

Old Gods 601

Chapter 601: Really Rich and Oily-Burning

Third Lady Lv was suspended in the air!

From above, the Immortal Sky Python howled down, from below, terrifying schools of fish surged upwards.

Additionally, the Night Charm Blade swiftly shuttled back and forth, tearing through.

"Crack! Crack..."

Two sets of armor swiftly covered in fissures, then exploded with a bang!

The Magic Artifact·Moonlight Tassel Sachet sensed the danger, darting out from Third Lady's waistband at the moment the two layers of armor shattered.

It seems that only one's own cultivated Divine Weapon can share life and death with its master.

Any treasure that changes hands is hard-pressed to advance and retreat with its master in times of crisis.

That being said, even one's own cultivated Divine Weapon...

"Ah! Ahhh..." Third Lady Lv screamed miserably, her eyes wide open, one hand fiercely gripping the struggling Divine Weapon·Sky-piercing Halberd.

Where do you think you're going?

Don't even think about leaving!

If I die, you don't think of living either! Bury me with you!

"Magic Artifact!" Yu Changsheng loudly reminded.

Lu Ran immediately retracted his hand, and Yu Changsheng's school of fish also swiftly retreated.

Only the Night Charm Blade still shuttled around!

Yet these Night Charm Blades are under the precise control of Deng Yuxiang, ensuring no harm comes to the Divine Weapon and Magic Artifact.

"Sizzle! Sizzle..."

The blade pierced into flesh!

Wind Blades penetrated through Third Lady's heart and skull, pulling out strands of blood.

The Sea Realm's Great Power has fallen!

The East Thunder believer, king on land, was trapped in the sky by the soldiers of the Ran Sect, killed together!

[Nightmare, Soul Binding!] Lu Ran conveyed telepathically.

Deng Yuxiang needed no reminder; at the enemy commander's beheading, she had already rushed upward.

Strangely, even with Third Lady Lv dead, she still clutched tightly onto the Divine Weapon-Sky-piercing Halberd.

So much so that, when surrounded by numerous Night Charm Blades, the Divine Weapon Halberd still dangled with a corpse...

Deng Yuxiang hastily arrived, grabbed the Sky-piercing Halberd with one hand, lifted Third Lady Lv's corpse with the other, and swung the Rebirth Money worn on her wrist.

Though she couldn't see the dead soul, the Magic Artifact Fragment·Rebirth Money could provide her with enough feedback.

On this side, Deng Yuxiang binding the soul and collecting Third Lady's Divine Power Pearl; on that side, Yu Changsheng seized the Magic Artifact·Moonlight Tassel Sachet thanks to the Rain Prayer Carp.

It is said that this Magic Artifact can assist its master in cultivation!

It can slightly speed up the master's cultivation process, allowing the wearer to absorb Divine Power a little faster.

"It's a treasure." Yu Changsheng thought silently.

It can be given to slightly weaker guardians, such as the Evil Shadow Guardian or the Mad Immortal Guardian.

These people are utterly devoted to the Sect Leader.

In the future, they will accompany the Sect Leader in breaking through the heavens.

The level of strength cannot naturally fall behind.

Only when the whole Ran Sect is stronger can the chances of winning be greater.

Obviously, Yu Changsheng stands at different heights and considers problems from different angles.

"Phew~" Deng Yuxiang collected Third Lady's deceased soul, pulled the Divine Weapon Halberd from the corpse's hand, and quickly proceeded to Lu Ran's location.

If nothing unexpected happens, the previously deceased Sect Master Lv's dead soul will be attracted to Lu Ran.

If the other has already been bound into Lu Ran's eyes, then so be it.

If not yet, Deng Yuxiang certainly wouldn't let this high-ranking Sect Master go!

From Sect Master Lv's mouth, they should be able to extract a lot of valuable information, right?

"Hmm?"

Deng Yuxiang paused, yet to reach Lu Ran's side, she sensed the Rebirth Money tremble slightly.

She immediately activated the Magic Artifact Fragment, binding the soul on the spot.

During the action, Deng Yuxiang's expression turned slightly peculiar.

Sect Master Lv and Third Lady have been reunited.

No one knows what the scene will be like when those two meet again?

Just betrayed by you people, yet now you're stuck together again...

Could it be awkward?

A crisp "snap" sound!

Lu Ran traced the sound breaking through the air, flickered his position twice, and seized the Second-rank Divine Weapon·Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Halberd.

"Buzz!!"

The Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Halberd vibrated intensely, struggling wildly.

As domineering as it is, how could it be subjugated by someone in the River Realm?

"You want to shatter?" Lu Ran threatened.

His hand filled with Fierce Heavenly Power, barely able to clutch the Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Halberd in his palm.

It's quite strenuous!

Lu Ran's hand trembled violently along with the halberd's struggle.

No wonder it's a Second-rank Divine Weapon!

If not for Lu Ran possessing the Divine Technique·Fierce Sky Power, with only his River Realm strength, he truly wouldn't be able to hold this Battle Axe!

"Buzz!!"

The Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Halberd, unfazed by Lu Ran's threat, continued struggling with all its might.

[Master!]

[Hmm?] Lu Ran turned his head, but the dense fog hindered him, leaving him only able to hear the sound of a blade coming near.

Moments later, the Eight Desolate Blade rushed in front of Lu Ran.

On the tip of the blade, still hung a blood-red jade ring.

Magic Artifact·Blood Jade Ring!

Though the blade of Eight Desolate Blade was quite slender, it was two fingers wide, so this Blood Jade Ring was merely loosely placed on the tip.

Seemingly easy to escape, but the Blood Jade Ring was very compliant, staying still.

As a power-enhancing Magic Artifact, in front of the formidable Divine Weapon Blade, the Blood Jade Ring naturally had an inherent disadvantage, unable to stir up any waves.

"Come." Lu Ran commanded.

He tightly gripped the Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Halberd with one hand, while extending his other hand forward, touching the tip of the blade with his middle finger.

The Blood Jade Ring obediently activated itself.

It slowly moved forward, attaching itself onto Lu Ran's finger.

Lu Ran willed it and instructed, "Enhance my strength."

"Phew~"

The Blood Jade Ring, well-versed in the ways of survival, immediately emanated a deep red glow.

Lu Ran's eyes slightly widened, feeling a surge of volatile power pouring into his body.

As a result, his grip on the Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Halberd stabilized, and the trembling of his hand diminished considerably.

"Not bad!" Lu Ran nodded in satisfaction.

The Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade automatically flew into its sheath, and Lu Ran, carrying the still-struggling Mad Dragon Spear, returned to the battlefield.

He didn't flicker out of existence, because the Silent Night Blade was pressing against the Son of Heaven Sword, approaching him head-on.

The word "press" was a bit of an exaggeration.

The Son of Heaven Sword seemed somewhat lost, not yet recovering from its master's demise.

The Silent Night Blade just propped against its golden blade, effortlessly flying towards Lu Ran.

In the thick fog, Lu Ran only managed to see its blade clearly when the Son of Heaven Sword was in hand.

The blade was long, about 1.3 meters, entirely a soft golden color, and felt quite heavy in hand.

It was obviously made of Golden Brilliance Stone.

In the human world of Da Xia, the prices of Golden Brilliance and Black Ice materials are comparable, both being quite precious minerals, only produced in specific Demon Caves.

"Tsk tsk~" Lu Ran scrutinized the Radiant Divine Weapon, Son of Heaven Sword.

We've eaten well~

This time, the Ran Sect truly had a feast!

Lü Sect Master's Mad Dragon Spear, Son of Heaven Sword, Blood Jade Ring.

Lü First Lady's Divine Halberd, Ice Heart Bracelet.

Lü Third Lady's Divine Halberd, Moonlight Tassel Sachet.

In the past, Lu Ran referred to Thunder Mountain as the "wealth-soaked mountain," and now all these Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts have entered the Ran Sect!

Lu Ran even felt like burping~

"Lu Ran?"

"Here." Lu Ran followed the voice to He Qifeng's side, "Keep my matter a secret for now, let's go support the Thousand Boat Alliance first.

After this battle, I will explain everything to you alone."

Due to the thick white fog, even though they were less than a meter apart, they couldn't see each other.

He Qifeng suddenly raised her hand, grasping Lu Ran's shoulder.

She slowly leaned her face forward, the two getting closer until they could see each other's eyes.

Lu Ran: "..."

No!

This is too close!

Lu Ran felt a bit embarrassed, slightly tilting his head back.

This natural reaction made He Qifeng develop a fondness.

Since the battle started, it was as if the world collapsed for He Qifeng!

For so long, someone she thought she knew well was completely different from her impression!

He Qifeng only felt this world was incredibly unreal!

And at this moment, Lu Ran's reaction finally made He Qifeng find a hint of familiarity.

Yes,

he was still that Lu Ran.

This mysterious and powerful young Sect Leader, every time he faced a girl's approach and gaze, would naturally turn his head away.

Dodging and evading.

Or... hmm, does he only do this when facing me?

He Qifeng was silent for a moment, then softly said, "All right, I'll wait for you."

Lu Ran loudly asked, "Did you get everything?"

The two guardians responded one after another.

Unfortunately, Lü Sect Master's Divine Power Bead Strings were completely destroyed, though Third Lady retained some Divine Power Beads.

"Let's go, we'll regroup for support!" Lu Ran recalled something and said to He Qifeng, "Look, Divine Weapon."

He Qifeng turned and flew downward: "I haven't done much."

"You've contributed a lot!" Lu Ran followed, shoving the Son of Heaven Sword into He Qifeng's hand, "Besides, if you weren't worried about me, you wouldn't have come along."

The last sentence was the most crucial!

He Qifeng realized that Lu Ran ventured alone into danger and decisively followed.

Lu Ran was confident, but from He Qifeng's perspective, how could she know Lu Ran had so many aces up his sleeve?

She only knew that Lu Ran was an Immortal Sheep Believer, going to hunt down two mighty figures of the Sea Realm's Peak!

And He Qifeng, being of the First Rank of the Sea Realm, unhesitatingly followed, wanting to face the powerful Sect Master of Thunder Mountain with Lu Ran.

Just her sentiment for Lu Ran was absolutely of substantial value!

"Hm?" He Qifeng raised her brows slightly.

Little Ran, offering me a Divine Weapon eagerly?

Are you trying to show me the demeanor of a Sect Leader?

However, He Qifeng thought too much.

Lu Ran wasn't as competitive, never intending to overshadow her with charisma or leadership.

He was simply good to his people.

Maybe... hmm, perhaps with a little intent to win her over?

Since some matters were about to be spoken, naturally He Qifeng was to join the Ran Sect!

Since she's our Divine General, what more is there to say?

The Martial Monk maiden has Three Heads and Six Arms!

She has six hands and is really short on weapons...

All her techniques, including attire, were based on "gold" tones, suiting this Golden Brilliance Stone Sword very well.

"Nightmare!"

"Sect Leader?" Deng Yuxiang sped over, Immortal Fog billowing at his feet.

Night Charm Evil Technique-Night Dance and Immortal Sheep Divine Technique-Immortal Hoof, were simply a perfect match!

Though Deng Yuxiang was high in the sky, he could treat the layer of wind waves beneath him as ground, spraying Immortal Fog and darting swiftly.

"Give the Third Lady's Divine Halberd to Qifeng as well." Lu Ran commanded, then said to He Qifeng, "You come with me later to find Yan God General, she still has a Divine Halberd from the First Lady.

Take the Divine Weapons back and lend them to the River Realm elder of the Big Wind Hall.

Now that Mist Rain Lake is shrouded in thick fog, having Divine Weapons to help perceive the battlefield will aid in the battle."

He Qifeng turned to look, and before she could speak, Lu Ran continued, "Let's secure this victory first, then discuss other matters!"

"Okay!" He Qifeng was certainly not a coy person, gladly accepting Lu Ran's goodwill.

After the war, she could return the Divine Weapons.

"Buzz!!"

The Mad Dragon Spear, hearing its former comrades being assigned their fates one by one, seemed to grow angrier, struggling even more fiercely.

However, with the help of its former comrade, the Blood Jade Ring, Lu Ran firmly controlled the Second-rank Divine Halberd, giving it no chance to break free.

Lu Ran licked his lips.

Should I practice the Halberd Technique?

This Mad Dragon Spear's Divine Weapon Domain is really tempting~

...

Chapter 602: Victory Night

When the Ran Sect members returned to the island, the battle wasn't as intense as imagined.

The fog on the battlefield was so thick that you couldn't see your hand, greatly impacting both sides of the war.

Some disciples of Thunder Mountain were trying to fish in troubled waters.

These people were mostly diehard loyalists of Sect Master Lv Xiao, still fantasizing that the Great Sect Master Lv could destroy the Ran Sect, return victorious, and lead them to conquer the Qianzhou Islands.

There were also many who, seeing the situation unfavorable, discreetly left the battlefield.

The choice of the second type of people was undoubtedly correct!

Because, with the entrance of Lu Ran and others, the battle fell into a lopsided situation.

No one understands how to fish in troubled waters better than Lu Ran!

After temporarily handing over the Second-rank Divine Weapon·Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Spear to Yan God General for safekeeping, he initiated a furious slaughter mode!

There was also a piece of news that spread across Mist Rain Lake, invigorating the Thousand Boat Alliance soldiers and shaking the morale of Thunder Mountain's troops:

Lv Xiao is dead!

Lv Xiao is dead??

All who heard were emotionally disturbed!

This invasion war by strong gods' believers against weak gods' disciples ultimately ended with the defeat of Thunder Mountain's troops.

The battle gradually calmed down.

Lu Ran retrieved the Magic Artifact Fragment·Rebirth Money from Deng Yuxiang, then patrolled over Mist Rain Lake, frantically absorbing the souls of the deceased.

The fog was very dense.

Even with Lu Ran's Pupil of the Dead World wide open, it was impossible to see the souls from afar.

With the range perception of Rebirth Money, his Soul Binding efficiency increased significantly.

Lu Ran was full!

Really, abundantly satisfied...

He did not activate the Divine Sculpture of Dong Ting, Divine Sculpture of Chenghua, Divine Sculpture of Bi He, and Divine Sculpture of Sword Lotus in the Sculpture Garden.

Thus, he still didn't know how high the level of these stone sculptures was.

Especially regarding the Divine Sculpture of Dong Ting!

Lu Ran was full of anticipation!

Someday in the future, when he activates this Divine Sculpture, to what terrifying level will it ultimately ascend?

Might it be the Heavenly Realm?

Hopefully!

Speaking of which, if the stone sculpture truly could ascend to the Heavenly Realm, then for how long would his head have to buzz with excitement?

What a delightful worry...

While Lu Ran was recklessly gathering souls, some Thunder Mountain soldiers, not knowing their place, fled to the lakeside, trying to unleash the ultimate move of the Dongting Sect.

However, the Thousand Boat Alliance members maintained a sky defense net at all times.

In the foggy environment, as long as they coordinated properly, the believers' divine power would not run short!

Under the patrol and encouragement of the Island Masters Tianya and Mingyue, the Thousand Boat Alliance was truly united, collectively guarding the Alliance Hierarch's advancement.

Lu Ran certainly would not allow the troublemakers to act with impunity; he took the Evil Shadow Guardian to patrol the lake, slaying many Thunder Mountain soldiers.

This invasion battle finally came to an end.

Or rather, when the Ran Sect killed the Sect Master of Thunder Mountain, the war had already ended.

When the news of the Master of Ran Sect killing the Thunder Mountain Sect Master spread across the Qianzhou Islands, regardless of whether both sides of the war believed it or not...

One side was weakening, while the other was surging with momentum; it was an undeniable fact!

As evening approached, Lu Ran arranged for the Ran Sect generals to guard all four directions of Fuyao Island, and dispatched Rosy Glow, Silent Night, and the Eight Desolate Blade to patrol around Fuyao Island with the three Divine Weapons.

After arranging everything, he returned to Green Lotus Island with Jiang Ruyi.

"Phew..."

Lu Ran let out a heavy sigh, sprawling lazily on the chair.

"Tired?" Jiang Ruyi stood beside Lu Ran, gently arranging his damp hair with one hand.

"Yes." Lu Ran wrapped his arms around her delicate body, holding her, sitting her on his lap.

He was indeed physically weary.

But his heart was filled with a sense of achievement!

The Qianzhou Islands were considered defended!

Master Lv and his two Ladies were all executed; only a group of defeated remnants escaped back to Thunder Mountain, would they dare return?

Would they dare return?

If they dare,

Then the Ran Sect will continue to confront them!

Having slain Master Lv, are we still afraid of the remnants of Thunder Mountain?

If they don't dare to come...

Then the Ran Sect will slay them over there!

In the future, we will visit, take a leisurely stroll through Master Lv's Thunder Mountain!

Thinking quietly in his heart, Lu Ran slightly tilted his head, and captured the soft lips of his fiancée.

"Mm." Jiang Ruyi closed her beautiful eyes.

She did not push Lu Ran away but reached out a cold, soft jade hand to touch his cheek.

The great decisive battle between Lu Ran and Lv Xiao had affected many people's souls.

Jiang Ruyi did not appear because she was very aware that in such a battlefield environment, facing enemies of that level, it was difficult for her to help Lu Ran.

Rushing forward might instead be targeted by the enemy as a breakthrough point.

Jiang Ruyi was calm enough, knowing how to act in a way that would benefit Lu Ran the most. At that time, she immediately ordered Yu Changsheng and He Yingcai to go to aid.

Only, Mr. Cong Long earnestly persuaded Lady Sect Leader not to go and temporarily lent the Divine Weapon-Smoke and Rain Fan to He Yingcai, asking her to continue guarding by the Lady's side.

Afterward, Yu Changsheng disappeared into the fog.

When Lu Ran, Yu Changsheng, and others safely returned, Jiang Ruyi and He Yingcai finally lowered their worried hearts.

However, since the war was not yet over, Jiang Ruyi remained silent, pride or worry, waiting until the hostilities calmed down to speak.

At this moment, Lu Ran's greedy conduct provided her an opportunity.

In the dark hall, amidst thick fog.

Jiang Ruyi lavished her tenderness, feeling Lu Ran's heart, joyous and restless from victory.

Even though, this was just a stage victory.

Yet Jiang Ruyi truly doubts whether Thunder Mountain still has the courage to cause trouble again.

After a long while, Lu Ran finally let her go.

Jiang Fairy had rosy cheeks, burying her head in Lu Ran's neck, breathing gently, feeling a hint of warmth.

"Hand."

"Hm?" Jiang Ruyi only felt her hand being held.

Then, she felt a chill on her wrist.

This is... the Ice Heart Bracelet?

"I have spirit defense techniques, the effects would overlap." In the darkness, Lu Ran's low whisper was heard.

What Lu Ran said was not untrue, he has the Ghost General's Will, the Evil Cloud Will, the Sea's Will...

What does it mean to have great ambitions?

And the effect of the Magic Artifact-Ice Heart Bracelet is to construct a mental defense system for the wearer.

"The others don't have mental defense either," Jiang Ruyi whispered.

It's like drought for some and flood for others.

Lu Ran possesses a plethora of spirit defense techniques, while others have nothing—not even a "Will."

"Hmm..." Lu Ran held his fiancée's wrist, placed it before his eyes, and examined it carefully.

The darkness could not blind his eyes.

No matter how thick the mist, as long as he was close enough, he could see without hindrance.

The Ice Heart Bracelet was exceptionally beautiful!

Like ice crystals, it was crystal clear, with threads of energy slowly flowing within, resembling floating snowflakes, carrying their unique purity and cold beauty.

It suited the snowy white wrist of Jiang Ruyi more than perfectly.

Indeed fitting!

"It suits you," Lu Ran whispered.

The group of protectors and a few Divine Generals either had purification or perception abilities, giving them more tolerance and the ability to detect danger and predict risks first.

Let's leave the Ice Heart Bracelet for Jiang Ruyi.

In the Ran Sect, her status is extraordinary, and she also constantly fills in for Lu Ran in command. Being the brain of a unit, maintaining clarity and calmness is naturally required.

"Okay." Jiang Ruyi gently held the bracelet on her wrist, whispering, "Okay."

"The Blood Jade Ring and the Moonlight Tassel Pouch are also with me," Lu Ran said, inhaling the fragrance of Jiang Ruyi's hair, contemplating the scent of light jasmine, and considering the distribution plan.

The Magic Artifact·Blood Jade Ring can grant the wearer great power.

Although Lu Ran possesses skills for amplifying power like Fierce Heavenly Power, Soul Splitting Power, and Wilderness Power, wearing this artifact doesn't actually make the effects overlap.

In the morning, when Lu Ran controlled the Violet Thunder Mad Dragon Spear, he had already experimented with it.

But with the Fierce Heavenly Power, Lu Ran has exceeded his level's strength, able to cut open the Water Flow Armor of someone of the same realm with one swing.

From this perspective, it's undoubtedly a waste of resources!

If the Magic Artifact·Blood Jade Ring is worn by Deng Yuxiang, she would effectively have an extra Divine Technique·Fierce Sky Power.

The Big Nightmare should also be able to break the Water Flow Armor of someone of the same realm (Sea Realm) with one strike!

"I plan to give the Blood Jade Ring to the Big Nightmare, what do you think?" Lu Ran asked.

"Sure." Jiang Ruyi nodded gently.

Whether in the identity of Night Charm herself or as an Immortal Sheep Believer, neither has provided Deng Yuxiang with techniques for amplifying power.

Seeing his fiancée agree, Lu Ran nodded and said, "Earlier today, Mr. Cong Long subtly suggested to me.

He said that the Moonlight Tassel Pouch could be given to someone of a lower rank."

Upon hearing this, Jiang Ruyi remained silent.

Her thought was contrary, as she felt Mr. Cong Long was quite suitable for this pouch.

Yu Changsheng is already at the Sea Realm·Fourth Rank, if he could soon reach the peak, wouldn't he be close to advancing to the Heavenly Realm?

Or maybe Mr. Cong Long's strength and realm were too high, and he looked down on this slight increase in divine power absorption speed?

"Do you have a different thought?" Lu Ran felt something in his heart and asked softly.

Jiang Ruyi thought again and again, still whispering, "You decide."

"Okay, then we'll give it to the Evil Shadow Guardian." Lu Ran said straightforwardly.

The Ice Heart Bracelet suits the aloof Jiang Ruyi.

The Blood Jade Ring goes to the strong Deng Yuxiang.

The Moonlight Tassel Pouch is for Evil Moon... hmm, the Evil Shadow Guardian wielding the Evil Moon Blade.

That's settled!

As for that second-rank divine weapon·Violet Thunder Mad Dragon Spear...

Wow!

In the vast Ran Sect, there's actually no one who uses a spear?!

This group of ours is still too weak.

Does it have to be me personally... wait a minute!

The old man Cheng Xin, wandering in the Holy Spirit Mountain, does he use a gun or a spear?

Furthermore, the old man Cheng Yi, stationed in the Human World·Luoxian Mountain, definitely specializes in using a spear!

This is a valuable wealth left to Lu Ran by the Immortal Sheep Lord, absolutely loyal subordinates...

[Master.]

[Hmm?] Lu Ran suddenly heard Yan Shuangzi's message.

[Someone's coming.]

[Oh?] Knowing that Jiang Ruyi was thin-skinned, even in darkness and thick mist, Lu Ran picked up the girl in his arms and placed her on the seat beside him.

"Knock, knock, knock~"

A knocking sound followed, and a familiar voice came: "Lu Ran?"

He Qifeng?

This City Lord of the Forbidden City, truly in a rush?

The woman's full-bodied voice came again: "The Ran Sect soldiers stationed around Fuyao Island said you and your wife returned to rest, I'm not disturbing you, right?"

Lu Ran: "..."

You think?

He Qifeng, with the Tianzi Sword hanging on her waist, felt the mental message transmitted by the divine weapon.

With absolute strength and strong personal charm, she made the Tianzi Sword accept her in just one day.

"What?" He Qifeng stood with hands behind her back, in front of Lu Ran's house, "Hiding, not making a sound?"

Lu Ran rolled his eyes: "My wife and I are about to sleep, after midnight, we still have to rotate shifts, letting the Ran Sect soldiers rest."

"Squeak~"

He Qifeng pushed open the wooden door casually, saying, "Good, not disturbing then."

Lu Ran: ???

He Qifeng stepped in and closed the door behind her.

In the dark, Lu Ran's deep voice came: "An honorable City Lord of the Forbidden City, the second Heavenly Pride of Da Xia, and a Sea Realm great power..."

And you're this impatient?"

"Huh." He Qifeng chuckled coldly.

I knew it!

The Ran dog praised before, definitely didn't hold in a good fart!

Chapter 603: The Qualification for Becoming a God!

In the darkness, Jiang Ruyi sat quietly beside Lu Ran.

Although she couldn't see anything, she could feel a terrifying aura wafting around.

Jiang Ruyi could imagine He Qifeng's extraordinary and handsome figure, with her golden long robe fluttering in the wind.

Someone like He Qifeng would be the hardest for Lu Ran to subdue.

She was already like an empress.

She had formidable abilities and methods, possessed a powerful influence and leadership charisma, and harbored ambitions beyond ordinary reach!

Such a kingly figure was destined to make others bow down and acknowledge her supremacy.

"The second Heavenly Pride of Da Xia?" He Qifeng approached the table and casually laid the Emperor's Sword on it.

"What?" Lu Ran was puzzled.

He Qifeng flicked her robe's tail with a flourish, sitting directly across from Lu Ran with a bold and confident demeanor: "If you don't belong to the realm of ordinary people...

then I, He Qifeng, should be the first Heavenly Pride of Da Xia!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Upon hearing this, Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but sigh in her heart.

There's nothing wrong with what she said!

Although He Qifeng was no ordinary person either, she was the only female disciple in the Martial Monk faction since the arrival of the God Demon.

But she was at least someone the world could accept.

As for Lu Ran's extraordinariness, if one traced its root, it's something no one could accept.

Not to mention the Human Clan.

Even All Gods and the God Demons couldn't accept or tolerate Lu Ran's existence.

"Ding~ding~"

He Qifeng placed her hand on the expensive Emperor's Sword, her fingertip gently tapping the golden blade, and spoke lightly:

"Lu Ran, talk to me."

"The Evil Dog Evil Skill indeed helped me a lot," Lu Ran admitted openly, "but you can't just strip me of my ranking! Millions of people are watching 'Heavenly Pride,' I don't dare to use other skills."

This ranking, I earned it one slash at a time!

You once told me, you repeatedly studied my battle footage, did you see me use other techniques?"

He Qifeng snorted coldly: "I really thought you were extraordinarily gifted with unusually keen perception!"

Lu Ran shrugged: "I'm just an Immortal Sheep Believer with only Evil Sense and Evil Sensitivity, nothing else.

Your Martial Monk faction's list of Divine Techniques is mind-blowing!

I'm just a lowly Immortal Sheep Believer, are you saying I can't have Evil Sense and Evil Sensitivity? How stingy!"

"Who are you calling stingy?" He Qifeng frowned.

"Here's the deal," Lu Ran said magnanimously, "I'll still be the first Heavenly Pride of Da Xia, and you take a step up, you're not the second Heavenly Pride anymore.

You're 1.5!"

He Qifeng: ???

Lu Ran chuckled: "How about it? Da Xia 1.5 Heavenly Pride?"

He Qifeng gritted her teeth.

Unfortunately, the night was too dark, the fog too thick, and she couldn't see Lu Ran's detestable smiling face.

Damn dog Lu!

You're really infuriating!

"Tone it down a bit, you're scaring me," Lu Ran said in the darkness, his tone shamelessly claiming victimhood.

This is just like Lu Ran.

Anyone else from the River Realm, the Sea Realm's City Lord would probably teach them a harsh lesson to show them how they should speak...

He Qifeng closed her eyes and slowly exhaled a breath.

The atmosphere in the room relaxed somewhat.

Moments later, she spoke: "The Evil Shadow Flash of the Evil Dog Clan, the Sky-breaking Explosion of the Fierce Heavenly Sect, the Evil Cloud Entanglement of the Evil Spear Emperor Clan...

and the Immortal Sky Python of the Jade-faced Snake Clan."

He Qifeng narrated, her tone slightly heavy when she mentioned the Jade-faced Snake Clan.

After all, this clan is the archenemy of the Martial Monk faction.

She paused, asking: "Why do you have the skills of various factions and clans?"

Lu Ran answered directly: "Because I can steal the powers of gods and demons for my own use."

He Qifeng's eyes immediately narrowed.

Even though she was mentally prepared and had many assumptions, hearing Lu Ran say it directly still caused a storm in her heart!

The room fell into a dead silence.

You could hear a pin drop.

Lu Ran slightly leaned his body, resting his head sideways on Jiang Ruyi's shoulder, closing his eyes to relax.

Jiang Ruyi's delicate body trembled slightly.

She felt somewhat annoyed, for He Qifeng was only a table's distance apart.

However, she also understood that Lu Ran was both physically and mentally exhausted and truly needed rest.

So, she just indulged Lu Ran, letting him do as he pleased.

Lu Ran immensely enjoyed it, fantasizing about the faint fragrance of jasmine, giving He Qifeng ample time to process.

"So... the Holy Spirit Energy that we can't cultivate, can you?" After a while, He Qifeng asked softly.

"Yes, to some extent."

"Who gave you this ability?"

"Lord Immortal Sheep."

"Lord Immortal Sheep?" He Qifeng frowned.

The Immortal Sheep that ranks last in the Da Xia's list of gods?

The god considered weakest and most timid and cowardly by the world—Immortal Sheep?

Lord Immortal Sheep...

Could he really bestow the ability to steal god and demon powers on his disciples?

How is this possible?

An absurdity of the world!

If Lord Immortal Sheep was so powerful, how could he end up in such plight! Even the humble Human Clan secretly looks down on the Immortal Sheep faction...

Yet Lu Ran's ability was right there, undeniable by anyone!

"Ding~ding~"

Lost in thought, He Qifeng unconsciously tapped her fingers, lightly tapping the golden blade.

Lu Ran closed his eyes and relaxed, a slight smile appearing on his face.

So comfortable~

Martial Monk Miss, let me open the door to a new world for you!

He Qifeng suddenly asked: "Deng Yuxiang is an Immortal Sheep disciple and can use the Night Charm Blade, so she stole the power of the Evil Demon·Night Charm?"

"How did you know it was the Night Charm Blade and not the Flying Wind Order?" Lu Ran asked curiously.

Just from the appearance of the Wind Blade, people can't tell them apart.

"She wasn't flying in the air; she was running," He Qifeng analyzed, "so it's not the North Wind Sect's Gentle Wind Dance but the Night Charm Clan's Night Dance."

"As expected of Da Xia's 1.5 Heavenly Pride, your basic knowledge is solid!" Lu Ran clicked his tongue in admiration.

"Enough of your nonsense!" He Qifeng was infuriated, almost slamming the table.

Who's 1.5 here?

This City Lord is number one, alright!

"Qifeng."

"Speak!"

"You should have an attitude of seeking guidance." Lu Ran's voice was small and light, yet pitiful, "You're scaring me again."

He Qifeng: ???

When you killed Lv Xiao, you almost stepped on his face!

That was the Sect Master of Thunder Mountain, the peak of the Sea Realm!

I'm just an initial stage of the Sea Realm, can I really scare you?

He Qifeng was truly infuriated.

As the City Lord, she considered herself to have some grace, yet in front of Lu Ran...

She truly wanted to flip the table, stride forward, and harshly kick Burn Dog in the behind!

"Please!" He Qifeng pressed her hand firmly on the Emperor's Sword, leaning forward with an imposing presence, looking into the pitch-black void, "Please enlighten me."

Lu Ran: "..."

Wow~

So much anger?

Truly someone extremely competitive, better not poke her sore spot in the future.

Lu Ran replied, "Deng Yuxiang doesn't have the ability to steal the power of gods and demons."

"Oh?"

"Qifeng, you misunderstood; it's not the Immortal Sheep Believer who can steal the power of gods and demons."

Lu Ran paused briefly, speaking word by word, "But I, Lu Ran, can steal the power of gods and demons!"

As the words fell, the entire world went silent once more.

He Qifeng remained silent for a long, long time, her voice carrying a slight tremble:

"So... are you the only one?"

"The only one."

He Qifeng asked again, "And Deng Yuxiang's Night Charm Evil Technique?"

In the darkness, Lu Ran's deep voice came: "I bestowed it upon her."

He Qifeng's breath slightly caught!

Could Lu Ran steal the power of gods and demons, and then bestow the corresponding Divine Technique and Evil Technique to the human clan?

This... how is it different from the All Gods?

So, the young man sitting opposite her, is he a god?

No!

Not just "a" god.

Should he be called All Gods?

The room once again fell into silence, the atmosphere more stifling than before.

Lu Ran slightly rubbed his cheek against Jiang Ruyi's shoulder, seeking a more comfortable position.

To be honest, his girlfriend's shoulder pillow wasn't very ideal.

The human shoulder doesn't have much flesh, and Jiang Ruyi is of a slender build, making it a bit uncomfortable to rest on...

Should he switch to a lap pillow?

Better take action when the heart is tempted!

Unexpectedly, just as Lu Ran began to slip downward, he was held up by Fairy Jiang's hand.

Her voice was gentle, faintly speaking: "Have a good talk with Qifeng."

Lu Ran: "..."

Greed doesn't lead to good outcomes.

Now here we are, he doesn't even have the shoulder pillow anymore.

Lu Ran was propped up to sit straight, opening his mouth to say, "Qifeng, the gods have ruled the human world for too long, oppressing our human clan for too long.

I intend to slay gods and demons, to eradicate worldly disasters.

What do you think? Together?"

He Qifeng bit her lower lip, her expression very complicated.

Lu Ran's deep voice, particularly alluring, more so as it came from the darkness.

He Qifeng stared into the dark ahead, finally speaking, "You want to overthrow tyranny, and what about the Immortal Sheep Lord?

What does it want?

To become the only god in the world, to be worshipped by the human clan for generations?"

Lu Ran said solemnly, "Qifeng, you must understand, the fate of the human clan cannot get any worse."

He Qifeng remained silent.

Lu Ran continued, "Gods and demons collude, ensuring human tragedies happen every month, ensuring anyone who might disrupt the status quo is thrown into the Holy Spirit Mountain.

The All Gods and demons want us to always live in their woven world, oppressed and ruled for generations.

Never a day to rise up."

He Qifeng naturally understood that what Lu Ran said was true.

Lu Ran leaned forward, face serious, "Regardless of what the Immortal Sheep Lord wants, we humans have nothing left to lose.

If unchanged, humans will remain slaves forever.

Life, dignity, faith, soul, our offspring, and their descendants..."

He Qifeng maintained a calm appearance.

The Holy Spirit Mountain teaches without discrimination.

It will help every unwilling sleeper to clear their mind.

You will ultimately realize: humans come to this world, from birth to death, to serve gods and demons, and will be drained of everything.

"Change, and we have a slim chance, a ray of hope." Lu Ran's voice lingered in He Qifeng's ear.

He Qifeng: "So, you're on the path to slaying gods."

Lu Ran laughed: "We're on the same path, aren't we?"

He Qifeng slightly raised her eyebrows.

Lu Ran remarked: "The Forbidden City you established is defying the gods' will, changing the rules of the Holy Spirit Mountain.

You're on the path to overthrow the tyranny of gods and demons, aren't you?

It's just, you're missing one thing."

"What thing?"

"You're strong, and may one day stand atop the human clan." Lu Ran sighed, "But you will eventually hit a limit."

He Qifeng's gaze slightly flickered.

Lu Ran confirmed, "You're a Martial Monk Believer, bound by a master-servant contract, always under the gods' surveillance.

When you grow too strong, your Martial Monk Lord won't let you continue living!

Before you can threaten a god, you'll surely be exterminated."

He Qifeng: "Can you prevent this from happening?"

Lu Ran switched topics: "Why could Deng Yuxiang utilize the Night Charm Evil Technique?"

He Qifeng remained silent, waiting for more.

Lu Ran spoke slowly, "Because she trusted me."

He Qifeng's fingers slightly tightened, gripping the Emperor's Sword.

Indeed, Lu Ran was no different from what she thought.

He is a god!

Lu Ran continued, "The contract I signed with Deng Yuxiang is not the master-servant contract you think of."

"Oh?"

"I prepared for Deng Yuxiang a stone sculpture, a Night Charm Evil Sculpture that belongs to me, binding them tightly and continually merging them!"

At these words, He Qifeng's eyes widened slightly.

Night Charm Evil Sculpture?

Did Lu Ran steal the primal power of gods and demons, then create a god-demon stone sculpture belonging to himself?

"Ha." Lu Ran chuckled, "Did I only grant her the Evil Technique of the Night Charm Clan?

What I gave her was a path to becoming a god.

The qualification to replace the Evil God-Night Charm!"

Boom—

He Qifeng's mind buzzed in an instant!

Chapter 604: My Sect Master

In a pitch-black hall, the young man spoke shocking words with a calm tone.

Each sentence challenged He Qifeng's understanding.

Also challenged her limits of endurance again and again.

"So..." He Qifeng pondered, "Can you also create a statue for me, granting me the qualification to become a god?"

"Yes."

"Can you?" He Qifeng reconfirmed.

At this moment, He Qifeng realized.

Since Lu Ran was willing to reveal the truth to her, he already considered her as one of his own, determined to join hands and accomplish something together.

However, hearing Lu Ran's straightforward and decisive promise, truly made He Qifeng's heart flutter!

This is the qualification to become a god!

It's capital for establishing a new order and marking monumental achievements!

For the Human Clan,

Even for herself.

Facing He Qifeng's repeated confirmation, Lu Ran paused briefly before saying, "It's in the Withered Wood Forest."

He Qifeng's heart skipped a beat: "What?"

Lu Ran smiled gently: "The first time we met, you looked at the clouds with your hands behind your back and spoke of your grand ambitions.

I felt your overwhelming ambition, saw a face shining with spirit."

He Qifeng felt a little stunned, opened her mouth but didn't know what to say.

You are... you...

Lu Ran held Jiang Ruyi's delicate hand, gently kneading her palm.

Seemingly comforting, yet also apologetic.

While doing this, Lu Ran's little mouth didn't stop: "Qifeng, from that moment, you were the Ran Sect's Divine General in my heart."

Jiang Ruyi was both amused and annoyed, but as someone was discussing business, she naturally didn't explode.

Just let a certain annoying person toy with her fingers.

Across the table was He Qifeng with a complex expression, listening to Lu Ran's soft whispers.

In the pitch-black environment, Lu Ran's deep voice was particularly magnetic, tinged with mystery.

Slyly seducing hearts.

Suddenly, a hand swept through the darkness, landing on He Qifeng's shoulder: "How is it, Qifeng? Want to join me?"

He Qifeng didn't suppress her eager heart: "Slay gods?"

"Eradicate the world's calamity." Lu Ran's hand clenched, "Whatever is the source of calamity, we will slay it!"

"Huh, Lu Ran." He Qifeng suddenly laughed, murmuring, "Lu Ran, Lu Ran, Lu Ran..."

Lu Ran was a bit puzzled: "What?"

He Qifeng lowered her eyes, sighing: "You sure have boldness..."

Lu Ran: ???

Words, not good words.

But her tone sounded like praise?

Lu Ran's expression turned strange: "The millions of people in Da Xia affectionately call me Burning Dog, shouldn't I be worthy of this affection.

What about you? Do you have this audacity?"

He Qifeng responded swiftly: "No."

Lu Ran's brows furrowed immediately!

"Slap!"

He Qifeng placed a hand on her shoulder, tightly gripping Lu Ran's hand: "I have the courage of a bear and leopard!"

Lu Ran: "..."

Are you trying to scare me!

Do you know, at that moment of rejection, I had already prepared for the worst?

At this time, He Qifeng was in the Holy Spirit Mountain, where the gods couldn't reach, giving Lu Ran some leeway.

But if there's change in the future, if Lu Ran and others want to plot successfully, hidden threats must be eliminated.

That's what Lu Ran least wanted to see!

He chose to reveal his cards to He Qifeng after thorough background checks, understanding her ambition, and deeming her a like-minded person.

Yet He Qifeng... was teasing?

"Let go!" Lu Ran shook off the woman's hand, irritably saying, "I have a girlfriend, sitting right here, so don't touch me."

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

He Qifeng laughed heartily: "Hahaha!"

Finally scored a point.

Refreshing!!

Hearing the woman's hearty laughter, Lu Ran was infuriated yet amused: "Alright, alright!"

Courage of a bear and leopard, I'll give you a Bamboo Wood Demon evil sculpture, you play with it yourself."

He Qifeng's laughter came to an abrupt stop.

"Eh?" Lu Ran leaned on the table with his elbow, resting his face in one hand, "Why aren't you laughing?"

Is it because you naturally don't like laughing?"

He Qifeng tightly pursed her lips.

In those beautiful eyes, there seemed to be signs of fire.

Silly Bamboo Wood Demon?

Me, the Da Xia's number one genius, and you want me to be a Bamboo Wood Demon?

"Don't like it?" Lu Ran asked with a smile.

"Do you think, as the City Lord, I pair well with the Bamboo Wood Demon clan?" He Qifeng asked.

"Little Human Clan, truly overestimates oneself, even looking down on Evil God?" Lu Ran snorted, "Alright, alright, I'll give you a different sculpture."

Hmm... how about Straw Demon?"

He Qifeng slapped the table, barely holding back at the last moment, nearly shattering the table.

She lowered her voice: "Lu Ran!"

Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but chuckle, gently patting Lu Ran's shoulder, softly advising: "Stop teasing Qifeng."

"Oh." In front of Fairy Jiang, someone was obedient.

Lu Ran's expression turned serious: "Qifeng, I can give you a Martial Monk stone sculpture, you are most familiar with this.

But there's one problem, I haven't obtained much energy from the Martial Monks."

"Oh?"

"I've actually stolen quite a bit of energy from the Martial Monk Faction's nemesis, the Jade-faced Snake Clan." Lu Ran briefly explained his various methods of acquiring god and demon energies.

He Qifeng listened, her emotions swirling.

After a long time, she finally asked, "So, the most energy you steal now is from Divine·Dongting?"

"Highly likely." Lu Ran nodded gently, "Why, are you considering a career change?"

"No, I cannot." He Qifeng decisively shook her head.

If she were a disciple of the Weak God, she might have eagerly sought to change her fate here with Lu Ran, binding herself to Second-class God·East Ting's Stone Sculpture.

But she was a believer of the strong gods of the highest rank!

He Qifeng's entire career has been painstakingly devoted to researching martial monk techniques, and her personal habits and combat system have already been established.

Moreover, from an identity standpoint, He Qifeng couldn't change her identity.

She is the Hall Master of Big Wind Hall!

She needs the identity of a Martial Monk believer to continue relying on the large tree and gain the support of the Wuji Peak Sect.

If one day in the future, should Peak Master Tu ascend to the Heavenly Realm or retire due to unexpected circumstances...

He Qifeng would also be able to contend for the position of Wuji Peak Master!

Despite He Qifeng's youth, she is highly regarded by Peak Master Tu, which is well acknowledged by all the disciples of the martial monks.

Her career is thriving, and her influence is rising day by day.

With her strong personal abilities, in the future, she may well ascend to the position of Peak Master!

Once she reaches such heights, all the great powers of Yangyang Sea and all the masters of River Realm within Wuji Peak will fall under her command!

What kind of terrifying resources are these?

He Qifeng immediately expressed her thoughts to Lu Ran.

Lu Ran nodded continuously as he listened!

Good, good, good!

Truly worthy of He City Lord, foresighted and considerate.

Lu Ran also realized something: as long as He Qifeng keeps a low profile and secretly joins Ran Sect...

Then all the resources at her disposal, in essence, naturally belong to Ran Sect.

Available for Lu Ran to use as he pleases!

The more Lu Ran thought about it, the more pleased he became, and said, "There is another matter I must clarify with you."

"What is it?"

"You have already become a great power of the Sea Realm, and given that you only recently advanced to the First Rank of the Sea Realm, if you break the contract, you may lose rank..."

Lu Ran explained to He Qifeng the advantages and disadvantages.

He Qifeng listened carefully, analyzed the information, and then decisively made her choice.

Not to break the contract for now!

Now that she is on the rise, it is only right to proceed steadily and ascend step by step.

In the future, when the time is ripe, she will request Immortal Sheep to help sever the contract from the divine perspective, which would be a more favorable decision for her.

"In any case... Divine General Feng, welcome to join Ran Sect?" After the two had a detailed discussion, Lu Ran extended his right hand.

He Qifeng snorted and did not take his hand: "I don't want to become some Divine General."

Lu Ran: "..."

This martial monk lass!

Why is she causing trouble now?

Lu Ran sighed helplessly, "What, are you still thinking about recruiting me, letting me join your Forbidden City?"

He Qifeng shook her head, saying, "People must have self-awareness.

You have the capability to reshape order in the human world, to save all beings from misery, I, He Qifeng, acknowledge you as a leader!"

Lu Ran looked at the woman with great curiosity: "So?"

He Qifeng said seriously, "I am different from others, when I join Ran Sect, I am bringing the Forbidden City and Big Wind Hall along with me.

All the resources I might acquire in the future will serve the rise of our Ran Sect.

You are only placing me in the sequence of the Eight Divine Generals?"

"Oh really?" Lu Ran blinked, "Above the Eight Divine Generals are the Four Great Protectors, but the Protector spots are already filled!

Above the Four Great Protectors is the Lady of Ran Sect!

There is only one slot for this role, which has been pre-booked by my white moonlight... cough, cough."

Jiang Ruyi appeared to be smiling, her slender jade finger touched Lu Ran's waist.

He Qifeng, meanwhile, maintained a serious expression, speaking in a deep voice, "Lu Ran, could you open a new sequence for me?"

Lu Ran blinked again: "Create another sequence?"

He Qifeng was full of confidence: "I'm worth it! I will prove with real action that I'm definitely qualified!"

"Ha, alright!" Lu Ran laughed, very happily.

He Qifeng couldn't see him, but he could see her radiantly expressive face.

Just like that day when they first met.

She was glowing, dazzling!

Lu Ran admired He Qifeng's grace and nodded firmly: "As you wish!"

Hmm... but what should this sequence title be?

It must be given careful thought to ensure a satisfying answer for her.

"Thank you for your appreciation, Sect Master." He Qifeng's lips slightly curled, finally taking Lu Ran's hand.

Since entering the mountain, regardless of the situation, He Qifeng never gave up hope.

She had victories and defeats, struggles and escapes.

She found Wuji Peak, humbly paying respect, using her cheerful and robust nature to blend with a group of men.

In the harsh reality of Holy Spirit Mountain, she got the Martial Monk believers to accept her as the sole anomaly.

She found people to connect with, firmed up her footing, and continuously built momentum using the title of Da Xia's genius.

With her genuine skills and knowledge, she stood out amidst the envious gazes of countless seniors, making a name for herself.

She cautiously probed, boldly recommended herself.

Her courage and determination gained Peak Master's favor, step by step leading her to the position of Hall Master, and further to the City Lord of Forbidden City.

She never abandoned hope, always striving.

But He Qifeng had to admit...

Today is the day she has been most hopeful about the future since entering the mountain!

She met someone.

Someone with sufficient capability to help her achieve her true ambitions hidden deep in her heart.

Someone with the right credentials to allow her to utter those four words.

Lu Ran,

My Sect Master, fortunate to meet...

My path is not solitary.

...

Chapter 605: Heavenly Emperor of One Region

That night, Lu Ran and He Qifeng had a candid conversation, discussing for a long time.

The two clarified their goals, planning the development of their subordinate forces.

When He Qifeng heard that a Feixian Hall had already been built within the Cloud Sea Cliff, and that believers were worshiping the statues of Lu Jiang, she immediately decided to contribute her strength!

"The Forbidden City has been accepting refugees, now there are 386 people in the city."

He Qifeng pondered, then continued, "I'll go back and select some, transferring one or two hundred believers to the Cloud Sea Cliff to join the Feixian Hall."

To join the Feixian Hall naturally meant going to worship the statues.

These disciples of weak gods ranked four, five, or six could defy fate here with Lu Ran and become Third-class Pseudo God-Jade Talisman believers.

While these people armor themselves, they can also enhance the overall strength of the Cloud Sea Cliff, further providing Jiang Ruyi with an endless stream of Power of Faith!

Killing several birds with one stone!

Since she chose to follow Lu Ran, He Qifeng naturally considered problems from the perspective of the Ran Sect.

The grand undertaking of god-slaying is not something one person can achieve alone.

As one of the core leaders of the Ran Sect, every bit of Jiang Ruyi's strength increase elevates the success rate of everyone's missions!

"Qifeng." Jiang Ruyi was grateful to He Qifeng, but also considered the other party, "All your actions are under the supervision of Wuji Peak.

The secret of Lu Ran is not something easy to expose to the outside world.

If you transfer so many of your people at once, it will definitely attract the attention of Wuji Peak."

Lu Ran picked up the conversation: "Yes, the name of the Forbidden City has already been made known, it needs to be well maintained, sending people out without proper reason is bound to be criticized.

In the future, who would dare to join your Forbidden City?"

"Hmm..." He Qifeng pondered.

She understood clearly that letting disciples of weak gods turn to Lu Ran was more beneficial to these tough, bottom-level people.

But from others' perspectives, He Qifeng was no benevolent person changing lives out of kindness.

Rather, a slave master trafficking servants!

After a moment's thought, He Qifeng insisted, "I'll pick a batch of steady and reliable believers, sending them to the Cloud Sea Cliff under the guise of supporting the Ran Sect's construction.

This battle, what the Sect Leader did is known to all, once I return to the Forbidden City, I'll properly praise your sagacious and martial image!

Sending a batch of believers to the Cloud Sea Cliff is absolutely no problem."

Before the two could speak, He Qifeng added: "Enhancing strength is urgent!"

"This reason could work." Lu Ran nodded.

Seeing Lu Ran's agreement, Jiang Ruyi softly said, "Thank you, Qifeng."

"One family, no need for formalities." He Qifeng waved her hand casually, displaying quite a generous air.

She couldn't immediately step into the role of a subordinate, whether in attitude or manner of speech, maintaining the demeanor of someone in a high position.

Jiang Ruyi smiled, not minding it at all.

He Qifeng was undoubtedly a leader-type figure, gifted with wisdom and bravery, markedly different from the rest of the Ran Sect's warriors.

Lu Ran having gained such a right-hand supporter, sharing the grand scheme, Jiang Ruyi felt only fortunate.

"Thunder Mountain also has nearly four hundred servants." He Qifeng continued, shaking her head, "What a pity."

These were all potential believers for the Ran Sect...

Everyone present immediately understood the implication.

Today, Thunder Mountain suffered a grand defeat!

Even the Sect Master and two martial ladies met their end.

Once the remnants of the army convey this news upon their return, the leading generals in charge of maintaining order in the mountain likely won't stand firm.

How strong is the Ran Sect?

The remnants of Thunder Mountain would likely flee in a rush.

The Holy Spirit Mountain is vast and boundless, finding these remnants again would not be easy.

Lu Ran lamented, "Fenger is in the midst of advancing, right now, we can't march to Thunder Mountain."

"Don't think about these things." Jiang Ruyi gently advised, "In such a rich environment of Divine Power, we should station ourselves at Mist Rain Lake and seize the opportunity to cultivate."

"Mm."

"Mm." Interestingly, Lu Ran and He Qifeng nodded in agreement simultaneously.

They both had the exact same reaction to the words of the Ran Sect Lady.

The three of them chatted while absorbing Divine Power into their bodies, circulating it internally and widening their meridians.

Until it was midnight, when it was time to change the guard, only then did Lu Ran get up to see the guest off.

He Qifeng didn't stay longer.

Tonight, she had obtained too much information and indeed needed time to digest it.

As the trio stepped out the door, Lu Ran suddenly asked, "Heavenly Emperor, how about it?"

"What Heaven and Earth?" He Qifeng was a bit puzzled, looking at Lu Ran.

Unfortunately, the whole night, she had not clearly seen Lu Ran's face.

The voice of the Sect Master always came from a place of darkness.

Lu Ran chuckled, "Didn't you want me to open another avenue for you?

The heaven in sky, the emperor in ruler.

Heavenly Emperor, how about it?"

He Qifeng's eyes suddenly brightened!

This title... is quite domineering!

In the myths of Da Xia, "Heavenly Emperor" is the supreme ruler, the emperor who governs the heavens and myriad realms.

Lu Ran brought up such a title, how could He Qifeng not be moved?

The only problem is...

Isn't the title a bit too grand?

As the Sect Master, where does that leave Lu Ran?

He Qifeng hesitated slightly, then voiced her thoughts.

"Haha." Lu Ran laughed jokingly, "The stronger the subordinate, the higher-reaching the title, naturally raises my stature as well.

Moreover, I am not that ostentatious.

You can interpret 'Heavenly Emperor' as a human emperor ruling over a particular realm."

Actually, this title was quite easy to decide.

After all, even a "Divine General" like He Qifeng is something to be disregarded...

Above them, naturally, is royalty.

"Qifeng." Lu Ran placed a hand on He Qifeng's shoulder, "Aren't you the City Lord of the Forbidden City, stationed at the very center of Holy Spirit Mountain?"

He Qifeng had already vaguely guessed what Lu Ran was about to say.

Lu Ran patted her on the shoulder: "Consider this your goal, to become the highest authority in that central region of Holy Spirit Mountain."

He Qifeng laughed too, her eyes burning with intensity: "You kid, you're not even pretending anymore, are you?"

You want me to take the whole Wuji Peak under me and incorporate it into the Ran Sect?"

Lu Ran put on a stern face: "Is that how you talk to the Sect Master?"

He Qifeng: "..."

Lu Ran said: "The City Lord of the Forbidden City, emperor of the Human Clan.

I've tailored it precisely to fit your real situation.

Now won't you thank the Sect Master?"

Although He Qifeng was indeed satisfied, she asked: "Your goal for me is to control the central region of Holy Spirit Mountain, yet Holy Spirit Mountain is vast and boundless.

Does this mean, in my title sequence, there will be other regions with a Heavenly Emperor?"

Lu Ran nodded immediately, not hiding his ambitions in front of someone like He Qifeng: "Of course, strategic goals need to be grand.

But it doesn't interfere with our down-to-earth efforts!"

"Then I have a request."

"Let's hear it."

"Not just anyone is qualified to stand alongside me!" He Qifeng said seriously, "In the future, when you add people to my title sequence, their overall strength must match mine."

"Haha!" Lu Ran couldn't help but laugh, "You're planning to monopolize this title, He Qifeng?"

He Qifeng shrugged: "The path we're walking, no matter failure or success, is destined to go down in history.

I don't want to be put on the same level as some random nobody in the books of future generations."

Lu Ran snorted: "If we fail, with the God Demon's control over the Human World, do you think our deeds will be passed down?"

He Qifeng stood with her hands behind her back, her chin slightly raised, speaking gently: "I'm just being modest.

What? The Sect Master contemplating failure?"

Lu Ran: "..."

I always thought I was the master of subtlety.

Seems like I've met my match today.

Someone can be even more pretentious than me?

Feeling Lu Ran's silence, realizing he had met his equal, her face broke into a smile.

Lu Ran rolled his eyes, speaking in annoyance: "Alright, Wind Emperor, kneel and give thanks."

He Qifeng's smile froze.

Yet smiles never disappear, they just move elsewhere.

Lu Ran chuckled: "What's wrong with you?"

Rarely showing a bit of girlish charm, He Qifeng glanced resentfully at the pitch black before her.

Despite her demeanor, her actions were decisive, making a gesture of courtesy.

Lu Ran quickly supported He Qifeng's arm, repeatedly saying: "No need, no need, just teasing you."

"Hmph!" He Qifeng turned her head slightly, raising her chin again.

To be honest, this was quite childish, not the least bit like the style of the Yangyang Sea?

However, Lu Ran was quite happy to see it.

"Alright, we're off to relieve the guard, and you should go back to cultivate." Lu Ran said goodbye.

"Mm." He Qifeng still cupped her fists and bowed parting ways properly.

Afterward, carrying the Divine Weapon, the Tianzi Sword, her emotions surged as she flew away from Green Lotus Island.

Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi flew to an island north of Fuyao Island, arranging break schedules with Deng Yuxiang via sound transmission en route.

"Sect Master?" Gao Yunyan tightly grasped the Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Spear, asking.

"Thank you for your hard work, return and rest." Lu Ran landed in front of Gao Yunyan, "Feng'er still needs many days to advance; we need to keep watch all this while."

"Yes." Gao Yunyan handed the still struggling Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Spear to Lu Ran, "This spear suits Fengchen well."

"Oh?" Lu Ran wondered, "Isn't Feng'er specialized in using axes?"

Seeing Lu Ran's misunderstanding, Gao Yunyan immediately explained: "This spear is very stubborn, fears nothing in heaven or earth, and will likely endure for a long, long time."

Fengchen had a moment of insight when he saw you battling at Hu Xu Hall, at that domineering and conquering sight.

Having Fengchen help you keep and control this Sky-piercing Halberd will in turn stabilize his mental realm."

"Buzz!!"

The Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Spear was furious!

This pack of scoundrels dares to say such things when I'm right here?

"Haha." Lu Ran couldn't help but smile and shake his head, "Alright, go back and rest."

As Gao Yunyan departed, Lu Ran sat on the ground, clutching the Mad Dragon Spear with one hand, activating the Blood Jade Ring on his finger to help him firmly control the second-rank Divine Weapon.

Indeed, the Mad Dragon Spear's defiance was beneficial for Martial Artists with a particular mindset type to steadily cultivate and consolidate their mental realm.

From the Lunar Radiance Tassel Sachet hanging at Lu Ran's waist, a faintly glowing white light emanated.

Like a beautifully tragic moonlight.

It helped the master faster absorb Divine Power.

[Evil Shadow, come.]

As Lu Ran transmitted the message, Yan Shuangzi silently appeared beside Lu Ran.

"Take the sachet and cultivate well."

"Yes." Yan Shuangzi obeyed, reaching out to take down the exquisite palm-sized sachet.

Lu Ran continued: "When Alliance Leader Yun leaves seclusion, I'll take you to visit, to see if this Heavenly Realm physician can help restore your body."

Yan Shuangzi half-kneeled beside Lu Ran, her lone hand gently tightening around the sachet.

She kept her head bowed, hiding her deeply hollowed eye sockets, her voice soft and light:

"Mm."

...

Chapter 606: Heavenly Realm?

Eight days later, joyful news came from Fuyao Island.

Xue Fengchen has emerged from seclusion!

With the majestic aura unique to a Great Power of the Sea Realm, he stepped out of the seclusion room.

After communicating and expressing thanks to the elite guards on the island, cheers resounded.

The members of the Thousand Boat Alliance, especially the believers of the Bi He Sect, naturally held a favorable view of the Ran Sect, not to mention this was a Great Power of the Sea Realm; the guards were naturally willing to offer their congratulations.

The Evil Shadow Guardian quickly noticed the situation and went to investigate.

At that moment, it happened to be midnight. Under the guidance of the Evil Shadow, Xue Fengchen arrived at the northern island and found Lu Ran, who was on duty there.

Lu Ran was extremely happy!

"Good, good, good!" Lu Ran strode forward and gave Xue Fengchen a big hug.

This action took Xue Fengchen by surprise.

Lu Ran was indeed of a carefree nature and valued the Blazing Phoenix of the West Desolation highly, but the Sect Master had never been so intimately behaved before.

Little did Xue Fengchen know that during these days, Lu Ran had been mentally tense.

Although the Ran Sect had severely damaged Thunder Mountain, considering the typical temperament of Dong Ting's disciples, it was not unlikely for someone to hold a grudge and attempt a secret attack.

As the saying goes, 'There's no guarding against thieves every day.'

No matter how cautious everyone is, mistakes can happen.

Now it's all good!

The great success of Feng'er lifted a burden off Lu Ran's heart.

He could take a break from his shift and return to his room for intense cultivation.

"Master..." Feeling Lu Ran's genuine joy, Xue Fengchen was also slightly moved.

"I've got a task for you!" Lu Ran handed over the Mad Dragon Spear, "This is the Divine Weapon of the Sect Master of Thunder Mountain, and it's been imbued with some of Lv Xiao's dispositions.

Proud and unyielding.

I refuse to let it have its way! From this day forward, you hold it firmly for me."

Isn't it just taming an eagle?

Tame it, then~

Moreover, the process of taming is also beneficial for Xue Fengchen to consolidate his Mental Realm, so why not do it?

"Yes!" Xue Fengchen reached out his big hand, groping in the dark for a moment, clutching the Divine Weapon Halberd tightly.

[Evil Shadow, inform Mr. Cong Long and Island Master He they can withdraw.]

With the message sent, Lu Ran patted Xue Fengchen's shoulder, "Let's go, let's head back."

That night, Lu Ran immersed himself in the joy of having gained a Divine General and cultivated diligently all night long.

Speaking of which, the divine power drawn by the promotion of the Alliance Leader Yun was terrifyingly dense!

In such an environment, Lu Ran was very sure that the time for his promotion would be significantly ahead of schedule!

The following morning, all major island masters of the Thousand Boat Alliance either visited personally or sent someone to congratulate him. Naturally, Lu Ran treated them politely, and after sending off a batch of people, quickly returned to focused cultivation.

No one knew when Alliance Leader Yun Qianzhou would successfully advance.

Everyone within Mist Rain Lake was frantically taking advantage of the benefits and cultivating diligently.

Days passed by quickly, and it was soon the 12th day of the winter month.

This marked the twenty-second day of Alliance Leader Yun Qianzhou's promotion!

It was also the first day of Lu Ran's advancement!

At the Fourth Rank of the River Realm, he finally broke through the cultivation bottleneck under the terrifying blessings of the Alliance Leader Yun, and grandly began advancing!

Instead of going to the seclusion room under Fuyao Island, Lu Ran broke through directly inside the cabin.

Although he was ascending to the peak of the River Realm, essentially, it was a small rank breakthrough within the Great Realm.

In other words, Lu Ran couldn't even attract a Fog Dragon Roll.

Quite unimpressive~

And the mist attracted by Lu Ran...

What?

Did Lu Ran attract mist? Where?

Oh, it turned out it was completely overshadowed by the mist summoned by the Alliance Leader Yun...

In just three days, Lu Ran accomplished a great feat!

At that time, Alliance Leader Yun was still in the process of advancing.

Poor little follower of the River Realm.

No fuss when entering seclusion, no grand display when emerging either...

Of course, for the Ran Sect's warriors, the commotion from the Sect Master's advancement was enormous!

"Phew!!"

In the empty room inside the cabin, a fierce gust of wind swept across.

Lu Ran sat cross-legged, tightly holding the little Blazing Phoenix, fearing it might be blown away.

"Buzz~"

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd trembled lightly, its golden phoenix pattern flickering, looking dazzlingly beautiful.

"Ha!" Lu Ran held the little Blazing Phoenix with both hands, throwing flowers, "Peak!!"

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd was tossed into the air and stopped stably right before hitting the ceiling.

"Buzz~" The little Blazing Phoenix seemed to love this game, rapidly plummeting down.

The chubby Treasure Gourd stuck back to Lu Ran's palm, continually wriggling and rubbing against his hand.

It seemed to want to play more?

"Always playing, haven't you learned how to devour living beings properly yet?" Lu Ran patted the chubby gourd.

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd instantly went still.

Even the golden phoenix pattern stopped flickering, slowly sliding out of Lu Ran's palm.

"Alright, one more time." Lu Ran chuckled helplessly.

Gotta pamper it, right~

What else can I do with my big darling?

Lu Ran held the Treasure Gourd again with both hands, throwing more flowers.

✿✿＼(°▽°)／✿✿

"Phew~"

The little Blazing Phoenix wobbled joyfully, until it bumped into the cabin ceiling, and then fell down contentedly.

Lu Ran stood up, steadily caught the Treasure Gourd, and stepped out of the cabin.

His senses were exceptionally acute, knowing there were quite a few people in the hall.

Sure enough, as soon as Lu Ran pushed open the door, a series of congratulatory voices came flooding in.

"Congratulations to the Sect Master on ascending to the peak!"

"Congratulations to the Sect Master!"

"Thanks, thanks." Lu Ran replied with a smile, "Everyone, go back to cultivate; the opportunity is rare, don't waste a minute or a second."

This statement felt a bit disingenuous.

Although the warriors were waiting in the hall, no one was neglecting their cultivation.

However, everyone was sensible and quickly said their goodbyes, leaving space for the Sect Master and Lady.

As the crowd dispersed, Lu Ran immediately stepped forward and embraced Fairy Jiang in his arms.

"Hmm." Jiang Ruyi leaned slightly backward.

Her lips curled into a slight smile, her face carrying a charming expression as she gently ran a hand through the thick mist, lightly tidying his hair:

"Charge forward, aiming to ascend to the Sea Realm?"

"Uh-huh, I'm working hard on it." Lu Ran found Jiang Fairy's thin lips, giving them a gentle kiss, speaking indistinctly, "Lady Girlfriend, give me some inspiration, won't you?"

"You...", Jiang Ruyi's cheeks reddened, her words equally muddled with shyness.

Lu Ran had just leveled up, basking in the proud and thriving spring breeze.

His familiar aura uniquely stirred Jiang Ruyi's usually serene emotions.

Jiang Fairy's body gradually softened, her beautiful eyes becoming increasingly dreamy...

But for some reason, Lu Ran suddenly lifted his head, as if perceiving something.

Jiang Ruyi gathered her thoughts and asked quietly, concerned: "What's wrong?"

Lu Ran frowned slightly: "The mist... seems to be thinning?"

"Hm?" Jiang Ruyi faced Lu Ran.

second, 2 seconds, 3 seconds...

Gradually, she could see the youth in the haze.

As time passed, his heroic face became clearer, the brilliance in his eyes lingered, carrying a sacred aura.

Lu Ran was stirred: "Did Alliance Leader Yun successfully advance?"

Jiang Ruyi replied softly: "Probably."

"Let's go and see." Lu Ran led her outside.

"Swoosh~" In the secluded courtyard, Jiang Ruyi casually waved her hand, the Golden Jade Eight Talismans spread outward.

With a thought, a palm-sized golden jade talisman expanded to a meter in size, carrying the two of them upward.

They looked over the lush branches, standing atop the treetop.

At this moment, within the world of Mist Rain Lake, the white mist was dissipating at a visibly rapid pace.

Other islands noticed this change, and excited cheers echoed all around.

As the mist cleared, the canopy of heavenly nets, lotus petals, and green lotus leaves scattered, revealing a sky overcast with dark clouds.

"Splatter~"

A fine rain fell down in streams.

The gloomy sky should have felt oppressive.

But here in the Qianzhou Islands, this picturesque scenery of misty rain in Jiangnan captivated Lu Ran.

Amidst the layers of rain, many figures exhibited different Divine Techniques, wearing various attires, swiftly flying towards the central island of Mist Rain Lake.

This scene was truly spectacular!

In Lu Ran's mind, the somewhat inappropriate term flashed—The gathering of myriad nations!

"Master Lu!" A venerable voice echoed from afar.

Lu Ran looked towards it.

He saw the Grey Lotus Island Master, leading a group of Bi He Island Masters, flying over.

The old face of the Grey Lotus Island Master had a hint of joy: "Master Lu, let's go together... Did you just advance?"

Lu Ran nodded with a smile.

The Grey Lotus Island Master, half-crying and half-laughing: "Why didn't Master Lu notify us in advance?"

"I'm just stirring up a bit of a fuss." Lu Ran smiled and waved it off, "Let's go check it out."

"Congratulations to Master Lu for your advancement!"

"Congratulations, congratulations," each Island Master began to speak, an obligatory congratulatory refrain.

While Lu Ran was merely at the River Realm rank, in terms of real combat prowess...

Even these Sea Realm Island Masters dared not guarantee they'd endure more than a few rounds before the Master of Ran Sect.

Lu Ran had indeed forged a formidable reputation for himself!

Especially when Thunder Mountain's army came to intrude, and Lu Ran, along with the Ran Sect warriors, confronted them—his shocking words still reverberated in the hearts of the Thousand Boat Alliance members.

I killed them, and then?

Lingfeng Hall, Hu Xu Hall, Tiantu Mountain—I wiped them out as well!

And then what?

Then... it actually happened!

The Sect Master from Thunder Mountain, along with his First Lady and Third Lady, were also slain by the team led by Lu Ran!

Though the Thousand Boat Alliance warriors never witnessed it firsthand, even the Hall Master of Big Wind Hall of Wuji Peak reported it—who would doubt it?

"What is that?" Mid-flight, Jiang Ruyi suddenly felt her heart tremble.

"Alliance Leader Yun!"

"It's Alliance Leader Yun Qianzhou!"

"Gasp..." The Golden Lotus Island Master, a powerful Sea Realm practitioner, gasped, "Such an astonishing presence!"

"Gulp." Lu Ran stared in awe at Tianya Island, at the man slowly ascending into the sky.

He had a tall physique, an extraordinarily refined face, a high nose bridge, and pale lips.

His eyes continued to flicker with a faint brilliance, showing no trace of joy or sorrow, seemingly devoid of any Human Clan emotions.

One word: imposing without anger.

And Yun Qianzhou's emotionless gaze, even from a distance, made one's heart quiver.

He halted calmly in mid-air, his unbound black hair and wide white robe fluttering gently in the light wind and rain.

The entire world seemed to quiet at this moment.

Countless Thousand Boat Alliance members, bold enough to congratulate, simultaneously lost their voices; many dared not approach Tanya Island.

Between heaven and earth, only the light rain continued to fall.

Still ticking and pattering.

At this moment, buried deep within Lu Ran's mind, memories silently surfaced.

This sensation... this feeling, Lu Ran seemed to have experienced before!

It was at his father's funeral.

His mother brought little Yuanxi, arriving at the small Rain Alley City.

Lu Ran followed beside his mother, who he hadn't seen for a long time, bidding farewell to his deceased father, and for some period, he seemed to lose sight of clarity.

Delayed realization!

To this day, Lu Ran finally realized, that his youthful self back then, wasn't disoriented due to overwhelming sadness.

He must have been mentally shaken.

That feeble 13-year-old boy couldn't handle that level of emotional outburst from his mother, his mind going blank in that instant, memory fading with it...

So, was Mother also a Heavenly Realm practitioner?

Or perhaps his young self was too fragile and mistook the Sea for the Heaven?

Who knows.

"Hah..." Lu Ran exhaled deeply.

He's been at Holy Spirit Mountain for nearly a year.

Wondering how Mother has been faring.

Has she become the Jinghong Peak Master?

Does she... occasionally think of me?

...

Chapter 607: Tiger Talisman

Suddenly, Yun Qianzhou smiled.

At last, a hint of human warmth adorned his demeanor.

Throughout Mist Rain Lake, sounds of relief rose, and the tension in the air eased considerably with his smile.

"I owe my advancement this time to the support of all present."

Yun Qianzhou spoke slowly, his magnetic voice piercing through layers of rain, reaching everyone's ears.

He stood mid-air, slowly turned, and cupped his hands in salute to the members of the Thousand Boat Alliance.

Yun Qianzhou's smile was clearly kind, his gratitude sincere, yet it still felt solemn and sacred to those observing.

It even made one question what qualifications they had to receive gratitude from someone so divine?

As it turns out, Lu Ran's intuition was not wrong.

The members of the Thousand Boat Alliance were indeed panicked and reverent!

Across the skies and earth, people knelt in worship, congratulating the lofty Alliance Leader on his success.

This left Lu Ran's presence quite conspicuous.

Standing atop the Golden Jade Talisman, he did not perform the kneeling rites that others did for this great Heavenly Realm power.

As the Lady of the Sect Leader, Jiang Ruyi naturally acted in line with Lu Ran, standing steadily as well.

Yun Qianzhou naturally glanced over, nodding and smiling at the unfamiliar young man.

There was not a hint of coercion in his demeanor.

Yet Lu Ran's breathing faltered slightly, his heart beat wildly.

Yun Qianzhou slowly descended to Tianya Island, his tall figure disappearing into the lush forest.

Inside and outside Mist Rain Lake, silence prevailed.

Only after a long time did the members of the Thousand Boat Alliance cautiously lift their heads and murmur among themselves.

Logically, everyone should have gone to Tianya Island to congratulate the Alliance Leader; perhaps a grand celebration was to be held on Thousand Boat Island.

Yet now, no one dared to make a move.

The compassionate and gentle image of Alliance Leader Yun in their minds had completely changed; that celestial aura and demeanor were not accessible to just anyone anymore.

Eventually, someone stepped forward to ease the situation.

The Island Masters of Tianya and Mingyue flew out from the island, conveying that the Alliance Leader Yun had accepted their goodwill and requesting everyone to return to their own islands.

Naturally, everyone obeyed the orders and returned.

The originally festive Mist Rain Lake became eerily quiet.

"Master Lu, please stay!"

The Island Master of Mingyue, with pure white phoenix wings, flew rapidly toward him.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran looked at the noble and holy Sky Phoenix female disciple, yet in comparison to Yun Qianzhou's brilliance, the Island Master of Mingyue seemed somehow inferior.

"Alliance Leader Yun invites Master Lu to the island for a discussion." Mingyue Island Master, with bright eyes, spoke softly.

"Alright." Lu Ran agreed, then turned to Jiang Ruyi, saying, "Ruyi, you should stay on Green Lotus Island."

Even as he spoke, he sent a mental message: [This trip is likely uneventful, but you should remain on the island to oversee matters. If something happens, consult Mr. Cong Long, and I shall bring Big Nightmare to attend.]

"Alright." Jiang Ruyi nodded lightly.

As Lu Ran placed the Divine Weapon beneath his feet, she flew back.

At her glance, Deng Yuxiang, holding a broken blade, flew over.

Here, the Island Master of Mingyue looked at the Island Master of Bi He and others, and in a tone not of invitation but of command, said, "Island Master of Grey Lotus, follow me to the island as well."

"Yes." The Island Master of Grey Lotus, leaning on a cane, walked on leaves.

The four of them flew toward the central area of Mist Rain Lake, and along the way, Lu Ran also encountered the leader of the Chenghua Sect, the Island Master of Yihua, and the leader of the Sword Lotus Sect, the Island Master of White Lotus.

The group gathered at the front of the Council Hall on Tianya Island, exchanging cordial greetings, and entered the building together.

At this time, He Qifeng was already seated inside the hall, with the eighteenth Pride of Da Xia, Hou Yun, standing behind.

Upon seeing Lu Ran arrive, He Qifeng stood to welcome him.

Because of their agreement, He Qifeng secretly joined the Ran Sect, thus she addressed him as "Master Lu," not omitting Lu Ran's surname.

When everyone was seated again...

Hou Yun astonishingly noticed that He Qifeng sat in the second chair, leaving the first position on the left side vacant for Lu Ran.

Hou Yun was quite surprised.

Having been in the Forbidden City long enough, she was very aware of her City Lord's "none can rival me" nature.

And here you tell me that He Qifeng voluntarily gave up her seat?

Has Sister Qifeng been possessed?

Hmm... Just in terms of this battle, Lu Ran and his Ran Sect's killing of the Thunder Mountain Sect Master were indeed meritorious!

Moreover, as the first Pride of Da Xia, Lu Ran was indeed above He Qifeng.

To rationalize her City Lord's unusual behavior, Hou Yun could only comfort herself in this way.

The vast Council Hall had a grand chair set at the top, where Yun Qianzhou sat, with Tianya and Mingyue flanking him.

Lu Ran and He Qifeng sat on the left side of the hall, with Deng Yuxiang naturally standing behind Lu Ran.

Directly opposite them, on the right side of the hall, sat the Island Master of Grey Lotus, the Island Master of Yihua, and the Island Master of White Lotus.

The hall felt quite spacious; in total, there were merely ten people there.

Besides Lu Ran and the four led by He Qifeng, the remaining Island Masters were considered the core leadership of the Thousand Boat Alliance.

"This time, my successful ascension owes much to the support of these two righteous individuals," Yun Qianzhou spoke gently.

Lu Ran could feel that the other was intentionally restraining his presence, trying to make it easier for those in the room to endure.

"Alliance Leader Yun is too kind," He Qifeng spoke first, seemingly afraid that Lu Ran might appear awkward. As someone from the Sea Realm, she could better withstand the pressure.

Lu Ran was certainly not one to be underestimated by the Wind Emperor; he smiled, "Thunder Mountain had wild ambitions, yet Alliance Leader Yun governs the Thousand Boat Alliance with benevolence.

Those who are virtuous naturally garner support; it's an eternal truth."

"Hehe." Yun Qianzhou's eyes were full of admiration as he looked at the overly young Master Lu.

These words truly bring joy to one's heart.

And then there's the Hall Master of Wuji Peak · Big Wind Hall, also a young woman, yet possessing such kingly poise.

I've only been in seclusion for just over half a year.

Has this Holy Spirit Mountain already transformed into such a state?

Lu Ran added, "Furthermore, the Island Master of Green Lotus Island is my senior. Being able to meet an old friend within Holy Spirit Mountain, it's only natural to offer some assistance."

Yun Qianzhou nodded, "So there's also this layer of relationship."

After a moment's reflection, Lu Ran still said, "The main reason is that on the night I arrived at Mist Rain Lake, I heard the song 'Fisherman Singing in the Evening'.

Alliance Leader Yun is stuck in the mire yet remains untainted; your principles for leading are truly admirable.

If Alliance Leader Yun can, with transcendent demeanor, uphold the land and sky of Holy Spirit Mountain, it would naturally reduce the mutual slaughter among our Da Xia compatriots."

Yun Qianzhou's expression turned slightly solemn, "You two young friends are truly people of high moral integrity."

The Island Master of Grey Lotus slowly stood up, timely saying, "Alliance Leader. Master Lu's footprints cover Holy Spirit Mountain, punishing the wicked and purging the air of the Mountain Realm.

Hall Master He constructed a Forbidden City in the center of the Holy Spirit Mountain continent, taking in refugees and protecting compatriots..."

As the Island Master of Grey Lotus recounted, Yun Qianzhou was filled with admiration.

After all, he had just emerged from seclusion, and his subordinates had only briefly informed him about these two allies.

Now, upon hearing of their deeds, even Yun Qianzhou could not help but be filled with admiration.

Yun Qianzhou merely established an alliance and held steadfastly to one corner, but these two young individuals before him...

Are they intent on completely transforming the order of the Mountain Realm?

At this thought, Yun Qianzhou's gaze turned slightly melancholic.

He Qifeng spoke, "Now that Alliance Leader Yun has ascended to the Heavenly Realm, the crisis of the Thousand Boat Alliance has already been resolved.

Our Forbidden City, the Ran Sect, and the Thousand Boat Alliance can form an alliance to collectively purify the atmosphere of the Mountain Realm.

What does Alliance Leader Yun think?"

Yun Qianzhou maintained a calm exterior, yet a trace of bitterness stirred in his heart.

Remain in the Mountain Realm?

I fear I won't be able to stay for long...

The room was silent, though Yun Qianzhou's countenance was as calm as a still lake, he was after all a Great Power in the Heavenly Realm!

His quietly rising mood could influence the atmosphere within the hall.

He Qifeng's eyebrows slightly furrowed, asking, "Does Alliance Leader Yun have some unspeakable difficulty? Or perhaps you wish to ascend to the Heavenly Realm to experience a more elevated landscape?"

Lu Ran suddenly reached out and gently patted He Qifeng's arm.

No wonder he's our Wind Emperor!

Dare to question even a Great Power of the Heavenly Realm like this?

Behind the chair, Hou Yun blinked his eyes, looking at Lu Ran's hand on He Qifeng's arm.

He Qifeng's "If not me, then who" was not merely words.

The so-called Big Wind Hall was indeed her one-woman show.

Especially since He Qifeng ascended to the Sea Realm, those qualified to advise her, and daring enough to do so, were very few.

Yet Lu Ran's move now...

Watching this, Hou Yun was truly baffled.

He Qifeng not only had no reaction but actually fell silent?

This...?

And as He Qifeng's words fell, the Island Master of Grey Lotus, the Island Master of Chenghua, and the Island Master of White Lotus sitting opposite also all turned their gaze to the Alliance Leader.

The Island Master of Chenghua was a slightly effeminate man, while the Island Master of White Lotus was a charming lady.

The two Sea Realm Great Powers should have been calm and composed.

At this moment, the two of them, however, were anxiously looking at the Alliance Leader, fearing that Yun Qianzhou might leave the island.

"With such ambition and helping my Thousand Boat Alliance through this calamity, Yun and the Thousand Boat Alliance should naturally offer full support." Yun Qianzhou displayed extraordinary grace, once again showing a gentle smile.

Upon hearing this, several core leaders in the room all breathed a sigh of relief.

Yun Qianzhou changed the subject, "I heard the two of you together slew the Sect Master of Thunder Mountain, truly impressive for the younger generation."

He Qifeng frankly acknowledged, "I was merely providing support from the side; Lv Xiao was slain by Master Lu and the generals of the Ran Sect."

Yun Qianzhou looked towards Lu Ran, carefully scrutinizing this extraordinary young man.

Though this youth's realm wasn't high, he moved with ease among a group of strong individuals, neither arrogant nor subservient.

Yun Qianzhou could genuinely feel the steadfastness of this youth's character and the resolve of his will.

Coupled with his actions and aspirations...

If one day he had to leave.

Entrusting the Thousand Boat Alliance to such a person, presumably, he would be at ease.

"Tianya."

"Yes." The Island Master of Tianya carried a square wooden tray over to Lu Ran and He Qifeng.

As the red cloth was lifted, there lay a Tiger Talisman upon it.

It was jet black in its entirety, made of some kind of jade, with the tiger's head carved lifelike, and strange golden inscriptions engraved upon its body.

The black jade Tiger Talisman, though small and delicate, only two-finger sized, carried an innate majesty.

Aware of being scrutinized, it seemed somewhat displeased.

Or perhaps, it was testing the two of them.

Suddenly, a terrifying aura, like surging waves, overwhelmed Lu Ran and He Qifeng...

...

Chapter 608: Reddened eyes

"Alliance Leader Yun, what is this?" He Qifeng examined the exquisite Tiger Talisman.

Yun Qianzhou slowly said, "This is a Second-rank Magical Artifact, the Black Jade Tiger Talisman, which can enhance the wearer's prestige."

A Second-rank Magical Artifact?

Lu Ran felt the imposing aura emanating from the Black Jade Tiger Talisman and couldn't help but be secretly alarmed.

The imposing might is already so great without being on a Human Clan member.

If this were combined with the Human Clan, and the right support was found, what then?

Yun Qianzhou looked at the magical artifact that had been with him for many years: "It's often said that kindness doesn't command soldiers, yet I, being a disciple of the Sky Phoenix, am inherently not hard-natured.

Back in the day, it was thanks to this Tiger Talisman that I was able to command the heroes and form the Thousand Boat Alliance."

He Qifeng was a bit surprised, "This magical artifact can change the wearer's character?"

Yun Qianzhou gently shook his head, "No, if Hall Master He wore it, it would instill genuine awe in others.

Even on the battlefield, if you issue orders to the enemy, if their will is weak or their disposition is soft, they might be overwhelmed and compelled to obey your command."

He Qifeng's face showed a moment of shock!

So powerful?

Yun Qianzhou, with a hint of reminiscence in his eyes, continued the previous topic, "Later, as the Thousand Boat Alliance got on track, my strength and realm increased, and I gained the support of the alliance members.

This Tiger Talisman no longer had a place to showcase its powers.

My governing philosophies and my own personality caused this Tiger Talisman to gather dust for a long time.'

"Buzz!"

The Black Jade Tiger Talisman hummed and vibrated.

Yun Qianzhou looked at the restless magical treasure and said, "Both of you young friends are leaders, filled with ambition and forward-thinking.

I, Yun, am content with a corner of the land, so it might be better to gift this magical treasure to you two, to aid you in accomplishing great feats.

Internally, consolidate your ruling position; externally, conquer powerful enemies from all quarters."

Lu Ran and He Qifeng couldn't help but exchange a glance.

Yun Qianzhou's demeanor was gentle, "Do not refuse, I am giving this magical treasure to you as gratitude for helping the Thousand Boat Alliance through this crisis and also to find a suitable bearer for the Black Jade Tiger Talisman.

Rest assured, the Black Jade Tiger Talisman has already been severed from me and is now without an owner.

As long as the Black Jade Tiger Talisman recognizes you both, it will wholeheartedly follow you."

Alliance Leader Yun was undoubtedly sincere in his thanks, carefully considering everything to dispel any concerns Lu and He might have about being suspected of monitoring the Forbidden City or the Ran Sect.

"Crack~"

The Black Jade Tiger Talisman suddenly cracked from the middle into two parts.

Just like ancient military tokens.

"Alliance Leader Yun, then I won't be courteous!" He Qifeng, always decisive, stood up, cupped his hands towards Yun Qianzhou, and then reached out towards the wooden tray.

Both halves of the Tiger Talisman moved slightly towards He Qifeng's fingertips.

Between Lu Ran and He Qifeng, they both chose He Qifeng, who had a more kingly aura.

Poor someone,

just got snubbed like that~

Lu Ran smirked, thinking this one is even blinder than the last!

However, he quickly adjusted his mindset.

Thinking from another perspective, if Lu Ran had to choose for himself...

He would also choose He Qifeng!

Choose someone else?

Just a small River Realm cultivator, sitting there all pompous, what is that worth~

"Come with me!" He Qifeng said quite straightforwardly, directly choosing the left half of the token.

Such a scene was taken in by all the people in the hall, and their thoughts began to swirl.

Generally speaking, the right half of the token would stay with the king, while the left half would be given to the commanding general.

When the two halves come together as one, then one can mobilize troops.

As a magical artifact, the Black Jade Tiger Talisman doesn't have the ability to command troops, but it is, after all, in the shape of a Tiger Talisman.

Therefore, who takes the left half and who takes the right half is quite significant for those who care.

At the very least, it's a symbol of one's status and position!

No one expected He Qifeng to be so straightforward, directly taking the left half that represents the general.

The remaining right half was naturally left for the king.

He Qifeng was so decisive that everyone in the hall couldn't figure out whether she understood the respective meanings of the two halves of the Tiger Talisman...

Lu Ran, in any case, didn't know.

He Qifeng took one half, so he took the other half.

"Buzz~"

The texture of the Black Jade Tiger Talisman was smooth and warm, and the golden inscriptions glowed faintly.

Lu Ran had already calmed his mindset, entirely indifferent.

Whether the right half of the Tiger Talisman was unsatisfied or held doubts, as time passed, all of it would vanish into nothing.

After all, it sought a strong-willed owner!

An owner who would unite heroes and conquer enemies!

There was no one more suitable than Lu Ran in this world.

He Qifeng inquired, "Alliance Leader Yun, is the Black Jade Tiger Talisman one magical artifact or two?"

Yun Qianzhou: "When the two halves of the Tiger Talisman are separate, they follow their respective masters and form their own factions. When united, they can exhibit greater effects."

He Qifeng felt a stir in her heart and asked, "If Master Lu and I are separated by a thousand miles, can the two halves of the Tiger Talisman communicate with each other?"

Yun Qianzhou smiled and nodded, "Yes, they are relatively independent yet intact as a whole."

Oh?

It also has the function of a communicator?

Lu Ran looked at He Qifeng and joked, "Now, there's no need to leave the Silent Night Blade with you."

He Qifeng also laughed and sat back beside Lu Ran, "No, I like your blade."

Lu Ran: ???

What do you mean?

Are you being forceful?

Seeing Lu Ran's expression, He Qifeng became even happier, "I have three bodily facets! Recently, you just gave me a Divine Weapon, the Heavenly Sword.

Along with your Silent Night Blade, one facet of mine can wield both sword and blade."

More question marks floated above Lu Ran's head.

No way!

You do realize I just gave you a Divine Sword, right?

Would the dignified Wind Emperor really disregard decorum?

How could you just take whatever is offered?

"Hahaha!" He Qifeng burst into hearty laughter, patting Lu Ran on the shoulder.

Chapter 609: Reddened eyes_2

She really enjoyed seeing Lu Ran put in his place.

Especially now, He Qifeng's self-positioning was different.

Originally, she wanted to surpass Lu Ran in everything, purely out of competitiveness.

Now she clearly joined the Ran Sect and became a Heavenly Emperor under Lu Ran, making the Sect Master eat his words...

It gave her a thrilling sense of defying authority!

Very exciting~

Everyone in the room was also infected by He Qifeng's laughter, each showing a smile.

Feeling Lu Ran's embarrassed look, the right half of the Tiger Talisman was even more dissatisfied!

Lu Ran grinned, holding the Tiger Talisman tightly, and whispered, "Stop it, you should be thankful now!"

You won't find a more suitable master than me."

Although it was whispered, it carried a strong sense of confidence.

The right half of the Tiger Talisman seemed somewhat disdainful, pretending to fly away.

Lu Ran firmly held the Tiger Talisman.

As a second-rank Magical Artifact, how could someone from the River Realm control such a Magical Treasure?

However, as the force of the black jade Tiger Talisman continuously increased, it was astonished to find that Lu Ran's grip strength also greatly increased, his palm remaining unmoved!

"Hmph." Lu Ran coldly snorted in his heart.

You know the Mad Dragon Spear? How crazy was it? It also had to obediently stay put!

You, just a small Tiger Talisman, only half of it, trying to escape my grasp?

All these years, whatever I set my eyes on, who could escape?

Island Master He Yingcai from Green Lotus Island, City Lord He Qifeng from the Forbidden City... In the end, didn't they all have to respectfully call me Sect Master?

Hmm... and Alliance Leader Yun Qianzhou from the Thousand Boat Alliance.

Thinking of this, Lu Ran firmly controlled the black jade Tiger Talisman and looked up at Alliance Leader Yun.

Of course, Lu Ran was only secretly coveting, not daring to say it out loud.

Yun Qianzhou naturally saw Lu Ran's gaze, but could never guess what the other was thinking.

After all, Lu Ran was just from the small River Realm, and you say he dares to attempt to subdue an alliance leader, who is a Great Power of the Heavenly Realm?

It's simply laughable!

Yun Qianzhou slowly said, "You two young friends, Yun is not in a suitable state to participate in the banquet, and will soon need to stabilize my Realm again."

Please stay on the island for a while, Tianya Mingyue will gather the alliance members to properly thank you both."

Yun Qianzhou is going to close himself off again?

Lu Ran quickly asked, "Alliance Leader Yun, how long will you be closed off this time?"

Yun Qianzhou pondered, "It might be a long time, I have some things to think through.

If you two need anything, you can find Tianya Mingyue; my Thousand Boat Alliance will fully support you."

After speaking, he looked around.

The two Island Masters, Tianya and Mingyue, immediately bowed with respect and echoed in agreement.

Lu Ran felt a bit regretful, but had no reason to stop others from closed-door cultivation, so he said, "Alliance Leader Yun, I would like to ask you for a favor."

Yun Qianzhou nodded, "Feel free to ask, young friend!"

Lu Ran: "I have a protector whose arm was cut off and eyes gouged out by the North Wind Sect."

Upon hearing this, Yun Qianzhou frowned slightly.

Such cruel acts could indeed be done by disciples of the four mighty factions!

The arrogant Dong Ting, the rampant West Desolation, the cold North Wind, and the ruthless Ash (South Sea Bow).

These second-class God disciples, who sit high above, have indeed contributed a lot to the overall atmosphere of the Holy Spirit Mountain!

In the Da Xia Divine Sequence, there are six second-class Gods.

Besides the four mighty factions, there are two beast-form gods, respectively the Sky Phoenix and the Mountain Lord.

The Mountain Lord, being a golden fierce tiger, has even more ferocious disciples!

Is there any kindness left? Only the Sky Phoenix Sect, which focuses on healing, is relatively kind.

"Sea Grade medical skill can't regenerate limbs." Lu Ran requested, "Alliance Leader Yun, could you help heal my protector?

Whether successful or not, I would be extremely grateful!"

Yun Qianzhou: "You are too kind, young friend. Please bring the injured person here."

Lu Ran turned around and nodded slightly at Deng Yuxiang standing there: [Come in.]

[Hmm.] Deng Yuxiang responded mentally, taking big strides to leave.

In just a moment, the Big Nightmare came in with the Evil Shadow.

This pair of dear friends were the same height, similar build, and both wore green raincoats and bamboo hats. If one ignored their aura, outsiders would probably not be able to tell who was who.

But Lu Ran could tell them apart.

Yan Shuangzi hung her head lower, unwilling to show her face.

She stood silently below the hall.

Beside her, Deng Yuxiang could feel Yan Shuangzi's heart beating rapidly.

Deng Yuxiang's naturally lowered hand gently grasped Yan Shuangzi's hand, offering comfort and support.

Then, Deng Yuxiang stepped back diagonally.

"Thank you, Alliance Leader Yun!" Lu Ran spoke.

"Whew~" Yun Qianzhou extended a hand forward, and a terrifying energy fluctuation emerged.

Heavenly Grade Divine Technique: Feather of the Luan!

Feathers from the Luan clan, white, graceful, and long, filled with an awe-inspiring sacred aura, floated out.

A multitude of white feathers surrounded Yan Shuangzi, until no one could see her figure.

Yan Shuangzi's delicate body trembled!

A vast life force poured into her body, and at the site of her severed arm, fresh flesh seemed to grow, like sprouts breaking through the earth.

In her deeply sunken eye sockets, her eyelids slowly began to swell.

Yan Shuangzi tightly pressed her lips together.

She realized that everything she had longed for was happening, truly happening, facilitated by Lu Ran's efforts...

Could she see again?

Could she... see him again?

As time passed second by second, Lu Ran was initially agonized, as the slowly revolving feathers were so numerous and dense, completely covering Yan Shuangzi's tall figure.

But as Yan Shuangzi's heart could no longer suppress its excitement, Lu Ran's expression grew increasingly joyous.

Was it successful?

Mr. Cong Long's judgment was accurate! Heavenly Grade medical skill, could indeed regenerate a lost limb?!

Previously, Lu Ran had considered how to console her if they failed.

As long as the realm was high enough, later, when Yan Shuangzi fully merged with the Evil Dog Evil Sculpture and transformed into an energy body, she could naturally reshape a flesh body.

The arms and eyes could be fully restored.

However, the earlier Yan Shuangzi's physical body could be restored, the better!

After a few more minutes, the endless Luan clan feathers quietly dispersed.

The hall was silent; Yan Shuangzi still stood with her head lowered, quietly standing in place.

The brim of her bamboo hat covered the upper half of her face.

The wide raincoat made it impossible for others to see whether her severed arm had regrown.

"How is it?" Lu Ran quickly stepped forward.

He grasped the sleeve that should have been empty, gently pinching it.

There was indeed substance!

Lu Ran was overjoyed, tilting his head slightly to look upwards from beneath the brim of the hat.

Then, Lu Ran's eyes narrowed.

He saw her eyes closed tight, as well as the tears that streamed down her face.

"There, there." Lu Ran gently comforted, shaking the sleeve and holding the cuff, he gently wiped away the tears on her face, "Open your eyes."

Yan Shuangzi pressed her lips, her heart struggling.

It seemed she was somewhat afraid.

Afraid of disappointment? Afraid it was all a dream?

"Evil Shadow, open your eyes." Lu Ran's voice was gentle, softly commanding.

Yan Shuangzi almost never disobeyed Lu Ran's commands, and if she did once or twice, it would never reach a third instruction from Lu Ran.

Sure enough, Yan Shuangzi slowly opened her eyes, the mist still lingering in her eye sockets.

Tears blurred her vision.

Lu Ran carefully brushed the red rims of her eyes with the sleeve.

Yan Shuangzi's blurred vision gradually cleared, and she saw the familiar yet unfamiliar young man before her.

It wasn't like she had imagined.

In her impressions, he was still a green youth, and even during the grand commotion at the Martial Arts Arena in Beifeng City, he seemed more like a show-off kid.

In just two short years, he had grown taller, even slightly taller than her.

His gaze was deeper, and his demeanor more heroic.

"It's all back, it's all back!" Lu Ran said with a smile.

Yan Shuangzi looked at Lu Ran with her long, beautiful eyes.

Is it back?

Her eyes and arm had recovered, but everything Sword Ridge Peak had taken from her, her dignity, the destiny she should have had... no.

Slowly, a faint smile appeared on Yan Shuangzi's face as she looked at the gentle smile before her.

She preferred her current fate even more.

Following him, walking together on this path.

Once again, Yan Shuangzi's eyes turned red.

But this time, she smiled, looking at the person before her, and her eyes gradually filled with sparkling tears.

Chapter 610: Misty Rain Affair Concluded

Lu Ran and Yan Shuangzi repeatedly expressed their gratitude, Yun Qianzhou politely responded, and then courteously saw them off.

It was clear that Alliance Leader Yun urgently needed to retreat again.

Lu Ran, not wanting to disturb further, bid farewell and left with He Qifeng.

Escorted by a Bi He disciple, everyone stepped on the green lotus leaves and returned to Green Lotus Island.

On the way, Lu Ran and He Qifeng chatted idly.

Yan Shuangzi did not flicker away; she stood slightly behind Lu Ran, watching the Mist Rain Lake under the fine drizzle.

Like a curious child.

There are those who watch the lake and enjoy the rain, unaware that they themselves are a scenery.

Deng Yuxiang stood beside Yan Shuangzi, a hint of indulgence in her eyes as she gazed at her best friend, sensing the joy emanating from the depths of her friend's heart.

The return of sight brought significant change to Yan Shuangzi.

Yan Shuangzi always seemed to be in darkness, but now she finally revealed some brightness and radiance.

Inadvertently, the two women's gazes met.

Deng Yuxiang slightly raised her eyebrows, her face adorned with a gentle smile.

Yan Shuangzi's expression was somewhat complex, and she naturally diverted her gaze.

The impression of Lu Ran had undergone a magnificent transformation.

Deng Yuxiang was not to be outdone!

Her appearance had not changed much, remaining brilliantly dazzling as before, but internally, she had already made a qualitative leap!

The pressure unique to the Yangyang Sea continually intimidated the weak creatures around her.

Seeing Deng Yuxiang's powerful demeanor, Yan Shuangzi could not help but compare herself to her.

She was supposed to stand at the same height as Deng Yuxiang, perhaps even surpass her...

But now the gap between them was like clouds and mud.

"You have the Magic Artifact·Moonlight Tassel Sachet, you will catch up slowly." Deng Yuxiang's voice was uncharacteristically gentle.

There weren't many she treated with such tenderness.

She understood Yan Shuangzi well, especially now that the other had eyes to better express emotions.

Deng Yuxiang's naturally hanging hand gently grasped the counterpart's newly grown hand.

Her skin was like condensed cream, delicate and soft.

Drenched by the fine rain, cool to the touch.

"Hmm." Yan Shuangzi softly agreed, habitually lowering her head.

Deng Yuxiang gently played with her friend's slender jade-like hand, not the least bit jealous concerning the Moonlight Tassel Sachet.

On one hand, she truly hoped her dear friend would quickly catch up.

On the other hand...

At this moment, on Deng Yuxiang's left middle finger, she wore a Magic Artifact·Blood Jade Ring.

That was given to her by Lu Ran.

Just the day after Xue Fengchen advanced, Lu Ran no longer needed to control the Mad Dragon Spear, and according to the early decided distribution plan, he gifted the ring to Big Nightmare.

Later, while the two were interrogating Lv Xiao, Deng Yuxiang even lightly rotated the ring on her finger before Lv Xiao's face.

Unfortunately, by then, Lv Xiao couldn't muster any spirit anymore.

Burned by the Soul Fire, he had lost all temper and was no longer the majestic Sect Master of Thunder Mountain.

As for the Blood Jade Ring acknowledging a new master, Lv Xiao wouldn't dare have a word of objection.

Deng Yuxiang was very pleased with Sect Master Lu's attitude.

The only dissatisfaction was that the ring was a bit large for her slender fingers and didn't fit quite right.

However, the Blood Jade Ring was a Magic Artifact!

No matter how Deng Yuxiang moved her hand, the Blood Jade Ring stayed securely fixed in place, motionless.

"You've returned."

The island guards had already reported the situation, and by the time the lotus leaves arrived at the small courtyard in the forest, Jiang Ruyi was already there to greet them.

After bidding farewell, the escort personnel quickly left.

"You haven't met Ruyi yet, have you?" Lu Ran turned to Yan Shuangzi.

Yan Shuangzi gently nodded, looking at the white-clad, ethereal Jiang Immortal, somewhat taken by surprise.

When she ventured into the mountains, "Heavenly Pride" didn't exist, so she hadn't seen Jiang Ruyi's face.

Jiang Ruyi's voice was clear and cold, and Yan Shuangzi had imagined the Sect Master's wife with an ethereal elegance, already having a fixed impression in her heart.

And seeing her in person now...

Yan Shuangzi was startled to find that the other was even three times cooler than she had imagined.

"Lady." Yan Shuangzi was momentarily dazed before she curtly saluted.

Jiang Ruyi gently supported Yan Shuangzi's arm, delighted to see the newly restored eyes.

Yu Changsheng was also quite excited, "The Heavenly Grade medical skill indeed allows for regrowth of limbs."

In a good mood, Lu Ran began to shower compliments:

"Sir, your miraculous foresight proved true!"

"Yes." With a smile, Yu Changsheng leisurely fanned his paper fan.

He Qifeng had a strange look on his face, observing the self-satisfied Yu Changsheng, feeling his perception had been overturned.

This wise and strategic strategist of the Lu Sect always appeared mature and steady.

So why did a few words of praise make him so happy?

Is he a child?

"You have beautiful eyes." Jiang Ruyi said softly, her fingertips gently brushing Yan Shuangzi's eyes.

With these eyes, the Evil Dog Evil Skill-Evil Recognition can be fully utilized!

In this way, Lu Ran's security level would be greatly enhanced.

Yan Shuangzi remained silent and still, allowing the Lady to admire her.

Yu Changsheng suddenly said, "Sect Master, Elder Bai's eyes..."

Lu Ran said helplessly, "Alliance Leader Yun has entered meditation again, and it's said to be for a long time."

Yu Changsheng couldn't help but sigh in disappointment.

He Yingcai softly suggested, "Later, I'll visit the Mingyue Island owner. Once Alliance Leader Yun finishes, she can inform us promptly."

"Alright, let's start the meeting first." Lu Ran stepped towards the house but suddenly looked at Yu Changsheng.

Yu Changsheng was puzzled.

Lu Ran smiled and said, "Before Alliance Leader Yun comes out, Mr. Cong Long might take a step further, reach the Fifth Rank of the Sea Realm, and then directly advance to the Heavenly Realm!"

Yu Changsheng: "..."

Sect Master, actually, you are more beautiful than me.

Wishful thinking.

"One must have dreams!" Lu Ran patted Yu Changsheng's shoulder, giving an encouraging shake.

"I will do my best, sir." Yu Changsheng responded.

"Hou Yun, keep watch." He Qifeng instructed, "I'm going to discuss some matters with Master Lu."

Hou Yun immediately nodded and stayed in the courtyard, while under Jiang Ruyi's gaze, Xue Fengchen, clutching the Mad Dragon Spear, also stayed.

As everyone entered the house, the two on duty exchanged a glance and nodded politely.

During their time in the Human World, the two Heavenly Prides had spiritually connected for a long time but had never truly met. It was unexpected that their first encounter would be within the Holy Spirit Mountain.

One was ranked eighteenth, the other eighty-seventh.

The rank difference was significant, but the strength difference was quite the opposite. It was because Feng'er became River Realm earlier that the rankings in "Heavenly Pride" were suppressed so low.

Now Xue Fengchen had reached the Sea Realm, while Hou Yun remained at the River Realm Peak, which was the best proof.

"Congratulations, Xue Tianjiao." Hou Yun took the initiative to speak, admiration clear in his eyes.

Xue Fengchen encouraged, "Once you determine your path, you can advance quickly as well."

"May I ask, what path does Xue Tianjiao walk?"

Instantly, in Xue Fengchen's mind, the face of Lu Ran flashed by...

Meanwhile, in the hall inside the house.

The soldiers of the Ran Sect gathered together, discussing the next plan.

Now that the Qianzhou Islands crisis had passed, staying longer would only leave room for feasting.

Their recent lives had been filled with battle and cultivation, combined with long shifts and constant vigilance; they indeed needed some rest.

However, Lu Ran and He Qifeng were not ones to enjoy leisure.

"I'm planning to set off soon to attack Thunder Mountain, how about it?" Lu Ran sat at the head, his gaze sweeping over everyone.

Yu Changsheng shook his head and sighed, "After so long, those at Thunder Mountain haven't come to cause trouble, they seem to have swallowed their pride and been thoroughly frightened.

On this trip to Thunder Mountain, we might not see a single soul."

He Qifeng, sharing Lu Ran's thoughts, said gravely:

"Even so, we must investigate, perhaps they still harbor illusions, holding onto their base."

"That's true." Yu Changsheng looked at He Qifeng and asked, "The Wind Emperor's Big Wind Hall, is it unsuitable to work with us on this task?"

"It's indeed not suitable to attack Thunder Mountain, but we need to return to the Forbidden City." He Qifeng grinned, uttering two words, "On the way."

"That's great." Lu Ran nodded repeatedly, "On the way, walk with us to the mountain's foot and wait for a while, provide us support."

He Qifeng chuckled.

Truly, heroes think alike!

"Then it's settled!" Lu Ran glanced over the group, "If any stubborn forces remain at Thunder Mountain, we'll wipe them out!"

If Thunder Mountain is deserted, we'll scour it."

Everyone agreed, and after devising a travel plan, He Yingcai spoke softly, "Sect Leader."

"Hmm?"

"My stay or leave..." He Yingcai showed a searching expression.

He Qifeng played with the Tiger Talisman, glancing at the Blue Lotus Island owner.

Upon realizing a while ago that this Sea Realm major island owner had also been brought into Lu Ran's fold, He Qifeng cursed inwardly several times.

Little Ran dog, indeed cunning!

His secretive manipulations were unparalleled!

Everyone was unaware that a member of the Thousand Boat Alliance had already joined Ran Sect, fundamentally changing the allegiance of those on Blue Lotus Island.

Hmm... just like myself.

The Big Wind Hall, the Forbidden City, all belonged to him...

"Hmm." Lu Ran pondered briefly.

Yu Changsheng timely spoke up, "Now that the Thousand Boat Alliance is stable, especially with the Heavenly Realm·Alliance Leader Yun present, it must be very safe.

Sect Leader, why not let the General Yingcai stay on Blue Lotus Island, continuing as an island owner!

This will keep Ran Sect informed of all matters within the Thousand Boat Alliance, and facilitate our requests for assistance and subsequent strategy adjustments..."

Yu Changsheng's words had the audience nodding thoughtfully.

Only He Yingcai gazed at Yu Changsheng's handsome profile with deep eyes.

Lu Ran asked, "What do you think, Senior Sister?"

He Yingcai withdrew her gaze, looked at Lu Ran, and smiled helplessly, "Whatever the sect leader says, I will follow."

Lu Ran smiled at the beautiful lady.

To push an elegant disciple like Bi He to such a state, Yu Changsheng is truly someone!

Alright, Senior Sister He, I'll create one last opportunity for you.

After all, feelings cannot be forced.

Lu Ran instructed, "Mr. Cong Long has two Divine Weapons, a fan and a sword, lend one to General Yingcai, facilitating our real-time communication."

Yu Changsheng: "Yes."

"Everyone, disperse and rest for a day, adjust your conditions. Tomorrow morning, we'll set off!" Lu Ran decided firmly, his gaze turning somber.

"Target, Thunder Mountain."

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