

Old Gods 611

Chapter 611: Don't go

Lu Ran could not get his wish.

When he led his team to Thunder Mountain, the place was already deserted.

Not only was it empty, but the entire Thunder Mountain had been burned to the ground...

It's unclear who the current leader of Thunder Mountain is.

A ruthless person!

Lv Xiao had occupied Thunder Mountain for so many years, and the structures in the mountain could be seen as a small imperial city. Yet, all those grand palaces, pavilions, towers, and gardens were reduced to ashes.

Based on the intelligence provided by Lv Xiao earlier, Lu Ran went to search around the bottom of the valley on the west side of the main peak, and found that the treasure rooms had all been emptied.

Mr. Cong Long was right.

It's been nearly a month since Thunder Mountain's collapse, and the remnants have long since fled without a trace.

Lu Ran tried to find the direction in which the army had moved, looking for clues in the forests, but he failed to get his wish once again.

Could it be that these remnants flew away?

Thunder Mountain has hundreds of servants, and there are no lack of believers who can fly.

Helplessness filled Lu Ran's heart, and he had no choice but to give up in frustration.

Afterward, he politely declined He Qifeng's invitation and bid farewell to the Big Wind Hall.

Now that Lu Ran had reached River Realm Peak and had a clear goal to strive for, he believed he should enter seclusion mode and charge towards the Sea Realm!

As for He Qifeng's previous proposal to send believers to the Ran Sect, Lu Ran also planned to recruit new members after he advanced to the Sea Realm.

Sea Grade · Mirror Flower Moon, with one transmission, can span three thousand kilometers!

Safe and efficient!

Just as Lu Ran was entering seclusion, He Qifeng could select suitable believers within the Forbidden City and make preparations.

After agreeing to keep in touch, both sides parted ways.

Of course, they relied on the Mo Yu Tiger Talisman to communicate.

Lu Ran kept the Silent Night Blade by his side.

Women,

can't be spoiled too much!

Finally, with a hint of determination, Lu Ran parted with the people from Big Wind Hall and his speed skyrocketed!

After all, he could freely use the Transmission Mirror now.

On the twenty-second day of the lunar month of winter, the members of Ran Sect returned to Cloud Sea Cliff.

Because Bai Yanhui, a spellcaster believer, was on the cliff, those guarding the base all knew how special today was.

When Lu Ran's landing mirror opened at the west of Cloud Sea Cliff, at the entrance to the mountain, everyone was already waiting.

"Sect Leader!"

"Welcome back, Sect Leader!" voices rose.

Led by Xun Yifei, the group stepped forward to greet him.

"Long time no see!" Lu Ran replied with a smile, his gaze sweeping over the crowd.

Most faces bore the joy of reunion.

Only the protector Mad Immortal looked completely aggrieved!

She pouted her little lips, and her beautiful big eyes swept back and forth between Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi.

That pitiful little look was particularly endearing.

Lu Ran was stunned!

Could this still be the fiery, explosive Lie Tian girl?

How like a neglected child she appeared.

Waiting for mom and dad to come home?

"You said you'd be back in a month, and it's been a month and a half already!" Si Xianxian grumbled discontentedly in a low voice.

Jiang Ruyi's gaze held some blame.

Out of everyone, only Si Xianxian dared to be so bold.

"We'll talk at home," Jiang Ruyi said softly.

Si Xianxian pursed her lips. Under Jiang Ruyi's watchful gaze, her torrent of words turned into an obedient "Oh".

Lu Ran winked at her with a smile, making Xian'er roll her eyes.

Immediately, he laughed more merrily.

Just love seeing you annoyed yet not daring to lash out~

Lu Ran led the group back to the conference hall, held a brief meeting, and got a rough idea of the situation within the cliff.

In the past month and a half, the inside of the cliff had remained relatively peaceful, giving Lu Ran much peace of mind.

Lu Ran briefly recounted the journey of the past month and a half; though he downplayed it, it was enough to make everyone's hearts tremble!

He then announced his impending seclusion, with Jiang Ruyi presiding over the situation on the cliff, thus concluding the meeting.

"By the way, Elder Bai!" Lu Ran, seeing the people leaving, suddenly spoke up.

"What are your orders, Sect Leader?" Bai Yanhui, holding the Divine Weapon · Earth Trace Sword, turned to face Lu Ran.

Elder Bai's eye sockets were also sunken, devoid of eyeballs, and could only perceive the world with the help of the Divine Weapon.

Lu Ran: "The Thousand Boat Alliance Hierarch is a Heavenly Realm healer, capable of healing your eyes, but he's currently in seclusion for an indefinite period.

As soon as he exits, Mr. Cong Long will receive news immediately.

Then, I will take you to visit and heal your eyes."

"Great, great." Even someone as steady as Bai Yanhui felt a bit emotional, "Thank you, Sect Leader! Thank you..."

Suddenly, Lu Ran reached out his hand.

Five fine red threads shot from his fingertips, precisely striking Bai Yanhui's brow, wrists, and ankles.

In an instant, Bai Yanhui lost control of his body.

The grand gesture he intended to make was naturally left unfinished.

Lu Ran's fingertips trembled slightly, and the strange red threads swayed lightly, causing Elder Bai to stand upright uncontrollably.

"Mr. Cong Long is at the Sea Realm Fourth Rank and will eventually advance to the Heavenly Realm." Lu Ran scattered the Tethering Silk, "Elder Bai, don't worry, your eyes will come back to you."

"Yes!" Bai Yanhui complied and saluted Lu Ran.

This time, Lu Ran did not stop him.

After seeing Bai Yanhui off, Lu Ran leaned back, slumped in his chair, and exhaled a long breath.

Finally home!

The scenery of Mist Rain Lake, though beautiful, cannot compare to the comfort of Cloud Sea Cliff.

Jiang Ruyi, looking at the relaxed young man, said softly:

"It's been a hard time, get a good night's sleep and start your seclusion tomorrow."

"I'll head back later, after I go out to sea to find the Ink Carp Squad and the Sea Merfolk Squad." Lu Ran mumbled with his eyes closed, "See if there are any personnel losses and replenish our strength."

Looking at Lu Ran, who was resting with his eyes closed, Jiang Ruyi felt a pang of compassion.

She leaned forward slightly, lightly kissing Lu Ran's lips.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran opened his eyes, seeing the beautiful face so close.

It startled him!

Did the beautiful Jiang fairy show mercy and give a reward?

Her face is really thin, rarely taking the initiative.

Jiang Ruyi said softly: "Take Xun Yifei with you and come back early. I'll wait for you at home."

"Okay." Lu Ran grinned, feeling warm inside.

Home.

This word, it's so beautiful.

Especially within this Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, it's even more precious.

Lu Ran suddenly remembered something, blinking: "A task for you?"

"A task?"

"Before nightfall, drive sister Xian'er away, she must not stay at home tonight."

Jiang Ruyi, with her sharp wit, immediately understood someone's intent.

Lu Ran's eyes were burning as he looked at her dark pupils: "Hmm?"

That gaze was too intense, causing a slight panic in Jiang Ruyi's heart.

She slightly lowered her eyelids, her voice small and gentle: "Hmm."

"Shh~"

Lu Ran vanished in an instant.

In the deserted hall, Jiang Ruyi's heart gradually steadied.

She was indeed a calm and composed person, yet her Dao Heart was him.

When it came to him, everything would be treated specially.

Thinking about it now, this trip to Mist Rain Lake had indeed been long, and after she mentioned it once, Lu Ran had always been restrained, not making things difficult for her.

Thinking of this, Jiang Ruyi secretly chuckled and got up to walk to the door.

The mission time flew by, and in a blink, it was sunset.

Today, the weather at Cloud Sea Cliff was exceptionally good.

Amidst the sky full of twilight, a silhouette descended from the sky, landing in the courtyard of Cloud Sea Residence.

Lu Ran listened carefully, inside and outside the house was silent, without the usual chirping sound of a certain woman.

He stepped into the house and found in the eastern study the fairy lady kneeling in front of the desk, silently cultivating.

"Back already?" Jiang Ruyi slowly opened her eyes and looked toward the door.

"Good girl." With big strides, Lu Ran came in.

Jiang Ruyi smiled and shot Lu Ran a glance.

No,

you are far more obedient than me.

Lu Ran came to her side, leaned down, and heavily kissed the delicate lips of his fiancée.

Meanwhile, in the human world of Da Xia.

In the Bamboo Sea of the Demon Cave, in front of the eerie gate of the Ghost Bamboo Crossing.

"Knock, knock, knock~"

A young man occasionally knocked on the mansion's door, occasionally pacing back and forth outside the bamboo gate.

Finally, the youth couldn't hold back and shouted: "Rouyin! Should I come in?"

The Ghost Bamboo Crossing remained tranquil and silent.

Hao Tian was somewhat hesitant.

He thought and thought, then gritted his teeth and pushed open the mansion's door.

"Sorry for the intrusion, Rouyin! I had to see you, who knows when I'll get the chance again!" Hao Tian apologized while carrying a bamboo basket as he walked in.

Inside the basket was still his sister's favorite spicy duck wings.

Hao Tian circled around the sinister bamboo clustered in the courtyard center, abruptly halting his steps.

On the second floor of the building ahead, by the wooden window, stood a graceful figure.

She wore a black ancient-style dress adorned with golden patterns.

The dress highlighted her skin's sickly pallor.

Her hollow eyes were directed towards Hao Tian's position, appearing somewhat eerie.

"Rouyin!" Hao Tian wasn't afraid, quickly saying, "Shall I bring the snacks up to you?"

"Where are you going." Li Rouyin's face was indifferent.

Upon hearing this, Hao Tian was overjoyed!

Every time he came to see his sister, he would hear "leave", "not meeting", or simply receive no response at all.

On rare occasions when she spoke, it would be to inquire about Lu Ran's whereabouts.

Yet today, Li Rouyin inquired about him?

See!

No matter what, she's still my dear sister, who cares about her brother.

"The divine one summoned me to go for a pilgrimage." Hao Tian responded, "I may cultivate under Dong Ting for a period..."

Li Rouyin suddenly clenched her fingers on the window ledge.

From this moment, whatever Hao Tian said, she couldn't hear anymore.

"Rouyin, Rouyin?"

"Hmm." Li Rouyin came back to her senses, lightly opening her mouth, "Any news on Lu Ran?"

Asking about him again?

Hao Tian was quite helpless, but still answered honestly: "No, Lu Tianjiao has always been absent, everyone speculates he might have joined the army, going to the front lines."

"Hah." Li Rouyin gave a cold laugh.

Hao Tian cautiously proposed: "Shall I bring the duck wings up to you?"

"Yes, come up."

"Oh, all right, I'll leave them on the first floor... ah? Go up?" Hao Tian was momentarily stunned, looking up at the woman by the window.

However, the graceful figure had already disappeared.

Hao Tian, both surprised and delighted, hurriedly walked inside in three quick steps.

Upon reaching the second floor, he saw Li Rouyin sitting at the wooden table, playing with a bamboo cup, her unfocused eyes gazing at the distant Bamboo Sea.

Suppressing his excitement, Hao Tian slowly approached, placing the bamboo basket on the table and taking out a plate from it.

As he took things out, he sneakily glanced at Li Rouyin's face.

He couldn't recall how long it had been since he was this close to his sister.

"Sshhh~"

Suddenly, a breeze blew by, bringing the pleasant sound of bamboo leaves rubbing together.

"Don't go, alright?" Li Rouyin suddenly spoke.

"What?"

"Don't go."

Hao Tian opened his mouth: "But... the divine one..."

"Pilgrimage cultivation, huh, maybe your Dong Ting..." Li Rouyin's face suddenly froze, her words cutting off.

She trembled, clutching the bamboo cup with such force it made her fingers even paler.

"Crack!"

The bamboo cup was crushed in her hand.

"Rouyin?" Hao Tian was startled, quickly stepping forward, holding his sister's arm, "Rou..."

"Whoo!!"

A terrifying pressure emanated from Li Rouyin's body.

Hao Tian staggered back several steps, swiftly raising his hands, not daring to touch his sister any further.

second, 2 seconds, 3 seconds...

Li Rouyin's trembling body gradually stopped.

She silently lowered her head.

"Rouyin, what was that just now?"

With her head lowered, Li Rouyin's cascading black hair obscured her pale face.

In her hollow eyes, there was a hint of sorrow, softly murmuring:

"Don't go... alright?"

...

Chapter 612: Sea Realm! Sea Realm!

Late at night, the sky was filled with stars.

The gentle moonlight cascaded over the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, landing in the courtyard of Cloud Sea Residence.

A wooden rocking chair gently swayed back and forth.

Lu Ran lounged comfortably, gazing at the starry night sky.

The beauty Jiang Ruyi lay sideways, resting her head on his arm, half-embraced, sleeping peacefully.

She wore Lu Ran's large white robe, loosely draped, covering both her and him.

Her waist-length, jet-black hair, like silk, was gathered by Lu Ran, gently twisting around his fingers.

The evening breeze softly brushed by.

It was both mountain wind and sea breeze.

For a fleeting moment, Lu Ran wished time could forever pause at this instant.

The beautiful night sky, the tranquil sea cliff, the cozy home.

Her sound sleep.

Isn't it perfect?

Hmm... no.

Lu Ran looked at the sky full of stars, slightly turned his gaze to the bright moon.

No matter how beautiful, it's fake.

In the heavens, there are no such beautiful scenes, only an invisible barrier that traps the spirits of the mountains.

In the heavens...

Would it be closer to home?

Or perhaps another cage, a higher-level human slaughterhouse?

Who knows.

Lu Ran suddenly laughed silently.

During the previous decisive battle with Thunder Mountain, before everyone killed Third Lady Lv, she had claimed to have value, knowing the way home.

What nonsense!

During the initial interrogation, she tried to continue deceiving.

But a seething Lv Xiao ruthlessly exposed her deception.

Under the torture of Soul Fire, she was reduced to begging and apologizing constantly.

Lu Ran once fantasized that he could catch a glimpse of the way back home.

Reality proved it was merely a lie woven by Third Lady to survive.

"Hmm." The peacefully sleeping Jiang Ruyi let out an unconscious murmur, lightly moving her fingertips resting on Lu Ran's chest.

Perhaps her sleep was somewhat restless.

Lu Ran quickly dispelled his mood, dissipating the malicious intent in his heart.

The breathing of the fairy in his arms gradually became steady, long and rhythmic, calming Lu Ran's mind even more.

He carefully turned his head, looking at the captivating face under the serene moonlight.

She could have chosen not to come.

Lord Immortal Goat, as a divine being, graciously offered to help her stay in the human world.

In the human world, she was the noble Sect Master's Lady, a distinguished Sea Realm Great Power.

She could enjoy people's reverence, and could also progress steadily in the Immortal Goat's actual presence on Luoxian Mountain.

Yet she insisted on coming to the Holy Spirit Mountain.

From a Great Power, she became a mere ant at others' mercy.

She personally pushed away the divine lord, forsaking everything in the human world, stepping onto a perilous journey to seek someone.

Lu Ran remembered the words she said when they met on Ten Thousand Blade Mountain:

"I missed you."

A few simple words almost shattered Lu Ran's emotions.

Beneath her noble and aloof exterior lay an incredibly passionate heart.

Therefore...

Lu Ran gazed at the peacefully sleeping face before him.

How can the false beauty of the Holy Spirit Mountain compare to such genuine and fervent person?

If time could truly pause,

it should be after the clouds of the Cloud Sea have cleared.

During Da Xia's prosperous brilliance, in the cozy Rain Alley with a gentle drizzle.

"Buzz~"

Behind the rocking chair, a wooden window of the study on the east side of Cloud Sea Residence, and hung on the wall next to the window was the Heavenly Star Saber, which trembled gently.

The Silent Night Blade and the Eight Desolate Blade hanging on the wall remained silent.

The Dawn Blade quietly flew up.

It used its tip to touch the handle of Cloud Sea Clearing Saber, gently removed the blade, flew out the wooden window, and handed the saber to Lu Ran's palm.

Lu Ran, with one hand holding the warmth of soft jade, dropped the other hand outside the rocking chair, grasping the saber's handle.

He slowly turned his head again, gazing at the mesmerizing starry sky.

The weather on Cloud Sea Cliff today was exceptionally good, without the cover of a cloud sea.

And those dazzling stars, for some reason, were seen by Lu Ran as the "dust" often hidden within the cloud sea.

Comparing God Demon to shining stars wouldn't be unfair to these transcendent entities?

Lu Ran tightened his grip on the handle.

Unintentionally, his other hand's grip also increased slightly.

"Hmm..." The beauty Jiang Ruyi opened her dazed sleepy eyes, using the moonlight, saw his profile.

"Not tired?" Jiang Ruyi asked softly.

Perhaps just awakened, her voice was soft and tender, unlike her usual self.

Unexpectedly, Lu Ran didn't respond to her.

Jiang Ruyi cleared some sleepiness, also realized he was immersed in some emotions.

She immediately refrained from speaking further, even closing her beautiful eyes again, afraid her gaze might disturb his contemplation.

Exhausted, the sense of fatigue came over her once more.

In a daze, she vaguely felt an energy surge.

Jiang Ruyi suddenly opened her eyes wide!

The person beside her, his energy fluctuations within his body becoming increasingly intense.

Jiang Ruyi felt a surge of joy, cautiously rising, floating with the aid of the Ice Heart Bracelet.

"Hoo!!"

Lu Ran was filled with momentum, a terrifying energy fluctuation rippled from within him.

"Cloud Sea Dust Clear," Lu Ran murmured.

"Buzz~" Cloud Sea Dust Clear gently vibrated.

It was still far from becoming a Divine Weapon, but tonight, it was undoubtedly a thousand times more active than usual.

"What a good name." Lu Ran held the hilt.

Only then did he realize something.

The name of this saber was bestowed upon him by his mother.

And what his mother granted was not just a name.

If this sudden revelation had a theme, then Lu Ran's breakthrough should also be named "Cloud Sea Dust Clear."

Using his personal experiences and desires as the foundation.

Using Ruyi as the entry point.

Supplemented by his mother's bestowed name, nurturing the blade and himself, clarifying his aspirations and heart.

The mist between heaven and earth grew thicker.

Lu Ran got up and walked toward the courtyard; he dared not flicker, fearing to sever the connection with this realm.

Fortunately, the entrance to the No.1 seclusion room on Cloud Sea Cliff was just in the northern forest of Cloud Sea Residence.

Jiang Ruyi floated in mid-air, watching the silent, departing figure of Lu Ran; she wasn't worried, her eyes filled with delight.

The situation was far better than she had expected.

She naturally knew Lu Ran had an understanding far beyond the common people, ambitions difficult for ordinary folks to reach, and he was steadily progressing along this path.

This so-called Fifth Rank in River Realm might block most River Realm individuals.

But it definitely wouldn't stop Lu Ran!

Yet Jiang Ruyi still didn't expect that Lu Ran wouldn't require secluded contemplation.

After pestering her for half the night, only to bring her to the courtyard for a rest, watch the moon and stars, then suddenly have a breakthrough and break through his cultivation bottleneck?

Isn't it a bit too carefree?

Jiang Ruyi felt a bit shy, but more joyful.

"Whoosh~ Whoosh~"

Several blades flew out of the wooden window, hearing the voice of their mistress: "You three."

Dawn Blade and Silent Night Blade suspended in mid-air.

Only Eight Desolate Blade flew forward a bit more but finally stopped.

Jiang Ruyi calmed her mind, precisely grasping the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd and called for Cold Night Sword: "Dawn leads the team to escort your master.

During his seclusion, patrol around Cloud Sea Cliff constantly, do not slack off."

"Buzz~" Several Divine Weapons responded and flew away.

"Ruyi." A voice came closer from the mist.

"Lu Ran has leveled up, he went to the seclusion room," Jiang Ruyi immediately replied.

"Good!" Deng Yuxiang was equally delighted and immediately said, "I'll go arrange the tasks."

"Sister Yuxiang."

"Hmm?"

"I remember, when you reported to Lu Ran during the advancement of Alliance Leader Yun at Mist Rain Lake, you were also about to touch your cultivation bottleneck."

Deng Yuxiang fell silent.

Jiang Ruyi fairly understood Deng Yuxiang, aware that she valued Lu Ran more than anything.

Jiang Ruyi advised, "Ran Sect's defense force is not weak, no longer as it was in the early days of its establishment, don't delay yourself.

Continue your protective tasks as usual, but if you get a chance to catch Lu Ran's fast ride, don't hesitate."

"Alright." A reply came from the mist.

Jiang Ruyi smartly, imitating Lu Ran's tone, said, "This is an order."

Cloud Sea Residence was quiet for several seconds before Deng Yuxiang's voice came, with the title changed: "Yes, Lady."

Jiang Ruyi picked up the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd and pushed it forward: "Go, follow her."

"Buzz~"

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd flew wobbly, seemingly displeased.

Originally, it wanted to find the master, but was assigned work instead.

On Lu Ran's side, the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd only enjoyed without having to work, as Lu Ran had already broken through the bottleneck into the upgrade phase.

On Deng Yuxiang's side, the little Fiery Phoenix clearly had to work hard.

"Ha." Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but shake her head and smile.

Through the Magic Artifact Ice Heart Bracelet, she realized the little Fiery Phoenix's reluctance, flying somewhat slowly.

Jiang Ruyi immediately said, "Sister Yuxiang, kindly guide the little Fiery Phoenix, it's been a long time, and it's still a First Rank Magic Artifact, unable to fulfill Lu Ran's wishes of engulfing living things."

"Yes!" Deng Yuxiang proactively stepped forward, firmly grasping the chubby Treasure Gourd.

The little Fiery Phoenix: "..."

They're all so fierce~

Still, the male master is better, always gentle.

Deng Yuxiang carried the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd to arrange defensive matters, while Jiang Ruyi returned inside, took off Lu Ran's spacious white robe, and donned her own dress.

The next 5–10 days, who knows what Cloud Sea Cliff will experience.

It's said that in this special area, each time someone advances, it attracts the special Evil Demon species, Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon?

To this day, Jiang Ruyi has not yet seen this terrifying Evil Demon firsthand.

Suddenly, Jiang Ruyi paused, the Ice Heart Bracelet informed her that someone had arrived.

"Sorry, Lady, I fell asleep," indeed, in the darkness came Yan Shuangzi's apologetic voice.

"We asked you to go home and rest," Jiang Ruyi casually comforted, then instructed, "Go summon Feng Yan and the second general, guard the entrance to the No.1 seclusion room.

You patrol nearby, report any situation immediately."

"Yes." The Evil Shadow Guardian quietly disappeared.

A moment later, Jiang Ruyi was also fully dressed, flew out of the secluded courtyard, heading to the Council Hall to oversee the work.

Lu Ran is finally leveling up to Sea Realm.

During this period, not a single mistake can happen!

Once Lu Ran succeeds, the overall power of Ran Sect will take a qualitative leap!

After all, with Lu Ran equipped with Sea Grade skills, in this entire Holy Spirit Mountain, those truly qualified to compete with him will likely be very few.

Even those at the Sea Realm Peak...

can't!

Chapter 613: I am also a Great Power now?

Nine days later, in a pitch-black seclusion room.

Lu Ran sat cross-legged with his eyes tightly shut, meditating. Across his lap lay a Cloud Sea Dust Clean Knife, enjoying the blessings of heaven and earth together with him.

A terrifying energy roiled around, making his wide robe flutter vigorously.

The situation inside his body was far more astonishing than his outward display!

A dense mist continuously flowed into his body, which Lu Ran condensed into thin streams.

These trickling streams gathered into a river.

The surging river, in turn, rolled into a vast river.

A vast river rushed and flowed turbulently within Lu Ran, continuously broadening his meridians.

Circle after circle, endlessly and without cease.

Until Lu Ran truly broke through the cultivation bottleneck and entered the upgrading process, he felt a familiar sensation once again.

That was on Luoxian Mountain.

He and Jiang Ruyi had once received the blessing of the Divine-Immortal Goat.

Jiang Ruyi already possessed a celestial appearance, with ethereal beauty and remarkable growth speed.

Lu Ran was certainly not far behind!

This promotion, although not as intense as the divine blessing, was enduring like a long-flowing river.

Lu Ran's flesh and blood were continually nourished by divine power, and his bones were repeatedly tempered.

The process of advancing to the Sea Realm was like a simplistic version of a divine blessing!

The vessel of the body was further expanded, able to bear more divine power, while Lu Ran's speed of absorbing divine power and cultivation talent were incrementally enhanced...

"Rumble!!"

Suddenly, a violent sound, accompanied by terrifying energy fluctuations, resonated within the seclusion room.

The vast rushing rivers within Lu Ran tried to merge, yet it wasn't as simple as imagined.

As the divine powers gathered, they failed to blend harmoniously, instead causing violent collisions.

"Ugh." Lu Ran's complexion turned alternately green and purple.

He realized that this was the most crucial moment!

Cong Long, Nightmare, and several Divine Generals had shared their experiences with Lu Ran.

Without exception, they all made huge strides into the Sea Realm when their large rivers converged into a sea.

So, this was the final sprint moment!

"Rumble..."

Gritting his teeth, Lu Ran experienced a surge of energy and blood.

The divine power within had already been in motion, not requiring much guidance from him. All along, Lu Ran had merely been absorbing the mist from the heavens and earth, compressing it into streams for the large rivers to contend over and devour.

It was similar to nurturing Gu?* (*A traditional Chinese term referring to a form of black magic which uses poisonous creatures.)

At this moment, Lu Ran decisively intervened, deliberately decelerating the divine power's operation speed, allowing the divine powers to slowly approach each other.

Cautiously touching, gently blending...

Boom—

Lu Ran's mind went blank.

A terrifying wave of energy spread from within him.

The Cloud Sea Dust Clean Knife, which lay flat on his knee, was suddenly blown away, piercing into the hard stone wall.

And Lu Ran...

He tilted his head back, slightly parted his lips, and gazed around with half-open eyes full of bewilderment.

Lu Ran finally understood how terrifying the difference between a River and a Sea was.

In the River Realm, he had taken his first step toward becoming a god.

Knowing little of the world, he considered his energy to be boundless.

Now, with a hundred rivers forming a sea within him, Lu Ran truly felt his own insignificance.

Within his meridians, despite the terrifying amount of divine power running along its original path, it was completely overwhelmed.

Inside and out, every inch of flesh and skin, every piece of bone, was filled with divine power.

The Yangyang Sea, a realm as its name!

"Ha..." Lu Ran sighed tremblingly.

He was wholly immersed in a sea of divine power, the exuberant vitality, the terrifying sense of strength, was beyond ordinary understanding.

This illusion of being able to destroy everything with a wave of a hand or a stomp, was something that would severely unbalance one's mentality!

No wonder the great powers of the Sea Realm comfortably stood above others, considering themselves the rulers of all.

No wonder they appeared condescending or indifferent when facing all beings.

Capability, after all, is the foundation of everything.

And this frightening feeling brought on by the influence of mindset is indeed hard to withstand.

Gradually, the boundless divine power within Lu Ran calmed down.

Lu Ran revitalized himself, guiding a stream of divine power to continue circulating through his meridians, cycle after cycle, endlessly.

It's unknown how long passed...

Lu Ran opened his eyes, brilliance dazzling.

In the seclusion room, mist still lingered heavily.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly.

Someone else is advancing within the Cloud Sea Cliff?

That's a good thing!

Lu Ran was secretly delighted, and he cautiously stood up, fearing that a careless step might break the floor.

Having become familiar with the River Realm, he knew how to control his strength.

Now transformed into the Yangyang Sea, for Lu Ran, everything once again bore the label of "handle with care."

He needed to familiarize himself anew.

"Crack~"

Lu Ran stepped forward slowly, finding the Cloud Sea Dust Clean Knife wedged in the stone wall and carefully extracted it.

He stood there for a moment, feeling the breeze, following the direction the mist surged from, step by step towards the tunnel entrance.

Lu Ran did not flash out.

With each step, he adapted to this new, incomparably powerful body of flesh and blood.

When Lu Ran walked out of the cave entrance, he found two people waiting there.

One person came forward, gently leaning into his arms.

Her joy influenced the surrounding atmosphere and also infected Lu Ran's mood.

"Finally entered the Sea Realm." Jiang Ruyi murmured with her delicate face resting on Lu Ran's shoulder, her voice gentle and soft.

"Mm." Lu Ran moved with great care, wrapping his arms around Jiang Ruyi's slender waist.

He slightly lowered his head, burying his face in her neck as well, imagining and inhaling the intoxicating jasmine scent.

"Lu Ran, could you promise me something?" Jiang Ruyi suddenly said.

"What is it?"

"Promise me first." It was rare for Jiang Ruyi to act coy.

"Alright, what is it?" Lu Ran was very curious.

"Stick to your usual style, be steady and not too audacious," Jiang Ruyi gently advised.

Lu Ran: "..."

Jiang Ruyi was clearly aware of how terrifying Lu Ran's power was.

Once he unleashed the Divine Technique·Fiery Fire Sky Leader, which Sea Realm could withstand his havoc?

A "genuine" Sea Realm·Lie Tian disciple was formidable enough to make anyone wary.

Lu Ran was far more terrifying than a Lie Tian disciple!

He had many identities, and many Divine and Evil Techniques to back him up.

"Hehe~" Jiang Ruyi gave a sparkling smile, brought her thin lips to Lu Ran's ear, and whispered, "You've already promised me."

"I've changed my mind," Lu Ran chuckled.

"You're a Great Power of the Sea Realm now, your words are golden, how can you be so shameless?" Jiang Ruyi tilted her head slightly, gently nudging Lu Ran's side of the head.

Lu Ran pouted.

So what about the Sea Realm?

Sea Realm, I'm still Lu the Dog!

The more dog-like I am, the better it matches the nickname~

"I'm not restricting you, Lu Ran, nor do I want to dampen your spirits," Jiang Ruyi cupped Lu Ran's cheeks in her hands.

Her words were gentle and soft: "I just hope you'll stay calm, to be cautious like before.

You are destined for greatness, your target is the God Demon.

On the way, there can't be any mistakes."

"Hmm, I promise you," Lu Ran smiled again, "Besides, aren't you here?"

Jiang Ruyi smiled warmly, leaned forward, and gave him a rewarding soft kiss.

Not far behind a large tree, a tall figure leaned against its trunk, arms crossed in front of her, silently standing there.

Ever since Yan Shuangzi had her other arm restored, she particularly enjoyed this posture.

[Who's advancing?] A voice suddenly transmitted, echoing in her mind.

[Yuxiang,] Yan Shuangzi immediately replied.

[Oh? When did this happen?] One could easily hear the surprise in Lu Ran's voice.

Normally, Lu Ran would be extremely sensitive to the concentration of Divine Power, but this time, he was entirely focused on advancing, with no energy to pay attention to anything else.

[Last night,] Yan Shuangzi responded again.

[At such a pace, it's impressive,] Lu Ran remarked.

He remembered that Deng Yuxiang advanced to Sea Realm in June, and now it was early December.

To have made achievements within the initial stage of Sea Realm in less than half a year, that should be considered fast, right?

Her achievements could...

By merging with Night Charm Evil Sculpture, constantly improving her talent limits and cultivation aptitude, that's one aspect.

Repeatedly experiencing the breakthroughs of strong individuals like Xun Yifei, Gao Yunyan, Xue Fengchen, and especially Yun Qianzhou who advanced to Heavenly Realm, bringing the Big Nightmare's blessing, must have greatly benefited her!

[What about you?] Lu Ran asked again.

Deng Yuxiang enjoyed many blessings, as did Yan Shuangzi.

[Master, I am at Third Rank River Realm, not Third Rank River Realm,] Yan Shuangzi said softly, [I advanced in late September, it's only been a little over two months since then.]

Lu Ran's expression turned a little quaint.

It seemed Yan Shuangzi... had become a little more lively?

Apparently, her physical recovery dispelled a lot of gloom for her.

That's great.

[Congratulations to Master for advancing to the Sea Realm,] Yan Shuangzi seemed to realize she was a bit audacious, hesitated for a moment, and transmitted her congratulation.

Lu Ran wasn't concerned at all, replied: [I can now perform the Sea Grade Evil Dog Evil Skill, let's go test it out later.]

[Yes,] Yan Shuangzi immediately let out a sigh of relief.

"What are you thinking about?" The voice of Jiang Ruyi came from his embrace.

"Ah, Evil Shadow was congratulating me." Lu Ran returned to his senses, gently smoothing Jiang Ruyi's long hair, "I'm heading to the Mo Sea Bay to test out the technique.

You go into seclusion, focus on cultivation, see if you can catch a ride with the Big Nightmare.

The affairs of the Cloud Sea Cliff, leave them to me."

Jiang Ruyi also laughed, she had said similar words to Deng Yuxiang as well.

Lu Ran casually summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror, transforming it into a standing mirror: "Go ahead."

"Hmm," Jiang Ruyi stepped into the mirror.

[Cavern at the base of the cliff.] Lu Ran transmitted, and his figure flickered away.

Yan Shuangzi arrived shortly after.

In the cavern, the mist was thin, Lu Ran regained some sight, looked at Yan Shuangzi: "By the way, in the last ten days, has the Cloud Sea Cliff been attacked?"

Yan Shuangzi's heart trembled, her words were a bit stammering, "There... there have been..."

"Hmm?" Lu Ran reacted for a moment, realizing that he was now a Great Power in the Sea Realm!

The pressure a Sea Realm stronghold exerts on River Realm people is constant.

The key is, he had just completed his advancement, his momentum was at its peak!

How could Yan Shuangzi withstand it?

"After the momentum of my advancement dissipates, it will be much better," Lu Ran quickly shifted his gaze, his voice as gentle as possible.

"Yes," Yan Shuangzi also shifted her gaze, her eyelashes lowered, no longer looking at Lu Ran's radiant eyes.

"In the attack on Cloud Sea Cliff, did we suffer any losses?" Lu Ran slowly opened his mouth.

"No, the enemy was a Furious Sea Flame Flood Dragon, which was shot down by the Luoshen General."

"Oh." Lu Ran nodded, reached out forward, and a human figure rapidly formed in front of his palm.

Sea Grade Evil Dog Evil Skill-Evil Shadow!

The name of the protector Lu Ran designated for Yan Shuangzi was based on this Evil Skill's name.

This skill, even at River Grade, could already create clones, but its existence was quite unstable.

Not trustworthy.

The Sea Grade Evil Skill-Evil Shadow, however, allowed Lu Ran to summon a structure of energy, a very stable flesh and blood body!

"Tsk tsk~"

Lu Ran inspected it up and down, while the clone just stood there motionless, looking rather dazed.

Does it seem kind of silly?

...

Chapter 614: Strength Soars

The doppelganger looked exactly like Lu Ran, even the white robe it wore was pieced together from energy.

Well... let's temporarily call this doppelganger "Ying Ran."

Although their appearances were identical, people could easily distinguish between the real and the fake at a glance.

Because Ying Ran was just a puppet, not a trace of vitality.

"Come here," Lu Ran commanded.

Ying Ran's eyes were empty and remained motionless.

"Master, this is an evil technique," Yan Shuangzi reminded.

"Oh," Lu Ran scratched his head awkwardly, focusing his thoughts.

Sure enough, Ying Ran moved as its master willed, stepping forward.

Lu Ran frowned slightly.

This puppet had no self-awareness; it had to be personally controlled by the master for every action.

Lu Ran's consciousness couldn't enter this shell.

He had to control this body like playing a game, with a third-person perspective, using the controller.

Ying Ran also didn't possess any skills, and could only rely on sheer physical might.

"No first-person perspective, cannot be entrusted, and cannot summon the Water Flow Armor either..."

Lu Ran sighed with regret.

He could only manipulate Ying Ran to lift its hand, take steps, etc., unable to perform more intricate operations, unable to use this body to absorb or utilize the Divine Power within.

Originally, Lu Ran intended to use Ying Ran to explore the Heavenly Realm.

But the various limitations of this evil technique had sealed the path!

"Alas..." Lu Ran sighed again, handing over the Cloud Sea Blade.

Despite the myriad limitations of the puppet, this shell was still extremely powerful!

Though made of flesh and blood, its essence was pieced from Pure Energy, even normal attacks should be highly lethal.

"Come," he controlled Ying Ran to take the Cloud Sea Blade and swung it at Yan Shuangzi.

Yan Shuangzi reacted swiftly, immediately drawing the Evil Moon Scimitar to counter.

"Ding!"

Yan Shuangzi's expression changed slightly, retreating several steps, feeling a numbness in her hand.

Such a formidable body!

"Master, this doppelganger has the body strength of the Sea Realm," Yan Shuangzi said while engaging in combat with Ying Ran.

"Call it Ying Ran," Lu Ran casually replied.

As time passed, he became increasingly adept at controlling Ying Ran.

Yan Shuangzi was in agony!

As the Evil Dog, she had two absolute advantages:

Evil Technique·Evil Recognition allowed her to swiftly gather all battlefield information; Evil Technique·Evil Agility enabled her to react quickly and move with high speed.

However, Lu Ran also had Evil Sense and Evil Sensitivity!

Moreover, he was outside the battlefield, with an overview of the full situation.

This Sea Realm·flesh and blood body, combined with overwhelming strength and Lu Ran's own reaction speed, was completely crushing Yan Shuangzi!

"Shush~"

Yan Shuangzi fought and retreated, finally unable to hold on, flashing out of the battle.

Run?

Lu Ran slightly turned his head, using the corner of his eye to glance behind.

As its master willed, Ying Ran burst forward, rushing obliquely backward towards Yan Shuangzi.

Yan Shuangzi: "..."

Her real opponent was the Sea Realm body + Lu Ran's combat awareness and skills!

Hmm... to add the "clear perspective of an outsider."

The disadvantage was too great!

The key to breaking the situation should be Lu Ran's real body.

But Lu Ran's real body was far stronger, possessing numerous Divine and Evil Techniques.

Would you dare to challenge the real body without defeating the puppet?

"Enough," Lu Ran controlled Ying Ran to stop.

Yan Shuangzi secretly sighed in relief.

She realized firsthand how intense the pressure was fighting against Lu Ran!

Like a mad dog!

There were several moments when Yan Shuangzi almost wanted to unleash the Divine Weapon Domain·Evil Moon.

But she restrained herself.

It didn't matter for Ying Ran, as it could be summoned again if destroyed; she mainly worried about the Cloud Sea Blade.

It was the master's treasure!

One of the things she naturally guarded.

"Not bad," Lu Ran thought to himself.

This doppelganger was controlled without any delay, truly moving as willed.

Speaking of which, Evil Technique·Evil Shadow had completed a minor transformation from River Grade to Sea Grade, allowing stable existence.

So, when this evil technique advances further and reaches Heavenly Grade, will there be another transformation?

Will Lu Ran's consciousness be able to enter it?

"Eh?" Lu Ran's eyes brightened.

Could he use the Evil Mirror Technique·Connection Mirror to lock onto Ying Ran, thus opening a third-person perspective?

Yes!

He could stand under the Cloud Sea and watch Ying Ran through the mirror, controlling it to explore the Heavenly Realm.

How large was the detection range of the Sea Grade·Connection Mirror?

It should be within a radius of a thousand meters!

Enough!

At least sufficient for Lu Ran to glimpse the Heavenly Realm.

The more he thought about it, the more feasible this method seemed to Lu Ran!

Once the Big Nightmare upgrades are complete, let's give it a try.

"Can the master only summon one Ying Ran?" Yan Shuangzi asked in a low voice.

Of course, she had enough knowledge, but she wanted to confirm further.

Lu Ran pondered for a moment, then raised his hand.

Then, another figure appeared.

Two Ying Rans?

Yan Shuangzi was quite delighted, since whatever Lu Ran exhibited, she could potentially possess in the future too.

But in the next moment, her heart sank.

The two Ying Rans stood side by side, their stable state suddenly flickering.

"Poof~ Poof!"

The two Ying Rans shattered simultaneously, turning into dense fog.

Lu Ran: "..."

Yan Shuangzi: "..."

There were rules in the universe after all.

Lu Ran's raised hand hadn't dropped, and energy surged within his palm.

"Ka-chak!!"

Two rows of canine teeth appeared, biting fiercely.

Sea Grade·Evil Teeth!

Each canine tooth was enormous, lined up together, reaching an astonishing length of 10 meters.

The expanding range of the increased output also caused part of the stone wall on the west side of the cave to crumble into pieces.

Chunks of rubble rolled down.

Lu Ran was quite satisfied and said: "It's said that the Sea Grade Evil Shadow Flash can teleport up to ten thousand meters."

With those words, Lu Ran suddenly vanished.

Then, his figure reappeared, looking at Yan Shuangzi: "No problem! At the River Grade, I can instant teleport a thousand meters, and at the Sea Grade, it's ten thousand meters."

When we go back home, doing food delivery or courier service, we could definitely make a lot of money!"

How can you not deliver thousands or tens of thousands of orders in a day?

Yan Shuangzi couldn't help but roll her eyes.

Can't you maintain a bit of a Sea Realm king's demeanor?

This kind of Divine Skill, Instantaneous Movement, is it meant for delivering fried chicken skewers and spicy hot pot?

"Oh?" Lu Ran blinked, "Are you looking down on me?"

Even though the two of them deliberately avoided eye contact, Lu Ran, being of the Sea Realm, still exuded an imposing aura.

Under such circumstances, Yan Shuangzi could still show such an expression. She must have a lot of complaints in her heart!

Yan Shuangzi's heart tightened, and she slightly lowered her head: "No, no."

Lu Ran laughed: "Sister Shuangzi, this is good, don't suppress your nature.

Birds of a feather flock together, and we both know you're the same kind of person as the Big Nightmare."

He naturally hoped that Yan Shuangzi could regain her former glory.

She is no ordinary person!

Back in Beifeng City, Yan Shuangzi was undoubtedly the leader among the younger generation!

Unfortunately, the name of the leader brought her to this cruel Holy Spirit Mountain.

It tore her mind and body into thousands of pieces.

Lu Ran painstakingly pieced her back together, naturally hoping to help her revive and shine again.

Yet she's always belittling herself.

She seems to stay in the abyss, even seeing herself as a vengeful evil dog.

The trip to Mist Rain Lake finally helped her mood recover, and the recovery of her eyes and arms made her much more lively.

"I haven't been suppressing myself," Yan Shuangzi whispered.

"Ha." Lu Ran snorted coldly, "That's why you two could be such good friends!

As stubborn as her mouth."

Yan Shuangzi also laughed, a smile curling at her lips, her words sincere: "Thank you for everything you've done for me, Lu Ran, but I'm very certain, I'm true to my heart.

What kind of person I want to be, what kind of path I choose.

My life's goal has never been clearer."

Lu Ran was silent for a moment, then spoke: "Since you're so clear-minded, let me ask for your opinion."

Yan Shuangzi listened intently.

Lu Ran slowly said: "Do you want me to take you to kill our way up Sword Ridge Peak now, or wait until you reach the Sea Realm, and we go together?"

Hearing this, Yan Shuangzi tightened her grip on the Evil Moon Scimitar.

Lu Ran added: "Don't consider me, and don't consider the Ran Sect.

You only need to think about yourself!"

Silence.

Endless silence.

Lu Ran gave her plenty of time to think, as he lowered his head, gently stroking the Cloud Sea Blade.

"Master." Two brief words, spoken with a trembling voice.

"Decided?"

"Can you... can you take me to kill up Sword Ridge Peak after I advance to the Jiang Realm·Fifth Rank?"

Lu Ran thought for a moment, then appreciatively nodded: "Of course I can!

I promised you, and that's settled."

Yan Shuangzi... intends to use Sword Ridge Peak to prove her path!

She wants to use the North Wind Sect as her stepping stone, to break through from the peak of the River Realm straight into the Sea Realm?

I told you, you're just like the Big Nightmare!

Wise, resolute.

Swift in avenging injustices.

"Let's go back, guard the entrance to the number one seclusion room, and report any situations immediately."

"Yes." Yan Shuangzi replied deeply grateful, before disappearing with a flicker.

Lu Ran remained in the cave at the bottom of the cliff, as two concentric circles of White Jade Stone spread around him.

Currently, out of the 15 Stone Sculptures Lu Ran had activated, only 6 had advanced to the Sea Realm.

Namely, the Evil Dogs, Night Charm, Evil Mirror Demon, Mo Li, Sea Merfolk these five Evil Sculptures.

And one Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture.

The Lie Tian Divine Sculpture is still at the Jiang Realm-Fifth Rank, seems like I should find time to go out to sea and gather some Holy Spirit Energy.

Now is clearly not the time to set off.

Lu Ran might as well test the Sea Grade Divine Skills he currently possesses.

River Grade Jade Talisman Formation, consisting of eight White Jade Stones.

After reaching Sea Grade, Lu Ran summoned a total of 16 White Jade Stones!

Divided into inner and outer circles.

Eight jade tokens rotate slowly from west to east in the inner circle, with eight jade tokens rotating in the opposite direction in the outer circle.

The scene was quite magical.

Lu Ran also knew that once he crushed the Sea Grade Electric Shackles Talisman, the Thunder Domain that would spread out has a diameter of five hundred meters!

What does that mean?

Remember, it was this very skill that made Luo Tiantu wary of Lu Ran!

Lu Ran picked up the Cloud Sea Blade, his fingertips gently tracing along the slender blade.

The flame patterns, like little fiery snakes, were engraved into the blade by him.

"Whew~"

Flames erupted!

Lu Ran raised the blazing blade, inadvertently, a memory of his late father flashed through his mind.

This strike will certainly engulf the surroundings in a sea of flames.

Burn everything to ashes!

In truth, these four attribute White Jade Stones could enchant weapons as early as the River Grade.

Before honoring the gods, Lu Ran indeed dreamed of following in his late father's footsteps.

Fate had other plans.

He trod a different path.

Now, having activated the Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture on Holy Spirit Mountain, his skills in Divine Power surpass even his late father's.

Reaching the terrifying heights of the Sea Grade!

Dawn Silence Night, Eight Desolates Cloud Sea.

Using the enchanted blade with four attributes, employing his father's usual methods, to cleanse this filthy Holy Spirit Mountain, his father would surely feel proud of his son, right?

And that sanctimonious ugly deity!

Lu Ran licked his lips.

Lord Jade Talisman,

You better stay seated tight within Yumen Pass!

Soon enough, I assure you...

I will pay you a visit personally!

...

Chapter 615: Can you eat people now?

Lu Ran felt particularly fortunate to have chosen such an excellent place to settle down!

Both he and Deng Yuxiang had successfully advanced, and for nearly twenty days, Cloud Sea Cliff was enveloped in dense mist, with the Fog Dragon Roll connecting heaven and earth.

During this time, there were really few disturbances from creatures!

Every morning, Lu Ran would go to the Council Hall to consult with the elder Bai Yanhui.

It was just like opening a blind box~

Every day, Lu Ran would obtain the information he desired.

And on the seventh day of the twelfth lunar month, Lu Ran opened up something extraordinary.

Elder Bai Yanhui clearly stated, "Today, a good event might occur."

A good event, indeed?

Lu Ran was secretly delighted!

Could it be that Jiang Ruyi, who was in seclusion cultivating, was about to catch the tailwind of the Big Nightmare?

As expected!

On the seventh day, at noon, Lu Ran noticed the mist between heaven and earth thickened a bit more!

Lu Ran was overwhelmingly happy; he couldn't help but steal glances and laugh joyfully while meditating by the sea cliff.

Such good spirits lasted for another two days.

Until the morning of the ninth day, the dense mist between heaven and earth finally dissipated.

Did both the Big Nightmare and little Ruyi successfully advance?

"Ha!" Lu Ran looked at the now clear surroundings but suddenly stopped laughing.

A problem arose!

With both of them coming out of seclusion simultaneously, whom should he greet first?

Uh... better greet young Ruyi first; after all, she's his fiancée.

The Big Nightmare sister is so considerate~

Shouldn't be angry, right?

Lu Ran immediately flashed to the door of seclusion room number one, patiently waiting.

But no matter how long he waited, he still didn't see young Ruyi emerge.

Unable to resist, Lu Ran sent a transmission: [Ruyi?]

[Hmm?]

[Did you successfully advance?]

[What advance?] Jiang Ruyi seemed puzzled.

Lu Ran: ???

[Have you made me hallucinate about your advancement? The mist dissipated because Yuxiang advanced successfully.]

Jiang Ruyi laughed and continued transmitting: [Could you please go congratulate her for me? I feel like I'm about to touch my cultivation bottleneck, need to retreat a bit more.]

Hearing this, Lu Ran was even more confused.

The one who thickened Cloud Sea Cliff's mist wasn't Jiang Ruyi?

Then who was it?

"Whoosh~"

Lu Ran flashed again, arriving at the entrance of seclusion room number two, in the north side woodland of the Nightmare residence.

"Sect Master!"

"The Sect Master is here." At that moment, many warriors had already gathered to congratulate Ran Sect's chief protector on her successful advancement.

"Good, good." Lu Ran nodded in response, his gaze landing on Deng Yuxiang.

Seeing her again, he no longer felt flustered.

Everyone is of the Sea Realm, the aura is at the same level; who can suppress whom?

The Big Nightmare is just one rank higher than me!

If I let the Magic Artifact·Jet Black Tiger Talisman exert its power, the Big Nightmare would fear me!

"Whoosh~"

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd sensed its owner arrived, hurriedly twisted its chubby body, freeing itself from the woman's hands.

"Oh." Lu Ran was bumped by the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd and stepped back, hugging the poor little thing.

What's going on?

Lu Ran could sense its longing for him, and also a hint of grievance?

He looked up at Deng Yuxiang: "This?"

Deng Yuxiang narrowed her eyes, looking at the spoiled Magic Artifact in Lu Ran's arms: "Sect Master should be just a bit more stern at times.

Some moments require more strictness with subordinates."

Instantly, those who came to congratulate fell silent.

Who could she mean?

With Deng Yuxiang's status and formidable strength, she indeed had the right to admonish Ran Sect's members.

The issue was, everyone highly regards the Sect Master; who would dare act out?

And then Deng Yuxiang's next statement left everyone stunned:

"The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd has advanced to a second-rank Magical Artifact."

"Ah?" Lu Ran immediately looked down.

To his surprise, the little Phoenix rapidly burrowed into his robes, circled halfway around, and pressed firmly against his waist.

As if it used Lu Ran as a human shield, blocking Deng Yuxiang's sharp gaze.

"Second-rank Magical Artifact?" Lu Ran blinked his eyes, "It's... successful?"

So, it wasn't Jiang Ruyi advancing, but the little Phoenix upgrading its grade!

Deng Yuxiang looked at the bewildered expression of Lu Ran, her eyes softened a bit, with a hint of a smile.

Lu Ran reached behind his waist and took out the hiding Treasure Gourd: "I entreated the little Phoenix for so long, indulging it every day, still it didn't succeed..."

Since entering the mountain, Ran Sect members have frequently advanced, including He Qifeng's advancement and Yun Qianzhou's.

Whenever a blessing descended from above, didn't Lu Ran seize it with the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd and feast?

And each time, the little Phoenix was so satisfactorily filled!

But this time, Deng Yuxiang hosted the little Phoenix for eight or nine days, and it was successful?

Deng Yuxiang nodded with a smile: "Perhaps it accumulated enough experience earlier on, and just happened to complete its transformation with me."

However, the Sect Master should genuinely consider being appropriately stern."

"Buzz~"

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd trembled slightly, and Lu Ran unintentionally, it retreated into his robes again, hiding behind his waist.

Goodness~

Look how the little Phoenix got frightened!

It's merely a child! Hmm... let's definitely not overdo it!

[What, feeling distressed?] Deng Yuxiang switched to transmission, unwilling to let outsiders hear her speaking to Lu Ran in such a manner.

[Well done!] Lu Ran communicated telepathically while laughing out loud, pulling out the little Blazing Phoenix again.

Deng Yuxiang silently watched Lu Ran, her smile growing broader.

She liked seeing him happy.

Especially since, on the battlefield, Lu Ran often had a somber expression and a cold, piercing gaze.

In contrast, his joyful and laughing demeanor was like a bright spring day, quite healing to the heart.

At least, it healed her soul.

"You can eat people now?" Lu Ran received a message, his eyes widening slightly.

"Buzz~" The Treasure Gourd trembled again.

"Why didn't you tell me earlier? You advanced without telling me..." Lu Ran was a bit displeased, suddenly realizing it might be because Deng Yuxiang was too strict?

Lu Ran couldn't be bothered anymore and immediately said, "Come on, let's try it!"

With that, he picked up the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd and looked around at everyone.

Realizing Lu Ran was going to conduct an experiment, none of the Ran Sect members flinched.

Yu Changsheng even volunteered, "Sect Leader, let me try."

"Forget it, I'll do it myself." Lu Ran sent the gourd flying upwards with one hand.

With Lu Ran's thought, the golden, intricate phoenix pattern on the gourd lit up with dazzling light!

Energy surged intensely.

Lu Ran's feet slowly lifted off the ground, his entire body being sucked up, and his form becoming smaller until he was drawn into the gourd's mouth.

"Whoosh~"

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd completed its task as instructed and hurriedly flew away.

Everyone turned to see the Treasure Gourd flying behind a tree.

Yan Shuangzi: "..."

She leaned against the big tree, looking down at the gourd forcefully burrowing into her embrace, feeling perplexed.

The little Blazing Phoenix recognized this woman!

She was the master's most loyal subordinate, always by the master's side, and would surely protect it from that terrifying woman's persecution!

Meanwhile, inside the gourd.

"I... Ugh! Ugh..."

Lu Ran's vision blurred, his mouth filled with a terrifying amount of Divine Power.

Outside, the Divine Power which was in a mist form, had been compressed inside the gourd to its limit, becoming solidified water.

Lu Ran's body was too small, making him feel like he was drowning in a deep sea.

The pervasive Divine Power didn't nourish Lu Ran; instead, it invaded him, disrupting his body.

It was reminiscent of when Lu Ran infused a large amount of Divine Power into Song Yu, the Hall Master of Feixian Hall!

Lu Ran couldn't harness the Divine Power to perform techniques.

Not to mention casting spells, he couldn't even move, submerged in the extremely condensed sea of Divine Power!

"Get me out!" Lu Ran immediately conveyed his thought.

"Puff~"

In Yan Shuangzi's embrace, the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd suddenly turned its mouth and spat out the creature inside.

"Hah... Hah..."

Lu Ran's form rapidly expanded, stumbling as he moved forward, gasping heavily.

Yan Shuangzi, with swift reflexes, instantly teleported several meters and supported Lu Ran steadily.

"My goodness." Lu Ran's chest heaved dramatically.

Good thing I didn't let Mr. Cong Long test it!

If I hadn't given the command in time, something could have really gone wrong.

Even then, the little Blazing Phoenix hadn't even finished refining!

If it had unleashed its full power, Lu Ran's extremely unstable Water Flow Armor might have shattered instantly?

"Whoosh~"

The little Blazing Phoenix, seeing its master return, seemed like an aggrieved child, burrowing into Lu Ran's arms again.

Lu Ran: "..."

No!

You have this ability, and you're still letting Deng Yuxiang control you?

Why didn't you absorb her?

Thinking of this, Lu Ran couldn't help but feel a chill.

Thankfully, the little Blazing Phoenix wasn't too aggressive, like a child; otherwise, if it clashed with Deng Yuxiang, what would happen if she got hurt?

"Amazing, amazing, little Blazing Phoenix!" Lu Ran struggled to calm the tumultuous Divine Power within him, speaking haltingly.

Truly worthy of being a second-rank magical artifact!

It is unexpectedly strong in this way...

Lu Ran, with trembling hands, picked up the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, looking as though he had just escaped a great danger.

"Are you alright?" Deng Yuxiang came over quickly, her face full of concern.

Lu Ran grinned and said, "An ordinary Sea Realm Great Power going in would absolutely be unable to move.

The amount of Divine Power stored in a second-rank magical artifact is just too much, overly concentrated!

It's like a torture chamber that can burst people apart..."

Seeing Lu Ran trembling slightly, Deng Yuxiang supported his other arm, and together with Yan Shuangzi, helped him up: "I just advanced, so there's naturally a lot of Divine Power in the gourd."

"Indeed." Lu Ran nodded.

Under normal circumstances, the interior of the gourd shouldn't be that terrifying."

Deng Yuxiang noted, "Nor would a Sea Realm Great Power stand there foolishly, allowing the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd to absorb them."

Lu Ran frowned.

That's crucial!

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd was naturally meant to refine Evil Demon corpses, not to devour the living.

Recalling carefully, just speaking of the gourd's suction power, Lu Ran was fairly certain he could easily break free.

If one insists on using this auxiliary magical artifact as a combat treasure, it must be aided by strong control methods!

Others might find this challenging, but Lu Ran would not!

He has the Tangled Silk Shadow Evil Technique·Silk Thread!

Putting aside battle, returning to the artifact's auxiliary role...

"If we just let the little Blazing Phoenix eat half-full, and stop refining, then the being inside the gourd should be able to stay safely on standby."

Lu Ran murmured, his eyes growing brighter.

That is to say,

from now on, I can carry an army on my person?

...

Chapter 616: Return to the Forbidden City

Lu Ran waved the Ran Sect members away, then brought a few protectors nearby to Dreamland Residence.

On Cloud Sea Cliff, everyone's residences were more or less the same.

In the small yard in front of Dreamland Residence's entrance, there were also stone tables and stone chairs. The four of them sat around the table, while Big Nightmare, Cong Long, and Mad Immortal remained silent, watching their sect leader play with the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

The three of them understood in their hearts that since Lu Ran kept them here, he naturally had something to say.

"How's it over by Mist Rain Lake? Has Alliance Leader Yun emerged?" Lu Ran placed the Treasure Gourd on the stone table, holding it with both hands.

"Not yet." Yu Changsheng shook his head.

"When was this information from?" Lu Ran asked, "Today?"

"It was today."

"What a coincidence?" Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly, "Or do you guys chat every day?"

Yu Changsheng's expression was a bit unnatural: "As a leader of an island, she often consults me on issues related to development and management; we communicate almost daily."

Oh?

Lu Ran couldn't help but chuckle inwardly.

The reserve of the Sea Realm's Island Master truly kept being set aside, huh?

Alright, it seems the senior finally came around.

These lonely man and woman, texting "WeChat" every day, are bound to stir something up sooner or later~

So Lu Ran said: "Alright, since she is one of our Ran Sect's Divine Generals, Mr. Cong Long, please help her with advice and strategies."

"Yes." Yu Changsheng nodded gently.

Si Xianxian listened curiously, not entirely aware of the details of their trip to Mist Rain Lake.

But as a woman, her fearful intuition told her...

There might be something going on here?

Lu Ran continued: "A while ago, Qifeng contacted me and mentioned she's already selected believers for me to fetch at any time."

Deng Yuxiang asked: "How many people?"

"Didn't mention an exact number, but I estimate there must be at least dozens." Lu Ran weighed the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd in his hand, "Just right, the Little Fiery Phoenix can be put to use."

Yu Changsheng asked: "If all goes well, Sect Leader will only need to activate Mirror Flower Moon once to reach the Forbidden City?"

Lu Ran nodded immediately: "Yes, the Sea Grade Mirror Flower Moon's maximum teleportation distance reaches three thousand kilometers."

Upon hearing this, Si Xianxian grinned slightly.

In her heart, the existence of Lu Ran had long been deified.

However, when Lu Ran personally uttered words like "three thousand kilometers," Si Xianxian still couldn't help but marvel secretly.

Damn!

My young master is truly impressive...

If he were in Da Xia, he wouldn't even need to take a plane for travel.

At home, he could step into any major tourist spot.

Simply a divine travel skill~

"The world is vast, and you can go anywhere!" Yu Changsheng beamed, deeply moved.

Deng Yuxiang also smiled at Lu Ran.

Compared to Si Xianxian's admiration and Yu Changsheng's sentiment, her eyes held more pride.

Deng Yuxiang suggested: "Bringing the believers back sooner would be beneficial for assisting the lady's Divine Sculpture in ascending realms."

"Absolutely!" Si Xianxian spoke for the first time, nodding repeatedly.

In the structure of Ran Sect, each hall had its respective Hall Master.

But above the Hall Masters, there was also a Protector in charge.

Deng Yuxiang managed the Demon Control Hall, while Si Xianxian managed the Feixian Hall.

After all, inside the Feixian Hall, the Stone Sculptures of Lu Jiang were enshrined. As an attendant of Luo Xian's Lady, Si Xianxian had an unshirkable responsibility.

Lu Ran nodded: "Alright! Sister Xian'er, go communicate with the Feixian Hall and prepare to receive this group of believers.

Add several dozen people at once.

You should take Hall Master Song Yu to manage this team well."

"I'll go now." Si Xianxian stood up immediately.

"Wait a moment." Lu Ran stopped her.

He thought for a moment: "Currently, among the many statues I've activated, only two are of the Divine faction: Jade Talisman and Lie Tian.

The Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture is already Fourth Rank of the Sea Realm, whereas the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture is still at the Peak of River Realm.

All along, the pure Holy Spirit Energy I've collected has been used to cultivate the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture."

Yu Changsheng agreed: "This choice aligns with our rise-to-power needs. The Fierce Heavenly Sect possesses the technique for cross-level slaughter.

It's worth prioritizing cultivation!"

Lu Ran nodded: "Focusing on cultivation is one thing, but it should also be a slow and steady process."

He then looked at Si Xianxian: "I plan to have Xiong Xiong build a statue for you in the Feixian Hall.

With the group of believers we will be receiving, I will split half of them to have faith in you."

"Uh... Uh!" Si Xianxian's hand clenched into a fist under the table.

In her heart, worshipping the Stone Sculptures of Lu Jiang was only natural.

But her own statue?

Though Lu Ran presented his considerations, Si Xianxian knew the importance of the Fierce Heavenly Divine Skill. Still, she wasn't prepared to accept people's worship.

The core issue is a feeling of being "unworthy!"

How can one become worthy?

Si Xianxian tightly pursed her lips, attempting to cultivate harder...

"Other Stone Sculptures are easier to cultivate, they are Evil Sculptures." Lu Ran's gaze swept over others, "After accepting believers, I plan to continue traveling through Holy Spirit Mountain.

Killing more Evil Demon minions to absorb energy."

In Lu Ran's sculpture garden, many Evil Sculptures are still in River Realm, so they require proper cultivation.

For instance, the Tangled Silk Shadow Evil Sculpture!

River Grade Silk Pupil and Sea Grade Silk Pupil, are they the same?

Additionally, during this journey, Lu Ran intends to return to Northwest's Ten Thousand Blade Mountain, attempting to glimpse into the Heavenly Realm.

Yu Changsheng proposed: "Sect leader can first visit Seven Star Island, see how the seven Evil Mirror Demons are doing, while we search for Holy Spirit Energy on Immortal Island.

Ultimately, cultivate the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture to Sea Realm.

Once equipped with the Sea Grade Fiery Fire Heavenly Leader, the sect leader's power will soar to new heights!"

Deng Yuxiang nodded in agreement, "We can also stride across Holy Spirit Mountain with a stronger posture."

"Sure!" Lu Ran chuckled, looking at the overbearing Big Nightmare, "While the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture advances, I'll unleash the Dong Ting Divine Sculpture!"

"Whish~"

Yu Changsheng unfolded his folding fan with flair.

He lightly shook the fan while nodding in satisfaction, wearing a nurturing expression, "Sounds even more forceful."

"Hehe~" Deng Yuxiang chuckled lightly, her bright eyes fixated on Lu Ran, who had advanced to the Sea Realm.

These words truly resonated with her heart.

"Whew~" However, the Black Jade Tiger Talisman was displeased.

After nearly a month of interaction, this Magic Artifact had already acknowledged its new master.

As the Tiger Talisman gradually realized Lu Ran's high status, being not only the Master of Ran Sect but also having the Green Lotus Island Master and the Forbidden City Lord under his command...

The right half of the Tiger Talisman exclaimed it hit the jackpot!

The poor left half of the Tiger Talisman seemed fortunate, being chosen by the more regal He Qifeng.

But turning back to see, the Forbidden City Lord was actually under Master Lu...

Hmm, quite fitting for the positioning of the two halves of the Tiger Talisman!

"Family." Lu Ran placed a hand on his neck, patting gently.

The Black Jade Tiger Talisman was tied onto the Divine Power Bead Chain by Lu Ran, hidden beneath his collar.

It suddenly acted up, likely misunderstanding, because Deng Yuxiang had been staring intensely at Lu Ran, her unique aura making her appear aggressive.

It must be said, the second-rank Magic Artifact is truly fierce!

Even if only half, a slight show of power terrified everyone at the table.

Lu Ran did nothing, yet his aura surged!

But poor Xian'er from the River Realm!

Sitting at the same table with a group of Sea Realm great powers, she was already trembling inside.

Now she shivered, instinctively turning her head, not daring to look directly at Lu Ran.

"Damn..."

It's simply deadly!

Yu Changsheng and Deng Yuxiang's faces froze momentarily.

Only to hear Lu Ran's gentle voice, "Xian'er, you go first."

"Ah! Alright, okay." Si Xianxian hurriedly retreated.

"Nightmare, go preside over the Demon Control Hall. I'll bring people there shortly, don't cause any trouble."

"Yes." Deng Yuxiang took a deep look at Lu Ran's collar before turning to leave.

"Mr. Cong Long, will you stay home or come with me to the Forbidden City?" Lu Ran looked at Yu Changsheng.

Yu Changsheng adjusted quickly, joking with a smile, "Then I'll accompany the Sect Leader for a trip, it's just a step away anyway."

"Indeed~" Lu Ran laughed heartily.

He placed a hand below his collar and instructed, "Tell the other half of the Tiger Talisman we can go now."

"Buzz~"

A few minutes later, inside the Forbidden City.

In the room where Lu Ran once stayed.

In the hall, He Qifeng in a loose, golden brown robe, rested his hand on the Divine Power Bead Chain at his neck, gently twirling the left half of the Tiger Talisman with his fingers, waiting patiently.

"Huff~"

Suddenly, a surge of energy unraveled!

He Qifeng turned his gaze, seeing an ancient, ornate bronze mirror unfold unexpectedly.

"Snap!" A hand stretched out from the mirror, grasping the edge of the frame.

He Qifeng's eyes narrowed, naturally recognizing it as Lu Ran's hand!

Soon after, from the far eastern side of the Holy Spirit Mountain continent, someone walked through just like that.

"I hope you are well, Feng Tian... Qifeng." Lu Ran quickly changed his address.

He Qifeng remained speechless for a long time, just quietly staring into Lu Ran's eyes.

"What's wrong, don't recognize me?" Lu Ran blinked.

"Hmph." He Qifeng calmed his roiling emotions, feigning disdain, "I thought some Evil Mirror Demon was blind and came to die."

Lu Ran pouted and said, "Didn't I stretch my hand in advance?

The hands of the Evil Mirror Demon are always soft and tender... hmm, that's true."

He looked at his own hand, muttering softly, "I'm also soft and tender, huh~"

He Qifeng: ???

Lu Ran looked at the Martial Monk lady, showing a smile with lips closed.

The two exchanged glances for only two or three seconds before He Qifeng broke the facade, unable to resist smiling and casting an annoyed glance at Lu Ran:

"Finally advanced to Sea Realm?"

"Finally achieved my wish." Lu Ran stepped inside, plopping down beside the Eight Immortals Table.

"Congratulations." He Qifeng's expression turned slightly serious, offering genuine congratulations.

During the conversation, Yu Changsheng and Yan Shuangzi, both in green capes and bamboo hats, sequentially walked out from the mirror.

"Mr. Cong Long, Evil Shadow Guardian, please." He Qifeng gestured towards the seat, maintaining proper etiquette.

Yu Changsheng smiled and cupped his hands.

Lu Ran, in a mildly annoyed tone, said, "I said, I'm actually your..."

He Qifeng glanced at Lu Ran, "Spit it out, no one's around."

"No one?" Lu Ran slightly tilted his head, indicating the tightly closed door, "Aren't there three standing behind it?"

"I meant, no outsiders." He Qifeng picked up the teapot on the table, pouring tea for Lu Ran, smiling as he said, "They're my gifts to the Sect Master, sir."

Lu Ran: "Ah?"

He Qifeng: "Those three sisters, all Blazing Blood believers."

Lu Ran looked stunned: "Blazing Blood horses? No, He Qifeng!

What do you take me for?"

He Qifeng retorted, word for word: "What do you take me for?"

Lu Ran: "..."

...

Chapter 617: Divine Guardians?

Lu Ran looked at He Qifeng and said in a low voice, "You know my abilities. If I wanted a mount, I could completely go and slaughter the Evil Demon·Wu Huoju clan."

As soon as Lu Ran spoke, he brought up the arch-nemesis of the Blazing Sect.

God·Blazing Flame, ranks eighth in the array.

This is a typical beast-like deity, appearing as a blood-red tall horse, thus commonly known as "Blazing Flame Colt" among the populace.

Although it's a Weak God, it is quite majestic and spirited!

On its large horse head, it wears an exquisite golden headpiece, and on the horse body is a semi-wrapped saddle, alternating red and white, embedded with cloud-like brass pieces, seemingly both decorative and armorial.

Quite luxurious!

The Blazing Blood sect is not aggressive, primarily focusing on support and soft control.

Most notably, followers of this sect can summon a blood-red war horse to embody them.

Note, it is embodiment!

Rather than summoning a war horse to their side.

That is to say, when a Blazing Blood believer uses this technique, the believer themselves is within the war horse's body.

This technique can be considered a rare Divine Technique of offense and defense in the Blazing Blood sect's arsenal.

Blazing Blood followers can use the blood-red war horse as a defensive shell or utilize the horse's form to charge against, and crush, the enemy ranks.

One more detail, which needs special mention:

God·Blazing Blood does not allow anyone to ride upon its followers.

No matter how reasonable it looks externally, you riding on a tall horse, showing off, poses no problem at all.

But essentially...

You are riding a human!

Of course, it can't be said that God·Blazing Flame is particularly benevolent to its followers or unwilling for disciples to be humiliated.

It's because the image of the blood-red war horse is indistinguishable from the deity itself!

The lowly Human Clan, daring to ride on oneself, is intolerable!

But then again, this is a rule of the Human World.

In this filthy Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, looking at the enslavement by strong god disciples over weak god disciples, Blazing Blood followers probably struggle to protect themselves.

Lu Ran had recognized the true face of the Holy Spirit Mountain.

Therefore, when He Qifeng mentioned words like "gift", "Blazing Blood follower", he naturally thought of some overwhelming matters.

"Hmph." He Qifeng handed the teacup to Lu Ran, "You haven't studied for many years, yet your basic knowledge is solid."

Lu Ran: "..."

Is that a compliment or an insult?

I was the national college entrance examination top scorer, okay!

Do the math, I'm also a sophomore this year, though... hmm, I've not attended a single class.

"From your own reaction, you can also speculate on how humbly they live." He Qifeng said.

Lu Ran silently nodded.

He Qifeng: "In the Human World, they are elite disciples within the Blazing Blood city under the feet of the deity, members of the Guardians serving closely around the deity.

On the night of the fifteenth, they are occasionally sent out to lead Outer Sect believers in protecting the city."

He Qifeng paused and said, "That is to say, they are not only guardians but also capable of fulfilling the role of military leaders, experienced in commanding troops, unquestionably of high comprehensive quality!"

The three have meticulous minds and are quite exceptional in martial arts!"

Lu Ran couldn't help but slightly raise an eyebrow.

Too many advantages, but what Lu Ran cared about most was martial arts!

For someone like He Qifeng, a master of combat, to give an evaluation of "quite exceptional in martial arts", how strong must the trio be?

And from the trio's identities, one can also deduce a thing or two.

Being within the Inner City, serving closely to the deity, they naturally are top contenders within their sect!

Moreover, Blazing Blood is an Eighth-class God!

By now Lu Ran had uncovered some patterns:

Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Class Weak God Disciples rarely appear within the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm.

Because this type of believer generally possesses poor talent and ability, lacking the qualifications to threaten the God Demon's layout in the Human World!

Yet these three sisters appeared in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm!

This also illustrates the trio's extraordinary nature.

"Now it's better, with you here, they have a day to rise." He Qifeng sighed gently.

Once Lu Ran sorted out his thoughts, he was also quite expectant.

He Qifeng understood Lu Ran's expression, then called, "Come in."

The door to the room opened, and three women stepped into the hall, respectfully saluting one after another.

"City Lord He!"

"Master Lu!"

Lu Ran curiously observed the three, two of whom had ponytails and one had neat short hair, seemingly about twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, with slender builds and above-average appearances.

Whether in physique or in the three faces, it seemed as if they were carved from the same mold.

Are they triplets?

He Qifeng continued, "The Divine Technique of the Blazing Blood sect limited their battle strength ceiling, causing them to suffer much humiliation in the mountain.

Their talents have been obscured, quite a pity.

The Sect Leader reversing their fate can add to our Ran Sect's combat power."

Lu Ran nodded, "What are your realms of strength?"

The woman in the middle responded, "Returning to the Sect Leader, the three of us are all in the River Realm·Fourth Rank."

River Realm·Fourth Rank?!

Despite Lu Ran's thorough preparation, he was secretly amazed.

They are disciples of an Eighth-class God!

On the God Worship Platform, when it's time for Eighth-class Gods to appear, the highly talented Human Clan members have mostly been selected.

How could the three of them, so young, have reached River Realm·Fourth Rank?

How unfair to Elder Bai!

He's at least a Six-class God-Caster disciple, and at seventy or eighty years old, he's just at the River Realm-Fifth Rank!

Lu Ran pondered for a moment, then asked, "How come?"

The woman in the middle opened her mouth again, "Returning to the Sect Leader, the three of us are rather special, we did not become believers on the God Worship Platform."

"Oh?"

"The year we became believers, we were all under seventeen. While accompanying our father to Blazing Blood city to offer incense in worship, we were chosen by God Blazing Blood. We had no right to refuse."

The woman in the middle replied truthfully.

The girl on the right spoke up, her gentle voice delivering a harsh truth, "It seems the gods have chosen us purely to send us into the Holy Spirit Mountain to collect Holy Spirit Energy for them."

Lu Ran picked up the teacup and took a small sip.

Snatching food from the tiger's... uh, horse's mouth?

If the souls of these three don't return to the embrace of the gods, won't it make the Great God very unhappy?

Hehe~ I like it!

The Evil Demon tribes in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm are so numerous, many of them capable of harming souls.

Three followers of Blazing Blood were brutally slain, tortured to the point of soul destruction by Black Lantern, Evil Mirror Demon, and Soul-splitting Demon...

This is quite normal, right!

"Tsk~" Lu Ran suddenly smacked his lips, looking at the clear tea with visible discomfort.

So bitter?

He Qifeng chuckled silently to himself, feigning innocence, "What's the matter, Sect Master?"

"Did you bring the Smoke Rain Tea back?"

"Yes." He Qifeng diligently picked up the teapot and refilled Lu Ran's cup.

Lu Ran: "..."

This girl... did it on purpose!

The three Blazing Blood followers lowered their heads, also aware that their own Forbidden City Lord was personally serving tea to the Lu Sect Master.

"What are your names?" Lu Ran decided to ignore the person pouring the tea.

"Replying to the Sect Master, Zhong Ya, Zhong Rou, Zhong Ling."

"Good." Lu Ran nodded, subconsciously picking up the teacup, "Which sect or school do you want to join?"

The words left the three stunned.

The only short-haired younger sister Zhong Ling raised her head in surprise, her eyes slightly widened:

"We can... we can choose for ourselves?"

Elder sister Zhong Ya turned her head slightly, giving the younger sister a stern look.

Zhong Ling quickly lowered her head again, and said, "Sect Master, can you really let us choose the sect at will?"

"Not exactly at will." Lu Ran pondered, "Tell me which sect you desire, I'll listen first."

He Qifeng showed some respect to Lu Ran and didn't snort coldly.

But in her heart, she was complaining.

Burn dog!

You're putting on airs again!

Lu Ran indeed felt comfortable pulling out a plastic bag. After speaking, he casually took another sip of tea.

Immediately, his expression turned bitter.

Damn!

Got tricked again!

His eyes turned resentful, and he looked towards He Qifeng.

He Qifeng stifled a laugh, turning to look at the three sisters below.

At this moment, the three sisters had secretly exchanged several glances, each seeing the astonishment in each other's eyes.

In the end, it was eldest sister Zhong Ya who spoke respectfully, "We request Sect Master Lu and City Lord He to decide for us!"

Lu Ran thought for a moment and said, "Qifeng seems to admire these three quite a bit and might have some thoughts?"

He Qifeng didn't hide her thoughts, "They all use daggers, with fierce and swift attacks, and exceptional combat talents.

They could join either the Nuo Sha Sect or the Greedy Wolf Sect.

Whether it's God and Ghost Entanglement or Greedy Agility, both can help them progress rapidly!"

Lu Ran looked puzzled as he turned his head to Yan Shuangzi behind him.

If I just have them join Yan Shuangzi (Evil Dog) directly, not only granting them the Evil Technique-Evil Agility but also a side of Instant Teleportation...

Wouldn't the three of them just take off?

He Qifeng also glanced over, laughing internally, Lu Ran did think the same.

She immediately spoke, "Joining the Evil Shadow Guardian is also a good choice.

Transforming from the god's guardians to your guardians should be a perfect fit."

Lu Ran also smiled, "Now I realize you want to place a few spies around me, huh?"

He Qifeng gave Lu Ran a sideways glance.

I carefully selected from the Forbidden City to gift you three treasures, and you truly don't appreciate good intentions!

"I'm joking." Lu Ran said softly.

Once the three sisters of Blazing Blood sign a contract with the Evil Sculpture, they would naturally be bound to Lu Ran.

With just a thought, in an instant, the three could be killed on the spot.

"Make good use of them." He Qifeng picked up the teacup and offered it to Lu Ran, "Whenever they properly complete the tasks you assign and earn your praise, remember who recommended them to you."

Lu Ran: "..."

He took the teacup with a bitter expression.

He Qifeng looked at the three, "After following Sect Master Lu, perform well and don't let me down."

"Yes!"

"Yes!" The three bowed their heads respectfully.

The Zhong sisters were still unsure about which god they were supposed to venerate.

But just now, He Qifeng mentioned Nuo Sha, Greedy Wolf!

Greedy Wolf is part of the "Eight Heavenly Demons" series, and Nuo Sha belongs to the "Twelve Earthly Fiends" series.

Both are undoubtedly third-class gods!

And both are extremely compatible with our combat style.

Joining any of these gods is genuinely a way to defy fate!

Transforming from auxiliary, soft-control sect disciples of eighth-class gods to fierce and vicious third-class god followers?!

Just the thought of it makes one excited!

"Other guardians have their designated halls, now it's your turn to form a unit." Lu Ran looked at Yan Shuangzi.

"Yes!" Yan Shuangzi nodded lightly.

Yu Changsheng quietly sipped the bitter tea, feeling something was off.

Among the four major guardian sequences,

It seems I'm the only one left as a lone commander?

Chapter 618: The Phoenix's Might Initially Appears

"Let's call it Forbidden Guard... Hmm, add the word 'Shadow'." Lu Ran thought aloud, "How about Shadow Forbidden Guard?"

Yan Shuangzi naturally had no objections.

The word "Shadow" perfectly encapsulates the positioning of this unit.

Lu Ran turned to the three of them: "You three will follow the Evil Shadow Guardian from now on. When we return to Cloud Sea Cliff, I'll change your sects."

"Yes!"

"Yes," the three sisters of the Zhong Family replied in unison.

He then looked at He Qifeng: "Let's go, shall we check on the believers? By the way, how many are willing to join the Ran Sect?"

He Qifeng stood up: "A total of eighty-eight."

"So many?" Lu Ran was somewhat surprised.

He Qifeng was very pleased with Lu Ran's reaction and laughed: "I selected these people very carefully.

They have relatively stable personalities, and among them are those who are timid, cowardly, and submissive, with a clear understanding of reality.

It'll be easier for you to persuade them to join us at Cloud Sea Cliff and change their allegiance."

"What kind of talk is that!"

He Qifeng's face turned slightly serious, no longer joking: "You can give these Weak God Disciples a chance to change their fate against all odds, helping them to survive better. That is their blessing."

He Qifeng's expression was sincere as he added: "For you as well, it's a meritorious deed!"

"Ours."

"Hmm?"

"Our meritorious deed." Lu Ran gently patted He Qifeng on the shoulder.

"Hehe." He Qifeng laughed out loud.

Oh, Lu Ran, Lu Ran...

Your bright dog eyes are truly perceptive of human hearts, aren't they?

You sure know how to say what the elder sister loves to hear!

Actually, for Lu Ran, this wasn't difficult, since he hadn't often heard the word "merit" mentioned during his time wandering Holy Spirit Mountain.

Now that He Qifeng brought it up separately, it must matter to him?

Evidently, considering the Martian Monk lady constructing this Forbidden City, she might also have intentions of accumulating merit?

"They are already waiting in the Martial Arts Arena." He Qifeng stepped forward, standing face to face with Lu Ran.

Just as Lu Ran was puzzled, the Martial Monk lady suddenly reached out to adjust his collar.

Lu Ran: ?

Not only was Lu Ran a bit dumbfounded, everyone else in the room was also stunned.

He Qifeng was a Sea Realm Great Power and the City Lord of the Forbidden City.

The wide golden-brown robe suited her aura perfectly, emphasizing her supreme imperial presence.

Such a majestic leader now gently and meticulously organizing Lu Ran's clothing...

This is the He Qifeng?

"First impressions are very important." He Qifeng slightly raised her eyes, looking straight into Lu Ran's eyes, "Show them the same aura you had when you defeated the Thunder Mountain Sect Master!

Kindness and such things are for later.

Intimidate them now, to save a lot of trouble afterward."

"Ah..." Lu Ran nodded dumbly, "Don't worry, I've got the Tiger Talisman."

He Qifeng stepped back and looked Lu Ran over with satisfaction, nodding appreciatively:

"Shall we proceed, Sect Master?"

"Oh," Lu Ran nodded.

Yu Changsheng followed behind the two, wearing a slight smile.

The Wind Emperor... indeed differs from the other Ran Sect soldiers.

She stands as a leader, offering Lu Ran advice and aiding his growth.

Yan Shuangzi silently followed suit, as did the Zhong Family sisters.

The group walked through the city, bowing respectfully to those they encountered.

He Qifeng's actions were undoubtedly benevolent; she held a kind heart, welcoming wanderers and sheltering all.

Yet, outwardly, she consistently portrayed an omnipotent posture over all.

Lu Ran had witnessed firsthand just how much the city's citizens respected and supported her.

After all, during his last visit, she hadn't even had time to lead him around the city before she advanced at the city gates...

The group arrived at the Martial Arts Arena in the north of the city.

More than a hundred people stood in the vast grounds.

There were 88 Believers supporting the Ran Sect's construction, as well as Martial Monk Believers maintaining order.

On the northern side of the venue, a two-meter-high stone platform for troop review was built, and Yin Tianlong was standing on the stage, watching the City Lord approach from afar.

He tried to manage his expression, feeling immensely despondent inside.

Although He Qifeng drew closer step by step, Yin Tianlong felt she was getting further away.

Back when He Qifeng was at the River Realm Peak, Yin Tianlong wasn't as self-conscious and harbored some romantic ideas towards the City Lord.

But now...

The gap was widening.

Watching the person he adored ascend to great heights step by step left Yin Tianlong both happy and dejected.

Sigh...

"Brother Tianlong, have you been well lately?" Lu Ran climbed onto the troop review platform, smiling as he greeted him.

Lu Ran had a strong impression of this Martial Monk Believer; he was at the River Realm Peak, yet uncertain of when he might advance to the Sea Realm.

Currently, the entire Big Wind Hall belonged to Lu Ran.

Of course, he hoped Yin Tianlong could grow faster.

"Cough." Before Yin Tianlong could respond, He Qifeng suddenly gave a light cough and glanced at Lu Ran.

Didn't I just remind you to show your authoritative side? Already forgotten?

Even though the people below had been meticulously selected by He Qifeng, Holy Spirit Mountain possesses a unique magical power!

It teaches every "naive" individual what true evil means!

Previously, the Ran Sect followed an elite path, where Lu Ran had ample energy to get to know each soldier, even personally selecting and recruiting them.

But from now on, with Lu Ran widely accepting believers, it's impossible for him to know every individual.

Humans are incredibly complex creatures.

As the faction becomes increasingly powerful, the internal structure needs to remain stable, and the power of individuals should never be underestimated.

One piece of rotten meat can ruin the whole pot of soup!

This is He Qifeng's concern; Lu Ran is a bit too easygoing, and his governance philosophy might clash with the principles of the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm.

It is often said: "A petty person fears power, but not virtue."

Hmm... Fortunately, in the upper echelons of the Ran Sect, there are wise and strong-willed individuals like Mr. Cong Long and Nightmare Guardian.

"Hoo~"

He Qifeng thought to herself, casually flicking her sleeve.

Facing the battlefield, everyone lowered their gaze where her eyes landed.

She spoke slowly, "This is the Master of Ran Sect, also the Pride of Da Xia."

The Martial Arts Arena was silent.

"Our Forbidden City is forming an alliance with the Ran Sect, sharing life and death. After you return with Master Lu, you must follow orders and complete the construction of the base, without slacking!" He Qifeng said solemnly.

"Yes!"

"Yes!" Dozens of people responded in unison.

He Qifeng turned her head and nodded gently towards Lu Ran.

Lu Ran stepped forward, unleashing his full aura as the Wind Emperor would have desired.

He was already a Great Power of the Sea Realm, and the Tiger Talisman hidden under his collar crazily augmented his presence!

An unnervingly powerful presence, intangible yet real, surged like ocean waves.

"Gulp." Yin Tianlong swallowed, looking at Lu Ran's back, his legs trembling.

He Qifeng was getting farther from him, and so was Lu Ran.

Thinking back to their first meeting when everyone was in the River Realm! Now, both Lu and He had become kings of the Sea Realm...

Everything that happened within a few short months left Yin Tianlong a bit dazed.

"Thank you all for your trust in me." Lu Ran's aura was terrifying, yet his tone remained gentle, "I swear by the name of the Heavenly Pride, I will surely give you a future."

Inside and outside the battlefield, everyone trembled, yet He Qifeng stood firm as a rock.

The Second-rank Magical Artifact-Black Jade Tiger Talisman not only boosted his aura but also objectively counteracted the pressure from a powerful individual.

Was she merely standing firm?

Her eyes carried a hint of admiration as she looked at Lu Ran.

Indeed,

This is the Sect Master that I follow!

Lu Ran turned his head, meeting He Qifeng's gaze.

He Qifeng did not avert her eyes, still bright-eyed, she smiled at Lu Ran, "Shall we go? I'll see you out of the city."

Lu Ran's Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon could not be demonstrated within the city.

"No need." Lu Ran reached behind his waist, pulling out the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

"Hmm?" He Qifeng was quite curious, naturally recognizing this artifact.

Because the first Heavenly Pride had taken the little Blazing Phoenix, she had then taken the Wind Barrier Treasure Pearl.

"Sorry to trouble you." Lu Ran muttered softly, tilted his head back, and drank deeply.

"Buzz~"

The little Blazing Phoenix gently trembled, pouring the arduously collected Divine Power into Lu Ran's mouth.

"Gulp, gulp..."

The crowd did not understand but watched as Master Lu drank with his head held high.

Once he could drink no more, Lu Ran looked at He Qifeng: "Want some?"

He Qifeng raised her brows slightly.

"Here." Lu Ran shook the gourd, and the Divine Power, in liquid form, gushed out of the gourd and enveloped He Qifeng.

"No need to drink?" He Qifeng accepted the gift, absorbing the energy greedily.

Lu Ran chuckled, "I'm used to it; I find pouring it down really satisfying."

"Then I'll give it a try." He Qifeng immediately took the gourd, raised it overhead, tilted her face up, and felt the Divine Power sliding down her throat.

The people of the Forbidden City were quite surprised.

Their City Lord, always dignified and solemn, rarely showed such boldness.

"Gulp, gulp..."

She drank for quite a while before the Wind Emperor stopped.

She wiped the corner of her mouth with the back of her hand, returned the gourd, and nodded in approval, "Indeed, refreshing."

"Right~" Lu Ran shook the Treasure Gourd as if estimating the amount of Divine Power left inside.

After delivering quite a bit of Divine Power to Cong Long and Evil Shadow, a strange phenomenon occurred!

Under the astonished gaze of the onlookers, Lu Ran was sucked into the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

He Qifeng remained composed on the surface, but her heart trembled deeply!

This...?

Has the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd developed a new function, capable of absorbing living people?

Has it upgraded to a Second-rank Magical Artifact?

A few seconds later, Lu Ran flew out from within the gourd.

He was conducting an experiment and also providing reassurance to everyone present.

Inside and outside the arena, everyone watched in amazement at Master Lu's terrifying methods.

"Hoo~"

Lu Ran extended his hand forward, and the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd flew into the battlefield.

"The journey is perilous; everyone, please stay within the artifact for now." Lu Ran said.

With his mental command, the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd began devouring people!

One believer after another trembled, though inwardly terrified, under the pressure of Lu Ran and He Qifeng, no one dared to move a muscle.

Soon, the Martial Arts Arena was emptied, nearly a hundred believers devoured completely by the little Blazing Phoenix!

Lu Ran raised his hand to catch the elegant Treasure Gourd that flew back, looking at He Qifeng: "Shall we return?"

He Qifeng looked at Lu Ran and then at the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd in his hand.

Nearly a hundred lives were in the palm of his hand.

If he wanted to, could he refine all of them?

"Qifeng?" Lu Ran called softly.

"Hmm." He Qifeng snapped back, giving Lu Ran a mild glare.

Lu Ran: ???

What's that about? Why are you glaring at me?

Is it because... I showed off again?

Hehe~

Chapter 619: people witness the manifestation of the holy

In the morning, the soldiers at Cloud Sea Cliff welcomed the return of Lu Ran and others.

The happiest among them was undoubtedly the Hall Master of Feixian Hall, Song Yu!

The Mad Immortal Guardian had informed him that the Sect Leader would be sending dozens of hall members to Feixian Hall.

Originally, Song Yu only had Zhang Zhenghu and An Xian under his command.

Now, everything was better. Hall Master Song would command dozens of people, and according to the development trend of the Ran Sect, his role would become increasingly important and his status would continue to rise!

How could Song Yu not be delighted?

Everyone followed the Sect Leader and arrived at Feixian Hall, located in the northern part of Cloud Sea Cliff, within the mountain.

At this moment, the hall was already well repaired, spacious, and clean.

In the depths of the hall, two towering edifices, seven meters high, stood steadfastly.

A huge skylight in the surface let in a vast stream of light, which fell upon the two stone sculptures.

Such a scene had a somewhat sacred meaning.

"Hall Master Jing." Lu Ran looked at the two stone sculptures and spoke.

"Sect Leader?" Jing Hong immediately stepped forward.

Excluding Jiang Ruyi, who was in seclusion cultivating, all protectors, Divine Generals, Hall Masters, and hall members of the Ran Sect were present to welcome the first batch of believers of the Ran Sect.

"After going back, you and Hall Master Xiong are to take people and quickly create sculptures of the four protectors and all the Divine Generals."

In the crowd behind, Gao Yunyan's eyes suddenly brightened, and she exchanged a glance with Xue Fengchen beside her.

She followed Lu Ran to achieve great accomplishments that would last through the ages!

Now, would this Feixian Hall also have their "Immortal Positions"?

Such a result was indeed foreseeable.

With Lu Ran's ambition, he intended to lead his soldiers to overthrow the tyranny of the Gods and Demons!

"Yes!" Jing Hong immediately responded.

"Everyone, establish posts around the hall." Lu Ran stepped towards the depths of the hall.

Currently, the Evil Shadow Guardian and the Mad Immortal Guardian would both have believers.

The problem was, merely erecting these two statues seemed somewhat biased.

So why not establish sculptures of all four protectors and eight Divine Generals!

Although most soldiers had not yet pledged allegiance to Lu Ran, eventually, these individuals would inevitably sever ties with the gods and join Lu Ran's ranks.

Everyone followed the orders and scattered away.

Lu Ran then arrived at the depths of the hall, standing before the stone sculpture of Jiang Ruyi, looking up at it.

Hmm... truly beautiful~

Although her features were blurred and her appearance unclear, Lu Ran liked her no matter how he looked.

"Hoo~"

Lu Ran turned around and sent out the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

Subsequently, shadows were "spat out."

The people from the Forbidden City, either frightened or bewildered, surveyed their surroundings.

Upon seeing the majestic soldiers of the Ran Sect, the people from the Forbidden City became even more fearful.

However, when they saw the two towering stone sculptures under the beam of light, their expected reactions followed.

In a world controlled by the God Demons, worshipping gods was as habitual and crucial as breathing!

Regardless of who the statues depicted, people's instinct to kneel and worship was triggered!

Just like how Tang Monk entered temples and worshipped Buddhas at every sight.

When one person knelt down, a group of people followed.

"Gentlemen." Lu Ran slowly ascended, standing between the two stone sculptures, at waist level with them.

Following the voice, everyone looked up and saw Master Lu.

"This is Cloud Sea Cliff, the stronghold of the Ran Sect." Lu Ran lowered his head, sweeping his gaze over everyone, "This place is called Feixian Hall."

Upon hearing this, many were stunned.

So fast?

Didn't City Lord He say that the Ran Sect was very far from the Forbidden City?

Or perhaps, being inside the gourd Magic Artifact, everyone couldn't feel the passage of time.

Was it already one or two months later?

Lu Ran's next words left everyone dumbfounded: "Just moments ago at the Martial Arts Arena in the Forbidden City, I promised you a future."

Just moments ago?

Those with keen senses had already noticed something was off.

But in front of the imposing Master Lu, no one dared to rashly inquire.

Lu Ran, who was usually gentle in demeanor, rarely displayed such a stern posture outside the battlefield.

It could be considered that he was adhering to the advice of the Wind Emperor.

Lu Ran's gaze swept over the crowd, his words resonating powerfully: "What I said is not empty words."

He paused, then continued: "You are all disciples of the Weak God and find it difficult to protect yourselves when encountering Evil Demon tribes in the wild.

If you encounter disciples of the Strong God, it would be worse than death, facing humiliation and enslavement."

The words were harsh yet true.

The atmosphere inside the hall grew increasingly stifling.

All those present had been selected and mostly had tragic experiences. Just as He Qifeng stated, these people had a very clear understanding of the world.

They were willing to join the Ran Sect, partly because the City Lord of the Forbidden City strongly recommended it.

To be honest, when someone like He Qifeng stands before you, it's hard to say "no" to whatever she says.

On the other hand, it was because of Lu Ran's renowned reputation.

Master Lu was known for his justice and kindness, helping the Thousand Boat Alliance through life-and-death crises and personally slaying the Sect Master of Thunder Mountain, establishing great accomplishments.

The Pride of Da Xia, like the second Pride, came to rectify the ethos of the Holy Spirit Mountain!

Whether it was Lu Ran's formidable strength or his noble deeds, both convinced these people that following such a person would allow them to lead safe lives.

They didn't seek a luxurious life.

As long as Master Lu could care for the weak as he did for the Thousand Boat Alliance members, treating everyone a bit better...

That would be a tremendous blessing.

"If you are willing to trust and follow me, you are a part of the Ran Sect." Lu Ran looked at everyone, "I give you an opportunity to change your fate."

"Hoo~"

Suddenly, blocks of Golden Jade Stone Plates spread out from within Lu Ran.

Jade Talisman Divine Skill·Golden Jade Eight Talismans!

"Hoo!"

Lu Ran clenched his right hand, grabbing an illusory War Hammer, with fragmented patterns on it.

Fierce Heavenly Divine Skill·Fierce Heavenly Hammer!

"Ah??"

"This... this this?"

"God..." Feixian Hall was filled with chaotic voices.

Deng Yuxiang slightly furrowed her brow and sternly commanded, "Silence!"

Instantly, the grand hall fell into absolute silence.

Lu Ran spoke in a deep voice, "Now, you have two choices."

His left hand reached to the side, and palm-sized Golden Jade Stone Plates obediently flew over, hovering slowly beside his hand:

"On the left, cultivate the Divine Technique of the Jade Talisman Sect."

Lu Ran raised his right hand, wielding a hammer pointing to the right:

"On the right, cultivate the Fierce Heavenly Divine Skill."

Everyone blankly stared at Lu Ran.

The figure standing in mid-air, mysterious and powerful, displayed something that far exceeded people's understanding.

And at the edge of the hall, behind the Evil Shadow Guardian, the three sisters of the Zhong Family were ecstatic.

They were mentally prepared.

But seeing Lu Ran exhibit the Jade Talisman Divine Skill with one hand and control the Fierce Heavenly Divine Skill with the other...

Such an astonishing scene still shook their spirits.

"Let me say this first," Lu Ran continued, "cultivating the Jade Talisman Divine Skill will not make you cold-hearted. Cultivating the Fierce Heavenly Divine Skill will not make you irritable.

You will not be influenced by any negative emotions.

Because what you revere is not the Jade Talisman, nor the Fierce Heaven."

Lu Ran lowered his gaze to sweep across the crowd, enunciating each word: "What you believe in is me."

Everyone: !!!

Men and women widened their eyes, the shock in their hearts was beyond measure.

Only then did they realize a terrifying fact: this Master of the Ran Sect had already transcended the realm of the Human Clan!

Has he already stepped into the realm of divinity?!

This...?

"Qifeng specifically informed me, saying you have a clear understanding of the world. Since that's the case, if I say the gods are unkind, do any of you have objections?" Lu Ran added.

No one dared to speak, but many subconsciously nodded.

"The gods you worship, with faces of gods but hearts of beasts, throw you into this slaughterhouse, letting you fend for yourselves, be enslaved, humiliated..."

"Rumble!!"

Suddenly, a violent roar came from the high heavens.

Heaven-shaking and earth-breaking!

Lu Ran raised his head, looking through the large skylight at the churning Cloud Sea in the sky.

Heh,

it fits the scene.

Lu Ran pressed his lips and looked down at everyone: "So stop believing in gods.

From now on, believe in me."

"Gulp."

"Huff..." The sound of tremulous breathing and swallowing echoed continuously.

Master Lu said to stop believing in gods.

Yet in everyone's eyes, this white-robed youth, bathed in beams of light and standing aloft...

Seemed just like a deity!

"Powerful techniques to save your life, a safe sanctuary, a life free from enslavement, I'll give them all to you."

Lu Ran paused for a moment, then finally said: "Now, choose."

The hall remained silent, no one moved.

Deng Yuxiang coldly said, "Be decisive, don't keep the Sect Master waiting."

The latter half of the sentence seemed to trigger a switch within everyone.

For a moment, many people stood up and walked towards Lu Ran's right side.

Then, more people swarmed over.

And what Lu Ran held in his right hand was the Fierce Heavenly Hammer!

The result came quickly, nearly sixty people chose to cultivate the Fierce Heavenly Divine Skill!

Lu Ran internally sighed at the sight.

Sure enough, when a chance to defy fate stands before you, the weaker one is, the stronger the desire for power!

No matter if what Lu Ran said is true or not, even if they were treated as emotional dumping grounds, they acknowledged it for the sake of power.

However, among those who chose the Fierce Heaven Sect, many chose to believe in Lu Ran.

After all, everything Lu Ran showed left no room for disbelief!

Their eyes were fervent, devoutly kneeling, facing the new god who would soon bring them rebirth...

Only a dozen or so chose the Jade Talisman Sect.

The remaining dozen were conflicted, unsure of what to choose.

"Alas..." Yu Changsheng, observing the situation, heavily sighed in his heart.

The weak endure much bullying; once they gain immense power, it's hard to guarantee they won't become unbalanced.

Such people are likely to undergo drastic changes in temperament, causing disturbances.

After this covenant ends, he must discuss it properly with the Sect Master.

The Ran Sect should establish a Law Enforcement Hall to maintain sect order.

"The rest, go to the Jade Talisman side," Lu Ran looked at everyone, "If you're not suited to use a hammer, don't hinder yourself; the Jade Talisman Sect excels in four elemental divine techniques and can fly."

The crowd understood Lu Ran's implication.

Even the Weak God Disciples who managed to survive within the Holy Spirit Mountain, even if lacking in understanding expressions, were forced to develop it through experience.

In no time, over forty people stepped out, heading to the Jade Talisman Sect's camp.

Now, those selecting the Jade Talisman suddenly became the majority.

Lu Ran smiled wryly, realizing the weight of his words, and knew he must pay more attention in the future...

He organized his thoughts, emphasizing not to begrudge oneself and to respect personal wishes, thus reluctantly balancing the two camps.

Facts proved: those wanting the Fierce Heavenly Divine Skill were still the majority.

"Believing in me naturally entails a complete separation from the deities," Lu Ran's voice echoed in the Feixian Hall, "Mr. Cong Long, Hall Master Jing."

Yu Changsheng immediately summoned a light golden Dragon Carp, and Jing Hong also grasped a horn.

"Rumble!!"

A loud noise struck again.

Lu Ran slowly lifted his head, gazing once more at the churning Cloud Sea in the sky.

Suddenly, he laughed.

The might of the Sea Realm, Black Jade Tiger Talisman.

Under such overwhelming arrogance, that usually gentle smile appeared so wanton.

Chapter 620: The Rising Ran Sect

Inside the Feixian Hall, a chorus of painful wails echoed.

The humble Human Clan could only resort to self-mutilation to sever the master-servant contract with the gods.

Thankfully, there was a great physician from the Sea Realm stationed in the hall, and Jing Hong blew the horn, soothing the hearts of all beings.

Lu Ran quietly watched this "Picture of Suffering Beings" and sighed silently in his heart.

He hoped that he could live up to their trust.

He hoped that the Ran Sect could become their stable haven.

Yes... it will.

Lu Ran slowly lifted his head, gazing at the cloudy sky.

Mother said that wherever there are people, there is a cloud sea.

She also used herself as an example, that in the Human World·Jinghong Peak, she was the cloud sea covering the heads of thousands of disciples.

Lu Ran understood that now he was like his mother, becoming the cloud sea that blotted out the sky and covered the sun.

Covering the entire Cloud Sea Cliff.

Also covering the Forbidden City and the Green Lotus Island in Mist Rain Lake.

In any era and any region, the formation of a cloud sea is inevitable.

What is important is... purity.

What is important is, before leaving, the six-character mantra Mother gave him—do not lose yourself.

I will, Mom.

You can't watch over me every day, but Dad can watch over me for you.

Lu Ran looked up at the sky, his eyes gradually becoming unfocused.

Do not lose oneself in power, do not lose oneself in mighty strength.

Do not let oneself become a speck of filthy dust...

"Sect Master."

"Hm?" Lu Ran came back to his senses and looked down.

Yu Changsheng held a paper fan and flew to Lu Ran's side: "These people have all faced hardships.

And the weak people, once they possess great power..."

Yu Changsheng's voice was light, yet every word struck Lu Ran's heart.

Lu Ran's expression gradually became solemn.

Yu Changsheng carefully recounted many events, finally saying: "In the hearts of these people, the Sect Master holds an absolutely exalted position. When signing the contract later, the Sect Master may appropriately remind them."

"Mm." Lu Ran nodded gently.

The Jade Talisman Sect is relatively moderate, but the strength of the Fierce Heavenly Sect is indeed somewhat excessive!

Even a Fierce Heavenly disciple at the Initial Stage of the River Realm can leap levels to slaughter a great power of the Sea Realm.

As the saying goes: possessing a sharp weapon, a murderous intent arises!

Once some people swell with arrogance, their unbalanced mentality can cause great trouble for those around them.

"How about this, I will designate the Divine Technique-Fiery Fire Sky Leader as a Forbidden Technique, how about that?" Lu Ran looked toward the strategist.

Yu Changsheng was somewhat surprised: "Can such a subtle operation be performed?"

Lu Ran smiled: "It is not particularly subtle, the prerequisite for believers to cast spells is to receive the permission of the Divine Sculpture, in other words, my permission.

I can command and control the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture to ban this method of slaughtering beyond one's level. If a believer requests to cast a spell, and if I do not respond, then it is not granted." Yu Changsheng pondered: "In this way, one can indeed reduce risk.

It can also let the disciples of the Ran Sect further realize that everything they rely on for survival is in the Sect Master's grasp."

After all, the Sect Master can forbid the Fiery Fire Sky Leader, naturally, he can seal all Fierce Heavenly Divine Skills!

This move is a great deterrent to any potential traitors within the Ran Sect!

Lu Ran confirmed: "In my plan, these disciples have come to Cloud Sea Cliff for stable living, I do not intend to lead them to battle.

So, they have no use for such excessive Divine Techniques.

If someday in the future, the Ran Sect is besieged and it concerns life and death, I will grant them this Divine Technique then."

Yu Changsheng: "Wise is the Sect Master!"

Lu Ran's next action made Yu Changsheng laugh out loud.

Lu Ran sheepishly scratched his head: "Is that right~"

Having struggled for so long,

This was the first time Lu Ran received such an evaluation.

And moreover, these words came from Mr. Cong Long's mouth, how priceless!

Yu Changsheng immediately moved slightly to block in front of Lu Ran, afraid that the Sect Master's expression would be exposed to the disciples of the Ran Sect.

He added: "Sect Master, now that there are more disciples in the Ran Sect, and the number of future disciples will only increase.

My subordinate believes that we can establish a Law Enforcement Hall to maintain sect order."

Lu Ran contemplated for a moment and nodded in approval: "Then let Feng and Yan be the hall master and deputy hall master respectively, how does Mr. Cong Long see it?"

"They are good choices." Yu Changsheng agreed.

"Is that right~" Lu Ran smiled again, "These two West Desolate Divine Generals are quite domineering.

Before I advanced to the Sea Realm, just seeing the Yan God General made me anxious..."

Yu Changsheng still lowered his voice: "Sect Master, having only violent institutions to punish and warn disciples, the means are somewhat singular.

Should we not add an educational approach?"

"Mm..."

"Elder Bai loyally follows the Sect Master, grateful for your kindness, and could fit the role of 'teacher'."

"Continue." Lu Ran listened attentively.

Yu Changsheng organized his words and continued his recommendation: "Elder Bai was once a leader of Sinless Valley, his personal abilities are indisputable, he has been on Holy Spirit Mountain long enough, with a wealth of experience.

With his wisdom and life experience, it is perfect to discipline the Ran Sect disciples and perform ideological work."

Lu Ran pondered for a long time and said: "Let's do it this way, Mr. Bai will be assigned under your command, and Mr. Cong Long will help supervise the specific work."

"Yes!" Yu Changsheng immediately accepted the order.

Does he finally have a subordinate?

The two conversed for a while, then Yu Changsheng flew down.

Lu Ran also proceeded as the two had planned, signing contracts with a group of Ran Sect disciples and granting appropriate warnings.

After accepting 88 believers, Lu Ran went to Feng and Yan, appointing the two as the hall master and deputy hall master of the Law Enforcement Hall, and let them select twenty people from among the Ran Sect disciples to join the Law Enforcement Hall.

Much work was to be done, and each piece was implemented.

The principles, rules, and disciplinary methods of the Law Enforcement Hall; the specific content of Mr. Bai's teachings and instructions; the issues of food and accommodation for the disciples of the Ran Sect, etc...

The disciples of the Weak God generally have low realm levels.

After tearing up the master-servant covenant, a significant portion of the disciples fell to the River Realm, which involves issues such as dining, drinking, and more.

It wasn't until late at night that Lu Ran, having been busy all day, finally found some leisure and returned to the Cloud Sea Residence.

The first large-scale recruitment of believers brought many issues, and there were many things to consider and handle.

Lu Ran believed that this busyness was worthwhile.

Once everything is on track, the next recruitment of believers will be much easier.

"Phew..."

Lu Ran let out a deep breath, returned to his small courtyard, and plopped down at the stone table.

Returning with him was the shadow forbidden guard led by Yan Shuangzi.

The three sisters of the Zhong family, it was like opening a blind box~

Previously in the Feixian Hall, when Lu Ran approached the three of them, they were filled with indescribable apprehension, finally revealing their sect.

The three sisters never expected that what the Sect Master wanted them to worship was not a deity.

But an evil god?!

Compared to other disciples of the Ran Sect, the three sisters possessed more intelligence.

They knew that their true worship was not towards the Evil God·Evil Dog, but the Evil Shadow Guardian!

One day, the Evil Shadow Guardian would slay and replace the Evil God Evil Dog, becoming a new god.

And this future new god, the Evil Shadow Guardian, belonged under Lu Ran's command!

In the eyes of all beings at Cloud Sea Cliff, Lu Ran was a powerful and mysterious deity.

The three sisters of the Zhong family realized a more terrifying truth:

Lu Ran was not some deity.

His true identity was... the Master of Gods!

"Evil Shadow."

"Master," the Evil Shadow Guardian kneeled on one knee, slightly bowing her head.

At this moment, she truly understood the painstaking efforts of her close friend.

Lu Ran was very kind to his own people and relatively easy-going.

As a sect leader, his definition of the boundary between subordinates and partners was very blurry.

As the first protector of the Ran Sect, Deng Yuxiang set an example, and everyone below followed suit.

At this moment, Yan Shuangzi completely replicated Deng Yuxiang's mentality.

With the Evil Shadow Guardian saluting like this, the three shadow forbidden guards naturally followed suit meticulously.

Lu Ran was silent for a moment and still said: "Take them to the treasury and select some handy weapons. I remember last time we recovered some Tianchen Steel daggers from our battle with Hidden Wolf Forest."

Deep beneath Cloud Sea Cliff, hundreds of meters down, there is a treasury filled with numerous spoils of war.

"Yes."

"Right, you three also take a codename."

"Let the Master call them Shadow One, Shadow Two, and Shadow Three," Yan Shuangzi suggested, "It's easy to remember."

Lu Ran: "..."

Indeed, easy to remember!

"Now that there are more people, take turns and don't get too tired," Lu Ran advised.

"Yes," Yan Shuangzi agreed verbally, but mentally conveyed, [As the Dao heart desires, I hope the Master will fulfill.]

For a moment, Lu Ran thought he was conversing with the Big Nightmare.

All agreeable words on the surface, all disagreement in the transmission!

"Alright, alright, choose your weapons," Lu Ran waved, "Accompany me to Seven Star Island afterward."

The four of them quickly left.

Lu Ran gently tapped the stone table with his fingers, gazing at the sky.

The clouds over the sea were thick today, obscuring the stars and moon, leaving Cloud Sea Cliff in darkness.

Lu Ran and his shadow guard possessed Evil Technique·Evil Recognition, capable of night vision.

It was just too suitable for scheming in the dark!

I wonder how much Holy Spirit Energy those seven Evil Mirror Demons have collected.

Will it be enough to advance the Evil Mirror Sculpture of the Sea Realm·First Rank one more step?

By the way, we'll also search for the Immortal Island. If it allows the Fierce Heavenly Divine Sculpture to advance, Lu Ran plans to immediately return to Cloud Sea Cliff and activate the Dongting Divine Sculpture as well.

After all, if Divine Sculptures are to buzz and tremble, might as well together!

The Dongting Sect's Divine Technique is truly formidable...

Lu Ran mused silently, his anticipation growing.

Soon, the shadow guards selected suitable weapons and returned swiftly.

Lu Ran then activated the Transmission Mirror.

With just a step!

He traversed the vast ocean, landing directly on one of the Seven Star Islands.

And he arrived directly within an island cave.

"Ah!!"

The Evil Mirror Demon resting within the cave sensed a surge of energy and immediately let out a sharp scream!

She was alerting the Black Lantern beside her and the Sea Merfolk patrolling around the island of an enemy invasion.

"I."

In the pitch-black environment, a deep voice emerged.

Come to think of it, even if it was Lu Ran, the Evil Mirror Demon had reason to scream.

The enemy might take the Evil Mirror Demon's life.

If Lu Ran desires to reclaim the Holy Spirit Energy, it would definitely take her life.

Dangerous and alluring little demoness~

Come,

Return to the embrace of the Evil Demon Lord...