

Old Gods 581

Chapter 581: Crow Law

"Everyone, go back and rest! Recharge your spirits!" Lu Ran ordered, "Tomorrow morning, under the guise of collecting Holy Spirit Energy, we will set out to hunt down the Dong Ting squad!"

"Understood!"

"Understood," the crowd echoed as they rose and left.

He Yingcai: "..."

Shouldn't these words be said behind my back?

Do they really consider me one of their own?

As the soldiers departed, only Lu Ran, Jiang Ruyi, and He Yingcai remained in the hall.

"What does Island Master He think of this plan?" Lu Ran asked.

He Yingcai's thoughts were complicated, and she didn't respond immediately.

From the Thousand Boat Alliance's perspective on enemy strategy, they likely hoped that Ran Sect's members would remain stationed on the island, avoiding proactive attacks.

Defense would prevail until the Heavenly Realm Power emerged from seclusion, resolving all issues.

The problem is...

Would Thunder Mountain's faction ever let you have your way?

He Yingcai was not one to deceive herself; deep inside, she agreed with Ran Sect's decision.

"Senior sister disagrees?"

"How could I dare?" He Yingcai snapped back to her senses and cast a mysterious glance at Lu Ran.

In this lawless Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, all rules and codes were dictated by the personal will of the strong.

Take Wuji Peak for example.

With one word from Tufeng Master, a wholly decrepit mountain transformed into a neutral faction.

Lu Ran, too, stood at the apex of the food chain.

He was a rule-maker!

From the sect's philosophies and norms to the behavioral guidelines for its members—even down to strategic tactics—

Whatever he said, naturally became reality.

"Don't say such things." Lu Ran waved with a smile, "Senior sister, you are a Great Power Island Master of the Sea Realm! Just one glance from you would have me trembling all over."

He Yingcai chuckled silently and took a sip of tea.

Lu Ran continued, "You know full well, facing life and death at Thunder Mountain, the Thousand Boat Alliance will inevitably confront the joint assault of 18 Great Powers from the Sea Realm."

What we're doing now is to weaken the enemy's strength and increase our chances of success."

He Yingcai neither agreed nor opposed the statement. Instead, she smiled at Lu Ran, stood up, and said, "I'll head back first. Junior brother and junior sister should rest early."

"What do you think of Ran Sect?" Lu Ran suddenly asked without preamble.

He Yingcai's heart gave a start.

Smart as she was, she already had an inkling—Lu Ran had taken a liking to her.

Earlier, Lu Ran had indirectly encouraged her to bravely take a step forward and find a partner.

During today's Ran Sect meeting, she'd been kept back, and Lu Ran dared to openly discuss strategy in her presence—naturally, he wasn't afraid she'd disclose anything. From another perspective, this was also a subtle test.

And now, Lu Ran was asking for her thoughts on Ran Sect.

"Formidable combat strength, soldiers are remarkably loyal, highly disciplined, extremely united." He Yingcai deliberated for a moment and listed several advantages in succession.

Listening to this, Lu Ran felt utterly delighted.

He Yingcai had imagined Lu Ran might continue speaking.

To her surprise, Ran Sect Leader smiled and nodded, "Thank you."

He Yingcai: ?

No follow-up?

He Yingcai had already prepared herself to face Lu Ran's overture, only to receive a single "thank you"...

"Island Master He, rest early," Lu Ran added.

He Yingcai stayed silent and didn't move.

The rule-maker before her seemed unusually cautious when it came to this matter.

Was this a form of respect?

By not making things explicit and only probing slightly, was he trying to avoid putting her in a difficult position?

He Yingcai stood motionless for a while before asking, "Everyone knows He Qifeng's ambitions, but Junior Brother Lu has yet to tell me—what is your goal?"

Lu Ran slightly raised an eyebrow, fixing his gaze on the woman's eyes.

He Yingcai ventured, "Just as you've been doing—traveling across the lands, alleviating suffering, reforming the ethos of Holy Spirit Mountain?"

"Heh." Lu Ran chuckled softly.

You're thinking too small, Island Master He.

What I aim to reform is far beyond this Holy Spirit Mountain.

It's Da Xia, the Human World.

Everyplace controlled by the joint forces of gods and demons.

It's the gods and demons themselves.

He Yingcai asked, "Why the laughter?"

Lu Ran: "If we can safely survive this ordeal, I'll tell you then, senior sister."

"Alright then... junior brother, you must keep your word." He Yingcai smiled and nodded before gracefully leaving.

The room grew quiet.

Lu Ran sipped tea quietly and, after a long moment, transmitted a message: [Evil Shadow.]

[Master.] Yan Shuangzi immediately responded.

[Head to Sky Phoenix Sect's Bright Moon Island and pay a visit to He Qifeng. Didn't she bring four Witch Crow Believers? Ask her to lend me two.]

[Understood!]

[Also, find a Bi He Believer on the island and have them take you there! Don't cause misunderstandings while on someone else's turf.]

[Understood.]

"Shall we rest too?" Jiang Ruyi softly suggested.

Outside, the wind and rain mingled; inside, the firelight flickered.

The dancing flames framed Jiang Fairy's breathtaking face, usually bright and spirited, now showing hints of fatigue.

After over ten days of constant travel, the group indeed hadn't had a chance to properly rest.

Lu Ran's voice was gentle: "You should go to bed; I'm waiting for two people."

Jiang Ruyi looked slightly surprised but refrained from prying.

In the private atmosphere, she leaned closer, draping her arm over Lu Ran's: "I'll stay with you."

"You should go to sleep first," Lu Ran urged.

However, Lady Fairy didn't move; she rested her head on Lu Ran's shoulder, closing her captivating eyes.

Lu Ran silently watched her, slowly growing entranced.

Time passed unknowingly, until a knock at the door broke the quiet. Jiang Ruyi awoke abruptly, sitting up straight at once.

Lu Ran: "Come in."

Two middle-aged men clad in black night attire stepped inside.

Seeing their neat clothing, Lu Ran immediately knew they lived relatively well under He Qifeng's leadership.

"Master Lu."

"Master Lu, what are your orders?"

After carefully shutting the door, the two quickly stepped into the center of the hall, half-kneeling and bowing their heads respectfully.

It appeared that even in the Forbidden City, hierarchy remained clear.

In this archaic world, it felt as if humanity had reverted to ancient times.

"Did your Hall Master say anything?" Lu Ran asked.

One of the men replied, "City Lord He told us to follow your orders."

Lu Ran chuckled and shook his head—He Qifeng truly was straightforward!

She lent her people without hesitation or conditions.

Lu Ran didn't hold back. "Please investigate the forests near Mist Rain Lake tonight. See if Thunder Mountain's faction has any teams nearby.

At dawn, report back to me here."

"Understood!" the man in black immediately replied.

Lu Ran reminded them again, "Activate your cloaking enchantments! If you truly find enemies, don't get too close—just determine their approximate location.

Remember, prioritize your own safety above all else!"

"Understood."

"Understood!" The two turned and departed.

"Good thing Thunder Mountain's slave groups don't include Witch Crow Believers," Jiang Ruyi remarked while watching them leave. "Otherwise, they could silently spy on us."

"Witch Crow Believers are hard to forcibly enslave, right?" Lu Ran placed his hand on Jiang Fairy's back while his other arm slid under her legs, lifting her effortlessly.

Flying alone made it nearly impossible for most 'Slave Masters' to subdue them.

Not to mention, Witch Crow Sect's ultimate trump card—stealth!

Carrying the tender beauty, Lu Ran headed to their bedroom: "Believers like these must either be enticed with rewards or sincerely won over.

Otherwise, even if coercion succeeds, once they're set free, they won't return."

Jiang Ruyi nodded in agreement, then added, "It's primarily because there are so few Witch Crow Believers."

She was absolutely right.

Lu Ran had traveled extensively yet had only encountered five Witch Crow Believers: one had teamed up with the Shi family siblings to scout Cloud Sea Cliff.

The other four were the Witch Crow disciples brought by He Qifeng.

Was it because Divine Witch Crow rarely sent their believers into Holy Spirit Mountain?

Or were Witch Crow disciples hiding somewhere within the mountain, clustered together?

Theoretically, the gods aimed to send the highly talented and powerful members of the Human Clan into Holy Spirit Mountain to prevent them from disrupting the Human World's equilibrium.

From this perspective, disciples of Seventh-class God Witch Crow or lower lacked the qualifications to enter the mountain?

Take Lu Ran as an example, an Immortal Sheep Believer—aside from the mysteriously missing Old Master Cheng, there shouldn't be a third Immortal Sheep Believer here...

In contrast, disciples of Fourth to Sixth-class gods became Weak God Believers!

These believers were indeed the major targets of 'slavery.'

Such is the case for the slaves of Sword Mountain Peak's Jing Hong, Tiantu Mountain's Bai Yanhui, and even Tianhuang Mountain's conquered Xiong Xiong—they are all disciples of Fourth to Sixth-class gods!

Thunder Mountain's slave population and Forbidden City's citizenry—almost all belong to this category!

Tsk~

Seems like I've discovered a pattern!

Lu Ran nodded to himself in silent thought.

Disciples of Seventh-class to Ninth-level gods were rare within Holy Spirit Mountain!

If I were worthless enough,

would even the gods lose interest in tormenting me?

But then, if Weak God disciples don't collect Holy Spirit Energy, wouldn't the Weak Gods grow weaker?

A vicious cycle?!

Lu Ran furrowed his brow, lost in contemplation.

"What's on your mind, so engrossed?" Jiang Ruyi asked curiously.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran's gaze fell upon his fiancée, whose slightly fatigued demeanor only served to amplify her allure.

Unable to resist, he lowered his head and kissed her luscious lips.

"Mm~" Jiang Ruyi feigned exasperation, cupping his face and gently breaking free, "We're in someone else's home, with tasks to carry out at dawn."

Lu Ran pouted, "Just a kiss—why can't I? I didn't say I wanted to do anything else."

Jiang Ruyi's cheeks instantly flushed red.

Scoundrel!

Don't think I don't know you!

Jiang Ruyi pressed her lips together, her crimson cheeks tinged with a hint of annoyance as she stubbornly stared at Lu Ran.

"I was wrong, I was wrong," Lu Ran immediately apologized.

Jiang Ruyi leaned forward slightly, softly nuzzling her forehead against his, and murmured, "Go to bed early."

"Mm..."

And so, the night passed in silence.

The next day, the sky remained shrouded in clouds, rain drizzling down.

"Flap flap flap~"

Amid the light rain, the sound of wings beating grew louder as two invisible birds arrived at the secluded courtyard.

Minutes later, Lu Ran released two crows.

His eyes glinting with murderous intent, he led Ran Sect's forces out of Green Lotus Island with fierce determination.

Chapter 582: what is there not to dare?

Over ten kilometers southeast of Mist Rain Lake, amidst the lush forest, there lies a moderate-sized lake.

The lake district is heavily guarded.

Eighteen imposing warriors, mostly armed with battle axes, stand scattered throughout the forest, silently keeping watch.

On the lake's surface, a burly man is floating.

His short hair is disheveled, beard thick, and his body is bare, revealing bronze skin, defiantly showcasing his robust physique.

He doesn't care about others sneaking glances or admiring this perfect form.

In the icy lake water, he lies there with his eyes closed, floating on the surface.

As if he is... uh, sleeping?

"Alas..." A woman's sigh comes from the woods, "When will these days come to an end?"

"Shh! Keep it down!" A man holding a battle axe warns in a low voice.

Although the two are stationed far from the lake, in this serene environment, even the slightest noise stands out.

Moreover, the Hall Master is unpredictable and could crush anyone's skull at any moment...

Not just in Hu Xu Hall, but even in Thunder Mountain, no one dares provoke the Hu Xu Hall Master.

"If you ask me, just send a bunch of slaves to guard it. It's neither a battle nor a retreat, why make us waste time here?" The woman looks quite displeased.

As she speaks, she turns her head to glance in the direction of the lake area, and sees that repulsive exhibitionist again.

My East Thunder disciple's wise and powerful image, you've disgraced it completely!

The man beside her advises softly, "Just say less, okay? Thousand Boat Alliance is not to be trifled with, sending slaves would be throwing lives away. How would we carry out the hunt task?"

"Hunt, huh!" The woman curses under her breath, "That bunch of turtles in Thousand Boat Alliance, dare they even come out anymore?"

The man speaks to himself, "Besides, the slaves are building a palace for Sect Master Lv..."

"It's mainly for building the palace, right." The woman huffs, "Third Lady really knows how to enjoy herself, giving orders and having subordinates work day and night to build a palace."

The woman mutters softly, her eyes filled with envy.

Meanwhile, in the distant forest.

"What the heck?" Lu Ran stands behind a tree, his mouth slightly open, half his face peeking out, watching from afar.

His whole body is enshrouded in a transparent water veil.

Sea Merfolk Clan Evil Technique · Sea Merfolk Concealment!

This skill can hide the body and even the aura in the sea!

But on land, the effect is much weaker, people can see Lu Ran's silhouette with the naked eye.

However, at this moment, dawn is just breaking.

Along with the drizzle and mist, it's certainly not easy for the enemy to detect Lu Ran.

[What's going on?] Jiang Ruyi inquires.

[Heh.] Lu Ran chuckles with anger, [Those two Witch Crow Believers reported to me that someone was at the lakeside, snoring on the lake surface. I didn't believe it.]

Now, Lu Ran believes.

This man... so carefree and relaxed?

Stripped of all clothes, even the Sky-piercing Halberd tossed at the lakeshore?!

Not to mention that this place is only a little over ten kilometers from Mist Rain Lake, just you, an East Thunder disciple, a pure land creature, dare to drift and nap in the lake?

Can't fly, can't swim...

You really don't regard Thousand Boat Alliance as anything, huh!

No wonder you're one of the elites among East Thunder disciples! Arrogant to such a degree...

[Everyone!] Lu Ran leans against the tree, looking at his team hidden behind trees, [This time I'll take the first move, directly lift the enemy leader to the sky.

Be prepared, once you hear the commotion, launch the attack!]

From Dragon Guardian and Phoenix and Swallow Generals couldn't hear Lu Ran's transmission.

But with Jiang Ruyi and Deng Yuxiang's quiet recount, they all nodded.

[3...2...] Lu Ran silently counts down, making a quiet leap, a layer of wind waves waver beneath his feet, standing mid-air behind a tree.

At the moment the countdown ends, he looks from high above at the clear lake under the naked man, his figure suddenly vanishes.

In an instant, Lu Ran dives into the water, completely disappearing with the help of Evil Technique · Sea Merfolk Concealment.

"Hoo!!"

Lu Ran, already raising his right hand, suddenly releases a surge of wind and waves.

Night Charm Evil Technique · Night Wind Assault!

A fierce gale howls, along with the lake water, lifting the sprawled and slumbering man up into the sky.

"Who... gah!" Hu Xu Hall Master jolts awake, his eyes bulging like brass bells!

The question is reflexive.

His subsequent loud roar demonstrates his formidable adaptability.

That is East Thunder Sect's mighty Divine Technique · Thunder Shout!

Capable of rupturing opponents' eardrums, rendering all dizzy on the spot.

Yet Lu Ran... is immune to mental techniques!

"Who are you?"

"Huh? We're under attack! An enemy... West Desolation believers?" Suddenly, near the once quiet lake district, chaos ensues.

Phoenix and Swallow Generals rush forward simultaneously, summoning a terrifying sandstorm.

Despite the hindrance of incessant drizzle, the two West Desolation generals, in no time flat, send sand and dust flying near the lake area, making East Thunder Sect's disciples lose sight.

The Ran Sect illustrates its magical prowess here.

Phoenix and Swallow Generals move like omniscient gods within the sandstorm.

The two tread the ground firmly, unleashing a terrifying sand sea toward the enemy, utterly unfazed by all the thunder techniques of East Thunder Sect.

"Pop~"

The curious bubbling sound of fish signifies Yu Changsheng summoning small golden fish.

Thin beams of pale golden light purify and perceive everything within the domain.

Last time, when Ran Sect sieged Lingfeng Hall, only Lu Ran used the Jade-faced Snake Evil Technique · Immortal Realm, aiding purification.

This time, with Yu Changsheng present, the threat of East Thunder disciples' Battle Roar Technique drastically decreases!

Despite this, Nightmare and Evil Shadow Guardian remain cautious, not rushing into the battlefield.

"Rumble!"

Jiang Ruyi swiftly soars high, protecting herself while casting two Quicksand Talismans to the ground.

The earth churns, quicksand flows.

Deng Yuxiang employs Sound Positioning to provide long-range support, hurling 32 Night Charm Blades!

Yan Shuangzi, the furthest from the lake district, stands at the edge of the Praying Rain Carp's purification zone, adjusting the grade of Evil Technique · Evil Recognition, clutching the Divine Weapon · Evil Moon Scimitar.

To a group of extremely fast individuals, her Divine Weapon Domain is an ultimate weapon!

The Ran Sect warriors showcase their skills, and the Sect Leader doesn't lag behind!

Moreover, it seems the Sect Leader started arguing with the Hu Xu Hall Master?

"Hah!" Hu Xu Hall Master glares fiercely, voicing his anger, "How dare you!"

"Why wouldn't I dare?" A sinister voice of a youth pierces through the thick dust.

"Boom!!"

A phantom hammer projection is catapulted into the sky, smashing into Hu Xu Hall Master's overly muscular body.

"Urgh..." Hu Xu Hall Master grunts.

Though completely naked, upon the instant of the attack, Jing Ting Armor forms over his body.

Yet after the hammer's strike, the "crackling" sound is crisp and unmistakable!

The Sea Grade defensive Divine Technique · Jing Ting Armor proves itself weak, shattering after just one hit?

"You...! You little punk!" Hu Xu Hall Master hears the rather young voice and roars angrily, raising his hand sharply.

Under thick clouds and misty rain.

A torrent of Divine Power surges, quickly assembling a massive battle axe!

This battle axe, made entirely of energy, emits terrifying currents all around, sparking incessantly.

East Thunder Sect's River Realm Technique · Thundering Divine Halberd!

This shocked the entire Thousand Boat Alliance into "awakening!"

"Roar!!" From thick sandstorm, a colossal illusory python descends from the skies, piercing through Hu Xu Hall Master's body.

Previously, Hu Xu Hall Master was catapulted upwards by the hammer's impact, ascending vigorously.

Yet now, the Immortal Sky Python charges fiercely, penetrating Hu Xu Hall Master while forcibly pinning him mid-air.

"Aaaah!" Hu Xu Hall Master roars furiously.

He keeps both hands raised high, striving with all his might to cast the spell.

His intent seems to be to thrust down the Thundering Divine Halberd and demolish everything!

"Yah!!"

At that very moment, Lu Ran appears out of nowhere, positioning himself beside Hu Xu Hall Master.

Lu Ran's screech is sharp and ear-piercing.

It's the siren song from the depths of the ocean!

The sonic wave, expanding forward like a megaphone, completely engulfs the enemy's form.

Hu Xu Hall Master: !!!

His brass bell-like eyes protrude, as if about to pop out from the sockets.

"Ah! Aaaah..."

Hu Xu Hall Master's eyes burst with rage, subjected to wave after wave of spiritual assault, he screams in agony.

Everyone knows, any ultimate-type Divine Technique must be executed with undivided focus!

During the casting preamble, any mistake might render everything futile.

"You damn brat...! Aaah! Die for me... Aaah!"

Hu Xu Hall Master, worthy citizen of the vast seas!

His spiritual strength is genuinely high.

Though mentally disoriented now, even his eyes slightly rolling back, supposedly unable to cast spells, yet...

The Thundering Divine Halberd above the sky has already formed?

"Ding~ Ding~ Ding~"

At the critical juncture, a series of Night Charm Blades swiftly assaults!

Just one blade shatters Hu Xu Hall Master's extremely unstable Jing Ting Armor, followed by two more blades breaking through the equally unstable Water Flow Armor.

Subsequent Night Charm Blades, seeming like a long snake, pierce through Hu Xu Hall Master's back and pass through his heart, emerging from his chest!

"Aaah!!" Hu Xu Hall Master arches his back, his whole body resembling a bridge, soaring upward.

"The heck are you yelling at!" Lu Ran shouts in both surprise and anger.

For once, he unleashes a solid curse.

He bursts with fury from the backlash, indeed shocked and incensed.

Ran Sect Blade Technique Third Form · Shuo Star!

Lu Ran grips the Eight Desolate Blade, facing the Sea Realm Great Power without any defensive armor, his blade rises then falls!

"Swoosh!"

The massive head is severed and falls.

Hu Xu Hall Master remains eyes-rolled back, severed neck dripping fresh blood.

At the edge of the battlefield, Deng Yuxiang pinches the brim of her bamboo hat with slender fingers, mist swirling beneath as she backflips in the rain.

The wide rafter cape flutters forward, rustling loudly.

Having escaped the sandstorm, she gazes into the sky.

Only to see under the grayish sky, boundless purple currents dispersing, the magnificent Thundering Divine Halberd vanishing without a trace.

"Heh." Deng Yuxiang's eyes are cold.

Next life,

Keep your mouth cleaner.

She closes her eyes, listens to everything within the sandstorm, reaching forward with one hand.

Thirty-two Night Charm Blades once again dive into the dense sandstorm.

...

Chapter 583: is very angry

The Mist Rain Lake bustled with activity, people teeming across the islands.

Above the islands, numerous Sea Realm experts soared into the sky, their faces somber as they gazed southeastward in the distance.

The battle between Ran Sect and Hu Xu Hall was a mere ten kilometers away from Mist Rain Lake in a straight line.

Anyone could see the billowing sand and dust that filled the heavens.

Not to mention the sudden emergence of a kilometer-long Thundering Divine Halberd in the high skies!

Where did a Second-class God·West Desert disciple come from?

And why were they fighting against a Second-class God·East Ting disciple?

"Island Master Tianya!"

Above Tianya Island, several Sky Phoenix disciples unfurled their pristine phoenix wings and rushed to Island Master Tianya's side.

"That halberd, the Thundering Divine Halberd, was at least a kilometer long!" said one Sky Phoenix disciple, his face pale with shock. "The other party must at least be a Sea Realm disciple from East Ting!"

"Yes, Island Master!"

"Should we send people to investigate?"

Even Island Master Tianya's expression grew solemn.

However, since the Thundering Divine Halberd had appeared and disappeared again, did it signify that the West Desert disciple had gained the upper hand?

If they managed to eliminate a Sea Realm Great Power from Thunder Mountain, it would be good news for the Thousand Boat Alliance.

But the worry was—what if the West Desert disciple also harbored ulterior motives?

East Ting, West Desert...

Both Second-class Gods, each one's disciples more arrogant and domineering than the next!

The issue was, West Desert disciples appeared extremely rarely in the Jiangnan Islands... Hmm?

Ran Sect?!

The thought crossed Island Master Tianya's mind, stirring a litany of speculation.

Meanwhile, on Mingyue Island, inside an expansive private courtyard.

He Qifeng's hair was slightly disheveled, and she casually wore a long robe—an unkempt, homey appearance that sharply contrasted her usual air of authority.

It was evident she'd just been startled awake.

He Qifeng gazed southeastward and spoke softly: "You're saying this intelligence was provided to Lu Ran by you?"

Two black-clad men knelt prudently behind her and replied, "Yes, City Lord!"

"Last night, Master Lu asked us to gather intelligence near Mist Rain Lake. Around midnight, we discovered a squad arriving in the area, so..."

"Hmm." He Qifeng responded perfunctorily, and the two Witch Crow Believers immediately fell silent.

Her eyes flickered slightly as she stared at the dust clouds rising high in the southeastern sky. A faint smile curled her lips:

"You sly Ran dog, you really are overbearing, aren't you?"

He Qifeng mulled it over briefly, effortlessly piecing together the truth of the matter.

Lu Ran was clearing out lurking vermin while simultaneously provoking Thunder Mountain into launching a full-scale invasion!

Hmm... Not bad!

He Qifeng clasped her hands behind her back, her thoughts consumed by Lu Ran's increasingly courageous visage.

Pathetic Thousand Boat Alliance, still dreaming of Alliance Leader Yun's return—a figure who could crush all with absolute authority and bring justice to the masses.

Ha, delusional fantasies!

Would Thunder Mountain grant you such a chance?

Alas, with Big Wind Hall's stance in play, He Qifeng could say little and do even less.

Nonetheless,

What she could not do, Lu Ran had done!

What Hall Master He, inheritor of a prestigious orthodox sect, could not bear, Lu Ran had borne!

"Who permitted your return?" He Qifeng suddenly asked.

"Lu... Master Lu ordered us to return after we finished reporting this morning..."

"Did I permit your return?" He Qifeng turned slightly, her expression seemingly cheerful as she smiled at the two men.

The two Witch Crow Believers were momentarily dumbfounded, but soon understood:

"Yes!"

"Understood!"

They immediately transformed into crows, their figures vanishing as they flew toward Green Lotus Island.

"Island Master Green Lotus!" Grey Lotus Island Master flew swiftly on her lotus leaf and approached He Yingcai.

"Island Master Grey Lotus." He Yingcai also stood atop a lotus leaf, hovering in mid-air.

"Where's Master Lu?" Grey Lotus Island Master asked urgently.

He Yingcai shook her head: "As soon as we detected something unusual, I went straight away to summon Lu Ran. But there was no one inside the residence."

Grey Lotus Island Master froze for a moment, quickly realizing something as she turned to look southeastward:

"This... He..."

"I'm not sure; it might be Lu Ran and his people," He Yingcai said softly.

On one of the islands belonging to the Sword Lotus Sect, a man clad in a bright red robe watched the billowing dust in the distance, noticeably excited.

A disciple approached him: "Island Master Pei, that dust seems to be..."

Unlike other Alliance Members, Island Master Pei and his followers had been rescued by Ran Sect before—they were quite familiar with Ran Sect's combat strategies.

Moreover, in the southeastern region of Holy Spirit Mountain, the West Desert disciples were exceedingly rare!

It was natural for Island Master Pei and his people to associate the scene with Ran Sect's Phoenix and Swallow Generals.

"It must be Master Lu," Island Master Pei sighed, his mind flashing back to countless mysterious figures under bamboo hats and rain cloaks.

The piercing gaze of the Daughter of Broken Blade.

The overwhelming aura of the Battle Axe General.

The aloof Immortal standing high above in the skies, surveying the world.

And the seemingly affable yet decisively ruthless, resourceful young Sect Leader...

"Ran Sect—they're not like us in the Thousand Boat Alliance..." Island Master Pei sighed deeply.

"Good thing they are our allies." A Sword Lotus disciple muttered softly.

"That's Da Xia's genius! Even if they weren't allies, they'd never..."

"Ah! The dust is thinning; has the battle concluded?"

All across the Thousand Boat Islands, everyone anxiously observed the unfolding situation.

Meanwhile, Chenghua Sect stationed on the southeastern front had already amassed a large number of Believers and headed toward the forefront islands.

Island Masters from various other sects also brought their disciples to the scene.

At the same time, one piece of news began to circulate:

According to Bi He Sect, the Ran Sect stationed on Green Lotus Island had long since set out to collect Holy Spirit Energy. As such...

Ten kilometers away, on the lakeside battlefield.

The lakewater that was previously present had now been buried beneath layers of soil and debris.

Lu Ran stood tall, his ominous eyes glowering as he absorbed dead souls one by one, counting: "One, two... thirteen!"

Five managed to escape?

"Clear the battlefield," Lu Ran ordered, darting toward a frozen, towering wave of dirt nearby.

Given the proximity to Mist Rain Lake, deploying the Soul Prison Team required caution.

Not far away, a furious soul attracted by his sinister gaze stormed toward him.

Lu Ran had deliberately saved the enemy's leader for last!

He should've instructed Deng Yuxiang to use Rebirth Money to first imprison the soul and interrogate it later in secrecy.

Yet Lu Ran was genuinely enraged!

"Huff~" Lu Ran summoned a cloud of black mist and imprisoned the man within the Soul Prison.

Previously, only Lu Ran could hear the curses, but now everyone could.

"You little bastard! Do you even know who I am? Huh?" The man's contorted face was filled with rage.

Deng Yuxiang's expression grew colder.

She abruptly turned to look at Lu Ran, only to find him smiling.

Deng Yuxiang: ?

Someone insulted Lu Ran—she was so angry her hands were trembling. Yet the man himself seemed amused?

"Ha! You're the last person who should talk!" Lu Ran really did laugh. "I was just about to ask you—who the hell are you?"

"I'm... Ah!!" The soul screamed in agony before he could finish his sentence.

Lu Ran lowered his head, watching the tormented soul writhe in his palm.

Meanwhile, his soldiers quietly cleaned up the battlefield. Over time, they came to realize that their Sect Master was truly furious.

Typically, Lu Ran would punish souls by burning them for ten or twenty seconds at most.

Yet this time, the ghostly flames had burned for over a minute!

Hu Xu Hall Master endured agony unlike anything he'd experienced before.

The torturous mutilation of the soul was worse than being pierced to the heart or gnawed by a thousand serpents.

Each second stretched into an eternity with no end in sight.

Deng Yuxiang's pent-up rage finally began to dissipate somewhat.

It wasn't until the soldiers had finished clearing the battlefield that Lu Ran extinguished the Soul Fire and asked, "Speak. Who are you?"

"Thi... Thunder Mountain, Hu Xu Hall Master."

"Now I know who you are. And then?" Lu Ran pressed.

"No-nothing. I am sorry. I apologize, My Lord! I apologize!!"

Lu Ran snorted coldly.

Jiang Ruyi descended gracefully and softly advised, "This isn't the place for interrogation."

"I'll talk! I'll say everything!" Hu Xu Hall Master blurted frantically.

Nearby, Xue Fengchen clutched a pile of battle axes, gazing intently at Lu Ran's silhouette.

Gao Yunyan noticed his fixation and turned to look at Xue Fengchen.

Yan God General, with her luminous phoenix-like eyes, wasn't someone adept at concealing her presence.

Normally, Xue Fengchen would have sensed Gao Yunyan's gaze instantly—but this time, he kept his unwavering attention on Lu Ran.

He didn't even blink!

Gao Yunyan felt perplexed. She didn't believe Xue Fengchen knew the Hu Xu Hall Master, nor did she think he might be softhearted to see a prisoner enduring torture.

She realized Xue Fengchen had been enveloped in some form of introspection.

"Nightmare, collect the soul," Lu Ran said, beckoning with his hand.

Deng Yuxiang stepped forward and summoned the Rebirth Money.

Finally, Xue Fengchen closed his eyes and exhaled slowly.

Gao Yunyan rushed over, concerned: "Fengchen, are you alright?"

Xue Fengchen was silent for a moment before whispering, "I feel moved."

Gao Yunyan's phoenix eyes lit up!

She was about to speak but stopped upon seeing Xue Fengchen turn away, his gaze fixed on the hazy rain enveloping the horizon.

Gao Yunyan wisely chose not to disturb him and quickly approached Lu Ran, lowering her tone: "Master!"

"What's wrong with Fengchen?" Although Lu Ran didn't turn around, he sensed her intense gaze.

Gao Yunyan: "He says he feels moved. He might..."

Lu Ran's heart lifted with joy and instantly asked, "How can I cooperate? Is it related to me?"

Should I remain standing here? Should I bring the Hu Xu Hall Master back out?"

Everyone turned their eyes toward Xue Fengchen, who appeared contemplative, still gazing at the distant mountains without looking at Lu Ran.

Jiang Ruyi proposed, "We should head back and give Fengchen a peaceful environment to think quietly."

"Hmm... Right! Let's go!" Lu Ran agreed decisively.

On the way back, their path crossed Mist Rain Lake, where several figures hovered high in the sky.

Once the Ran Sect members emerged from the forest and approached the lakeshore, they were greeted by an astonishing sight.

Countless people stood in the sky!

Some sprouted pristine wings, others stepped on lotus leaves, others on lotus petals, and some held oil-paper umbrellas.

The islands, too, were crowded with people.

Especially near the southeastern Chenghua Island—the density was overwhelming.

The tense Thousand Boat Alliance members, spotting Ran Sect's warriors in the distance, broke into a stir.

Yu Changsheng shook his head silently.

The battlefield lay so close to Thousand Boat Island, yet their members didn't send anyone to investigate, merely stood hovering in the sky and watching from afar?

The Thousand Boat Alliance was truly "terminally ill," determined to adhere to their unyielding principles.

"Master Lu!"

"Master Lu." Island Master Tianya's expression was conflicted as he and his troops descended upon the lakeshore. "What happened here?"

He Qifeng was among them, carefully scrutinizing the triumphant Ran Sect warriors.

"Ah, don't mention it!" Lu Ran waved dismissively. "We set out to collect Holy Spirit Energy, and then we stumbled upon a bunch of fools.

I believe they were from Thunder Mountain's Hu Xu Hall."

Upon hearing this, He Qifeng raised an eyebrow, her lips curling into an ambiguous smile as she looked at Lu Ran.

Island Master Tianya glanced at the pile of battle axes captured by Ran Sect: "Master Lu, your sect annihilated the enemy unit?"

"Not entirely; a few managed to escape."

Five escaped?

The crowd revealed varied expressions, inwardly lamenting.

Indeed, the East Ting disciples' speed was notoriously swift, making it nearly impossible to annihilate such squads completely!

Lu Ran snorted: "However, the ones who escaped were merely hall members.

As of now, Thunder Mountain's Sea Realm presence has been reduced to seventeen."

The crowd: !!!

Island Master Tianya felt a subtle shudder in his heart.

First Lingfeng Hall Master, now Hu Xu Hall Master?

Earlier, Lu Ran had said some had escaped, so naturally, people assumed the strongest Sea Realm-Hu Xu Hall Master must've gotten away.

Yet Lu Ran...

If this trend continued, Ran Sect would dismantle every single hall under Thunder Mountain?

No, wait!

Island Master Tianya furrowed his brows, sinking into deep thought.

Lu Ran spoke: "Everyone, we've urgent matters, and are rushing back to our island. We can discuss this further later."

Island Master Tianya snapped back to attention: "Ah... Alright! Bi He disciples, escort Master Lu back to his island!"

"Yes!"

"Yes!"

...

Chapter 584: Add another Divine General?!

On Green Lotus Island.

Lu Ran politely thanked the Thousand Boat Alliance members who came to see him off, and then expressed his desire to undergo secluded cultivation, asking them not to disturb him.

The group understood why Lu Ran was eager to return to the island and promptly took their leave.

Afterward, Lu Ran led his team back to a secluded courtyard deep in the jungle.

Unexpectedly, there were two men in black waiting silently within the courtyard, which startled Lu Ran. He asked in surprise, "And you are?"

"Master Lu!"

"Master Lu," the two immediately paid respects and replied, "City Lord He sent us here to follow your orders."

Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly.

He Qifeng really was an interesting character.

From beginning to end, she hadn't said a word, yet her actions had made her stance clear.

Lu Ran mused silently and then turned to the members of the Ran Sect, saying, "All of you can go back and rest now."

"Yes!" Gao Yunyan was the first to respond, taking Xue Fengchen with her as they left the courtyard.

Within the jungle, there were three houses arranged in a triangular shape, each separated by no more than a dozen meters.

After seeing the Phoenix and Swallow Generals head home, Lu Ran finally turned his attention to the two men in black. "How should I address you two?"

"My code name is Big Black, and he is Fourth Black."

Lu Ran's mind stirred. "How many Blacks are there in total among you?"

"Currently, only four."

Lu Ran nodded lightly. Witch Crow Believers truly were rare creatures.

He looked at the two and smiled, saying, "Well then, I'll trouble you both to continue gathering intelligence near Mist Rain Lake. If you discover enemies, report back immediately.

The principle remains the same: observe from afar and prioritize your own safety above all."

"Understood!"

"Understood!" Big Black and Fourth Black instantly transformed into black crows, their wingbeats echoing as their figures disappeared without a trace.

Lu Ran listened to the fading sound of flapping wings and felt rather envious. "It would be great if Ran Sect had some scouts like that."

Yu Changsheng idly twirled a paper fan in his hand and remarked, "Master, since you're close with Hall Master He, you only need to ask, and I imagine she'd grant it to you."

"Stop slandering me! Who said I was close with her?" Lu Ran placed an arm around his fiancée's shoulder and whispered, "I'm not, okay? Don't believe what Mr. Conglong says."

Yu Changsheng: "..."

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

Lu Ran turned to look at Yu Changsheng. "Hey? Why hasn't Mr. Conglong gone to rest yet?"

Yu Changsheng remained silent, gazing eerily at Lu Ran.

It wasn't just me who hadn't left—there's also the Nightmare Guardian!

Why don't you drive her away... Okay, fine.

You and your Big Nightmare truly share the closest bond!

I must be unaware of my place...

While Yu Changsheng was lamenting in melancholic silence, Jiang Ruyi softly suggested, "Let's discuss this together."

"Sure, sure." Lu Ran seized the chance to change topics, awkwardly averting his gaze.

Yu Changsheng's exceedingly handsome face, combined with such desolate, forlorn expressions...

No wonder He Yingcai couldn't resist!

Even Lu Ran found it hard to endure~

The group entered the room and closed the door behind them.

Since the four were planning to interrogate Hall Master Hu Xu, Lu Ran specifically cautioned the Evil Shadow Guardian to remain vigilant and alert.

At the first sign of someone approaching, she was to notify them immediately.

That said, both Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang were adept at perception, so excessive worry was unnecessary.

Inside the hall, Lu Ran summoned a black haze, working alongside Deng Yuxiang to interrogate the prisoner.

Hall Master Hu Xu, having tasted the cruelty Lu Ran could unleash, was now utterly obedient.

Even his words were soft-spoken...

The group listened closely as Hu Xu divulged a stream of intelligence, whereas in a wooden house some fifty meters away, Xue Fengchen sat silently in the hall, lost in thought.

On the table before him lay over ten Divine Power bead chains, while a pile of long and short spears was stacked at the door.

These were all Ran Sect's spoils of war, but given the current circumstances, Lu Ran had not yet presided over their distribution.

Gao Yunyan quietly sat at the table, keeping Xue Fengchen company.

Though referred to as boyfriend and girlfriend, the two had never formally confessed their feelings.

Romantic gestures seemed incongruous with the grime and discord of Holy Spirit Mountain.

The most romantic thing between them had been the moment when Gao Yunyan kissed Xue Fengchen just before her brave sacrifice.

For Gao Yunyan at that juncture, fleeing from Tianhuang Mountain Sect to Jiang Ruyi's side was an exceptionally daring choice.

She had stepped onto an uncertain path—one that was likely to lead to death.

No matter how convincingly Jiang Ruyi spoke, Gao Yunyan had always harbored a pessimistic view of finding Lu Ran.

She wasn't even sure she could escape the boundless Ten Thousand Blade Mountain.

The events that followed caught Gao Yunyan completely off guard.

She really did encounter Da Xia's Pride!

And under the leadership of Master Lu, she escaped the mountain that had held her captive for so long.

They even crossed the entire continent, journeying from the wild Northwest to the azure skies and seas of Cloud Sea Cliff.

Her fate had shifted entirely—under Lu Ran's guidance, she became the Yangyang Sea, something sought after desperately by countless beings.

Loyalty,

was the only recompense Gao Yunyan could offer Lu Ran.

She also believed Xue Fengchen would follow her lead and transform into a Sea Realm stronghold.

After all, Xue Fengchen shared her experiences and had identical psychological scars.

Yet reality turned out differently.

Xue Fengchen lived under great repression.

The guardians and Divine Generals of Ran Sect weighed him down so much he couldn't hold his head high.

This included Gao Yunyan!

She didn't even need to do anything; her mere presence was enough to put pressure on Xue Fengchen.

This wasn't beneficial to Xue Fengchen's development!

Could anyone who joined the West Desolation Sect be considered "good at heart"?

Let's not forget—the West Desolation Sect's sworn enemies were none other than the Barbaric Woman clan!

In some sense, you could genuinely consider the West Desolation Believers as humans cloaked in the guise of Barbaric Female Demons.

The difference was that West Desolation disciples were more intelligent and rational, capable of being constrained by rules and morals.

But the wild brutality ingrained in most West Desolation disciples undeniably existed.

Looking at Xue Fengchen now... How much had he been suppressed?

Once an esteemed genius of Da Xia, a River Realm Peak expert in his youth, he had been reduced to an insignificant figure.

He had no presence, nor did he possess a voice of his own.

"Sigh..." Gao Yunyan inwardly sighed, glancing at the unusually silent Xue Fengchen.

If he couldn't erupt from this silence, he would gradually perish within it.

"Master Lu's recent demeanor resembles that of a West Desolation disciple," Xue Fengchen suddenly remarked, breaking the silence.

Gao Yunyan did not respond immediately.

Xue Fengchen stared at the bead chains on the table and uttered softly, "Beheading the enemy, imprisoning their soul."

As a fellow West Desolation disciple, Gao Yunyan quickly aligned with Xue Fengchen and tentatively replied:

"Trample them, conquer them."

Xue Fengchen nodded emphatically.

He had witnessed Lu Ran tormented the souls of his enemies.

Back during Ten Thousand Blade Mountain, when Lu Ran carried two Soul Prisons and brought Tianhuang Mountain's Elder Peng, along with the Hanhai Gang's Sea Realm Believers, before Jiang Ruyi, Xue Fengchen had felt an unsettling stir in his heart.

But at that time, the two teams had just met, and there were too many points of interest to notice.

For instance, Deng Yuxiang, Yu Changsheng, and Luo Ying—these three Yangyang Seas—were impossible to ignore.

As for the subsequent events, Lu Ran's imprisonment of Lingfeng Hall disciples' souls didn't evoke much emotion for Xue Fengchen.

Those were merely River Realm disciples who knew how to deal with a strong opponent.

However, the battle today brought back the sentiments Xue Fengchen felt during their first encounter.

Hall Master Hu Xu, an absolute powerhouse from Thunder Mountain Sect, a Sea Realm Great Power!

The other party had been lounging arrogantly on the lake mere kilometers from Thousand Boat Alliance.

Such arrogance stemmed from undeniable strength.

Indeed, Hu Xu had every reason to be audacious, yet Lu Ran utterly crushed him.

Destroyed with overwhelming force!

Even after death, Hu Xu—the indomitable Hall Master—continued to curse furiously and demand answers.

But when all those sounds gradually turned into cries of agony and pleas for mercy...

It wasn't just the Big Nightmare who felt pleasure deep in her heart.

At that moment, Xue Fengchen saw the true essence of the West Desolation Sect in Lu Ran.

He glimpsed what he was meant to become!

Facing the enemy, no matter how powerful.

Destroy them, trample them...

Conquer them!

"Whew~"

Suddenly, an energy wave surged from Xue Fengchen's body.

Gao Yunyan was momentarily stunned but then broke into a delighted smile.

The energy ripple grew increasingly intense as the mist between heaven and earth thickened.

In the secluded courtyard fifty meters away, Lu Ran and the others also sensed the unusual changes.

Lu Ran was secretly overjoyed. "Is Feng really about to ascend?"

He wondered what had triggered this epiphany and what specific realizations Xue Fengchen had...

Well, it no longer mattered!

This fight had truly been worthwhile!

Heh-heh~

Eliminating a Sea Realm powerhouse from Thunder Mountain Sect and gaining one ourselves?!

Now the question arises—should Feng be granted the title of "Divine General"?

"Hmm..." Lu Ran pondered to himself.

Would this be spoiling Feng too much?

Initially, it was established that out of Phoenix and Swallow, whoever broke through to the Sea Realm first would be designated as a Divine General.

After Gao Yunyan advanced, Lu Ran afforded Feng an additional month of leniency, yet Xue Fengchen had still failed to seize it.

And now, should the Divine General position still be given to Xue Fengchen?

Could it be forced through...

How about Phoenix and Swallow sharing the title as a unit?

After all, they're a couple!

The duo being disciples of the West Desolation wouldn't create any conflict—they could naturally share the honor.

Eighth Divine Generals expanding to nine members, that's perfectly normal, right?

Yes, exactly!

And four Great Protectors should include five...

"Congratulations, Master," Yu Changsheng said with a soft grin as he leisurely fanned himself. "Our plans seem to be on track for an early success."

"Oh?" Lu Ran looked at his tactician.

Yu Changsheng confirmed, "Xue Fengchen's breakthrough is crossing into a Great Realm, and the resonance level of the phenomenon is exceptionally high, triggering unmistakable signals such as Fog Dragon Rolls descending from the sky.

The Thunder Mountain Sect, do you think they'll differentiate whether this breakthrough comes from someone else or Alliance Leader Yun?"

"That makes sense!" Lu Ran nodded repeatedly.

Yu Changsheng continued, "Besides, advancing from River Realm Peak to Sea Realm requires five to ten days, giving Thunder Mountain enough time to respond."

"Looks like we need to prepare for battle." Lu Ran murmured.

Inside the Soul Prison, Hall Master Hu Xu was filled with unbridled fear!

He had fully realized the caliber of allies the Thousand Boat Alliance had enlisted.

Despite Thunder Mountain Sect being immensely powerful, even ranking as one of the top forces across Holy Spirit Mountain...

These mysterious individuals displayed no fear whatsoever!

Quite the opposite!

They were set on utterly annihilating Thunder Mountain Sect?!

"Someone's coming," Deng Yuxiang suddenly remarked.

Soon after, Lu Ran's mind was filled with a transmitted voice: [Master, someone is approaching.]

[Hmm.] With the Soul Prison in hand, Lu Ran reached for Deng Yuxiang's wrist and dispersed the black mist.

Deng Yuxiang summoned Rebirth Money and once again detained the prisoner, awaiting the next interrogation session.

"Knock-knock-knock~"

The sound of knocking accompanied a woman's apologetic voice through the door: "Lu? Am I disturbing you?"

"Come in!"

...

Chapter 585: three flowers, Red Lotus and a few lotus blossoms

Tianya Island, inside the Council Hall, a somber and oppressive atmosphere filled the air.

The two Island Masters of Tianya and Mingyue sat deep within the hall, facing the crowd.

On the eastern and western sides of the hall were two rows of seats, where a group of restless Sea Realm Island Masters sat, constantly discussing something.

At this moment, it had been several minutes since Xue Fengchen of the Ran Sect began his breakthrough, and a large part of Mist Rain Lake was now shrouded in white mist.

The central area of the lake, where Tianya Island stood, was also enveloped in a faint fog.

"Island Master Tianya!" A middle-aged woman with long hair pinned high on her head wore a worried expression. "The Divine Power here is so intense. Is someone from the Ran Sect trying to break through the Great Realm?"

If this continues, we may be misunderstood, and those dogs from Thunder Mountain might attack our Thousand Boat Alliance ahead of time!"

"Second Flower Island Master is correct." Another middle-aged woman stood up from her seat. "We haven't even prepared for war yet."

The two middle-aged women who spoke were Island Masters from the Chenghua Sect.

The names of the seven islands of Chenghua were easy to remember, as they were simply numbered from One Flower to Seven Flower.

The noble temperament and elegant demeanor of these two Island Masters, coupled with their worried appearances, made them particularly endearing.

"Indeed."

"Is war really inevitable now?" A murmur of discussion echoed from below the hall.

Island Master Tianya pondered for a moment, looking at the two women. "Second Flower Island Master and Fifth Flower Island Master, what do you propose?"

The Second Flower Island Master opened her mouth but held back.

The Fifth Flower Island Master, however, spoke up. "The Ran Sect is powerful; they can break through anywhere. Doing so here might actually cause disturbances.

If they leave, it would surely ensure a smooth breakthrough and wouldn't bring disaster upon our Thousand Boat Alliance..."

"Heh." A cold sneer suddenly echoed.

The Fifth Flower Island Master's expression darkened as she turned her head. "Red Lotus Island Master, do you have any insights?"

Unlike the Chenghua Sect, the seven Sword Lotus islands were named after colors.

This particular Red Lotus Island Master, dressed in a bright red robe, was Pei Hong, the Island Master who had once been saved by the Ran Sect.

He cast a sharp glare at the noble and untouchable middle-aged woman, speaking with undisguised hostility:

"Fifth Flower Island Master, what a clever scheme you've devised!"

"What do you mean, Red Lotus Island Master?" The Fifth Flower Island Master's tone turned cold as she interrogated him.

Pei Hong's expression was equally stern. "Master Lu helped us selflessly and without asking for anything in return! When the Ran Sect stationed themselves on the islands and protected us, you had no complaints.

Now, when one of them is advancing and needs protection, you jump out to demand they leave?"

"How dare you!" The Fifth Flower Island Master's delicate brows furrowed as she snapped back. "Don't slander me! Is that what I meant?"

Allowing the Ran Sect to relocate for their breakthrough would actually be to their advantage!

There's no need for them to endure Thunder Mountain's interference here!"

"You..." Pei Hong pointed at the Fifth Flower Island Master, but before he could say more, a woman beside him intervened.

"Red Lotus, please hold your tongue," the woman urged, pressing down Pei Hong's arm.

Pei Hong stared in disbelief at the Blue Lotus Island Master from his own sect. "You... you think the same way?"

The Blue Lotus Island Master's gaze flickered as she smiled to ease the situation. "The situation is urgent. The Thousand Boat Alliance could face an enemy invasion at any moment. Everyone, please speak calmly and avoid conflict."

Pei Hong: ???

Listen carefully, discern the implications.

The woman's words sounded flawless when taken at face value.

However, at this critical moment, saying such things and stopping Pei Hong...

Most people could understand her true intent.

"You... unreasonable!" Pei Hong flung his sleeve violently, shaking off the woman's hand.

The hall fell into a brief silence.

The Fifth Flower Island Master broke the quiet, this time with sharper words. "Our forces are limited; we should remain at full strength to protect Alliance Leader Yun Qianzhou!"

If we wear ourselves out here, what will we do once the Alliance Leader ascends the Heavenly Realm?"

"Hmm... Indeed."

"That does make sense."

"Although it doesn't sound good, having the Ran Sect breakthrough elsewhere does seem like a mutually beneficial solution."

On the main seat, Tianya and Mingyue silently listened, exchanging a glance.

The Sky Phoenix Sect members were generally kindhearted.

The two had followed Alliance Leader Yun Qianzhou for many years, being chosen as his trusted aides due to their compatible natures.

From the bottom of their hearts, they were reluctant to drive out the Ran Sect.

"Whether we stick our necks out or pull them back, the knife still falls, doesn't it?" A clear female voice suddenly rang out.

The lively tone of a young woman froze the hall.

Everyone turned to see a stunning young woman, seemingly twenty-six or twenty-seven years old.

She wore a pale yellow gown, her hair styled in an intricate ancient updo, looking as if she had stepped out of a classical painting.

In a group dominated by middle-aged and elderly Island Masters, a woman under thirty naturally stood out.

The Fifth Flower Island Master felt irritation rise within her. "Third Flower, what do you mean by this?"

In the Sword Lotus Sect, there was a Blue Lotus Island Master who sided with outsiders.

Now, was there one in her Chenghua Sect as well?

The Third Flower Island Master, with her charming peach blossom eyes, gently glanced at the Fifth Flower Island Master, smiling. "Thunder Mountain is bound to attack eventually, isn't it?

What difference does it make whether we fight now or later?"

The Fifth Flower Island Master frowned. "The more time we have, the better prepared we'll be! Besides..."

She paused, hesitating briefly before continuing. "Besides, the Ran Sect can gradually weaken Thunder Mountain's forces!

The later this war begins, the better."

The Third Flower Island Master laughed, her peach blossom eyes glinting mischievously:

"So, Sister acknowledges that the Ran Sect is whittling down Thunder Mountain's strength?"

Such a tone immediately darkened the Fifth Flower Island Master's expression.

The Third Flower Island Master elegantly crossed her legs, playfully kicking at her pale yellow skirt's hem with her embroidered cloth shoes.

"The Ran Sect first annihilated Lingfeng Hall, then Tiger Whisker Hall—accomplishments hard to overlook.

Master Lu, ever magnanimous, even invited the Great Powers from Wuji Peak to jointly safeguard the islands against our enemies.

And now, Sister wants to drive the Ran Sect away? Isn't that a bit too heartless?"

"Heh." A hoarse laugh disrupted the tension, prompting everyone to turn.

The aged and frail Withered Lotus Island Master stood on unsteady legs with the aid of a cane, her murky eyes sweeping across the crowd. "Island Masters, don't overestimate Master Lu's patience.

And don't take Lu Tianjiao's unwavering assistance for granted.

If he can destroy Lingfeng Hall, and Tiger Whisker Hall...

He can also take down the islands of our Thousand Boat Alliance, one by one."

The hoarse declaration plunged the hall into an eerie silence.

With a gathering of a hundred people, one finds all kinds of characters.

Not everyone understands gratitude.

Those who overstep boundaries are even more commonplace.

Lu Ran's presence within the Thousand Boat Alliance had indeed taken on a somewhat "saintly" connotation.

He seemed to demand nothing in return?

Upon hearing of the Thousand Boat Alliance's difficulties, he immediately offered his full support!

He directly contacted Wuji Peak and, for the Alliance's safety, led his Ran Sect soldiers in repeated life-and-death struggles against Thunder Mountain.

In the brutal Holy Spirit Mountain, someone like him... well.

The crowd could only attribute it to Lu Ran being a "genius of Da Xia," possessing a strong sense of purpose and responsibility.

Or perhaps, they considered, he sought to curry favor with Alliance Leader Yun Qianzhou at the cost of offending Thunder Mountain?

But the Withered Lotus Island Master's words served as a wake-up call for some: Lu Ran may be an ally, but he is also an exceedingly dangerous entity!

He was young and amiable, but could Master Lu truly be so easily manipulated?

Do you think that's possible?

Do you dare to try?

Treating him as someone who comes when called and leaves when shooed?

If you attempt such arrogance, you had better seriously consider the consequences!

"Ahem." The Grey Lotus Island Master, leader of the Seven Islands of Bi He, stood up. "The Ran Sect gaining another Sea Realm Great Power benefits us greatly.

The individual in question has already begun their breakthrough and entered the body-nourishment stage. Forcing a relocation now would risk undoing all their efforts!

Island Masters, would you truly want to lose such an ally, or bear the wrath of the Ran Sect?"

The resounding words were met with continued silence in the hall.

"Indeed," the Wind Lotus Island Master spoke from her seat, her gentle eyes gazing softly at the two leaders. "If Alliance Leader Yun were here, he wouldn't permit us to drive away our benefactors."

"That's right!"

"Absolutely." The Golden Lotus Island Master and Rain Lotus Island Master chimed in.

Compared to the Sword Lotus Sect or the Chenghua Sect, the Bi He Sect was clearly more united.

"Very well." Finally, the Tianya Island Master broke the silence. "We will adhere to our original defense plan. All islands will coordinate with one another, protecting the Ran Sect as we would protect Alliance Leader Yun!"

"Island Master Tianya..."

"This matter is decided; there will be no further discussion!" The Tianya Island Master's firm gesture left no room for dissent. "Thunder Mountain will inevitably clash with us. Dispel any illusions of avoidance.

This is a battle for survival; it might as well begin now!"

"Hmph." The Fifth Flower Island Master snorted internally, sitting back in her chair.

"Hehe~" A charming laugh suddenly rang out.

The Fifth Flower Island Master's anger flared. For someone of her status as a Sea Realm Great Power, being publicly contradicted was infuriating enough.

Now someone dared to mock her?

She turned her head, and, as expected, it was that little vixen!

Always dressing flamboyantly, constantly switching hairstyles and accessories.

And those bewitching peach blossom eyes—how many men's souls had they stolen?

The Third Flower Island Master's mischievous eyes winked playfully, her gaze lingering on the flustered middle-aged woman. She chuckled:

"Fifth Flower Sister, you must be careful to maintain good relations with everyone~"

The Fifth Flower Island Master's face turned stony.

The Third Flower Island Master stifled another laugh, her tone teasing: "If your suggestion today reaches Master Lu's ears..."

The Fifth Flower Island Master's expression froze in an instant!

Indeed, she was a Sea Realm Great Power, capable of dominating life and death at her realm's rank. Most people on Thousand Boat Island had no choice but to kneel before her authority.

But ever since Lu Ran's arrival at the Alliance, how few Sea Realm Great Powers had he killed?

And the ones he had slain were all disciples under the Second-class God·Dong Ting Sect!

The Divine Masters of the Chenghua Sect followed the Third-class God, a supporter of defensive and auxiliary techniques...

"Send for Hall Master He and Master Lu to meet us on the island," the Tianya Island Master ordered decisively, ignoring the ongoing bickering. "Each faction leave behind one representative while the rest return to their islands immediately and enter high alert mode!"

"Understood!"

"Understood..."

...

Chapter 586: Jingting Sect Master

"Report! Report!!"

On Thunder Mountain, a man wrapped in lightning came charging wildly.

At this early hour, the Thunder Mountain high-ups were holding a meeting. Upon hearing the commotion, the hall instantly fell silent.

"Who's there?"

"Stop!" The guards outside the hall shouted sternly, raising their long spears in unison.

"Me! Brothers! I'm from Tiger Whisker Hall!" The man finally stopped, his appearance so miserable that the two guards were left dumbfounded.

The man felt a bitter ache in his heart, overcome with shame.

From the foot of the mountain to its peak, he had passed through checkpoint after checkpoint, interrogated by countless guards.

Every time they saw his tattered clothes and battered, bloodied body, they would reveal expressions of disbelief.

A dignified disciple of the Second-class God-East Ting, how could he have fallen to such a state?

Never mind his combat prowess—his speed alone was said to be unparalleled in the world!

If he wished to retreat, not even a Sea Realm Great Power could touch the hem of his garment!

How could this be...?

"I have urgent news to report to the Sect Master! Please, inform him for me right away!" The man pleaded desperately. On his arm was a deep wound, so severe that the bone was visible, and blood continued to flow out.

"Come in!" A voice resounded from within the hall, brimming with power and authority.

The guards immediately moved aside, letting the desperate man enter. He lowered his head and eagerly strode into the grand hall.

The hall was magnificently adorned, its carved beams and painted rafters exuding opulence. On the resource-scarce Holy Spirit Mountain, a building of such grandeur could be seen as a testament to strength.

At the hall's far end was an imposing dragon throne, its craftsmanship exceedingly intricate.

Sitting atop it was a man in his forties, with a commanding appearance and a robust frame.

He wore a purple robe, his expression impassive, his very presence exuding intimidation.

"Sect... Sect Master Lv!" The desperate man stammered, shivering as he knelt in the center of the hall.

"Speak," Lv Xiao said indifferently.

"Sect Master Lv, Tiger Whisker Hall was ambushed! Near Mist Rain Lake, we encountered a surprise attack, and the Hall Master... the Hall Master, he..."

The hall was packed with people. Someone couldn't help but urge, "Stop dawdling and just say it!"

"Ah!" The desperate man jolted in terror, then squeezed his eyes shut. "The Tiger Whisker Hall Master has fallen in battle!"

"What?!"

"What did you just say?" The hall erupted in shock.

Thunder Mountain had ten major halls, each overseen by a Sea Realm Great Power.

The Tiger Whisker Hall Master, among them, stood as an elite—a martial artist of outstanding skill and unflinching bravery, ranked highly within Thunder Mountain!

Yet yesterday, the Hall Master had just set out, and now, by morning, news of his death had arrived?

"Y-Yes!" The desperate man sobbed, his voice trembling. "Tiger Whisker Hall has been completely annihilated... everyone's dead..."

"What?!"

"The Thousand Boat Alliance bastards—have they grown bold?"

"Damn it!" Outrage filled the hall as emotions flared.

And yet, skepticism arose as well.

"Impossible! How could Brother Tiger Whisker be killed by those Thousand Boat Alliance scum? Speak the truth!" A burly man strode forward, as if ready to crush the desperate man underfoot.

"The attackers likely weren't from the Thousand Boat Alliance!" the desperate man hurriedly shouted.

"Tiger Face!" An elderly voice interjected, halting the burly man's advance in an instant.

On either side of the dragon throne sat smaller, yet equally intricate, chairs.

On the left sat a dignified, elegant woman, dressed in purple robes, her posture formal and her gaze cold, observing the unfolding events impassively.

On the right sat a tall, lean elderly man, appearing to be in his seventies or eighties.

It was this white-haired elder who had issued the command to stop.

"Hmmp!" The burly man called Tiger Face snorted angrily, glaring daggers at the kneeling Tiger Whisker Hall member.

"Who." A calm voice sounded from atop the dragon throne.

The chaotic hall fell silent in an instant.

Lv Xiao still wore his impassive expression, his gaze fixed on the trembling Tiger Whisker disciple.

The desperate man felt his courage crumble into dust.

As a mere River Realm figure, he could hardly withstand the oppressive might of a Sea Realm Great Power.

Now, faced with the collective wrath of numerous Sea Realm figures inside the hall, how could a mere River Realm martial artist survive?

"I-I... don't... know." The man stammered, finally managing a sentence.

His faltering words only fueled the growing resentment.

"Ah!" Driven by a desperate survival instinct, the man broke out in a trembling voice, "There were West Desolation believers! And a sandstorm!"

The words "West Desolation believers" left the hall's occupants visibly stunned.

Thunder Mountain had been entrenched in the area for over thirteen years, yet West Desolation believers had been a rare sight.

"The attackers, they also... they also..." The desperate man suddenly remembered something, exclaiming, "Our Hall Master was resting in the lake when the enemy somehow infiltrated, appearing at the lakebed all of a sudden.

They ambushed us, blasting our Hall Master into the skies!

Then the sandstorm rose, and we couldn't see anything..."

The desperate man swallowed hard, his terror palpable as he described, "No one knows how the attackers surfaced from the lakebed—it could be invisibility techniques, or perhaps an Instant Teleportation technique..."

"Instant Teleportation." The dignified woman seated to the left of the dragon throne turned her head toward Lv Xiao.

Those two words were enough for Lv Xiao to understand what his Lady was implying.

Could it have been the Qiang Xiu Sect?

That didn't seem plausible. In the southeastern regions of the Holy Spirit Mountain Continent, Qiang Xiu disciples were exceedingly rare.

Still, there was another possibility—the Evil Dog Followers!

Long ago, the Chief of Tiantu Mountain Village, Luo Tiantu, had come seeking Thunder Mountain's help. He had revealed that the region harbored an Evil Dog Follower fallen to the Demon Path.

Not long after, Tiantu Mountain Village had been utterly annihilated.

The entire mountain had been reduced to ash!

It was unimaginable—how, even under Thunder Mountain's protection, Tiantu Mountain Village could have been wiped out so completely.

Who could have done this?

Either their adversary harbored an unrelenting blood feud with Tiantu Mountain, so much so that they had lost all restraint...

Or they were overwhelmingly powerful, simply disregarding Thunder Mountain altogether.

Perhaps...

Both.

"Hmm..." Lv Xiao leaned forward, his elbows on his knees, fingers interlaced and propping up his chin.

The one who destroyed Tiantu Mountain and the one who slaughtered Tiger Whisker Hall—could it really be the Evil Dog Follower?

Few dared to disregard Thunder Mountain.

Even fewer wielded Instant Teleportation techniques!

"There's more! More!" The desperate man exclaimed in sudden recall. "They had Jade Talisman believers! When the sandstorm arose, the ground turned into a Sand River! Sand Whips lashed everywhere—I was struck on my ankle..."

The man looked like he had narrowly escaped death, his lingering fear apparent. Truly, surviving had been sheer luck!

"What?!"

"Quicksand Talisman?!"

The man's words detonated the hall into utter chaos!

Thunder Mountain already had intelligence that at the temporary outpost of Lingfeng Hall, the terrain had similarly transformed into a congealed river-like state.

Fang Lingfeng and her Lingfeng Hall had been missing for nearly half a month!

Could there really be such an uncanny coincidence?

Did this mean that Lingfeng Hall and Tiger Whisker Hall had both fallen to the same group?

"Those bastards!" Tiger Face Hall Master cursed furiously, turning to the depths of the hall and bellowing, "Sect Master Lv, this is an orchestrated attack against Thunder Mountain!

Those dogs are tired of living!!"

"Silence!" barked the tall, slender elder seated to the dragon throne's right.

Once again reprimanded, Tiger Face Hall Master seethed with rage, snapping at the elder: "Elder Wang! They're already stepping all over us!"

"Yeah!"

"Those ungrateful scum—likely reinforcements hired by the Thousand Boat Alliance!"

"Exactly! Both Fang Lingfeng and the Tiger Whisker Hall Master were ambushed while scouting the Thousand Boat Alliance."

The hall buzzed with indignation as voices clamored in unison.

Thunder Mountain, used to trampling over others, had never faced such humiliation. How could the proud Sea Realm·East Ting believers bear this?

Suddenly, the hall plunged into silence.

The Sect Master had risen from the dragon throne.

Standing over two meters tall, Lv Xiao's immense frame radiated an oppressive presence.

He descended the steps step by step, approaching the kneeling Tiger Whisker disciple.

The overwhelming pressure seemed to press down with every step, and the desperate man trembled so violently he appeared about to collapse into himself.

"West Desolation believers, Jade Talisman believers, and one elusive foe—this is the intelligence you bring back?"

Lv Xiao spoke with chilling calm, his gaze fixed on the quivering wreck at his feet.

"I-I also heard explosions! And snarls... Ah!" The man screamed.

Lv Xiao leaned down, clasping the man's head in one massive hand.

Then, slowly, he straightened up.

The man dangled from Lv Xiao's grasp like a broken marionette, his legs limp and dragging on the ground.

"No... Sect Master Lv! I brought... intelligence... I ran back to report—"

"Crack!"

The sound of the Water Flow Armor shattering echoed abruptly.

As the armor fragmented, the man's skull crumpled inch by inch within Lv Xiao's palm.

"Ah! Aaaahhhh..." His agonized screams were short-lived.

The man's desperate flailing ceased entirely as his arms drooped lifelessly.

His skull shattered; he died horrifically on the spot.

The East Ting techniques could summon lightning and bolster the body, enhancing every physical attribute.

Yet, Lv Xiao had not unleashed any such Divine Techniques.

Even as a Sea Realm·Fifth Rank practitioner, it should have been impossible for him to crush a River Grade·Water Flow Armor with brute strength alone.

But on his finger glinted a jade ring.

The ring was blood red, emitting a deep crimson light and radiating a bloodthirsty aura—it granted Lv Xiao ferocious power!

"Huff..." Lv Xiao closed his eyes, exhaling deeply.

The Blood Jade Ring quivered softly, greedily absorbing the blood on its master's hands, nourishing itself.

Silence gripped the hall as everyone stood frozen in fear.

Although Sect Master Lv's face remained expressionless, all present could sense the storm of fury raging within him!

After a long pause, Elder Wang in the hall's depths rose and said:

"Sect Master! Now that the Thousand Boat Alliance has gained new lackeys, we must reconsider our strat—"

"No need," Lv Xiao interrupted.

He opened his eyes, glancing at the mutilated corpse at his feet.

No one dared to speak another word. Lv Xiao raised his foot, planting it on the already half-crushed head.

"Crunch! Crunch..."

Lv Xiao ground it down bit by bit, his tone devoid of emotion:

"Today, we march on the Thousand Boat Alliance."

...

Chapter 587: Divine General Returns to Loyalty!

Thousand Boat Islands, a faint white mist permeates.

Additionally, Fog Dragon Rolls descend from the sky, connecting with an island in the northern part of the islands.

The scene is incredibly spectacular!

At this moment, Xue Fengchen is no longer on Green Lotus Island. Under He Yingcai's enthusiastic recommendation, he was transferred to the central area of the Seven Islands of Bihe, where there is a sizeable island.

This island is named Fuyao Island!

Implying "soar into the sky without limits."

Deep beneath the island, multiple cultivation rooms are set up, built specifically for those advancing in rank to seclude and break through.

Fuyao Island is also guarded by 40 elite personnel drawn from the Seven Islands of Bihe.

On a normal day, anyone advancing here would consider it an immense blessing!

Whether it be the Thousand Boat Alliance or the Seven Islands of Bihe, they would ensure your safety.

But at this critical moment, no one dares to make such a bold statement!

Many elite guards on the island are extremely tense, and the atmosphere is extraordinarily heavy.

"Thanks to everyone for staying vigilant!" He Yingcai's voice came from the misty sky, "From now on, any intruder approaching the island shall be killed without mercy!"

"Yes!"

"Yes!" Voices echoed from various parts of the island.

In the dense fog, it's hard to distinguish friend from foe, so during this special period of advancement, outsiders are not allowed to set foot on the island to prevent any mischief.

He Yingcai stepped on a green lotus leaf and flew away gracefully.

Flying over three hundred meters, the mist thinned slightly, He Yingcai searched for direction and headed towards Green Lotus Island.

Just then, a few figures returned, prompting He Yingcai to stop mid-air, calling out:

"Junior Lu, Mr. Cong Long."

"Senior He." Lu Ran, holding the Divine Weapon, landed with the strategist on her lotus leaf.

In this primitive society, whenever Lu Ran called out "senior," he felt a bit awkward.

Yet He Yingcai refused to change the term.

It seems she wanted to emphasize their relationship through this unique address.

Lu Ran didn't mind.

"How is it?" He Yingcai asked with concern, "What did the two Island Masters Tianya and Mingyue say?"

Yu Changsheng sighed, "The two Island Masters are benevolent, stating they will protect the members of the Ran Sect during their advancement with the same standards they use for Alliance Leader Yun."

Lu Ran nodded repeatedly, "Alas, I'm so touched~"

"Hehe~" He Yingcai's brows relaxed, and she laughed brightly, "Our Ran Sect has done so much for the Thousand Boat Alliance and sacrificed so much, it's only right we receive this treatment."

Lu Ran's heart was stirred.

We?

Our Ran Sect?

In the light mist, looking at He Yingcai's elegantly smiling face, Lu Ran felt a secret delight in his heart.

In the past, I subtly probed and tried several times.

Now... Are you taking the opportunity to respond to me?

Don't tell me, you're saying the wrong thing by accident!

Beside him, Yu Changsheng also keenly caught this term and couldn't help but smile and shake his head.

Lu Ran hasn't even revealed his secret or brought out his trump card!

This Island Master of the Sea Realm has already decided and intends to follow him.

Hmm... Sect Master, worthy of the title!

"Senior, I heard that," Lu Ran chuckled.

"What?" He Yingcai appeared slightly confused, asking, "Heard what?"

"Goodness~" Lu Ran immediately rolled his eyes.

So she's a teasing flirt!

Playing this game with me?

"Hehe~" He Yingcai chuckled, maneuvering the green lotus leaf northward, "Once we safely get through this, Junior Lu must tell me about your grand ambitions."

If before she was pretending to be confused, this statement seemed to openly express her thoughts.

Lu Ran stood shoulder to shoulder with He Yingcai, his mouth blurting out, "What does Senior want to hear?"

He Yingcai: ?

Lu Ran chuckled, "I'm just laid-back, that's all~"

He Yingcai cast a reproachful glance at Lu Ran, then turned her head, her beautiful eyes looking at the elegant and handsome young man.

She whispered, "Mr. Cong Long possesses great wisdom, with an extraordinarily high level of strength, but is utterly devoted to Junior Lu. Surely, there must be a reason?"

Evidently, Xue Fengchen's sudden advancement changed many things and prompted some people to make certain decisions.

Undoubtedly, the forces of Thunder Mountain will soon arrive!

A war concerning life and death will break out imminently!

At this time, He Yingcai chose to let go of a bit of her reserve and respond to Lu Ran's previous probing...

Was she adding a bargaining chip for her survival?

Yu Changsheng looked at the elegant and graceful lady, nodding with a smile, "I was asleep in a cold lake in the mountains.

That day, the Sect Master hauled me out, and I've been following him ever since."

He Yingcai tilted her head slightly.

There seemed to be more question marks above her head...

"Hahaha!" Lu Ran couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Who is Yu Changsheng?

Trying to get information from him? That's not even a joke!

He Yingcai's eyes turned resentful, openly staring at Yu Changsheng.

At first, she was indeed captivated by that handsome face.

Combined with an extremely high cultivation level, along with the kind and benevolent identity of a Dragon Carp believer, he was simply unbeatable!

In the days that followed, she also witnessed Yu Changsheng's abilities, marveling at his vision, thinking, and wisdom, ultimately becoming enamored with his graceful demeanor.

Alas, it's a case of unrequited love.

He Yingcai didn't believe that Mr. Cong Long was unaware of her thoughts.

How could such a wise man not notice?

Especially during those ten-plus days when the Ran Sect was out and heading to greet the Big Wind Hall, He Yingcai had done quite a lot while maintaining her composure.

And Yu Changsheng...

Just like that day, when the Seven Islands of Bihe collectively welcomed Lu Ran back to the island on a rainy day.

He Yingcai held a fresh lotus leaf, stood side by side with Yu Changsheng, shielding him from the slanting wind and fine rain.

But some annoying fellow kept his head down, studying that broken Divine Weapon!

It wasn't until the Dawn Blade eagerly flew out to greet its master that Yu Changsheng looked up, a smile finally appearing on his face.

He seemed to be a Divine Weapon too, a humanoid one.

Joy sprang from the heart,

finally waiting for the master to return home...

"Lu junior, oh Lu junior." He Yingcai sighed heavily in her heart.

From Yu Changsheng to Deng Yuxiang, then Gao Yunyan, these figures of the Yangyang Sea tightly surrounding you, truly astound.

Hmm... you indeed have sufficient leadership charisma.

Speaking only of helping the Thousand Boat Alliance, this boldness, this high morale, does indeed shine with brilliance.

"Senior Sister."

"Hmm?"

"We flew past our destination." Lu Ran whispered.

He Yingcai: "..."

The Island Master of the Sea Realm was momentarily embarrassed, but quickly adjusted her mindset.

Her exquisite face bore a touch of red, maneuvering the fresh lotus leaf, changing the flight direction.

Centered around Fuyao Island where Xue Fengchen secluded himself, within a radius of three hundred meters, thick mist churned, while outside three hundred meters, there was still swirling white mist, but people could still see each other.

After all, a large amount of mist was taken by the Fog Dragon Roll, rolled into the depths of Fuyao Island.

The trio landed in the small courtyard.

Jiang Ruyi, accompanied by the Nightmare Guardian, came out to greet them.

After some exchange between the parties, Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but nod secretly.

The Thousand Boat Alliance was still grateful for past kindness.

"Let's wait a bit." Lu Ran led people inside, "The other three sects will send people over to jointly guard the northern islands."

Likewise, the Seven Islands of Bihe will send people to other sects' islands to join forces against enemies.

Different sect believers imply a variety of Divine Techniques, naturally beneficial for defense.

Lu Ran and others walked inside, while Yu Changsheng gently tugged He Yingcai's sleeve.

"Hmm?" He Yingcai halted her steps, turned around, looked up at the man.

"Island Master He holds a prestigious position and noble status, but in some matters, there's no need to overly adhere to it." Yu Changsheng advised, offering an exit.

He knew that something like "after this ordeal, Lu junior will talk about great ambitions," was just a pretext.

For so long, what Lu Ran did within the Thousand Boat Alliance, though only revealing the tip of the iceberg, was enough for anyone to see the Ran Sect's effort direction.

Hearing this, He Yingcai's heart stirred slightly, her willow-leaf eyebrows gently raising.

Is Mr. Cong Long...?

Yu Changsheng said softly: "After all, the Thousand Boat Alliance is an alliance. Each sect and even each island, are essentially allies; you are not anyone's subordinate, there is no talk of betrayal."

He Yingcai realized she misunderstood.

Yu Changsheng smiled and nodded, his eyes showing a hint of encouragement: "Island Master He has stayed in the mountains long enough, knows the mountain situation well, and knows the rules of the Mountain Realm.

Encountering a bright master and serving a wise king is a rare opportunity.

Island Master He is talented and intelligent, Master Lu has never hidden his appreciation for talent, now that Island Master He also has this intention, it's best to seize the opportunity and take the initiative."

Inside the hall, Lu Ran sat at the table, blinking involuntarily.

Deng Yuxiang listened intently with a smile.

Jiang Ruyi, lacking Perception Techniques, looked at them curiously and asked: "What's going on?"

"Uh..." Lu Ran was a bit stuck.

Deng Yuxiang, giving Jiang Ruyi face, lightly explained: "Mr. Cong Long is recruiting talent, it seems, the next Sea Realm for Ran Sect isn't going to be Xue Fengchen."

Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but secretly admire.

Lu Ran being able to meet Mr. Cong Long is truly fortunate.

Deng Yuxiang looked at Lu Ran, asking: "Give the title of Divine General?"

Third-class God, a believer of Bi He Sect, also a Yangyang Sea, is indeed qualified to enter the Ran Sect's "Eight Divine Generals" series.

"Squeak~"

The doors split left and right.

Through the thin mist, two figures entered in succession.

A handsome and suave man smiled at Lu Ran, saluted with clasped hands, and took a seat aside.

A graceful and elegant woman, her beautiful eyes glanced over Yu Changsheng's figure, then looked at Lu Ran, her voice gently:

"Would the Master of the Lu Sect be willing to accept me, to join the Ran Sect?"

"Sure!" Lu Ran smiled happily.

He Yingcai's lips slightly raised, also understanding the rules of Holy Spirit Mountain.

She set aside her status and restraint, poised to kneel down.

But Lu Ran didn't permit it.

"Swish~"

Lu Ran suddenly flickered, stood before He Yingcai, and held her arms.

He Yingcai's delicate body trembled, her beautiful eyes slightly widened!

Lu Ran's tone was gentle: "No need, Senior Sister."

He Yingcai suddenly raised her head, eyes astonished: "You... you?!"

Lu Ran appeared well-behaved, lips curved in a smile.

Chapter 588: I killed it!

The Bi He Sect is truly extraordinary!

They are a mortal enemy of the Evil Demon·Tangled Silk Shadow clan!

How can they be lacking?

The Bi He Sect has a skill for summoning lotus leaves and sheltering all things·Sky Connecting Leaf; and a powerful defensive garment·Lotus Leaf Gown.

There is also the technique for shooting out lotus silk and controlling the bodies of living creatures·Lotus Silk Connection; and a skill for disrupting the energy within enemies·Lotus Silk Chaos.

Moreover, they have a medical technique for healing injuries by sprinkling a drop of crystalline lotus leaf dew·Blue Dew Wash.

And a spirit defense technique·Lotus Heart!

What kind of divine support is this?

Plus, they have an extremely strong output skill, which is the River Realm Technique of the Bi He Sect·Ten Thousand Fathom Clear Lotus...

Even if Lu Ran gains nothing else from his journey south, recruiting He Yingcai of the Sea Realm would count as completing his mission!

"Junior, you..."

He Yingcai watched Lu Ran in a daze.

Lu Ran still wore a warm smile: "Call me Sect Leader."

He Yingcai: "..."

Is now really the time to discuss titles?

The entire world knows you're an Immortal Sheep Believer!

And yet, you used instant teleportation on me?

Is this right?

"Master Lu..." the Island Master of the Sea Realm obediently changed the title.

He Yingcai was more inclined to believe that Lu Ran's Instant Teleportation Technique came from the Divine Weapon Domain or the effect of a magic artifact.

But Lu Ran's next words made her head buzz:

"I can steal the power of God Demon."

"Steal... steal the power of God Demon?" He Yingcai seemed to be hearing a fairy tale, and her speech was somewhat incoherent.

Since becoming a Great Power of the Sea Realm, she had never been this out of sorts!

Lu Ran shrugged his shoulders: "Just like your nemesis."

With those words, his eyes transformed into a demonic red pupil.

Tethering Evil Technique·Silk Pupil!

Lu Ran dared to cast Silk Pupil on He Yingcai precisely because the Bi He Sect possessed a spirit defense technique—Lotus Heart!

He Yingcai was immune to all spiritual output.

Lu Ran grinned, winking his left eye.

He Yingcai looked into Lu Ran's beautiful eyes, completely mesmerized.

Those deep red pupils...

are truly beautiful!

In their strangeness, they held a trace of allure.

Coupled with Lu Ran's slightly playful smile, He Yingcai truly felt she was seeing an evil Tangled Silk Shadow Believer!

"Senior Sister, please keep this a secret for me," Lu Ran softly reminded.

He Yingcai opened her mouth, wanting to speak but stopping herself.

Lu Ran continued: "Senior Sister has many questions; you can privately ask Mr. Cong Long.

He's kind-hearted and will certainly answer them for you."

Yu Changsheng: ???

Originally, he was leisurely fanning himself and enjoying the show, but now even his actions were frozen in place.

Me... what did you say about me?

Kind-hearted?

He Yingcai calmed her surging emotions and turned to look at Yu Changsheng.

She happened to see that matchlessly handsome man, wearing a resentful little expression.

In He Yingcai's eyes, it was particularly amusing.

"Alright, I'll go ask the gentleman," He Yingcai lightly nodded, understanding that Junior Brother Lu was creating an opportunity for her.

Just then, Lu Ran's expression turned serious, and he slightly raised his head.

Soon after, a shout came from outside the door:

"Master Lu! Master Lu?"

The voice was very urgent, making the listener's heart restless.

"Come in!" Lu Ran lightly patted He Yingcai's arm.

He Yingcai immediately stepped aside.

A man in black entered and hastily reported: "Master Lu! There's a large group thirty kilometers to the west, at least two hundred people!

Many are carrying long spears and short spears; it should be the main force of Thunder Mountain!"

"Oh?" Lu Ran was startled, "Immediately inform Qifeng of this news, and continue to investigate!"

"Yes!"

The man in black transformed into a pitch-black crow and flew away in reverse.

"The battle is finally about to begin." Deng Yuxiang twirled the exquisite Seven Star Dagger in her fingers and caught it in her palm.

There was a hint of excitement in the woman's words?

"Try to present yourself as an Immortal Sheep Believer." Lu Ran instructed as he walked out.

"Yes," Deng Yuxiang softly responded.

Lu Ran stepped into the courtyard, drawing a divine weapon from his waist, and flew straight to the sky.

He did have many flying techniques, but under the watchful eyes of all, Lu Ran still presented himself as an Immortal Sheep Believer.

Lu Ran flew higher and higher, surveying the surroundings.

The sky was overcast, with a light drizzle falling.

The distant undulating hills were all shrouded in misty rain.

Faint and indistinct, it was full of artistic conception.

Yet it also obscured the view.

Suddenly, Lu Ran's eyes focused, and he saw amid the swirling fog, a group traveling on lotus petals, flying towards the west of Mist Rain Lake.

The Island Master of the Sky Phoenix Sect·Tianya Island!

Leaders of the Chenghua Sect, Bi He Sect, Sword Lotus Sect.

And He Qifeng from Big Wind Hall and others!

Lu Ran watched as the group flew to the westernmost island of Mist Rain Lake.

It was an empty island, serving as a buffer zone, only fifty meters from the shore.

What are they planning?

Lu Ran scrutinized the core leadership of the Thousand Boat Alliance.

Seeking peace?

Since the Island Master of Tianya Island didn't notify the Ran Sect to attend, maybe that's the intention.

However, Lu Ran understood He Qifeng well.

The Martial Monk lady was one of great wisdom and courage, unlikely to harbor illusions; with her style, she's likely to begin with diplomacy before resorting to force.

On Green Lotus Island, He Yingcai was also welcoming allies from various factions, arranging tasks busily.

Meanwhile, on the westernmost island of Mist Rain Lake, the core leadership of the Thousand Boat Alliance was whispering, their atmosphere extremely tense.

"They've arrived." He Qifeng's eyes narrowed slightly.

With the faint sound of electric currents, the vanguard of the Thunder Shock Sect arrived at the lakeside.

The two forces were no more than fifty meters apart, staring at each other.

Tension mounted!

Chapter 589: I killed it!_2

"Thousand Boat Alliance!!" A roar exploded.

A burly man wielding a Sky-piercing Halberd, surrounded by currents of electricity, suddenly appeared by the lakeside.

With an angry expression, he pointed his halberd at the Island Master of Tianya, "Aren't you all going to kneel down and die?!"

No one on the island responded.

"Are you deaf?" The Tiger-faced Hall Master roared in anger, "You killed our Lingfeng Hall Master and ambushed our Hu Xu Hall Master!

Are you dogs tired of living?"

The Tiger-faced Hall Master had a rugged face and dark skin, accompanied by the terrifying aura of the Sea Realm, he was purely a fiend!

"Speak!" The Tiger-faced Hall Master, having received no response, thundered, "Say something, damn you!"

The Island Master of Tianya finally spoke: "Sect Master Lu, long time no see."

It turned out that the large Thunder Mountain troop had arrived by the lakeside.

Among them were three men and women dressed in purple robes, anyone could tell they held high status.

Draped in a broad purple robe, the tall and majestic Sect Master of Thunder Mountain, Lv Xiao!

Wearing a luxurious purple robe, her long hair tied high, displaying an elegant and noble demeanor, the First Lady Lv.

And dressed in a purple combat outfit, her long hair draped over her shoulders, exuding an overwhelming presence, the Third Lady Lv.

She not only wielded a Divine Weapon-Sky-piercing Halberd but also carried six short halberds on her back, their tips gleaming with cold luster!

It was said that this Third Lady Lv had perfected the technique of flying halberds.

She never missed, hitting accurately every time!

Since her ascent up the mountain, those six short halberds had claimed countless lives.

At this moment, Lv Xiao looked expressionlessly at the Thousand Boat Alliance members, his gaze also fell on He Qifeng.

This girl was the youngest, yet her aura was the most overwhelming among everyone.

Draped in an auburn long robe, she exuded a hint of royalty, causing people to admire silently.

Obviously, this woman was not just any Sky Phoenix Believer or Chenghua Disciple.

"Why is Sect Master Lv so aggressive?" The Island Master of Tianya spoke again, "Why must you be at odds with our Thousand Boat Alliance?"

As always, Lv Xiao remained indifferent to the words of the Island Master of Tianya.

Yet a resonant female voice came forth, its words shocking the world:

"Sky Phoenix scum, do you know your crime?"

Immediately, the Thousand Boat Alliance members looked toward the third wife of Sect Master Lv.

The Third Lady Lv appeared arrogant, her upturned eyes full of harshness.

Indeed, Holy Spirit Mountain was a lawless place.

If this were the Human World, even if two people had deep-seated enmity, one would never dare to curse the other's revered god.

But here, the Third Lady Lv directly linked "Sky Phoenix" and "scum" together.

Such treasonous words!

"You!" The Island Master's face turned stiff.

The Third Lady Lv raised her Divine Weapon Halberd, pointing at him: "Dare to touch people from our Lingfeng Hall or Hu Xu Hall?"

Sky Phoenix scum, you have some nerve!"

Even a clay figurine has a bit of temper, let alone a Great Power from the Sea Realm?

The Island Master of Tianya said in a deep voice: "If it weren't for your faction repeatedly harassing the Thousand Boat Alliance, these incidents wouldn't have happened."

"Heh." Third Lady Lv scoffed, "Sky Phoenix scum! To dare speak to your aunt like this today, it seems you've truly found some backing?"

The Island Master of Tianya suppressed his anger, as He Qifeng beside him raised her voice:

"Wuji Peak·Hall Master of Big Wind Hall·He Qifeng, greets everyone."

"Wuji Peak?"

"Hall Master of Big Wind Hall... is that the City Lord of the Forbidden City?"

"Seems like it!"

"Indeed she is from the Martial Monk Faction! She's a First-class God-Monk's disciple!" Buzzing discussions arose.

Obviously, the identity of the Wuji Peak Hall Master and a First-class God Believer was enough to evoke fear!

Third Lady Lv abruptly turned her head, her sharp gaze sweeping over the crowd.

In an instant, the field became silent, everyone as silent as cicadas in winter.

Only then did Third Lady Lv look at He Qifeng, questioning sharply: "What a Wuji Peak, a bunch of hypocritical bald donkeys!

Aren't you known for being neutral?

Why did you kill our two Hall Masters?"

He Qifeng remained unangered and even more composed: "Our Big Wind Hall has never laid hands on the Thunder Shock Sect."

Third Lady Lv frowned, stubbornly saying: "If not you, then who else?"

The Hu Xu Hall members who had escaped clearly said that the team ambushing Hu Xu Hall included disciples from West Desolation, Jade Talisman disciples, and a mysterious figure.

Obviously, it wasn't this group of monks.

The First Lady on the side spoke, "I am willing to believe Hall Master He. In that case, don't meddle in these murky waters anymore."

She paused, then continued, "It's an indisputable fact that the Thousand Boat Alliance exterminated our hall members and killed our hall master! Today, we from Thunder Mountain are here to demand an explanation.

Hall Master He, your faction prides itself on being neutral and must not engage in conflicts with other sects.

Make sure you don't violate the sect's rules."

Her words, sharp and sarcastic, indeed made people fume with anger.

He Qifeng looked at the dignified woman with a half-smile, loudly saying, "Big Wind Hall has been invited by the Thousand Boat Alliance to play at Mist Rain Lake.

If a fire breaks out at the host's home, naturally the guests must lend a hand and help.

Why don't you all go back first? After we from Big Wind Hall leave, you can come to reason it out again?"

"What a joke!" The Third Lady Lü's face was unsightly, "As long as you stay, we can't exact our revenge every day?

Do you really think Thunder Mountain is afraid of your Wuji Peak?"

"Hall Master He, how overbearing!" The First Lady also had a stern face, her voice frosty, "It is only right to repay a murder with a life! You shouldn't meddle in this matter.

Hall Master He, don't be confused for a moment and defy Peak Master Tu's order, betraying the entire Wuji Peak Sect."

He Qifeng couldn't help but raise his eyebrows slightly.

What a big accusation!

As expected of Thunder Mountain's First Lady, she indeed has some skill.

"Lady Lü, you jest." The Island Master of Tianya was equally cold in speech, "It was your Lingfeng Hall and Hu Xu Hall who first invaded the Thousand Boat Alliance, where does the talk of repaying murder with a life come from?"

Lv Xiao, who had remained silent all along, finally spoke, "Hand over the murderer, and I will spare your lives."

Standing with his hands behind his back, the Island Master of Tianya, facing the army of Thunder Mountain, displayed an immensely strong attitude, "On our Qianzhou Islands, there are no murderers!

There are only soldiers protecting our homeland, only heroes helping us defend it!"

His words were resounding.

In the sky above, Lu Ran, slowly flying in, couldn't help but glance at the Island Master of Tianya a few more times.

This gentle and refined middle-aged man can be so tough sometimes?

Hmm~

I like it!

And as the members of Ran Sect flew towards the island, the people of Thunder Mountain on the shore naturally turned to look.

Deng Yuxiang, Yu Changsheng, Gao Yunyan.

The three figures of Yangyang Sea, all wearing bamboo hats and draped in large raincoats, stood behind Lu Ran with an astonishing aura and a mysterious presence.

Another great power of the Sea Realm, He Yingcai, stood in the air atop a lotus leaf, accompanied by the Ran Sect Lady, Jiang Ruyi.

The spot where the warriors of Ran Sect landed was intentionally kept dozens of meters apart from He Qifeng and others.

Lu Ran's gaze swept over the three figures in purple, finally locking eyes with Lv Xiao, he spoke:

"I killed the Lingfeng Hall Master."

"Hiss..."

"What the...?!"

"This...this brat?" Whispering voices, murmurs, and gasps of cold air came one after another.

Everyone's expressions were different as they looked at this young man draped in a large white robe, full of poise.

Some seemed to look at a fool, others at a corpse.

Yet, some were quite astonished, not thinking this young man was lying.

At this moment, several great powers of the Sea Realm were gathered around the young man, standing behind him in an orderly fashion, which spoke volumes!

Lu Ran spoke again, his voice cutting through the fine rain, drifting into everyone's ears:

"I also killed the Hu Xu Hall Master."

At this, there was no sound by the lake.

Only a deathly silence!

The expressionless face of Lv Xiao finally changed, anger climbing rapidly in his heart!

A terrifying aura emanated from his mighty and robust body, overwhelming everything, scaring the disciples around into shivers.

Wasn't Lu Ran just provoking?

This demeanor of his was practically stepping on Sect Master Lü's face, flaunting his power!

"Lingfeng Hall, Hu Xu Hall, altogether twenty-thirty people, all killed by me." Lu Ran's lips curved slightly, carrying a hint of arrogance.

This type of smile rarely appeared on his face.

But at this moment, it seemed as if he had inherited the essence of the Barbaric Woman Clan!

Lu Ran looked straight into Lv Xiao's eyes, with an unbridled smile on his lips, word by word:

"And then?"

...

Chapter 590: Evil Demon Disciples?

"How dare you!" The First Lady's face was angry, full of authority.

"You're bold!" The Third Lady Lv exclaimed in shock and anger, shouting sternly.

She suddenly raised her left hand, reaching to her shoulder, gripping a short halberd, and fiercely flung it towards Lu Ran.

"Whoosh!"

The short halberd gleamed with cold light, spinning rapidly, directly piercing Lu Ran.

"Ding!" a crisp sound rang out!

A tall figure blocked in front of Lu Ran, a woman holding an exceptionally ornate short blade, and heavily chopped the flying halberd to the ground.

The Seven Treasures Blade?

The First Lady's eyes narrowed, her gaze sweeping over the mysterious cloaked woman, then looking at the young man in white robes: "Madam Kong's Seven Treasures Blade, why is it in your hands?"

Is it you group of thieves who attacked Tiantu Mountain?"

Her words caused an unsettling feeling among everyone, countless gazes fell on the Ran Sect warriors.

Deng Yuxiang slightly raised her head, revealing a stunningly attractive face under the brim of her bamboo hat.

The smile on her face was even more brazen than Lu Ran's.

Every time Deng Yuxiang recalled how she set that filthy mountaintop ablaze, her heart surged with exhilaration.

The only unpleasing thing is that she might have inadvertently exposed Lu Ran's identity?

People from Thunder Mountain should know that Tiantu Mountain provoked a disciple of the Evil Dog Sect?

Thinking of this, Deng Yuxiang's mood grew heavy.

"Yes, it was me." Lu Ran placed a hand on Deng Yuxiang's shoulder.

Without blaming, and openly admitted!

Deng Yuxiang silently stepped back a bit, standing properly at Lu Ran's side and rear.

Under the watchful eyes of everyone, Lu Ran confirmed again: "Luo Tiantu, Madam Kong, and Lady Luo, who was forced to be the mistress.

Fifty or sixty followers of Prisoner Demon, Nuoshua followers, Jade Talisman believers, were all killed by me."

The calm voice pierced through layers of the rain curtain, clearly reaching everyone's ears.

It made people's hearts skip a beat!

Lu Ran stared directly into Lady Lv's eyes and asked those three words again:

"Then what?"

The First Lady's expression was extremely stiff!

By Mist Rain Lake, there was silence.

Even the always proud Third Lady Lv was now speechless, her eyes wide open, watching the incredibly arrogant Lu Ran.

Mad!

Too damn mad!!

This young man... seems to match his age with hers better?

Though a bit younger, he's certainly better than fifty-something Lv Xiao by far!

Admiring strength,

is human nature.

Especially in some personalities, it's more pronounced.

Everyone didn't notice that the Third Lady Lv's gaze towards Lu Ran carried a distinct meaning.

Under the pressure of Thunder Mountain's army, and also under the scrutiny of more than ten Sea Realm powers, this young man admitted his actions without fear!

What kind of demeanor is this?

Speaking of which, compared to Tiantu Mountain, Lingfeng Hall and Hu Xu Hall indeed fell short.

No matter how strong the two halls are, they are just units, whereas Tiantu Mountain is a mid-ranking power organization!

With Sea Realm Peak-ranked Luo Tiantu and Madam Kong anchoring Tiantu Mountain!

Lu Ran... wiped out all of Tiantu Mountain?

Such a glorious achievement means absolute strength!

Dozens of meters away, the core leaders of the Thousand Boat Alliance were also a bit stunned.

Including the Grey Lotus Island Master, his wrinkled old face was full of contemplation.

On that night when they met, Lu Ran once recounted the thrilling journey he had been through after entering the mountain, traveling north and south.

Looking back now, Master Lu left out quite a bit of information!

"Evil Demon disciple!" Lv Xiao was less impulsive, his face extremely gloomy, "Evil Dog believer!"

His brief words reminded everyone on Thunder Mountain of the young man in white robes' identity.

In fact, when Lv Xiao first saw the young Lu Ran, he already had a guess.

In this Holy Spirit Mountain, age has become Lu Ran's characteristic.

"Evil Dog believer!"

"Evil Dog... damn! This..." The deathly still Thunder Mountain camp suddenly erupted into chaos.

As soon as Dong Ting disciples realized Lu Ran's identity, the nature changed completely.

The Dong Ting sect has the fastest speed among all Divine sects!

But no matter how fast they are, they have running paths.

The Evil Dog Evil Skill·Evil Shadow Flash appears out of nowhere!

Combined with Lu Ran's past terrifying achievements and his current reckless posture...

For a moment, everyone on Thunder Mountain felt unsafe.

Because no one could guarantee that Lu Ran wouldn't appear behind them in the next instant!

"Wuji Peak! Thousand Boat Alliance!" The Great Lady suddenly turned her eyes, staring angrily at the people on the island, "You actually collude with Evil Demon disciples, can you face the divine lord you worship?"

He Qifeng: ???

What a mess!

When Lu Ran was in the human world, he was indeed called Ran Dog by millions, but he's not a real dog!

Is your Thunder Mountain unable to tell dogs from sheep?

Though...

Lu Ran seems to have many secrets indeed?

He Qifeng couldn't help but think of many things.

The most typical instance was before Lu Ran's westward journey, under her strong care, Lu Ran was moved, refusing many times, and eventually accepted the Magical Artifact-Wind Barrier Treasure Pearl.

But later, he sent someone to return the Treasure Pearl.

To this day, Lu Ran hasn't given a reasonable explanation.

He must be guarding secrets, fearing that others might discover something.

He Qifeng believed she had a great relationship with Lu Ran, daring to wield Divine Weapon-Silent Night Blade, unafraid of Silent Night knowing everything inside Wuji Peak, so what was Lu Ran afraid of?

To this day, He Qifeng doesn't even know the location of Ran Sect's base!

As she pondered, He Qifeng turned her gaze to Lu Ran.

Only to see Lu Ran laughing, his laughter full of mockery: "Ha, Evil Dog follower?

Evil Dog... fit to accept me as a disciple?"

Today's Lu Ran is vastly different from his usual style!

Extremely arrogant, unrivaled!

The humility and easy-going nature he had in the past have all been thrown into the trash in the face of a great enemy.

"Lady Lv, stop attempting to sow discord between our Thousand Boat Alliance and the Ran Sect with these petty tricks," the Tianya Island Master replied loudly.

This acting hierarch of the Thousand Boat Alliance is indeed a bit befuddled.

But with the great enemy at hand, the Tianya Island Master would not be foolish enough to push allies away.

Lady Lv suppressed the anger in her heart and spoke again, "Is the Thousand Boat Alliance colluding with Prisoner Demon disciples just to survive? Is Hall Master He also so deluded?

Do you intend to betray the Martial Monk and betray your Wuji Peak?"

He Qifeng tilted his head to look at Lu Ran, his bright eyes blinked gently.

Surprisingly, a bit...um, playful?

This scene truly infuriated Lady Lv.

From the bottom of her heart, she didn't want the Martial Monk believers involved.

After all, He Qifeng held a high position and was even the Forbidden City Lord.

Anyone with eyes could see Wuji Peak's Peak Master Tu's regard for her and glimpse the grand vision of Wuji Peak.

If anything happens to He Qifeng, the Thunder Mountain Sect might very well suffer retaliation from the Wuji Peak Sect!

The Tianya Island Master interrupted, "Deceptive words to confuse the public, indeed despicable! It's undeniable that Master Lu is not a Prisoner Demon disciple, but even if he were, he'd be a thousand times nobler than you ambitious Dong Ting disciples!

Leave immediately!

Or else, don't blame our Thousand Boat Alliance for being inhospitable!"

He Qifeng had not made any definitive statement, but upon hearing the Tianya Island Master's words, he nodded in agreement.

"Good! Very good!" Lady Lv was mockingly amused, "Prisoner Demon disciples lack any sense of morality!

Since Tianya Island Master and Hall Master He insist on being deluded, you should be careful!

Now, he is your lackey, but in a moment, he might just bite you!"

Still sowing discord?

Lu Ran was displeased, "Hey! Old hag, you sure talk a lot of crap! Did you come here just for a chat?"

Lady Lv's eyes widened instantly.

It was clear that Lu Ran's words were incredibly damaging.

Indeed, regardless of a woman's strength realm or social position, they're quite sensitive about age.

Lady Lv, in her forties and mid-age, was quite dignified and graceful.

But Lu Ran's "old hag" was practically dancing on Lady Lv's minefield!

Lu Ran continued to dish out, "Talking more as you age, huh! If you don't dare to fight, then take your people back to Thunder Mountain and really think over your defenses!

Soon, I'll pay you a personal visit.

I promise you, the way Tiantu Mountain was destroyed, your Thunder Mountain will meet the same end!"

"You!!" Lady Lv was so furious that her lips turned pale, her body trembling.

Lady Lv had been persistently trying to get the Wuji Peak members out of the picture, meanwhile manipulating right and wrong to sow discord between the Thousand Boat Alliance and the Ran Sect.

Her strategy has been clear and quite tactful.

Yet now...

Those in high positions for long have indeed one common flaw: They cannot tolerate defiance, and cannot stand the slightest disrespect.

"Thunder Mountain!" Lv Xiao was equally furious.

This reckless Evil Dog follower had truly disrespected their Thunder Mountain!

Lv Xiao shouted fiercely, "Form the ranks! Brandish the halberds!"

The sound of electricity abruptly surged, incessantly.

To say "form the ranks," in reality, the Dong Ting disciples began darting around and scattering widely.

"Huff!"

Then, the Dong Ting disciples raised their palms simultaneously.

In the overcast sky, terrifying energies began to surge.

This was evidently the Dong Ting Sect's River Realm Technique·Thundering Divine Halberd!

"Stop!" Tianya Island Master also shouted fiercely.

He unfolded two white phoenix wings behind him, flying upwards as his hands reached forward.

"Whoosh!!"

A terrifying gust of wind blew forward, directly toward the enemy formation.

Sea Grade Divine Skill·Gale Disarray!

From the wings of Tianya Island Master, white feathers shot out one after another.

Sea Grade Divine Skill·Heavenly Feather Killing Array!

The feathers in the gale traversed incredibly fast, pouring like raindrops across the lake.

Simultaneously, the island masters from the other three sects of the Thousand Boat Alliance also activated their Divine Skills.

Gigantic, tender lotus flowers bloomed on the lake surface, from which Flying Swords emerged.

Sword Lotus Divine Skill·Lotus Flying Sword!

Lotus blossoms unfurled along the lake surface, blooming head-on across the lake.

Endless petals and lotus leaves surged forward, spinning rapidly, with a great aura of clearing the universe!

Bi He Sect's River Realm Technique·Ten Thousand Clear Lotus!

Additionally, a paper umbrella emerged, growing larger and flying skyward.

Chenghua Sect's River Realm Technique·Heavenly Luo Parasol!

And in the sky, there were not just this one umbrella shrouding the sun.

From behind the people on the islands of Mist Rain Lake, huge paper umbrellas flew quickly one after another.

In the gaps between umbrellas, lush green lotus leaves connected to cover every defensive gap.

Bi He Sect and Chenghua Sect evidently had made ample preparations to fend off the Thundering Divine Halberd descending from the sky.

The scene was incredibly magnificent!

Ultimately, this final battle had arrived.

"Snap!"

Amidst the chaos at the battlefield's frontline, Lu Ran casually grasped, and the Eight Desolate Blade hanging around his waist unsheathed automatically, landing in its master's hand.

Unintentionally, Lu Ran's body trembled slightly.

Fear? Cowardice?

No,

No, not at all...

Lu Ran licked his lips, his gaze tightly locking onto Lv Xiao.

Blood boiling!