move back in line~

"Yes!" Yan Shuangzi held the Silent Night Blade with one hand, responding solemnly.

Yu Changsheng, who was quietly observing, nodded in agreement.

Indeed!

A mental issue must be treated by the Sect Leader.

Just as Lu Ran turned his head to look: "Shall we head back?"

Yu Changsheng nodded immediately.

He had long realized that the young Sect Leader was somewhat soft-hearted, presumably wanting Luo Ying to return sooner to accompany her child.

Although Lu Ran never verbally mentioned it, his actions conveyed much.

For instance, earlier, when he heard thunder in the sky, the first thing Lu Ran thought of was the child, wanting one of the couple to stay back with their kids.

At that time, Yu Changsheng thought it was Lu Ran's clever tactic to win people's hearts.

Of course, this might still be the case.

But Yu Changsheng leaned more towards the fact that it was genuinely Lu Ran's heartfelt thought.

"There's nothing much to prepare, right?" Lu Ran looked over at everyone, "Then let's depart now."

With that, he summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror.

Yu Changsheng, marching with the troops, silently pondered.

Xun Yifei and Luo Ying had finally found a peaceful and secluded residence; moving was out of the question.

Currently, the Ran Sect was heavily reliant on the couple.

So, should they find a coastal base belonging to the Ran Sect?

With new members joining the Ran Sect, it's foreseeable that the sect will only grow stronger!

After all, Lu Ran had unique abilities and displayed enough personal charisma.

The sea cliff cave was a bit small and too simplistic.

Thinking of this, Yu Changsheng looked at Luo Ying in the team: "You said earlier that two factions on your side went to sea long ago?"

"Yes."

"How is the construction of their bases?" Yu Changsheng asked while approaching the floor mirror.

Luo Ying responded immediately: "When we return, I can lead the way and go check it out together."

Lu Ran: "Does Mr. Cong Long want to root near the sea?"

Yu Changsheng nodded with a smile: "Our power is growing day by day; we need a foothold of our own. What does the Sect Leader think?"

Lu Ran agreed, nodding, then summoned another mirror: "Better if it's by the seaside."

"Why?" Yu Changsheng was a bit puzzled.

The ocean is very dangerous, who knows when an angry sea Flame Flood Dragon might pop up.

"I've told Mr. Cong Long that I can draw power from God Demons."

"So?" Yu Changsheng's face was full of curiosity.

Lu Ran smiled mysteriously: "So what an Evil God can do, I can also do."

Yu Changsheng pondered briefly, then asked: "Please enlighten me, Sect Master."

Lu Ran shrugged: "I can create evil demon minions."

Yu Changsheng: "Huh?"

The other people also looked on in shock.

Lu Ran, however, seemed to take it for granted: "I can summon the Night Charm Clan to guard the mountain, and the Mo Li Clan to guard the sea."

Yu Changsheng: !!!

Lu Ran naturally noticed everyone's gaze.

Ah...

No matter when or where, pulling out a plastic bag always makes one feel good both inside and out.

Just feels very comforting~

Lu Ran continued: "To date, I've drawn the most power from the Evil God·Mo Li.

I can summon Jiang Realm·Mo Li!"

Yu Changsheng followed Lu Ran's train of thought: "The Sect Master intends to have the Mo Li Clan occupy a sea area, to protect our base while helping you collect Holy Spirit Energy?"

"Exactly!" Lu Ran nodded.

Yu Changsheng quieted down, digesting the staggering news.

From the back of the team, Yan Shuangzi, who followed silently, couldn't help but grip the scabbard tightly.

Even the summoned demons by Lu Ran were of the Jiang Realm?

Then someone like me at the River Realm...

Yu Changsheng steadied his mind and asked: "Sect Master, how many evil demon minions can you summon specifically?"

Lu Ran admitted: "To be honest, sir, I've never recklessly summoned a large number of demons; I'm not clear on the maximum number."

I'll try it once we return."

Yu Changsheng continued: "And the demons you summon, is there a distance requirement for controlling them?"

Lu Ran laughed: "Sir, you misunderstand: I don't control demons, I command demons, so there's no distance limit."

Yu Changsheng's eyes lit up: "Absolute loyalty?"

Lu Ran held the exquisite Ancient Bronze Mirror, and his words stirred the thoughts of the crowd, inciting excitement:

"Of course, I am the Evil Demon Lord after all."

Chapter 470: 43.4 million demon army?

The group returned to the sea cliff cave.

Lu Ran casually opened the transmission mirror for Luo Ying to go home. Luo Ying was very cautious; she first sent the Splendid Bow out of the cave before stepping into the mirror.

Poor Divine Weapon Bow, probably went into hiding in the sea again.

The wife, at Sea Realm Fourth Rank and capable of destroying the world, went home. In the afternoon, the husband at Sea Realm Second Rank arrived.

In fact, Xun Yifei and Luo Ying truly make quite a pair.

Xun Yifei's hard strength is naturally far inferior to his wife's.

However, the Yan Qing Sect significantly restrains the Ash Sect!

More accurately, the Yan Qing Sect restrains all Water Element Sects.

As a Third-class God, Yan Qing granted his disciples the River Realm ultimate move: Water Embraces Everything!

Once the Yan Qing disciples activate this technique, they can absorb all water element techniques!

Moreover, the Yan Qing disciples can convert the enemy's water element techniques into pure energy and then incorporate it for their own use.

No matter how strong Luo Ying's output is, whether it's the Water Mist Arrow or Water Flow Arrow, whether it's the Canglong Divine Arrow or the Ten Thousand Dragons Subdue the Sea Arrow...

The manifestation of her Divine Technique is always in the form of water flow, water dragons, etc.

Xun Yifei is completely immune to these damages!

If Luo Ying wants to harm her husband, using Divine Technique won't work; she'd have to resort to fists, kicks...

Uh, why does that sound like domestic violence...

Of course, damage immunity also comes with a premise that Xun Yifei's strength and realm cannot be too weak.

If Luo Ying is at the Sea Realm and Xun Yifei is only at the River Realm, his River Grade Divine Technique: Water Embraces Everything wouldn't withstand the bombardment of a Sea Grade Divine Skill.

In any case, Lu Ran really wants to activate Divine Sculpture: Yan Qing!

It can save his life!

More so, he can use the enemy's water element techniques to replenish his Divine Power!

That's simply wonderful~

It's worth mentioning that the first time Xun Yifei visited, he scrutinized Yan Shuangzi for quite a while. When he looked at Lu Ran again, his gaze was burning!

Presumably, after returning home, his wife told him a lot.

"Let's go, let's check out those two bases," Lu Ran said.

In the depths of the cave, Deng Yan immediately stood up.

Lu Ran looked at Yan Shuangzi: "Your main task at this stage is to know your aspirations! To strengthen your path and regroup your Dao Heart, so you don't need to follow us.

Dream, you stay with her."

"Yes!"

"Yes," the two women responded in unison.

"Jing Hong, take a rest too, you stood guard all night." Lu Ran said casually, summoning an Ancient Bronze Mirror.

"Sect Master!" Xun Yifei suddenly spoke.

"What is it?"

"Luo Ying asked me to bring this to Miss Yan." Xun Yifei took out a leaf-wrapped package from his pocket.

Opening the broad leaf, it was filled with smoked fish jerky.

Lu Ran had already smelled it but didn't want to ask.

Mothers are truly meticulous; as a River Realm·Fifth Rank, Yan Shuangzi naturally needs to eat.

Luo Ying doesn't seem to care much about Yan Shuangzi, but her actions are so warm!

Lu Ran casually picked up a small piece, tore off a strip of meat.

It tasted pretty good.

While enjoying the delicious smoked fish jerky, Lu Ran walked into the mirror with Yu Changsheng and Xun Yifei.

He once again returned to the beach, the place where the Flame Flood Dragon and Mo Li had a spectacular battle.

Xun Yifei looked at Lu Ran and said, "I heard from Luo Ying that the Sect Master is looking for a place by the sea?"

"Yes," Lu Ran nodded, chewing the fish.

Xun Yifei: "The bases of those two forces are deep in the forests, far from the coast."

"Oh?" Lu Ran was quite puzzled, "Aren't many of their members adept at naval warfare?"

Otherwise, these people wouldn't dare venture into the sea in search of the Immortal Island.

Xun Yifei explained, "Indeed, there are many Yan Qing disciples, but the sea is too dangerous, and they don't dare to live by the sea."

"Oh..."

"If the Sect Master has decided, I do have a few possible places to choose from."

"Alright, let's take a look."

The Ran Sect's trio headed north along the coastline and found a sea cliff about eighty kilometers away.

"This cliff faces the sea to the east, has steep cliff walls, lush trees on the mountain, convenient for us to hide our structures. Moreover, this cliff is relatively isolated, with only one road to the west for access unless one can fly."

Xun Yifei finished introducing and looked at Lu Ran.

Seeing Lu Ran's quite satisfied expression, Xun Yifei couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief. He had lived in this area for many years and was familiar with the environment.

This seaside cliff was one of the top bases he could think of.

"Let's go up and take a look!" Lu Ran rose on a black cloud beneath his feet.

Yu Changsheng wielded the Divine Weapon: Misty River Fan to take flight.

He possesses the Divine Skill: Dance of the Dragon Carp, which allows him to traverse skies and seas, but when he uses this skill, a light golden 'gauze' would drape over him, making him a bit conspicuous.

Only Xun Yifei stood at the same spot, feeling slightly awkward.

His name has 'Fly' in it, but he doesn't possess the ability to fly...

Fortunately, Lu Ran was sharp, looked down, and casually threw out five thin red threads.

Tethering Evil Technique: Silk Thread!

Xun Yifei instinctively tensed up, but then relaxed, letting the thin red threads adhere to him.

"I heard from Luo Ying that you have a Divine Weapon? And even opened the Divine Weapon Domain?"

"Yes, I hid the trident in the sea."

"When you accompany us to the sea, I want to see it well," Lu Ran said with a smile, flying to the top of the cliff.

He put Xun Yifei down and continued to ride the clouds around the mountain.

"What does Mr. Cong Long think?" After some time, Lu Ran landed on the east side of the cliff, facing the vast ocean.

"The cliff is six or seven hundred meters high, with three steep sides and only one road up the mountain on the west, easy to defend and difficult to attack, a very good location," Yu Changsheng gently waved his paper fan, adding, "provided that the Sect Master has enough strength to control this sea."

Lu Ran smiled, "Alright, let's go see if I can withstand the threats of the sea."

He took a step forward, stepping into the void, falling from the cliff.

Below was a stretch of beach, covered with reefs ahead.

The azure waves occasionally crashed against the rocks, spraying up splashes of water.

Lu Ran and Yu Changsheng each landed on a large reef, while from the cliffs several hundred meters above, Xun Yifei stood at the edge, silently watching the two...

Lu Ran reached out, closing his eyes.

Yu Changsheng gently waved his paper fan, trying to maintain the demeanor of a master, but feeling far from calm within.

The Sect Master... is about to create an evil demon!

This is a power that only an Evil God can wield!

"Divine power forms its body, Origin Energy builds its soul..."

Lu Ran silently chanted the incantation in his heart, as energy swirled in front of his palm, a large Mo Li gradually took shape.

The Mo Li from the River Realm was excessively large, which prolonged the process of creating a henchman.

Yu Changsheng didn't feel that the time was long.

He was intently watching Lu Ran, who seemed to become a creator, conjuring a flesh and blood body out of thin air.

Xun Yifei also used his Extreme Eye Power to witness the Sect Master's astonishing feat.

Under the gaze of the two Sea Realm great powers, a fish of up to 300 meters long finally took shape.

However, it was only formed, motionless, stranded on the reef beach.

The River Realm Mo Li was indeed alive, possessing life, but seemingly...

"Pop~"

A peculiar sound suddenly echoed.

The Mo Li seemed to be endowed with a soul, it finally moved!

It elegantly fluttered its sheer fin and tail, slowly floating up.

Yu Changsheng couldn't help but grip his folding fan tightly!

Xun Yifei on the cliff felt an involuntary twinge of hostility towards the Mo Li Clan.

But then, Xun Yifei watched as the big fish cautiously lowered its head, letting the little human stretch out a hand to caress it.

Lu Ran turned to Yu Changsheng.

Yu Changsheng was full of admiration, exclaiming, "Sect Master, what a brilliant technique."

Lu Ran grinned, "Mr. Cong Long, following me isn't it worthwhile?"

Yu Changsheng couldn't help but laugh, changing his tone to a playful one, "Absolutely profitable!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Yu Changsheng added, "This Mo Li is from the River Realm, but there's only one, so controlling this part of the sea might be difficult."

Lu Ran considered this, then extended his hand again.

He then poured Divine Power into the Blazing Phoenix Pattern Gourd, creating a total of 8 Mo Lis in one go.

Including the previous one, there were 9 River Realm Mo Lis in total!

And all were River Realm·Fifth Rank!

Lu Ran felt that the Mo Li Evil Sculpture had a bit more capacity and could create another one.

But the Mo Li Evil Sculpture signaled to Lu Ran that continuing to consume Origin Energy might destabilize the Evil Sculpture's realm.

Lu Ran decisively stopped, not intending to force it any further.

So, a Sea Realm·First Rank Evil Sculpture can make up to 10 River Realm Evil Demons?

Then can a Sea Realm·Second Rank Evil Sculpture make 20 River Realm Evil Demons?

This remains to be explored, it's not something to conclude subconsciously.

Based solely on the current situation, calculating according to the total consumption of Holy Spirit Energy:

Ten River Realm Evil Demons = a hundred River Realm Evil Demons = a thousand Stream Realm Evil Demons = ten thousand Mist Realm Evil Demons!

In other words...

Can I now have an army of ten thousand demons?

Lu Ran excitedly licked his lips.

Even if they are ten thousand Mist Realm fledglings, easily killed by a single touch...

But it is still a quantity unit of ten thousand!

"Oh my gosh!"

Lu Ran suddenly realized a serious problem.

If I set the target of the attack on a human city, wouldn't ten thousand Mist Realm Evil Demons easily lay waste to it?

Of course, human cities have Guardians.

But even so, replacing the ten thousand Mist Realm Evil Demons with ten River Realm Evil Demons for a city invasion...

That would be a special event: Demon Lord's Descent!

And it would be ten Demon Lords descending together?!

Damn...

Lu Ran shivered with only one thought in his mind: I'm too strong, aren't I!

What's scarier is that I don't only have the Mo Li Evil Sculpture!

Night Charm Ghost General Evil Spear Emperor, Evil Dog Black Light Soul-splitting Demon.

Barbaric Witch Evil Mirror Demon, Tethering Silk Embroidered Paper Jade-faced Snake.

Damn!

Thank heavens my target isn't the Human Clan.

Otherwise, whenever the night of the fifteenth comes, blending into the ranks of the evil army, wherever we focus our forces, a bloodbath could be raised?

Simultaneously, Lu Ran confirmed one more thing.

The evil demon camp never intended for the Human Clan to face extinction.

The night of the fifteenth is merely a carnival feast for evil demons to extract extreme emotions from the Human Clan.

This one Sea Realm Evil Sculpture alone poses such a threat; how strong must the original form of the evil demon be?

Yet, during each special event, only one Demon Lord descends in an area?

If the Evil God wished, couldn't hundreds or thousands of Demon Lords invade at once?

"Sigh." Lu Ran couldn't help a long sigh.

The stronger my power becomes, the deeper my understanding of this world, and the more I find that...

Everywhere I look is filled with lies.

The entirety of humanity is wrapped in a massive lie, endlessly exiled, resisting, and reproducing.