

Old Gods 691

Chapter 691: Heartless Person

In the deep of night, the moon rises over the treetops.

After Lu Ran and the others have fought in the forest for a whole day, night finally falls.

Qin Yanzhi's words were true!

This Deceitful Moon Forest indeed has the best ambience under the moonlight.

Speckled shadows of the trees slightly flicker, with ghostly figures faintly hovering.

Lu Ran's spine chills at the sight!

The atmosphere is only part of it; mainly, his mind is constantly buzzing as Yan Paperman's Evil Sculpture continues to tremble, causing him to lose his usual sharp senses.

This makes Lu Ran feel very unsafe!

"Shh!" Suddenly, Deng Yuxiang, who is at the front of the team, signals for silence.

Everyone looks over, and in the moonlight, they see Deng Yuxiang closing his eyes and tilting his head, seemingly listening intently.

Deng Yuxiang's expression becomes more solemn, suddenly turning back to look.

Yan Shuangzi appears beside Lu Ran and reports, "Master, there should be a Sea Realm Yan Paperman straight ahead."

Lu Ran: "How can you tell?"

Yan Shuangzi reports, "I heard the sound of a suona."

"I heard it too," Deng Yuxiang speaks, his expression grave, "It should be Evil Technique-Eight Ghosts Carriage."

This is the Jiang Realm technique of the Yan Zhi sect!

River Grade-Eight Ghosts Carriage can summon a big red sedan chair, accompanied by eight huge ghost bearers.

Long ago in the Human World, Lu Ran saw this technique in Demon Cave-Yan Zhi Village.

It was filled with ghostly energy, eerie and terrifying!

After this technique advances to Sea Grade, it no longer has just eight ghost bearers!

The Yan Paperman summons an entire wedding procession!

Those paving the way, escorting the sedan, beating gongs, blowing the suona...

Altogether, seventy or eighty evil spirits!

In objective terms, this technique has also shifted from a defensive type to a summoning type.

Don't misunderstand, the big red sedan chair still has a formidable defense.

Even the seemingly soft sedan curtains are difficult for outsiders to tear.

However, this wedding procession indeed seems to overshadow the host.

Each evil spirit is ferocious and brutal, even more savage than the bride inside the sedan.

Bloodthirsty by nature!

If in the Human World, a city encounters a Sea Realm Yan Paperman on the night of the fifteenth...

It would be truly unfortunate!

Just one Yan Paperman Evil Demon can create a "Night of Ghosts" effect.

"Hide yourselves, capture the leader!" Lu Ran orders.

The size of the wedding procession is indeed large, quite ferocious, but these evil spirits are essentially summoned beings.

As long as you kill the Yan Paperman inside the sedan, interrupt the spell, everything will dissipate naturally.

"Master." Knowing Lu Ran's mind is buzzing, affecting his mental state, Yan Shuangzi volunteers, "I'll teleport directly into the sedan, activate the Evil Moon Domain, and finish off Yan Paper."

"I'll do it," Lu Ran shakes his head and says.

"Master..."

"Obey the order." Lu Ran mimics Jiang Ruyi's tone, coldly saying.

Yan Shuangzi lowers her eyes and disappears without a trace.

"She is also at Sea Realm; she can handle some issues now." Jiang Ruyi leads Lu Ran to hide behind a tree.

[Sea Realm First Rank and Sea Realm Fifth Rank have a huge difference,] Lu Ran transmits his thoughts, [If there's a Sea Realm Peak·Great Yan Paperman sitting inside the sedan, it won't be fun.]

He pauses and transmits further thoughts: [I can kill across ranks, and the Yan Zhi Clan likes me...cough, rather appreciates me.]

Lu Ran sneaks a glance at Jiang Ruyi.

He sees Jiang Fairy's expression is solemn, mostly filled with worry, not having other thoughts because Lu Ran received favor from Evil God·Yan Paperman.

Lu Ran continues transmitting thoughts: [I'll teleport in directly, and when the Yan Paperman sees me, she may be momentarily stunned.

In that moment, I've already struck with the blade.]

Seeing Lu Ran's insistence, Jiang Ruyi says nothing further, turning to quickly devise a strategy.

Will Yan Paperman really be stunned?

Unlikely!

Jiang Ruyi has accompanied Lu Ran to Demon Cave·Yan Zhi Village, knowing the state of Yan Paperman waiting for their ideal groom.

They will perform Evil Technique·Red Veil, draping it over their own heads.

"Hmm..." Jiang Ruyi hesitates a bit and turns to call, "Evil Shadow."

At the same time, in the deathly silent Deceitful Moon Forest, the faint sound of instruments emerges.

The sound of drums is secondary.

The critical point is the suona!

It truly lives up to being the king of instruments!

It's simply too infectious, too penetrating...

Even Lu Ran, whose mind is buzzing, hears it clearly.

He leans against the withered tree, peeking towards the distance.

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple moves.

Even though he's of the River Grade, he hasn't shed the essence of a "person."

Especially a Da Xia person, who fears not demons, vampires, or zombies.

All of the aforementioned combined,

can't match a pair of red embroidered shoes.

In sight, a grand wedding procession brings gusts of chill wind, coming step by step.

They are all wearing red attire, tall and thin figures, with faint black aura resembling ghost fog, swirling among them.

At the front of the procession are two path-clearers holding red lanterns.

Perhaps...they should be called guides?

The flickering lantern light casts their blurry faces.

Behind them are the musicians playing instruments, the drum sound deep and slow, the suona melody eerie.

As if playing music for a funeral.

Sending chills up one's spine!

Eight ghost bearers are exceptionally large, as tall as four meters, carrying the luxurious big red sedan high.

The wedding procession's height reaches only the waist of the ghost bearers.

And at the end of the procession are a group of maids wearing red veils, walking gracefully, their attire crimson.

Pulled separately, each seems to be bride material...

But Lu Ran knows well the Yan Paperman woman seated inside the sedan, draped in the big red robe, with unrivaled charm.

These maids, after all, fall short.

"Hoo~"

Gusts of eerie wind.

The red veil draped over the maids' heads gets lifted in a corner, faintly revealing white faces.

"Good heavens!"

Lu Ran's hair stands on end, as the maids' faces are all as white as paper.

As if each one is a paper figure...

The moonlight is equally pale, pouring over this wedding procession, stretching their shadows long.

The bare branches in the forest, as Lu Ran had observed and sensed before, resembled pairs of withered hands trying to grasp this eerie procession.

Yan Paperman, oh Yan Paperman!

For your ideal groom, you've truly gone all out.

This wedding entourage alone is an invaluable dowry.

Looking around, which of these evil spirits has low combat power?

Not to mention the eight massive, majestic ghost bearers.

That being said...

Lu Ran's expression was somewhat strange.

When the Yan Paperman's Evil Sculpture in the garden advances to the Sea Realm, can I also summon such a wedding entourage?

On the day of my grand wedding, I could also use this technique!

With such a high-standard eight-bearer carriage to fetch Little Ruyi, how impressive would that be?

Hmm... forget it.

It's indeed quite ostentatious, but Ruyi's father and mother are just ordinary people.

I'm afraid their hearts couldn't take it.

"Oh!" Lu Ran uttered a low exclamation, shivering in fright.

Because a hand fell on his shoulder.

He turned his head to see Jiang Ruyi giving him a joking glance and handing him a black ice dagger, mouthing:

"Thunder Shock, Tangled Silk, Fierce Heavenly Power, Owl's Edge Blade."

Just now, Jiang Ruyi borrowed a Divine Weapon dagger from the Evil Shadow Guardian.

The Eight Desolate Blade is a bit long, and the Owl's Edge Blade is just right for killing within the carriage!

"Alright," Lu Ran nodded immediately and took the short blade.

Jiang Ruyi did not point out any tactical errors Lu Ran might have made but directly gave him a set of tactics.

She knew very well that Lu Ran's mind was always buzzing.

Though he could think, it was not very clear.

"Be careful."

"Okay, I'm going."

Lu Ran's eyes narrowed, staring at the back-and-forth swaying carriage curtain, seeing a glimmer of a chance, he instantly teleported over.

"Swish~"

"Hmm?" Yan Paperman's body tensed and instinctively swung to grab sideways.

The beautifully embroidered long sleeves made a whistling sound.

The real killing move was the pale hand hidden in the sleeve.

Vermilion Paper Evil Technique·Paper Hand!

With the enhancement of this technique, her fingertips were extremely sharp, enough to tear through everything.

The Yan Paperman indeed didn't get distracted.

Because her head was indeed covered with a red veil!

So she couldn't actually see Lu Ran!

"Hah!" At the moment Lu Ran ducked, he let out a loud shout.

The Yan Paperman's body stiffened instantly!

The Yan Zhi sect had no spirit defense techniques, and the East Thunder Divine Technique-Thunderclap directly shouted her dizzy.

At the same time, Lu Ran reached out with his left hand to grip the Yan Paperman's shoulder, with five fine red lines extending from his fingertips, connecting to the Yan Paperman's delicate body.

The big red robe worn by the Yan Paperman was already unstable in its state of existence due to her owner's muddled mind.

Now further disrupted by the Evil Technique-Tangled Silk, the big red robe became even more delicate and fragile.

"Crack!"

Lu Ran gripped the Owl's Edge Blade, stabbing directly towards the bride's heart.

The Evil Technique-Red Wedding Dress shattered wildly, and the black ice dagger pierced the Yan Paperman's heart.

"Hiss..."

"Ah!"

"Roar!!" Instantly, chaos erupted within the wedding procession, as screams and roars filled the air.

And at this exact moment, the Evil Sculpture of the Yan Paperman in Lu Ran's mind ceased its trembling.

Jiang Realm-Fifth Rank!

Over the past day, the Ran Sect Team worked intensively, and Lu Ran gained significantly.

But let's set that aside for now.

Just to say, Lu Ran's mind cleared up, allowing every scream and roar to echo in his ears!

Lu Ran felt as if his eardrums were about to burst!

With quick reflexes, he swiftly lifted the red veil of the Yan Paperman.

Double insurance!

Tearing apart the heart of the Evil Demon, sending her to her death.

Lifting the red veil was to prevent any possible dying resistance from the Yan Paperman.

Under the light of the lantern outside the carriage curtain, as their gazes crossed...

The dizzy-eyed Yan Paperman indeed showed no sign of struggle.

Her eyes were vacant, staring blankly at the unfaithful person beside her.

"I'm really looking forward to the day I meet your true form," Lu Ran whispered.

In the world of gods and demons, most have arch enemies.

Arch rivals with rather similar skills.

North Wind and Night Charm, the Jade Talisman and the Ghost Talisman Doll, the list goes on.

But there are exceptions!

Some so-called "arch enemies" bear no resemblance in skill.

For instance:

The leader of Da Xia's deities·Sword One, and her nominal arch enemy—Evil Demon leader·Blood Skull.

Another example is the Second-class God·Ash, and the pitifully weak Evil Demon Clan·Fisherman.

Though called arch enemies,

they are worlds apart in terms of skill levels.

Misfits among other god-demon rivalries.

Even more exceptionally...

some gods and demons have no arch enemies at all.

For instance, Divine-Immortal Sheep!

And Evil Demon-Yan Paperman!

In the Da Xia divine hierarchy, there's no sect disciple who, upon slaying the Yan Zhi Clan, could go to their deity for a reward.

Yan Paperman...

you're truly unique.

"Buzz!!"

Once again, Lu Ran's brain buzzed loudly.

In the Sculpture Garden, the Yan Paperman Evil Sculpture, freshly reaching the pinnacle of the Jiang Realm, began to tremble anew.

Heading straight for the Sea Realm!

Chapter 692: Cloud Sea Leisure

Ten days later, at Cloud Sea Residence.

A landing mirror opens outside the small courtyard, and the soldiers of Ran Sect come out one after another, dusty and weary.

"Finally home." Lu Ran closes his eyes, inhaling the unique scent of the sea breeze, feeling a sense of relief from the bottom of his heart.

The battles during this period have been tremendously rewarding!

Lu Ran not only met Sister Yan Paper but also elevated the Vermilion Paper Evil Sculpture to Sea Realm·Third Rank. Under Qin Divine General's guidance, he led a team to the headquarters of the Ghost Talisman Doll clan - Mist Valley.

However, Lu Ran has never activated the Ghost Talisman Doll Evil Sculpture, so he is unaware of the specific realm rank of this clan's evil sculpture.

But as Lu Ran sees it, it should at least be the Sea Realm, right?

It might even be a high rank within the Sea Realm!

After all, the time and effort Ran Sect put into Deceitful Moon Forest and Mist Valley were roughly equivalent.

The Ghost Talisman Doll clan's trait, Voidification, became a fatal flaw in front of Lu Ran and the others!

The strong wind blows, and everything vanishes into thin air.

This resulted in Lu Ran and the others hunting more Ghost Talisman Dolls than Yan Papermen.

To be safe, Lu Ran did not pursue them to extinction.

Throughout the entire mission, they didn't approach the core of the Evil Nest headquarters, fearing it might affect the evil nest.

The ten days of slaughter truly exhausted Lu Ran physically and mentally; he was satisfied and led his team back to Cloud Sea Cliff.

"Everyone has worked hard during this time," Lu Ran glances over the crowd, "Go back and rest."

The soldiers all bid farewell and left.

Watching their backs, Lu Ran let out a long sigh.

The fatigue is real, and the happiness is also real!

Equipped with Sea-grade Vermilion Paper Evil Technique, his own strength has naturally reached a new level.

Now he can also summon a wedding escort team, and he can take Lady Ran with him to sit in the big red bridal sedan chair together...

Feeling pleased~

Additionally, the Evil Technique·Paper Mache has reached Sea Grade!

In this grade, can it possibly combine with Divine Technique·Body of Sin to produce miraculous effects?

It must be studied carefully!

Lu Ran thought silently, turning to look at the house, and saw that Xuan Shuang Liu Huo had already opened the gate of the fenced courtyard, waiting for the two.

Seeing Miss Liu Huo, Lu Ran couldn't help but think of Wu Xiao.

"Did the Martial Emperor contact you?" Lu Ran stepped into the courtyard and asked.

Liu Huo, initially joyful, welcoming the Sect Leader and Lady back home, dimmed at these words and gently shook her head: "No, Sect Leader."

Sigh...

Seeing her melancholy expression, Lu Ran sighed inwardly: She's also a poor girl troubled by love.

Eh?

Why did I say "also"?

"Don't worry, he's quite safe," Jiang Ruyi softly comforted.

Early on the day Wu Xiao and Yu Changsheng entered the Pear Garden Sect, Yu Changsheng conveyed messages to Lu Ran via the Divine Weapon - Rosy Clouds Blade.

Cong Long said their situation was good, reassuring the Sect Leader and Lady not to worry.

Martial artist disciples held Wu Xiao, this strong figure, in high regard, not daring to be negligent.

Consequently, Yu Changsheng, as Wu Xiao's close friend, received substantial courtesy.

Several of Wu Xiao's old friends from years ago also came to the sect upon hearing of his return, gathering with their old friend.

Everything was fine.

But there's one point!

Born handsome, inevitably surrounded by admirers.

Yu Changsheng is a living example.

And in this harsh Holy Spirit Mountain, strength is far more favored than appearance.

Wu Xiao possesses both!

All along, including Yu Changsheng and the soldiers of Ran Sect, they viewed the Martial Emperor and Liu Huo Guard as a couple.

So, when Yu Changsheng saw a female martial artist disciple excitedly throw herself into Wu Xiao's arms, expressing her longing...

Yu Changsheng sighed quietly.

And he sighed again and again.

Because there are more admirers than just this one!

Besides the bold female martial artist who confessed, Yu Changsheng keenly sensed other women who, due to status, strength, and various factors, did not dare to come forward.

For Ran Sect, it could be a point to utilize.

Although Wu Xiao isn't interested in romance, for the Sect Leader's grand ambitions, a handsome man could effectively be utilized...

Two days ago, Yu Changsheng contacted Lu Ran again through the Rosy Clouds Blade.

This time, Mr. Cong Long brought two pieces of news:

Firstly, after investigation, it seems there are no Heavenly Realm powers within the Pear Garden Sect.

Six or seven years ago, after the previous sect master of Pear Garden Sect ascended with his brothers, there hasn't been a Heavenly Realm expert in the sect.

However, Yu Changsheng stated that further investigation is needed to ensure the accuracy of this information.

The second piece of news left Lu Ran a bit bewildered.

Some people recognized Wu Xiao's Second-rank Divine Weapon·Violet Thunder Mad Dragon Halberd!

Pear Garden Sect and Thunder Mountain had direct contact.

Later, these two powerful forces established dominance in their respective territories, staying out of each other's way.

Yet within Pear Garden Sect, there's one person who has a longstanding concern.

This martial artist disciple is named Ren Cheng.

He is a Sea Realm·Third Rank strong figure!

His ex-wife is the Third Lady of Thunder Mountain, Lv Xiao!

Or rather, she shouldn't be called an ex-wife.

Because these two, in the Human World, are a married couple; they have the marriage license. From the Da Xia legal perspective, their marital relationship still exists and hasn't ended.

But here in Holy Spirit Mountain, Lv Xiao abandoned her original husband, Ren Cheng, and chose to follow Thunder Mountain Sect Master, Lv Xiao.

One is Sea Realm·Third Rank, a regular disciple of Pear Garden Sect.

One is Sea Realm Peak, a sect master of Thunder Mountain!

Hmm...even Lv Third Lady could be considered as having made a meteoric ascent.

Western Heaven.

Now that Wu Xiao has returned to the sect, Wen Cheng, who has become the head of the hall, came to inquire when he saw the Divine Weapon - Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Spear in Wu Xiao's hand.

A problem has emerged!

Regarding the Ran Sect's extermination of Thunder Mountain and the slaying of Sect Master Lv, Wen Cheng might feel relieved, or perhaps indifferent, at least he shouldn't have any opinions about Ran Sect.

But in that defensive battle, Ran Sect also killed Lv Third Lady!

During the battle, Yu Changsheng even dazzled with brilliance, frantically persuading Lv Third Lady to turn against Lv Xiao.

In short, at this moment, Yu Changsheng is uncertain about Wen Cheng's attitude.

Will Wen Cheng feel vindicated?

Or perhaps he still holds old feelings for his ex-wife, causing him to resent the Ran Sect...

No one can say for sure!

Yu Changsheng indicates that he and Wu Xiao have not informed Wen Cheng about the Ran Sect killing Lv Third Lady, Wu Xiao simply stated that the Purple Thunder Mad Dragon Spear was gifted by a friend.

As for the attitude of the "ex-husband bro," Yu Changsheng still needs to observe more.

Upon hearing the news, even Lu Ran was speechless.

This Holy Spirit Mountain...

Is really quite fascinating, isn't it?

"Huff~" Lu Ran arrives at a corner of the courtyard and sits down heavily on a stone stool.

"Would the Sect Leader like a cup of tea?" Liu Huo offers.

"No, that stuff is too refreshing, I'm going to sleep soon." Lu Ran waves his hand.

Jiang Ruyi leads Xuan Shuang inside, glances at the "exhausted" Lu Ran, and casually instructs: "Boil some water for him to drink."

"Yes." Liu Huo immediately walks toward the backyard.

Lu Ran watches the fiery red woman and can't help but shake his head with a smile.

Hopefully, lovers will eventually become family.

In the past, as a Weak God disciple, Liu Huo indeed wasn't qualified to compete with the female disciples of martial artists.

It's different now!

Liu Huo is a true Evil God and the personal guard of Lady Ran Sect.

Qualified enough.

Jiang Ruyi is unlike Lu Ran, who would overly care about the feelings of others.

Perhaps one day, with a command from Lady, the Martial Emperor and Liu Huo Guard would become a couple by decree...

Lu Ran tilts his head up, gazing at the thick Cloud Sea, shrouding this world.

Those below the clouds cannot see a speck of daylight.

The more he looks, the more it feels suffocating.

Until a figure arrives and sits opposite him at the stone table, Lu Ran snaps back to reality.

Jiang Fairy has changed into attire, donning Lu Ran's large white robe, like cozy homewear.

"What are you thinking about?"

"Nothing, there was a loud noise last night in the sky, today the Holy Spirit Energy might fall." Lu Ran randomly finds a topic.

"Not resting?" Jiang Ruyi doesn't follow up.

"Just sitting for a while, enjoying the sea breeze." Lu Ran smiles.

"If you have worries, tell me." In private settings, Jiang Ruyi's voice softens, even her indifferent eyes become much gentler.

Lu Ran pauses, then says: "No news from Senior Lu Yuan."

During bloody battles, it was fine, but now idleness brings thoughts of the Heavenly Realm Power.

Jiang Ruyi comforts: "Didn't you also tell Qin Divine General that good things take time?"

Lu Ran shrugs.

A few days ago, Qin Yanzhi had transported everyone to Mist Valley, then went off to find his master.

Until now, there's no good news.

"You could go into retreat and immerse yourself in cultivation, time will fly by." Jiang Ruyi suggests.

Lu Ran considers, then changes topic: "The Pear Garden Sect is the southernmost at Holy Spirit Mountain Continent, a few hundred kilometers south is the coastline.

But according to Qin Divine General, continuing south and going out to sea, there's a giant island further in the Southern Sea, where the base of Second-class God-Ash's sect is stationed."

Jiang Ruyi gently shakes her head: "Don't take too big a step."

"Hmm?"

"Resolve the Pear Garden Sect matter first, then investigate Ash's sect." Jiang Ruyi softly advises, "It's almost late June, Senior Lu could appear anytime."

"Hmm..." Lu Ran ponders briefly.

Ash's sect to Lu Ran, the difficulty would be much, much lower.

Not because the sect is weak, quite the opposite, this is the South Sea Bow, one of the four mighty forces!

Unbelievably strong!

However, the sect's skills outwardly manifest in forms like water flow and Canglong.

And Lu Ran possesses Sea Merfolk Evil Technique·Child of the Ocean!

He's immune to all Water Element Techniques and can even absorb this form of skill, converting it into Divine Power to supplement himself.

Two big words: Perfect Counter!

This is also why Yan Qing's disciple·Xun Yifei doesn't suffer domestic violence.

Of course, even though Ash disciple·Luoshen kills merrily, she is a virtuous wife and mother, not idle enough to shoot arrows like dragons, trying to pierce her husband like a sieve...

"Steady and slow." Jiang Ruyi straightens her hair buffeted by the sea breeze.

Lu Ran seems to smell the scent of jasmine.

"If you're really restless, you can use this time to hunt some Evil Demons, raising the realm of Night Charm, Black Fire Colt, these Evil Sculptures.

Deepen the fusion of Nightmare and sculptures...Lu Ran, are you listening?"

"Mhm." Lu Ran props his chin up with one hand, smiling at the fairy opposite.

Jiang Ruyi playfully scolds: "Why do you always get lost in thought?"

Lu Ran suddenly blurts: "Once we overturn Jade Talisman, how about renaming the Divine Sect to Immortal Jasmine, huh?"

"Humph."

...

Chapter 693: The Sudden Appearance of Master Lu

Outside the Cloud Bamboo Ravine, an endless Bamboo Sea.

A woman clad in a green cape and hat, gracefully retreating step by step.

"Swoosh~ Swoosh~"

In midair, bamboo wood flying spikes shot down, as dense as rain.

The caped woman leisurely maneuvered through the bamboo rain, evasively and freely.

"Hmm!" The Bamboo Wood Demon was enraged, shouting in fury.

Even with low intelligence, it could sense that this human woman was toying with it.

The two had been at it for a while, the woman easily approached it, yet never attacked.

She allowed the Bamboo Wood Demon to throw flying sticks, hurl bamboo leaf knives, thrust bamboo spears from the ground, and pour bamboo rain from the sky.

The various evil techniques of the Bamboo Wood Demon clan, the woman tasted them one by one.

"Hehe~" Zhong Ling (Shadow Three) had playful laughter in her large eyes, suddenly stepping forward, close to the Bamboo Wood Demon's body.

The Bamboo Wood Demon was on full alert!

Zhong Ling merely extended a fair small hand, slapping the Bamboo Wood Demon's face.

"Smack~"

The slap produced a crisp sound.

The Bamboo Wood Demon tilted its head: ???

After a brief moment of confusion, the Bamboo Wood Demon grew even angrier, barking incessantly.

For a moment, it unleashed all sorts of evil techniques at Zhong Ling furiously.

Zhong Ling, satisfied in her heart, continued to train her movement technique amidst the bamboo rain.

Sniff~

Moments later, as Zhong Ling closed in, she suddenly twitched her nose.

Amidst the endless bamboo fragrance, she actually caught a whiff of floral scent?

"Hmm!" The Bamboo Wood Demon noticed the distraction and instantly showed ferocity, swinging its bamboo stick down fiercely.

"Smack!"

Zhong Ling casually grabbed the bamboo stick, twitched her nose again, and suspiciously turned her head back.

"Hmm! Hmm!!" The Bamboo Wood Demon grew frantic, pulling on the bamboo stick with all its might.

Yet it couldn't reclaim it at all.

Both were of the River Realm, but the evil demon made entirely of bamboo had a body too weak.

How weak was this clan's strength?

Zhong Ling casually pulled, and the Bamboo Wood Demon staggered towards her arms.

Zhong Ling didn't even turn her head, her hand feigned a grip and thrust toward the Bamboo Wood Demon's face.

"Swoosh!"

The Divine Weapon · Obsidian Dagger at her leg swiftly shot out, grasped in her hand at the last moment, it pierced the Bamboo Wood Demon's face.

"Crack!"

The bamboo tore apart with a crisp sound.

Zhong Ling turned around, looking far into a cluster of bamboo woods: "May I ask, might it be Senior Lu Yuan?"

"Oh?" A surprised voice came from behind the bamboo cluster.

Zhong Ling's heart jumped with joy, she hastily said: "I am Shadow Three, a colleague of Qin Yanzhi."

From behind the clustered bamboo wood, an old man in a gray robe emerged.

He was of medium height, around 1.7 meters, though white-haired, he was full of vigor.

Zhong Ling's apricot eyes widened, excitedly saying: "It really is you... ah!"

The initial joy of meeting was immediately replaced by fear.

The old man, without anger, had an imposing aura that swept over, leaving the River Realm person breathless.

Even the soul seemed to tremble!

"Lu... Senior Lu, hello." Zhong Ling took a step back, trembling as she spoke.

The old man squinted slightly: "Where is Qin Yanzhi?"

"He... he's searching for you, for the past two months, he's been looking all over Holy Spirit Mountain for you."

"Why?"

"We... the Sect Leader can return to the Human World without being punished by the Divine, can help Senior Lu accomplish some tasks and fulfill his wishes." As Zhong Ling spoke, she frantically called for Lu Ran in her mind.

"Hehe." The gray-robed old man chuckled.

Sect Leader?

Truly ignorant of the heights of the sky and the depths of the earth.

To say such lies to return to the Human World.

The foolish disciple is truly naive to be fooled by such lowly lies.

Sigh...

The old man sighed internally.

He thought, perhaps due to his own obsession, that the disciple also developed an obsession, wanting to show a filial heart, thus being seduced by thieves.

"Whoosh!!"

Under Zhong Ling's feet, a phantom Other Shore Flower suddenly bloomed.

Unlike the black Other Shore Flower during teleportation, this Flower Sea was a vibrant red.

Sensuously beautiful.

A faint mist spread within the Flower Sea, accompanied by a soft floral scent, seducing people.

Dust Shadow Divine Technique · Dust Shadow Reincarnation!

This was an illusion technique, where anyone submerged by the red Flower Sea would fall into past memories.

"Swoosh~"

The old man cast a spell with extreme speed, without warning.

Zhong Ling reacted just as swiftly, instantly flickering away.

"Oh?" The old man was rather surprised, watching the caped woman disappear into the Flower Sea.

Instant Teleportation?

Where did she go?

No matter!

In front of a Dust Shadow disciple, teleportation is useless.

In the moment of their exchange, the mark from the Dust Shadow Sect had silently been etched onto Zhong Ling's body.

"Whoosh~"

The old man flipped his palm; a phantom black Other Shore Flower rapidly bloomed.

Seven hundred meters away, within the bamboo forest.

A caped woman stood bewildered, dazed, when suddenly a map appeared above her head.

Mountain peaks towered, rivers flowed rapidly.

In just an instant, the grey-robed elder appeared beside Zhong Ling.

And at this moment, Zhong Ling...

"Huh?"

Zhong Ling's head ached, and she clutched it with one hand.

She lay on the desk, her face resting on her arm, and opened her eyes in confusion, seeing an open window and curtains fluttering in the wind.

The chalk head that fell with a clatter was still rolling on the desk.

"Zhong! Ling!" A stern voice came from the podium.

"Hehe!"

"Haha..." Laughter filled the classroom, completely waking Zhong Ling up.

She propped her elbow on the desk and foolishly looked up.

Before seeing the teacher, she saw Zhong Ya, the eldest sister sitting in the first row wearing the school uniform, turning around with a reproachful look.

Zhong Ling, as if through muscle memory, playfully stuck out her tongue and cautiously looked at the podium.

But then the face of that female teacher began to change.

It turned into an old, wrinkled face.

Turned into a grey-robed elder!

The classroom environment also transformed with it. The classmates who were laughing maliciously turned into vivid green bamboo.

"Heh..." Zhong Ling gasped, suddenly awake.

She knew that the moment the grey-robed elder began the Divine Technique, she had already flickered away.

However, the Heavenly Grade Dust Shadow Reincarnation just barely grazed her, and even that was enough to ensnare her in its trap.

"Se...Senior..."

Zhong Ling spoke with a trembling voice, unable to move at all.

At this moment, her entire body was encased by the shadow of a grey Other Shore Flower.

Dust Shadow Divine Technique—Blooming Flower Bind!

There were also waves of energy invading her body, wreaking havoc, preventing her from casting any spells.

Dust Shadow Divine Technique—Blooming Flower Chaos.

As a disciple capable of instant teleportation with the Evil Dog Clan, Zhong Ling was caught just like that.

No way to resist!

"Speak." The grey-robed elder stood in front of Zhong Ling, "Where is Qin Yanzhi?"

"He... he's really been looking for you everywhere, Senior Lu! Mr. Qin joined the Ran Sect, and he is now the Divine General of our Ran Sect..."

The grey-robed elder remained unmoved, his somewhat clouded eyes narrowed slightly, exuding infinite pressure that crushed the trembling life: "How did you capture him?"

Zhong Ling's heart pounded violently, her face pale.

"Qin Yanzhi has a girlfriend! The Sect Leader was tasked by that person to come to the Mountain Realm to find Qin, to take care of Qin..."

"Senior Lu." Suddenly, a youthful voice came from above behind.

The grey-robed elder slowly turned his head, looked up, and couldn't help but squint again.

Such a young one, truly impressive!

He saw a young man standing in mid-air, his posture erect, and the loose Black Gold Emperor Robe, accentuated his imposing aura.

So young, yet he had the presence of a king ruling over all.

Remarkable...

However, the young man's clothes were slightly disheveled, and there were specks of yellow sand on him, as if he just came off the battlefield?

Lu Ran noticed the elder's gaze, apologetically smiled, and brushed off the sand from his body:

"Forgive me, Senior, I was just killing some dogs over at Ten Thousand Blade Mountain."

"Oh?" The grey-robed elder instantly showed interest.

Ten Thousand Blade Mountain, that's in the Northwest!

The Evil Dog Clan indeed roamed there.

And this young man so boldly claimed he was just killing dogs?

"I have already informed Qin Yanzhi, he will be here soon..." Before the voice fell, a teleportation array unfolded above Lu Ran's head, and he immediately changed his tone, smiling, "He's here."

The grey-robed elder couldn't help but raise an eyebrow.

One reason was realizing that the young girl in the raincoat likely wasn't lying to him.

The other was being quite astonished that this exceptional, heroic young man possessed such daring, to casually converse with a Heavenly Realm Power without a change in expression.

As for the young man standing in mid-air, looking down from above, the grey-robed elder didn't care.

Because there was a reason for it!

Because the Dust Shadow Sect's Divine Techniques often manifested as blooming flowers, mostly blossoming on the ground.

"Whoosh!!"

Energy surged, and a shadow fell.

"Maste... wow!" Qin Yanzhi's face first lit up with joy, then he began scrambling.

How could he know that Lu Ran was standing so high!

Lu Yuan: "..."

Lu Ran: "..."

Yangyang Sea, what a spectacle!

Merely twenty or thirty meters, no more than the height of ten floors, and yet could this do any harm?

"Master Lu!" Qin Yanzhi held the Silent Night Blade and landed steadily.

The Silent Night Blade then slipped from his grasp and flew to find its master.

Lu Yuan nodded slightly, the immense grey Other Shore Flower behind him dissipating without a trace.

"Thud!"

Zhong Ling kneeled heavily on the ground, her body trembling, cold sweat streaming down her forehead.

"Master Lu!" Qin Yanzhi rushed forward, grasping the elder's wrists with both hands, exclaimed excitedly, "You have finally returned!"

Seeing his disciple safe and sound, a slight smile appeared on Lu Yuan's face, his words carrying a teasing undertone: "Not seen in a few months, I heard you joined an organization?"

"Master Lu, let me introduce you, he's Lu Ran, the Sect Master of the Ran Sect!"

Lu Yuan looked up again.

Lu Ran swiftly descended, cupped his hands in salute from a distance: "Junior Lu Ran, greets Senior Lu."

Lu Yuan nodded lightly: "Seems to have some Sect Master spirit."

"Senior overpraises." Lu Ran responded with a smile.

Some people wore a smile, but inside they were in a panic!

From the moment he saw Lu Yuan, Lu Ran almost transformed into a small tabby cat.

Every hair stood on end...

...

Chapter 694: Bamboo Stream Game

"Master Lu, shall we head back to the bamboo hut and sit down for a detailed discussion?" Qin Yanzhi softly proposed.

"Alright." Lu Yuan nodded.

Then Qin Yanzhi looked at Lu Ran and made a gesture of invitation: "Sect Master, please!"

"You accompany Senior Lu back first, I'll go get some tea leaves." Lu Ran smiled and nodded.

Lu Yuan didn't say anything, and with Qin Yanzhi's accompaniment, he walked into the depths of the bamboo forest.

Watching the master and disciple's retreating figures, Lu Ran let out a big sigh of relief.

Well then~

Is this the might of a Heavenly Realm Power?

Lu Ran had once seen the Heavenly Realm's Yun Qianzhou, and in comparison, this always squinting elder Lu was clearly more imposing!

Perhaps, this relates to a matter of personality?

After all, Yun Qianzhou is a disciple of the Sky Phoenix, merciful and healing.

Lu Ran mused quietly, and approached Shadow Three.

"Sect Master~" Zhong Ling raised her almond eyes, looking aggrievedly at Lu Ran, with noticeable tear streaks at the corners of her eyes.

A mature woman of about twenty-seven or twenty-eight, and a member of the Divine Escort of Blazing Blood City!

She got scared to tears?

Lu Ran bent down, gently rubbing her head.

Only then did Zhong Ling realize, the wise and mighty Sect Master also had trembling hands...

"It's alright, it's alright." Lu Ran's voice was gentle, "I'll give you a break, go back and rest well."

As he spoke, he reached to the side, summoning the Ancient Bronze Mirror.

Lu Ran had four Shadow Guards in total, managed under the Evil Shadow Guardian, sharing the same aura—silent and swift.

Only the third sister of the Zhong Family was livelier, more human-like rather than a machine.

"Sect Master, I'll guard you." Zhong Ling quickly got up.

"No need, go back and rest." Lu Ran extended his hand, transforming the Ancient Bronze Mirror into a Landing Mirror, as another woman attired in green cloak and hat stepped out.

Seeing Yan Shuangzi arrive, Zhong Ling immediately put away her aggrieved expression and assumed a meek demeanor: "Captain."

Yan Shuangzi paid no attention to her subordinate, carrying a bag of Smoke Rain Tea, her gaze swept past Lu Ran and towards the distant bamboo forest.

At the same time, the master and disciple deep within the bamboo forest had come to a stop at some point, turning their heads to look back here.

Lu Yuan's expression was solemn: "Disciple, is this person an Evil Mirror Demon believer?"

No wonder the youth bragged earlier about slaughtering dogs on Ten Thousand Blade Mountain.

Turns out he truly has such means!

Lu Yuan, however, never thought Lu Ran was a Dust Shadow disciple.

Because the aura didn't match.

The Dust Shadow Sect mostly comprised of carefree wanderers, who at most were invited with great hospitality into the world to assist troops.

They certainly wouldn't produce emperors!

"No, Sect Master Lu is not an Evil Demon Disciple." Qin Yanzhi hurriedly explained.

"Oh?" Lu Yuan's cloudy eyes gazed at the disciple.

Even with their close relationship, Qin Yanzhi shuddered inwardly: "Sect Master Lu is not an Evil Mirror believer, he is the Master of the Evil Mirror."

Lu Yuan habitually squinted his eyes, pondering over the disciple's words.

Qin Yanzhi whispered: "Actually, even that title isn't accurate, Sect Master Lu is not within our realm of understanding, he is different from each of us."

Sect Master Lu can steal the power of gods and demons for his own use.

He is truly a breaker of situations! Sect Master Lu has also been amassing power, attempting to replace the divine, and overthrow the rule of gods and demons."

Lu Yuan: !!!

The elder who loved to squint, opened his eyes wide for the first time!

Qin Yanzhi gasped.

He knew his master well, understanding his master's hatred for the divine, his powerlessness and indignation at the current situation.

However, to avoid any possible other thoughts from Master Lu, Qin Yanzhi quickly added a point: "Lu, Master, aren't you always longing for Lady Master? Missing your daughter."

Sect Master Lu has a very special status, if he returns to the human world, he won't be punished by the divine, he can help you see your wife and daughter.

I was just thinking..."

"Gulp." Lu Yuan's Adam's apple moved.

The usually calm and collected Heavenly Realm's Dust Shadow disciple finally broke.

His heart was in tumult!

"Master Lu, you know my childhood friend in the human world is a disciple of a reclusive god." Qin Yanzhi thought for a moment, once again opening his mouth to add leverage.

Lu Yuan grunted, trying to calm his mind.

"The god she serves is an old friend of Sect Master Lu's god, and my childhood friend also has a good private relationship with Sect Master Lu, which is why she entrusted Sect Master Lu to look for and protect her disciple in the Mountain Realm..."

Lu Yuan interrupted: "This child, who exactly is he worshipping?"

"Immortal Sheep."

"Immortal Sheep?" Lu Yuan's expression bewildered.

He had just managed his facial expression, and now it changed again.

"Yes, that's the Immortal Sheep who ranks at the bottom." Qin Yanzhi quickly said.

Lu Yuan was filled with incredulity, turning to look at the robe-clad young man.

In the Dust Shadow Sect, emperors do not arise.

Did an emperor arise from the Immortal Sheep Sect?

The disciple had mentioned that as Da Xia's situation stabilized, the styles of all the divine sects changed, among them, the Immortal Sheep Sect became a gathering place for the weak and timid.

Not to mention emperors, it was hard to even produce a decent warrior.

That reclusive Divine-Forget Spring was actually on good terms with Divine-Immortal Goat?

Heh,

Interesting, truly interesting.

Lu Yuan watched as the robe-clad young man strode forward, inadvertently scrutinizing him.

"Apologies for keeping you waiting, senior." Lu Ran politely said, cupping his hands, "I brought some Smoke Rain Tea for Senior Lu to taste."

Lu Yuan looked meaningfully at Lu Ran, nodding slightly: "Alright."

The Evil Shadow Guardian had already disappeared without a trace.

The trio of old and young proceeded in silence.

Along the way, Lu Ran wanted to say something several times, but seeing Lu Yuan in deep thought, he remained silent.

When they returned to the bamboo hut, Yan Shuangzi had already fetched water from the stream and started boiling tea in the courtyard.

Smoke Rain Tea was indeed bitter, but also truly fragrant!

Lu Yuan seemed interested, pointing to a stone table in the courtyard, on which a carved chess board lay, with mismatched black and white bamboo chess pieces scattered about: "Does Sect Master Lu play chess?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Do I know how to play this thing!

I can play a few hands of Gomoku... but that hardly counts!

Lu Ran shook his head and responded truthfully, "I don't understand chess skills."

"No problem!" Lu Yuan settled in front of the stone table, "Discuss a little, and you'll understand."

Lu Ran felt a bit uneasy.

This elder is quite domineering, huh?

Faced with the invitation from a Heavenly Realm Power, Lu Ran couldn't refuse and had to reluctantly sit down.

Suddenly, a thought struck Lu Ran's mind!

I don't know how to play chess, but among my disciples, there must be someone who does, right?

The next moment, all the disciples of the Ran Sect received a divine message: [Who among you knows how to play Go?]

Inside the Feixian Hall, the disciples who were respectfully kneeling couldn't help but exchange glances.

This was the first time Lord God manifested.

And the question was who knows how to play chess?

"Why the noise?" Bai Yanhui's voice from the depths of the hall was unfriendly.

"Elder Bai." Hall Master Song Yu immediately stepped forward, explaining the situation to Elder Bai.

"Go?" Bai Yanhui was a little surprised, stroking his long beard, pondering silently.

[Nearly two hundred disciples, and not one knows how to play Go?] Lord God spoke again, with a hint of dissatisfaction in his tone.

The disciples were trembling with fear.

Of course, there are those who know, but their skill level...

Since Lord God specifically sent a message to inquire, who with poor chess skills would dare to respond?

Song Yu heard the Sect Master's displeasure and worriedly said, "No one dares to respond, the Sect Master seems a bit unhappy... Elder Bai, do you know how to play Go?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Song Yu regretted it, realizing he barked up the wrong tree.

Elder Bai was blind, even if he could play, he couldn't utilize his true skills.

However, Bai Yanhui handed the Divine Weapon-Earth Trace Sword to Song Yu, "Draw the chessboard, you convey the messages."

Song Yu was momentarily stunned, quickly taking the Divine Weapon Sword, "Yes!"

At the same time, in the small courtyard of the cloud bamboo ravine.

Qin Yanzhi stood beside Lu Ran, quietly explaining the rules to the Sect Master.

Initially, Lu Ran was a diligent student, listening quietly, but before long, he held a dark brown piece and directly looked at the upper right corner of the chessboard.

"34..." Lu Ran murmured in his heart, counting the lines, and placed a piece.

Opposite the table, Lu Yuan remained expressionless, holding a light brown piece, placing it in the lower left.

Lu Ran continued to count the lines, placing a piece in the upper left corner of the board.

With the second piece placed, Qin Yanzhi immediately stopped speaking.

You... aren't you able to play?

At least you've dabbled a bit, right?

"Master Lu, it doesn't seem that you're unfamiliar with chess skills." Lu Yuan smiled at Lu Ran, occupying the lower right of the board.

Lu Ran also smiled, picking up another piece, "Senior Lu, you already know about it, the identity of this junior as the Master of Gods and Demons."

Such rebellious words were spoken so lightly by Lu Ran.

Lu Yuan slightly raised his eyes, looking at Lu Ran.

Back at the bamboo forest, the distance between them was not close!

This young one, did he hear that conversation?

Or did he purely guess, seeing through Qin Yanzhi, knowing that the disciple would be eager to share the information?

Lu Ran said softly, "So, what the divine can do, I can almost do as well."

Lu Yuan watched Lu Ran with interest, waiting for a further explanation.

Lu Ran placed a piece in the lower left of the chessboard, "For example, recruiting believers."

Lu Yuan's expression slightly froze.

Qin Yanzhi then realized!

In the world, believers can communicate with the worshipped Lord God, can transmit messages!

Crap?!

Qin Yanzhi looked at the calm and composed Lu Ran, four big words appearing in his mind:

He has opened up!

Indeed, Lu Ran has opened up.

You might say he's uninterested in this or blame his youthful impatience, but in any case, Lu Ran was unwilling to quietly play chess here.

Lu Ran only wanted to quickly steer the conversation to the main topic!

He just wanted to go home!

"Haha." Lu Yuan chuckled involuntarily, considering that aspect, "So the person playing with Lu is not the Sect Master Lu."

Lu Ran feigned contemplation, "Hmm... Why wouldn't it be?"

Lu Yuan appreciated Lu Ran's honesty.

However, Lu Ran's words were indeed rather shameless.

Lu Yuan picked up a piece, "Since it's someone else playing against me, what does it have to do with Sect Master Lu?"

Lu Ran chuckled, "But he is my believer, everything of his belongs to me."

Lu Yuan furrowed his brows slightly.

"His life, his will, his dignity, his life... including his soul after death." Lu Ran's words were light, but each word seemed like a hammer blow.

Lu Ran toyed with the piece in his hand, whispering, "All of his everything, doesn't it belong to me?"

Lu Yuan's face turned serious.

Qin Yanzhi also fell into deeper silence.

The "he" in Lu Ran's mouth was actually referring to Lu Yuan, referring to Qin Yanzhi.

Referring to the vast masses under the rule of all gods.

"His chess skills are also mine, aren't they?" Lu Ran looked at the piece held between his fingers.

After a while, Lu Yuan placed a piece, slowly saying, "Sect Master Lu's power is overwhelming, people who wish to escape your control don't know the cost they'll have to pay."

The "he" Lu Ran mentioned referred to the masses.

The "Sect Master Lu" described as overbearing by Dust Shadow Believer·Lu Yuan, naturally did not refer to Lu Ran himself.

At least Lu Ran did not think so.

What he did, his conscience was clear.

It can't be denied, Lu Ran has become the cloud sea enveloping a part of the world.

But he is dust-free!

"No matter!" Lu Ran repeated what Lu Yuan said earlier.

"No matter?"

"Man is bound to die." Lu Ran raised his head, gazing towards the sky's cloud sea, "To be enslaved like this for generations..."

How bitter.

...

Chapter 695: Secrets of the Heavenly Realm

The bamboo courtyard was oppressive.

On the stone table's chessboard, pieces of varying shades lay interspersed. Though not world-shaking, they faintly emanated a murderous aura.

The eyes of the old man in the gray robe were cloudy as he placed another light-colored piece, an invisible pressure filling the air: "Master Lu, are you willing to be the one to break the game?"

The young man in the emperor's robe had a piercing gaze, lightly tapping the board with his fingertip as a dark piece fell: "Ready to die ten thousand times over."

"Ready to die ten thousand times over." Lu Yuan nodded thoughtfully, "In Master Lu's eyes, what does this world look like?"

Lu Ran slightly raised an eyebrow, looking at the old man.

Lu Yuan stared back, waiting for Lu Ran's reply.

Lu Ran contemplated for a moment, organizing his words: "Gods and demons collude, enslaving the Human Clan for generations, providing faith for the Divine and nourishment for the Evil Demons.

Anyone who might disrupt the world's order is thrown into this slaughterhouse to ensure the stability of gods and demons' rule."

Lu Yuan once more looked at the chessboard, slowly placing another piece.

Not commenting on it.

Lu Ran frowned slightly, scrutinizing the old man's expression, asked: "Isn't it so?"

Lu Yuan was silent for a long time before suddenly asking: "Master Lu, is it Lord Immortal Sheep who taught all of your skills?"

Lu Ran nodded immediately.

Lu Yuan's expression was obscure: "Does Master Lu know the intention of Lord Immortal Sheep?"

Lu Ran: "I don't know."

Both Qin Yanzhi and Yan Shuangzi, who was serving on the side, were astonished at heart.

Lu Ran continued: "But judging from the actions of Lord Immortal Sheep, it seeks to destroy the gods and demons. That's enough for me."

"Have you ever thought, Master Lu, that you're merely a pawn as well?"

"Haha." This time, Lu Ran laughed, "As long as I can slaughter those scum in the sky, I'm willing."

Since the moment Lu Ran stepped onto the God Worship Platform, there was no choice.

And from the beginning to the end, the grace and care given by Lord Immortal Sheep was genuine and substantial.

Lu Ran should not, and has no reason to, betray this profound favor.

Everything, as Lord Immortal Sheep initially told Lu Ran:

"You don't need to believe in gods.

Believe in gratitude and grudges, believe in cause and effect, and that's enough."

Lu Yuan sighed softly: "It seems, Master Lu, you deeply hate the gods and demons."

"Does Senior Lu not hate them?"

"Indeed." Lu Yuan looked at the chessboard's situation, murmuring, "Hate, hate deeply..."

Lu Ran, seizing the opportunity, said: "Senior Lu, if you harbor hate, and I have the ambition and potential to overthrow tyranny, perhaps even offer you a chance at Becoming a God."

How about Senior join my Ran Sect?"

Lu Yuan's hand holding a chess piece paused slightly, looked at Lu Ran: "A chance to Become a God?"

Lu Ran tilted his head slightly, gesturing to Yan Shuangzi beside him: "She is not the disciple of the Evil Dog, she's the Evil Dog itself."

Lu Yuan's eyes narrowed slightly, looking at the mysterious woman in the raincoat.

Yan Shuangzi struggled to suppress the tremor in her heart.

An overly keen sense subjected her to more pressure than others when facing a Heavenly Realm expert.

"More accurately, a Fake God." Lu Ran nodded lightly to Qin Yanzhi.

Qin Divine General caught the message and explained the situation to his master, concluding, "The Sect Leader has already promised me that I will bind with the Evil Mirror Demon Sculpture, replace this Evil God, and seize the Divine Position."

Listening to his disciple's words, Lu Yuan was silent for a long while.

"Hoo~"

The wind blew by, bringing a few swaying bamboo leaves.

Yan Shuangzi stepped forward, poured out the thoroughly cooled Smoke Rain Tea, and offered two cups of hot tea to the elder and the young.

Lu Yuan picked up his teacup, taking a light sip.

The bitterness within opened his eyes.

Along with it, Lu Yuan's smile seemed somewhat bitter: "Forget about Becoming a God.

This old man is but a wanderer with no lofty ambitions, just wishing to see his wife and daughter, and lead a simple life."

Such words genuinely surprised Lu Ran.

When an opportunity for Becoming a God is right in front, someone actually isn't tempted?

Lu Yuan wasn't he overwhelmed by hatred for the gods?

Lu Ran also picked up his teacup: "But Mr. Lu, even your small wish isn't allowed, is it?"

Lu Yuan's aged hand holding the teacup froze in mid-air.

"Senior Lu clearly has the ability to return to the Human World, yet is forced back to Holy Spirit Mountain." Lu Ran looked straight at the old man and uttered those four words, "Divine does not permit."

Divine does not permit!

For Lu Yuan, these four words struck deeply.

Lu Yuan slowly put down the teacup: "My disciple has revealed all my secrets to Master Lu."

Qin Yanzhi felt both embarrassed and guilty: "Master Lu..."

Lu Yuan stopped his disciple's words, slowly speaking: "The chance of Becoming a God should be given to Yanzhi. This old man is content to help from the side."

Lu Ran was inwardly delighted. Was Senior Lu planning to join?

He hurriedly said: "Senior Lu, no need to be modest, there are plenty of opportunities! I also know you've used Dust Shadow Divine Technique all your life, accustomed to covering a thousand miles in one step.

Qin Yanzhi will replace the Evil Mirror Demon, and you can replace Dust Shadow!"

Lu Yuan appeared momentarily bewildered, then his eyes narrowed slightly: "Dust Shadow... Dust Shadow..."

Hmm, it is good.

The words 'Dust Shadow' seemed to hit the mark!

Under Lu Ran's gaze, Lu Yuan murmured, nodding lightly.

Lu Ran was overjoyed!

He stood up, almost disbelieving, confirming again: "Senior Lu, are you really joining my Ran Sect?"

This is a Heavenly Realm Power, after all!

Lu Yuan looked up at the excited young man and couldn't help but chuckle silently.

Ah, youth... is truly wonderful.

Lu Ran hastily said: "When I return to Da Xia in the Human World, I'll surely visit your wife and daughter and take good care of them!"

At his words, Lu Yuan's expression became much more solemn: "Then... I'll trouble you, Sect Leader."

Sect Leader, Master Lu.

A single word difference, the relationship changed.

"Good!" Lu Ran sat down with a thump, picked up the teacup, "I use tea instead of wine, to welcome Senior Lu's joining!"

With these words, Lu Ran had already downed the hot tea in one gulp.

Not only was it bitter.

It was damn hot too!

Lu Ran endured the urge to grimace, glancing at Yan Shuangzi.

Yan Shuangzi silently bowed her head and took Lu Ran's teacup.

"No problem, no problem..." Lu Yuan smiled as he drank his tea, but when he put the cup down, his heart was filled with melancholy.

Thirty years had passed since their parting.

Can I finally see them again?

Although it's not in person, it is already enough.

As he pondered, the strong longing in Lu Yuan's heart was gradually replaced by reason.

Should he really tell this child about his wife and daughter, and send him back to the Human World?

Although he had his own disciple to vouch for him, this matter must not be rushed.

He still needed to watch carefully, gather some chips in hand...

Lu Ran inquired, "Senior Lu, when can you send me back to the Human World?"

Lu Yuan mused, "Sect Leader, please don't be anxious. Allow this old man to rearrange his state."

"Alright, no rush." Lu Ran nodded repeatedly, then added, "I also need to make proper preparations."

As he spoke, Lu Ran absent-mindedly picked up a chess piece and placed it down.

Lu Yuan shook his head with a smile, looking at the chessboard and asked, "Sect Leader, your chess skill is quite remarkable. Who has been playing against me?"

This question was intriguing, acknowledging Lu Ran's chess skill, yet asking who was the player behind him.

Contradictory, yet reasonable.

"He is an elder of the Ran Sect, named Bai Yanhui."

"Oh?" Lu Yuan pondered for a moment, testing the waters, "The Valley Master of Sinless Valley?"

This time, it was Lu Ran's turn to be astonished: "Senior Lu, do you know Elder Bai?"

Lu Yuan's eyes glimmered with a touch of reminiscence: "I can't recall exactly how many years ago, in any case, I helped them once."

In this Holy Spirit Mountain, it's not easy to live with dignity as a disciple of a Weak God.

Valley Master Bai is quite a person."

Such words also gave Lu Ran a wake-up call.

Lu Yuan was not a "purebred" disciple of Dust Shadow.

As a first-generation disciple, he wasn't a mere onlooker; he would intervene in others' destinies.

"I didn't expect Valley Master Bai to join the Ran Sect." Lu Yuan looked at Lu Ran meaningfully, "It seems he couldn't guard everything after all."

Lu Ran remained composed: "Elder Bai is still living with dignity now.

I dare not say everyone in the Ran Sect is equal, but I can say, the Ran Sect is qualitatively different from other sects inside Holy Spirit Mountain.

We do not consume people."

"Oh?"

"Last year, I destroyed Tiantu Mountain and rescued Elder Bai from prison." Lu Ran smiled and nodded, "If Senior Lu wishes to reminisce with your old friend, I can take you later."

Lu Yuan squinted his eyes: "So, is the Ran Sect considered a reputable sect like Wuji Peak or the Forbidden City?"

One sentence, and Lu Ran was amused.

If I said the Forbidden City was mine, would you believe it?

Qin Yanzhi looked at Lu Ran in confusion, what's so funny about that?

"Yes, even better!" Lu Ran replied forthrightly.

He reached into his robe again, pulled out the Heavenly Star Saber from his waist, and laid it flat on the table: "Senior Lu, this saber has a special name.

It is my life's creed and my heartfelt wish."

"What name?"

"Cloud Sea Dust Purity." Lu Ran's fingertip brushed over the cold blade.

"Buzz~" The Cloud Sea Blade trembled lightly.

Quite a significant movement!

"A good name, a good name..." Lu Yuan looked at the young emperor filled with ambition.

His heart filled with admiration, yet he sighed secretly.

Lu Ran gazed at the cloud sea in the sky and suddenly said, "By the way, Senior Lu, I heard you once went to the Heavenly Realm, what was it like there?"

Lu Yuan fell silent.

Lu Ran gave him ample time, yet minute by minute passed, and Lu Yuan still seemed unwilling to answer.

Lu Ran called out, "Senior Lu?"

Lu Yuan finally looked up at Lu Ran and slowly shook his head: "Cannot say."

"Ah?" Lu Ran was quite puzzled.

What can't be spoken of?

Lu Yuan smiled apologetically: "I still dream of, in my lifetime, being able to see my wife and daughter, to reunite with them."

Sect Leader, please don't ask anymore."

Lu Ran: ?

This...

Is it that serious?

Lu Yuan spoke in a deep voice: "With the Sect Leader's strength, you will eventually ascend to the Heavenly Realm, then you will naturally see."

Or the Sect Leader can ask Lord Immortal Sheep, this matter, this old man is not fit to get involved."

Lu Ran immediately realized that Lu Yuan's last sentence was the real issue.

Since Lu Ran knew nothing about the Heavenly Realm, it meant that Immortal Sheep had his own considerations and didn't tell Lu Ran about the state of that world.

Therefore, Lu Yuan dared not divulge either.

As he said, he still wanted to see his wife and daughter.

Even if he couldn't see them, he wanted his wife and daughter to live safely in the Human World.

Lu Ran pressed his lips together, nodded, and said, "Alright, I won't trouble Senior anymore. There is one more thing, I hope Senior can clarify."

"If it doesn't involve the Heavenly Realm, this old man is willing to explore with the Sect Leader."

"Is there such a thing as 'deviation' for those who ascend to the Heavenly Realm?"

"I suppose there is."

"Suppose there is?"

Lu Yuan picked up the teacup and looked at the bitter tea: "From the moment you ascend to the Heavenly Realm, your mind becomes unsettled."

There will always be a thought that arises.

It's as if, in the unseen, there is some existence constantly seducing you."

Lu Ran gripped the saber handle tightly: "Seducing people to go on a killing spree?"

Lu Yuan gently shook his head: "This old man never had the urge for slaughter, it's just... constantly tempting me to ascend to heaven."

"Ascend to the Heavenly Realm?"

"Ascend to the Heavenly Realm!"

Chapter 696: Emperor's Presence

"I see." Lu Ran murmured.

Since ascending to the Heavenly Realm is the "correct way home" set by the God Demon, this enticing thought is probably the handiwork of the God Demon on the believers.

Lu Ran pondered for a moment and then asked, "Is Senior Lu also being tempted now?"

Lu Yuan gently shook his head, "A long time ago, I no longer felt restless."

"Oh?" Lu Ran became interested, "Has Senior found a way to resist it?"

Lu Yuan shook his head again, "No. It's just that after I returned from the Heavenly Realm, this restless heart of mine settled down."

"I see..." Lu Ran pursed his lips.

So, is this more like a program?

Call it a remnant thought of the Divine or a spiritual imprint, believers follow the summons, ascend to the Heavenly Realm, and the process is complete.

Then, can believers return to normal?

"I'm used to being idle and disrespectful, often defying the Divine." Lu Yuan expressed another possibility, "Perhaps, I have been abandoned by the Divine."

"Hmm..." Lu Ran contemplated briefly; this guess seems more likely?

The Heavenly Realm, an immensely powerful realm!

Believers ascending to such heights would certainly attract the Divine's attention.

However, Holy Spirit Mountain is remote, beyond the reach of All Gods, so they can only secretly lure believers to ascend.

Regardless of what you call it, this is the Divine taking the initiative.

This better explains why Sword Ridge Peak Master Wang Hanchuan deviated!

Divine·Beifeng discovered this Heavenly Realm believer and wanted to feast on the believer's soul before tempting him to ascend.

Thus, Beifeng first tempted Wang Hanchuan to commit a massacre before leading him to ascend.

Making full use of resources, consuming every bit.

"Thank you, Senior Lu, for clarifying." Lu Ran's expression darkened as he gestured with the teacup.

Having gained shallow insight into the Heavenly Realm information, he could feel more at ease about Mist Rain Lake·Thousand Boat Alliance.

Massacres aren't inevitable; the so-called "deviation" is just a thought.

An enticing thought for ascending.

Considering this, Alliance Leader Yun's continuous seclusion may be his way of not abandoning the Alliance Members to ascend alone?

While thinking, Lu Ran lightly sipped his tea.

Lu Yuan took the opportunity to carefully observe the young Sect Leader.

This young man truly has the demeanor of an emperor!

Even Lu Yuan, a Heavenly Realm Great Power, felt a slight influence, as if worried about the Emperor Robe youth's anger.

The focus is not on the present but on the future!

The Sect Leader is so young, with shallow experience and skills, yet he has such presence; given time...

Lu Yuan observed Lu Ran and then looked at his good disciple beside him.

Though both are from the Yangyang Sea, the gap is vast!

"Lu Master?" Qin Yanzhi felt uneasy under the gaze, showing an inquisitive expression.

Lu Yuan ignored his disciple and turned to Lu Ran, "Sect Leader, I'd better play this game with an old friend."

"Alright." Lu Ran nodded in agreement, showing a casual demeanor while feeling a sense of relief internally.

Using a surrogate player is nice, but he wouldn't want to sit there indefinitely.

A game of Go could last hours or even several days!

With that time, how nice it would be for Lu Ran to sleep soundly with his beloved fiancée...

Lu Ran reached out sideways, summoning the Ancient Bronze Mirror, "I will bring Elder Bai here."

"Sect Leader." Lu Yuan spoke immediately, "I am also curious about Ran Sect; after this game, I can find a quiet place in Ran Sect to settle down."

Once everything is ready, it will also be convenient to notify you."

"Alright!" Lu Ran smiled and nodded.

Seeing Lu Ran's straightforwardness, Lu Yuan was both surprised and silently praised.

Master Lu... such courage!

Lu Yuan, as a Heavenly Realm Great Power, has enough strength to turn any force in the Mountain Realm upside down.

This visit to Ran Sect is indeed with thoughts of investigating and gaining more leverage.

Yet the young Sect Leader is frank and decisive, showing no hesitation.

Is he not afraid of employing questionable individuals?

Or perhaps his disciple has told Master Lu everything, giving the Sect Leader full confidence?

"Hoo~"

Energy surged in Lu Ran's hand as the Ancient Bronze Mirror transformed into a Landing Mirror.

He stood up, "I must trouble Senior Lu not to inform others that you can help people return to the Human World for now."

"Alright." Lu Yuan gently nodded.

"Please!" Lu Ran gestured to the antique Landing Mirror.

"Please, Sect Leader!"

A group of four entered one by one, arriving at the Council Hall.

"Senior Lu, please sit down, I have notified them, and the generals are on their way." Lu Ran led Lu Yuan to the chair on the right and accompanied him to sit.

"Sect Leader need not mobilize so many people..."

"Hey~" Lu Ran rarely interrupted, "As Senior has joined Ran Sect, of course, you should familiarize with the Sect and your comrades."

While the elder and the young chatted idly, Nightmare Guardian was the first to walk in.

"This is Nightmare Guardian, the Evil God-Night Charm in person." Lu Ran sat beside Lu Yuan, introducing.

Deng Yuxiang had attended small meetings and was one of the few at the cliff who knew about the return.

Seeing the elderly man with white hair, Deng Yuxiang suppressed his excitement, pinched the brim of his hat with two fingers, and slightly bent down his head: "Greetings, Senior Lu."

Such elegance prompted a thought in Lu Ran's mind:

Elegance never goes out of style.

"Good, good." Lu Yuan was amiable.

Such an imposing young lady, truly deserving of the name Pseudo Evil God-Night Charm!

Qin Yanzhi accompanied his master and Sect Master, standing behind the seats, welcoming each Ran Sect soldier.

Today, Qin Yanzhi truly opened his eyes to things!

He had only seen some of the Ran Sect warriors, and now the appearances of the Phoenix and Swallow Generals, the Xun Luo couple, and others shocked Qin Yanzhi again and again!

He also knew that the Sea Realm Peak's Great Martial Artist and the high-level Great Doctor were not in the cliff, but secretly infiltrating the Pear Garden Sect.

Based on this, the Ran Sect probably had other Sea Realm Great Powers, unknown where they were carrying out tasks!

Looking across the Holy Spirit Mountain...

The headquarters of the Divine Faction of the first and second classes might just be so?

The biggest difference is, Ran Sect's generals come from various sects and factions, much stronger than those single faction organizations!

"Good, good." Lu Yuan nodded in approval.

This was the word Lu Yuan said most after entering the council hall.

Since the Sect Leader accompanied, when Ran Sect warriors came in, they would salute and greet Lu Ran, who naturally introduced each one.

Giving Lu Yuan due respect.

It was also a proper introduction to their comrade Qin Yanzhi.

From now on, the master and apprentice would be with such a group, sharing life and death together.

Until Bai Yanhui arrived, Lu Yuan stood up for the first time: "Valley Master Bai, long time no see..."

Lu Yuan's smile faded a bit upon seeing Bai Yanhui's deeply sunken eyes.

"Who are you?" Bai Yanhui, with the Divine Sword hanging on his waist, walked smoothly into the hall.

Seeing Bai Yanhui's miserable state, Lu Yuan couldn't help but sigh, saying, "Valley Master Bai, don't you remember old friends."

"Could it be benefactor Mr. Lu?" Bai Yanhui asked tentatively.

"Hehe." Lu Yuan's face regained some smiles, "Valley Master Bai's mindset has changed a lot, less sharp, more cautious."

Bai Yanhui pondered for a while and then understood.

It must have been twenty years since they saw each other, how come they were evaluated?

It naturally came from chess skills!

It turned out that the person who just played on behalf of the sect leader turned out to be Lu Yuan?!

"Unexpectedly, I would see benefactor again in this life."

"Hehe, and from now on, we can meet every day. Once entered the Ran Sect, Master Lu would probably not let me leave..."

The two reunited with quite a bit of banter.

Not until Jiang Fairy came with two guards, Lu Ran also stood up.

"Senior Lu, this is Lady Ran of the Ran Sect, also my fiancée." Lu Ran introduced with a smile.

This time, Lu Yuan no longer said "Good, good."

Jiang Ruyi greeted politely.

And Lu Yuan, receiving attentiveness and courtesy, addressed her as "met Lady."

This world is very realistic.

When you are weak, your politeness is insignificant.

But when you are a highly respected elder, a Heavenly Realm Power, speaking such words to a young woman carries immense weight!

Ran Sect warriors witnessed this scene and found it extremely satisfying.

"Having Senior Lu with his talented disciple join the Ran Sect is our honor." Jiang Ruyi seemed composed outwardly, but likely shared a bit of nervousness with the warriors...

"Good, good." Lu Yuan returned to being the agreeable gentleman, turned to Lu Ran, and asked, "Fiancée?"

Such a term was quite mismatched with Holy Spirit Mountain.

"Hehe~" It was rare, Master Lu's smile turned a little shy, "We have already been engaged in the human world and have met each other's parents.

Like your talented disciple and me, we both have a childhood sweetheart, only Qin Yanzhi and his sweetheart are separated by realms, while mine..."

Lu Ran gestured towards the fairy in the white dress before him, the meaning was clear.

The Cold Fairy immediately broke character, smiling as she glanced at Lu Ran.

Those slightly widened, beautiful eyes were almost imperceptible, yet Lu Ran captured them crystal clear with his perceptive gaze.

"Rare, so rare..." Lu Yuan was deeply moved, stroking his long beard, "To meet at Holy Spirit Mountain and support each other is truly a beautiful story."

"Indeed, this silly girl came over on purpose." Lu Ran was also full of emotion, looking at the beauty Ruyi standing right in front of him.

Jiang Ruyi's heart trembled.

This was the first time she heard the term "silly girl" from Lu Ran's mouth.

A touch of tenderness.

And a bit of doting.

Oh... so embarrassing, with so many people watching!

"Oh?" Lu Yuan was even more surprised.

This girl actually entered this perilous Holy Spirit Mountain for Master Lu?

"At first, she was summoned by the Jade Talisman, and Lord Immortal Sheep wanted to protect her, but this silly girl insisted on coming... Well, let's stop talking about it."

Seeing Jiang Fairy's slightly embarrassed look, Lu Ran quickly changed the topic, saying:

"Divine Seeking General, find a quiet place and build a residence for Senior Lu."

"Yes!" Xun Yifei took the order and left.

Lu Ran turned to Lu Yuan: "Senior, stay with Elder Bai for now, reminisce, play some chess, and visit Cloud Sea Cliff.

If you need anything, just ask directly."

"Thank you, Sect Leader." Lu Yuan naturally realized that Master Lu was sincere and open-minded.

In fact, from the moment Lu Ran opened the Transmission Mirror, Lu Yuan knew that everything Lu Ran said was true.

The Ran Sect's character was indeed upright!

Feel free to look around, feel free to investigate.

Lu Ran's thought was simple.

What kind of person he is, boasting is useless, Senior Lu could find out for himself.

This Cloud Sea Cliff was Lu Ran's resume.

He also believed that any possible worries of Lu Yuan would eventually fade away.

This Heavenly Realm Power would ultimately reveal information about his wife and daughter.

And from that moment,

Lu Yuan would completely devote himself to the Ran Sect, with absolute loyalty and dedication to its Master, even unto death.

...

Chapter 697: Under the Starry Sky

In the dead of night, the sky was full of stars.

Lu Ran leisurely lay on the rocking chair in the courtyard of Cloud Sea Residence.

He had come down from the battlefield at dusk and was now staring at the beautiful starry sky, lost in thought.

Today was already the twelfth day of the lunar July.

It had been over twenty days since Senior Lu Yuan settled at Cloud Sea Cliff.

During this period, Senior Lu was understanding the Ran Sect and assessing the Sect Leader's temperament.

Lu Ran, on the other hand, led troops to battles in the north and south, cultivating the Evil Sculpture.

Soul-splitting Demons of Sea Realm Second Rank, Ghost Generals of Sea Realm Second Rank, Barbaric Female Demons of Sea Realm Third Rank...

Since Master Lu Yuan and his disciples joined the Ran Sect, Lu Ran had essentially acquired a map of Holy Spirit Mountain, wanting to go to the various Evil Demons' strongholds in a heartbeat.

Lu Ran chose to wage battles both north and south for another reason:

His mind was troubled.

Thinking about returning to the Human World soon, that feeling...

It was like during one's student days, the last class before the winter holiday at the end of the year.

Who had the mind to study!

Only on the battlefield could Lu Ran immerse himself in the slaughter and maintain focus. Lu Ran simply went to fill in the gaps and supplementary activate the already awakened Evil Sculptures, enhancing their realms.

While strengthening himself, it was also to pave the way for his companions.

Just like the Evil Demon-Black Lantern.

Lu Ran had already enhanced this Evil Sculpture to Sea Realm-Third Rank, prepared for his sister Little Yuanxi!

Only after many days of battle, exhaustion crept in. At dusk today, he led his team back to Cloud Sea Cliff, gathered everyone for a meeting, and after understanding the current situation within the cliff, he went home to rest.

As for Senior Lu's side, Lu Ran did not rush to inquire.

However, he couldn't hold back much longer.

"Phew~"

The mountain wind rustled, bringing a unique sea breeze aroma.

An ethereal silhouette descended gracefully.

"You're back." Lu Ran, lazily reclining on the rocking chair, turned his head.

Jiang Fairy's long hair hung loose, not yet dry, clearly having just bathed.

The Believers' Water Flow Armor indeed had a certain self-cleaning effect, but Jiang Ruyi, after returning from battle, still preferred bathing in Ink Sea Bay.

And had to choose to do it at night.

Lu Ran had no such concerns, after the meeting, he just plunged into the sea, anyway, Ink Sea Bay was silent, with no one around.

Besides, who would dare peek at the Sect Master bathing...

Jiang Ruyi floated down beside the rocking chair, looked at the lazy youth, and asked with a smile: "Are you sleeping here tonight?"

Lu Ran pursed his lips: "Women."

"Hmm?"

"You have a ruthless heart~"

"Hmph." Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but laugh and turned toward the door.

Lu Ran's hand rested outside the arm of the rocking chair, fingertips extending several fine red silk threads.

The silk threads silently followed, landing on Jiang Ruyi's back, as Lu Ran's fingertip trembled slightly, the doll gently floated over, side-lying on the rocking chair.

Finally, embraced by Lu Ran: "Watching the stars together?"

The doll remained silent and still.

Only then did Lu Ran realize and canceled the Evil Technique-Silk Thread.

Jiang Ruyi disconsolately said: "My hair is still wet."

"It'll dry with the sea breeze." Lu Ran said nonchalantly, embracing the delicate body in his arms a bit tighter.

Jiang Ruyi rested her head on Lu Ran's shoulder, sighed helplessly.

All her principles, including her cold heart, would transform repeatedly and yield time and again when faced with him.

"What do you want to do most after returning home?" Lu Ran ran his fingers through her black hair, casually playing with it.

Jiang Ruyi nuzzled her cheek, found a more comfortable position, and whispered:

"I want to see dad and mom."

"Then you'd better prepare well; uncle and aunt are ordinary people, unable to withstand too much pressure."

"Hmm..." Jiang Ruyi pursed her lips.

A very serious question lay here: even if she returned to her home in Yuxiang City·By the Water Apartment, she did not belong there.

For every extra second she stayed, her parents would endure an additional second of suffering.

She should be like other Sea Realm Great Powers, stay hidden, far from those she misses.

Fortunately, on this path of cultivation, Lu Ran always walked alongside her.

She wasn't completely alone.

Had Lu Ran's power been slightly lesser, like Si Xianxian, both of them wouldn't be as harmonious as now.

In the past, clingy Sister Xian'er had not been clingy for quite some time.

I suppose Si Xianxian might also fondly remember the days when she stayed close to Jiang Ruyi.

"What about you?" Jiang Ruyi asked, "What do you want to do?"

"See my mother and Little Yuanxi, have a good chat with Lord Immortal Sheep, and by the way, capture Deng Yutang, Tian Tian, Chang Ying, and others all in one go! With Ran Shen's enlightenment, everything ascends to heaven..."

Jiang Ruyi smiled.

These days, Lu Ran has slain the Ghost General Clan and the Black Lotus Clan, all in preparation for his companions.

Red Cloth Believer·Deng Yuxiang and Sword Lotus Believer·Tian Tian could both switch allegiance under Lu Ran, transforming into mortal enemies of their respective Divines.

Only the Spiritual Sign Sect was not easy to tackle.

The Spiritual Fortune was quite special; it didn't have any mortal enemies!

No substitutes could be found.

In this Holy Spirit Mountain, Lu Ran had barely seen Spiritual Sign Disciples.

Since Divine·Spiritual Sign was the Fourth Rank Divine, Spiritual Fortune disciples in the mountain could be in a servant class.

Regarding this sect's believers, Lu Ran had little opportunity for carnage.

Lu Ran really wished he could confront Divine·Spiritual Sign directly, chop that dog to pieces, and use the energy of Spiritual Sign's true form to nurture his own Pseudo-God Stone Sculpture.

Hmm... for now, better to use Holy Spirit Energy for cultivation.

Honestly, Lu Ran also wanted to take out a fortune stick and predict his own future when he's idle.

The only issue is, can Pseudo-God·Spiritual Sign's divination be accurate before seizing the Divine Position?

Lu Ran suddenly thought of something, "Hey? Do you think I can bring Little Tabby Flower here?"

Jiang Ruyi: ?

Are you speaking human language?

Jiang Ruyi slapped Lu Ran's chest lightly, scolding, "Don't harm Tabby Flower."

Lu Ran retorted, "Do you think I could activate Evil Demon-Yinli Tiger Stone Sculpture and bond it with Little Tabby Flower?"

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

"Why aren't you speaking?"

"I don't want to bother with you," Jiang Ruyi shut her eyes, acting as if seeing nothing means no worry.

"What if it works? Little Tabby Flower directly transforms into a Second-Class Evil God! Destroying heaven and earth... hmm?" Lu Ran suddenly murmured suspiciously.

[Master.]

[Glorious Light?] Lu Ran probed.

[Do you have time now? Mr. Conglong is free, and he wants to talk with you.]

[Okay, whatever he says, just repeat it to me.] Lu Ran twisted Jiang Ruyi's long hair with his fingers, gazing at the stars in the sky.

[Sect Master, tomorrow morning, Wu Xiao will challenge the Hall Master of Tiangang Hall, aiming to seize the position of Hall Master.]

[You chose Tiangang Hall?]

[Yes! This hall has twenty-eight members, ranking among the top in overall strength within the eighteen halls of Pear Garden Sect! The current Hall Master is violent and indulgent, not someone we can win over. Once our Ran Sect revolts, he will be among the first to be eliminated.]

[Good.] Lu Ran replied in a deep voice.

Regarding Yu Changsheng's judgment, Lu Ran naturally trusted him.

As for letting Wu Xiao seize the position of Hall Master, Yu Changsheng had already discussed it with Lu Ran more than ten days ago.

As of today, Wu and Yu have been in Pear Garden Sect for over a month.

Yu Changsheng has grasped most of the information of Pear Garden Sect and, based on the actual situation, formulated a route for Wu Xiao.

Pear Garden Sect's style aligns well with Holy Spirit Mountain—strength is respected!

Since there is such a system within the sect, allowing fair challenges and ascent of the capable, Wu and Yu should definitely take advantage of it.

Lu Ran encouraged him, [This battle is a great opportunity to show off; make sure you make a name for yourself!]

So-called openly and secretly, complement each other.

Once Wu Xiao displays his absolutely strong power in front of everyone, future subtle infiltration will naturally yield twice the result with half the effort.

Whether it's showcasing strength or the position of Hall Master, both can greatly increase Wu Xiao's influence within the sect!

[The subordinate will convey the Sect Master's expectations to the Martial Emperor.]

[Hmm.] Lu Ran slightly tightened the jade figure in his arms, smoothing her long hair, [Still need Mr. Conglong to take good care, nothing must go wrong.]

[Rest assured, Sect Master. Martial Emperor is a sure bet! The Tiangang Hall Master is accustomed to arrogance and decadence, having fallen from Sea Realm Peak to Sea Realm·Fourth Rank, only residual power remains, so no one's dared challenge him.]

Lu Ran: "..."

[During this time, the Martial Emperor has mingled with a sect elder and several hall masters, with subordinates supporting; there'll be no mistakes.]

[Great.] Lu Ran thought of something else, asking, [What about that Hall Master Wen Cheng?]

[This person is deeply scheming, making it hard to judge his true intentions; further observation and probing are needed.]

[No rush.] Lu Ran advised, [As Mr. Xu said before: Steady wins the race, proceed slowly and plan carefully.]

[Yes.] After this word, there was no further response.

Lu Ran waited for a while and played with Jiang Fairy's long hair again.

"Are you communicating with someone?" Jiang Ruyi asked softly.

"Ah, Mr. Conglong." Lu Ran responded, recounting the earlier conversation.

Jiang Ruyi nodded quietly.

Since Senior Lu settled in Cloud Sea Cliff, Ran Sect gained more confidence.

However, since Pear Garden Sect has no Heavenly Realm Power, there's no need to trouble Senior Lu Yuan to take action.

Jiang Ruyi fully believed in Wu and Yu's abilities, looking forward to the day of reaping rewards.

"It's late, shall we go back to sleep?" Jiang Ruyi gently suggested.

"Let's just sleep here! The stars accompany your sleep, isn't that great?"

"Here?" Jiang Ruyi hesitated a bit.

Sleeping in the courtyard?

As it turned out, she couldn't really say no to Lu Ran, so she had the Evil Shadow Guardian bring a large robe of Lu Ran's from inside the house to cover them.

The night breeze lightly touched, occasionally there were rustling sounds of leaves.

The night of Cloud Sea Cliff was extremely gentle.

A pair of men and women lying on the rocking chair, slowly falling asleep under the starry sky.

Meanwhile, in a secluded small courtyard within the quiet mountain forest in the northeast corner of the cliff.

An elder with white hair stood silently in the courtyard, looking up at the brilliant starry sky.

His cloudy eyes connected dots into lines in this Starry Sky Curtain, sketching out a beautiful scene.

A woman tenderly smiles, lovingly gazing at the baby in her arms.

"It's time," Lu Yuan whispered softly.

Master Lu has returned from the expedition.

Sea water cannot be measured!

The mighty young emperor, supposed to be in a reckless age, is instead such a benevolent king.

Master Lu...

Would you resolve the suffering of the beings of this Mountain Realm,

and help this old man, dispel the bitterness in his heart?

...

Chapter 698: The Flower on the Other Shore

The stars and moon shifted, night and day alternated.

A beautiful dawn emerged on the horizon, a red sun gradually appeared above the eastern sea horizon.

Inside the Cloud Sea Residence, all was quiet.

In the courtyard, on a rocking chair, a young man covered with a wide white robe was still sound asleep.

"Whoosh~"

The sea breeze blew, gently rocking the chair.

"Mm..." Lu Ran opened his sleepy eyes, finding his embrace empty and the beauty gone.

He mulled it over for a while and asked softly, "Where is she?"

[The Lady is in the backyard, practicing swords with two guards.] A voice imprinted in his mind.

"Oh." Lu Ran sniffed the air, indeed catching a faint scent of plum blossoms wafting from the backyard to the front courtyard through the hall.

Little Ruyi is so diligent!

Getting up so early to practice sword, I wonder, who is she preparing a dance for?

Oh... it turns out it's me!

Then it's all good~

Lu Ran smiled contentedly, looking lazy as he snugged the wide robe tighter around himself.

Letting the rocking chair gently sway him.

He slowly closed his eyes, seeming to be dozing off again.

Just as he was drifting, another voice imprinted in his mind: [Master, Elder Lu requests an audience.]

"Hmm, Elder Lu requests... huh?" Lu Ran suddenly opened his eyes, instantly wide awake, "Where?"

[In the woods outside the courtyard, Shadow Two stopped him.]

"Quickly invite him in!" Lu Ran immediately got up, looking out beyond the fence wall, indeed spotting an old man in a gray robe with white hair amidst the lush forest.

Lu Ran was overjoyed!

Was that the old man?

No, it was a flower!

A flower that would send him back to the human world!

"Let the Lady know." Lu Ran tidied his clothes and went out to greet, "Elder Lu, good morning!"

Nowadays, Lu Yuan held a nominal position as well.

Senior Lu's request was simple, having been accustomed to leisure, he didn't want to be disturbed too much.

Lu Ran gave him the position of Elder in the Ran Sect, holding a high status within the sect, without any duties, living leisurely.

"Hope I'm not disturbing the Sect Leader's rest?" Lu Yuan wore a smile.

"Not at all, not at all! I was just awake early. We martial artists value rising with the sun!" Lu Ran boasted shamelessly, guiding Lu Yuan into the fenced courtyard.

Lu Yuan continued to smile, not exposing the truth.

The two of them arrived at a corner of the courtyard, seated by the stone table.

"Elder Lu has arrived." A cold voice sounded, a fairy in a white dress drifted over.

"Lady." Lu Yuan responded immediately, only realizing by the lady's demeanor who the person dancing was.

"Liu Huo, serve the tea." Jiang Ruyi gently instructed, sitting at the table.

Lu Ran had somewhat matured, a bit more patient, and showed concern by asking, "Elder Lu, you have been staying at the Cloud Sea Cliff for a while, are you accustomed to it?"

"Very much so." Lu Yuan smiled and nodded, "I have roamed the Mountain Realm for over thirty years, the Sect Leader is the first to dare settle by the sea."

Lu Ran laughed, "With the Mo Li Clan and the Sea Merfolk Clan, we securely control this sea area. Rest assured staying here, elder.

At most, an Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon occasionally flies over, and Luo Divine General will shoot it down with a few arrows."

Lu Yuan did not continue that topic but sighed, speaking with a literary flair, "The 800-meter sea cliff stands tall like a screen separating land and sea; the waves crashing below sound like thunder.

Such grand and magnificent land can indeed only be commanded by someone like the Sect Leader."

Lu Ran was speechless.

The world seen through the eyes of the Dust Shadow disciple was indeed unique.

"Don't praise him too much, or he'll become arrogant," Jiang Ruyi said with a smile.

Despite these words, in Lu Yuan's eyes, the woman was speaking contrary to her feelings.

Upon hearing Lu Ran praised, she seemed to have a sweet indulgence, even prouder than Lu Ran?

"I don't deserve it," Lu Ran hurriedly showed modesty.

"The Sect Leader is deserving!" Lu Yuan expressed a look of emotion, "Before arriving at the Cloud Sea Cliff, this old one never imagined the Sect Leader could achieve such feats."

In the Mountain Realm, all manner of ugly faces could be seen everywhere.

But people with a benevolent heart, who care for the world, are extremely rare.

Lu Yuan still remembered at Cloud Bamboo Canyon, after Lu Ran praised the righteous ethos of the Ran Sect, he asked, "Like Wuji Peak or the Forbidden City?"

At that time, Lu Ran inexplicably smiled.

Now Lu Yuan completely understood why Lu Ran smiled.

Because that Forbidden City belonged to Lu Ran!

The renowned Forbidden City Master is rightfully under the Ran Sect.

He Qifeng's grand Stone Sculpture stands within Feixian Hall, worshipped daily by Ran Sect disciples.

"Don't really praise him." Despite his usual thick skin, Lu Ran showed rare humility, "I might really get carried away."

"Alright, alright." Lu Yuan grew slightly solemn, "Today is the thirteenth of July, Sect Leader thinks, how about returning to the human world on the night of July fifteenth?"

"The fifteenth of July?" Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly.

"Night." Lu Yuan emphasized a word.

Every fifteenth night is when the Evils feast, extravagantly in the human world.

Among the whole year, the night of July fifteenth is the most unique, a night of the fiercest Evil invasion.

"I'm fine with anything, but why did Elder Lu specifically choose this night?" Lu Ran asked in curiosity.

Lu Yuan explained, "The Heavenly Grade Other Shore Flower causes a major disturbance, with extremely intense Divine Power fluctuations. If this old one sends the Sect Leader back during human world peace, it might attract the notice of the Dust Shadows."

Lu Ran nodded in understanding, "Got it."

In troubled waters, it is easier to fish!

Lu Yuan added, "This old one will send the Sect Leader to Tianmen Mountain's south in Da Xia Xiangnan Province, how about that?"

"Good!" Lu Ran nodded again.

As long as he returns to the human world, for Lu Ran, traveling anywhere is just a step away.

"Lady." Liu Huo approached with a bamboo tea tray, calling softly.

Since Lu Ran illuminated the map of Cloud Bamboo Gully, many household items had been replaced with bamboo artifacts.

Jiang Ruyi dismissed the guards and personally poured a cup of tea for Lu Yuan, handing it over: "I heard that Elder Lu was forced into the mountain, leaving behind a wife and daughter in the human world.

Should we let Lu Ran take a look and offer some care?"

"I can't thank you enough!" Lady Ran took the initiative to mention it, and Lu Yuan immediately stood up, clasping his hands in salute.

"Please sit down, Senior Lu, no need for this." Lu Ran quickly gestured for him to sit, only asking about his wife and daughter once the elder was seated.

"My wife's name is Wen Lanxin, the 'Lanxin' of refined elegance." Lu Yuan's expression softened slightly when mentioning his wife.

Gentle as jade, refined and elegant.

What a beautiful name.

Lu Ran thought to himself, recalling a delicate bamboo sculpture inside the bamboo house in Cloud Bamboo Gully.

The woman's gentle smile still vivid in memory.

"She is the same age as me. If she is still alive, she would be seventy-four." Lu Yuan's tone was noticeably somber.

Lu Jiang remained silent.

In the face of the passage of time, all words of comfort seem pale and powerless.

Even in peaceful times, no one dares to guarantee that a seventy-four-year-old elder is still alive.

Let alone in the human world, where battles occur monthly.

Subsequently, Lu Yuan described his wife's appearance in detail, but the impression remained from more than thirty years ago.

What would Mrs. Wen Lanxin look like after more than thirty years of hardships?

No one knows.

The atmosphere in the courtyard grew heavy.

After Lu Yuan finished speaking, he fell into silence.

After a long while, Jiang Ruyi personally refilled the elder's tea, her voice slightly softer: "What about Senior Lu's daughter?"

Lu Yuan's expression darkened: "I... do not know my daughter's name."

Jiang Ruyi silently replenished the tea, not speaking further.

Lu Yuan gazed at the lush mountain forest beyond the fence, speaking slowly: "When I entered the mountain, my daughter had just been born. My wife and I hadn't decided on her formal name."

Lu Ran caught onto a word and asked, "Does she have a nickname?"

"Her nickname is Huang'er, the 'Huang' of Phoenix."

Lu Huang'er?

Lu Ran nodded discreetly. Just from the nickname, one could feel the parents' full expectations for their child.

Lu Yuan reminisced about those tender years: "The word 'Huang' is quite grand. My wife and I always debated whether to use this name.

So, we decided to make it her nickname first."

Lu Ran quite agreed.

The word 'Huang' indeed is grand, with a very good meaning.

The king of all birds, also a symbol of auspice.

"If Huang'er is still alive, she would be thirty-seven now." Lu Yuan watched the swaying leaves in the wind, "I wonder if she got married.

If she has her own family and children..."

Lu Ran asked, "Where does Senior Lu live? Also, do you have any relatives or friends, comrades from back then? The more detailed the information, the better, so I can find them."

Lu Yuan was silent for a long time and then spoke: "The last time I returned to the human world, I was directly transported to my doorstep, but it had completely changed.

Just as I wanted to search again, the Divine Power had already found me..."

Lu Ran felt a heaviness in his heart.

Indeed, over thirty years had passed, and the city's buildings, streets, and so on had all changed.

Jiang Ruyi said, "Elder Lu, please describe it in detail."

Lu Yuan recalled everything from more than thirty years ago, much of which had already blurred: "My wife and I are from Xiangnan, once lived in Yueyang City..."

Until the sun hung high, Lu Yuan and Lu Ran agreed to meet again on the fifteenth night, and then he left.

Watching the elder's desolate back, Lu Ran's heart felt a bit uneasy.

Jiang Ruyi softly said: "On this return to the human world, should we bring two Shadow Guards? It will help us find people."

Upon hearing this, the Zhong Family sisters, who were secretly guarding, couldn't help but have their hearts race.

If possible, who wouldn't want to return to the human world for a look?

"Hmm..." Lu Ran pondered briefly.

Shadow Three and Shadow Four could not be brought.

He wasn't doubting their loyalty, but the younger Zhong was rather lively, and Shadow Four had just joined.

Shadow One and Shadow Two, however, were completely fine.

Eldest and second Zhong sister were both calm and composed individuals.

Jiang Ruyi added, "The Shadow Guard Team is only at the River Realm, with a lower Realm, better for communication with ordinary people."

Lu Ran couldn't help but smile and shake his head.

Only at the River Realm?

Only?

Though it doesn't quite sound right, it's indeed quite reasonable.

"Alright then." Lu Ran finally nodded.

Also bring along the Nightmare and Evil Shadow as dual protectors, just in case.

All set!

[Master! Master, do you have time?] Suddenly, a mental voice echoed, sounding exactly like Lu Ran.

[Dawn Blade?] Lu Ran's heart stirred, wondering if the challenge issue at the Pear Garden Sect had been resolved?

[Master, come quickly!]

Lu Ran's heart immediately filled with anxiety, quickly asking: [What happened?]

Dawn Blade's Sword Spirit: [The Martial Emperor won! Beheaded the Hall Master of Tiangang Hall! Mr. Cong Long wants you over immediately, to swallow the Dead Soul.]

Lu Ran: "..."

Do you want to scare me to death!

...

Chapter 699: Human World!

Scared to death!

Lu Ran saw the Dawn Blade so anxious and thought Wu Xiao was in some kind of trouble.

Unexpectedly, it was Wu Xiao who slaughtered the Hall Master of Tiangang... Wait!

Slaughtered?

Is it really okay?

Lu Ran's face was solemn as he looked at Jiang Ruyi beside him: "Wu Xiao won, I'll go check it out."

"Check it out?" Jiang Ruyi asked in confusion.

"Don't worry, I'll go invisible, won't get close." As Lu Ran spoke, his figure had already become transparent.

The Landing Mirror opened and then dissipated, indicating that Lu Ran had already left.

Under the state of Greedy Wolf Divine Technique: Wolf Concealment, Lu Ran was certainly capable of casting spells, it just created some Divine Power fluctuations that might be detected.

When he re-appeared, Lu Ran stood thirty kilometers outside the Pear Garden Sect in the forest.

He flickered rapidly, traveling through the high sky, swiftly approaching the Pear Garden Sect.

The place where the two martial artists fought was easy to find, as Sea Realm Great Powers are capable of destroying heaven and earth, not to mention a fight to the death.

"Goodness~"

Lu Ran stood at a height of a kilometer, clicking his tongue secretly.

On the eastern side of the majestic mountains, the peak was in chaos!

Large stretches of forest were broken, the earth was torn, the mountain body crumbled, and huge rocks were continuously rolling down.

Even more, blazing flames were burning on the battlefield.

Many people were standing both in the sky and on the ground, seemingly watching the battle.

Amidst the pervasive sea of fire, a tall figure was standing crookedly, his body stained with fresh blood, holding a halberd in both hands, trying hard to support himself on the ground.

As if he might collapse at any moment.

No! The halberd's tip, not only was it supporting the ground, but it was also piercing through a man's chest.

On both sides of the man's body, broken iron spears could be seen, presumably shattered in the middle.

Lu Ran used extreme eye power, observing closely from a kilometer up in the air.

So this is the Hall Master of Tiangang?

This man was thin, his mouth and clothes were stained with bright red blood, making his face look even paler.

Those wide-open eyes, pupils already dilated.

A look of dying with remaining grievances.

Was he so unwilling to accept such a result?

Lu Ran closed his eyes, and when he opened them again, he had already opened a pair of lifeless horizontal pupils.

In Lu Ran's vision, another person appeared on the battlefield.

To be precise, it was a Dead Soul.

His body was ethereal, looking insane, his fists and feet penetrating Wu Xiao's flesh repeatedly.

Even though it was futile, he refused to stop.

"Ah! Ahhhh!! I ** you ** ahhh!"

He roared angrily, not only using fists and feet, but even using his mouth to bite Wu Xiao.

This intention of almost wanting to "devour him alive" made the scalp tingle!

Wu Xiao seemed completely unaware of all this.

He stood amid the roaring flames, his chest heaving violently, staring intently at the bones under the halberd, stubbornly refusing to fall.

Like a war god...

"Hoo~"

At this moment, a woman flew over.

Lu Ran couldn't help but raise his eyebrows slightly.

The woman looked around twenty-eight or nine, another imposing character.

She had an upright posture, eyes beneath sword-like eyebrows that should have been sharp yet were full of concern.

She actually matched quite well with the Martial Emperor?

"Uh." Lu Ran quickly shook his head, chasing the thoughts out of his mind.

He was a CP fan of Wu Xiao and Liu Huo!

How could he easily switch sides...

Only to see the woman land beside Wu Xiao, saying something gently, and supported Wu Xiao's shoulder with one hand.

The next scene left Lu Ran somewhat stunned.

Wu Xiao, holding the sky-piercing halberd, actually pierced the corpse and raised it high!

For a moment, large amounts of blood flowed down along the halberd rod, spilling onto the battlefield.

Truly flaunting and intimidating!

[Is it okay?] Lu Ran transmitted his thoughts to the Dawn Blade, asking Yu Changsheng.

At this time, Yu Changsheng was more than a hundred meters above the battlefield, a great distance from Lu Ran.

[In the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, strength is revered, the hierarchy is strict! This is how the Martial Emperor should establish authority.] The Dawn Blade relayed Yu Changsheng's words.

[I'm not talking about this action, but about the act of killing the Hall Master, you guys just came to the Pear Garden Sect, wouldn't this provoke collective fury?]

Yu Changsheng lightly shook his paper fan: [The benefits outweigh the risks. Even if ire is provoked, it would only be those in league with the Hall Master of Tiangang, no harm!]

Besides, this wasn't a sparring match, when the Martial Emperor declared to the entire sect to challenge the Hall Master of Tiangang, the outcome was life or death.

Sect Leader, rest assured, this was understood by all.]

[Hmm.] Lu Ran nodded.

In his sight, Wu Xiao did not refuse the woman's support.

Or rather, Wu Xiao never looked directly at the woman, just like how he never looked at Liu Huo.

The Martial Emperor glared with tiger eyes, awe-inspiring, his gaze swept over the figures in the sky and on the ground.

Meanwhile, in another dimension, the Hall Master of Tiangang was becoming even more furious!

The phantom Dead Soul crazily struck at Wu Xiao's face.

[Sect Leader, proceed cautiously, there are many experts within the Pear Garden Sect, make sure not to be discovered.]

[I am aware.]

Even as he spoke, the woman had supported Wu Xiao and flew away from the battlefield.

Lu Ran waited for a moment before he flickered past.

The Dead Soul wanted to chase after Wu Xiao, to punch, kick, and furiously bite, but was fixed in place by a mysterious force.

He could only watch helplessly as Wu Xiao pierced his skeleton and flew to the elders.

"Damn! Damn!! I *** ahhh!!"

The angry curses, mixed with filthy words, echoed in Lu Ran's ears.

The Hall Master of Tiangang Hall flew backward for over thirty meters before he snapped out of his rage and abruptly turned his head to look behind him.

But there was no one there.

Finally, extreme anger was replaced by fear.

The Hall Master of Tiangang Hall seemed to just then realize that he was already dead!

"No, no... I haven't yet..."

"Haven't enjoyed enough?" A whisper quietly mingled with the crackling of flames consuming the trees.

The Hall Master of Tiangang Hall even thought he was hallucinating.

In the next moment, his unreal body kept contracting, entering a misty world.

He didn't know where he was being taken.

Nor did he know who had spoken that voice.

Roaming in a hazy mist, when he once again saw clearly, he shockingly discovered a stone sculpture of a Great Martial Artist.

"No! No, ahhhhh..."

He, who should have been a devout believer, was unwilling to fall into the embrace of the Divine. It seemed like he fully realized something.

But alas, he could not change anything.

He could only become nourishment for the Fake God Martial Artist Stone Sculpture with full Holy Spirit Energy, merging into it.

Until his soul flew and scattered.

Meanwhile, inside the Pear Garden Sect.

Lu Ran saw Martial Artist disciples coming to extinguish the fire and immediately teleported away.

With one flicker, he was tens of thousands of meters away.

Until in a lush forest, Lu Ran confirmed that there was no one around before activating the Transmission Mirror to return inside the cliff.

"How is it?" Seeing Lu Ran return, Jiang Ruyi immediately asked.

Beside them, Miss Liu Huo perked up her ears.

"The Martial Emperor is truly fierce!" Lu Ran sat down at the stone table with a grin, "The other party was the Hall Master of the Sea Realm Fourth Rank, dear me!

He just cut him down like that..."

Jiang Ruyi understood Liu Huo's expression, clearly more concerned about Wu Xiao's situation, yet dared not ask about the sword at her waist.

Afraid of annoying the Martial Emperor.

Jiang Ruyi asked: "How is Wu Xiao's situation?"

"Looks pretty fierce too, panting heavily, covered in blood..."

Liu Huo's hand shook, spilling quite a bit of hot tea as she was pouring half a cup for Lu Ran.

"Sorry, Sect Leader, I..." Liu Huo hurriedly apologized.

"It's okay." Lu Ran looked at the flustered woman, comforting her, "Maybe it's the enemy's blood. Wu Xiao can still stand steady and has the strength to swagger around!"

Besides, Mr. Cong Long is there with him, who is a Great Sea Realm Physician."

"Mm-hmm." Liu Huo nodded repeatedly.

Lu Ran took the bamboo cup and sipped the tea: "From now on, our Martial Emperor is the Hall Master of Tiangang Hall."

Tiangang...

Isn't it a nice name for a city?

When the Martial Emperor takes over the Pear Garden Sect, he can build an ancient city and name it "Tiangang City."

"By the way, tell Mr. Cong Long later that we are about to return to the Human World." Jiang Ruyi instructed, "Let him be careful and act low-key for the near future."

"Alright." Lu Ran nodded.

Speaking of which, this time capturing a Sea Realm Peak Martial Artist's dead soul may cultivate the stone sculpture to a high level?

Should we activate the Martial Student Divine Sculpture?

Hmm... no rush!

According to Mr. Cong Long's plan, when finally taking control of the Wusheng Sect, there will also be some fighting.

If Lu Ran activates the stone sculpture now, when the battle comes, the Fake God Stone Sculpture will inevitably advance, making his mind buzz.

Let's wait a bit.

Wait until the Pear Garden Sect changes hands and settles down completely.

Just in time for this return to the Human World, to discuss with Lord Immortal Sheep about how to tear the contract without harm.

By then, bind the Martial Emperor with the Fake God Martial Student Stone Sculpture...

...

Two days passed in the blink of an eye, and July 15th arrived on schedule.

On this night, the full moon hung high.

The cold moonlight shone on the earth, casting a layer of ethereal brilliance over the figures in the small courtyard of the Cloud Sea Residence.

"Gulp, gulp..."

Lu Ran held the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd in one hand, guzzling it as he tilted his head back.

Beside him stood several figures.

Lady Ran, Nightmare Guardian, Evil Shadow Guardian, Shadow One, Shadow Two, and a white-haired elder.

"Gulp... burp~"

Lu Ran belched, wiped his mouth with the back of his hand, and looked over at the few people.

The moonlight was dim, highlighting their slightly excited expressions.

Even the usually calm and composed Deng Yuxiang couldn't help herself.

She stretched out her slender fingers and repeatedly wiped the Blood-Drinker Scimitar, again and again, until Lu Ran felt she might spark with her fingertips...

"Come on." Lu Ran held the Treasure Gourd, aiming it at the group.

"Be careful." Jiang Ruyi whispered, her figure steadily shrinking until it was sucked into the small gourd's mouth.

A moment later, the courtyard was empty, leaving only an old and young person.

"Senior Lu, I'm ready."

"Sect Leader." Lu Yuan stepped forward and handed Lu Ran a bamboo slip, "If you find my wife and daughter, this letter..."

"Alright!" Lu Ran carefully put away the bamboo slip.

Lu Yuan said no more, slowly stepping back a few steps and raising his old hand.

"Whoosh!!"

A black Other Shore Flower, carrying a terrifying energy fluctuation, suddenly bloomed.

Lu Ran looked up, viewing the strange flower from within.

Through the illusory petals, he saw the full moon in the night sky.

Human World!

Your Ran Shen... is back!

...

Chapter 700: Lu! Ran?

Xiangnan Land, south of Tianmen Mountain.

On this night of the fifteenth day of July, while the flames of war extend over Da Xia, here lies tranquility.

The evening breeze softly blows, gently swaying the luxuriant forest.

"Hoo!!"

A giant black flower suddenly blooms in the air above the canyon.

Dust Shadow Divine Skill·Other Shore Flower?

In the hands of a Dust Shadow disciple, it indeed becomes a flower, but in terms of the teleportation destination, it should unfold as a teleportation array, a 3D dynamic terrain map!

However, at this moment...

The pitch-black flower is extraordinarily large, as if it could cover the clouds and block the moon.

More eerily, energy surges on the flower, flowing slowly like grains of sand, piecing together phantoms of the mortal world.

One moment there are towering mountains and vast rivers, the next second it turns into a bustling metropolis.

Clouds and blazing sun, starry sky and waning moon.

Magnificent natural scenery suddenly transforms into the living world.

Amid red walls and green tiles, an ancient lady sewing; in a rundown alley, a group of children run and laugh...

The illusory sand continuously flows, dreamlike and fantastical.

And within these phantoms of the mortal world, a mysterious youth wearing a green raincloak and azure bamboo hat suddenly appears.

"Hoo!!"

The towering flower shatters and disappears without a trace.

Gusts of terrifying wind scatter everywhere, causing the trees to tremble.

The mysterious youth levitates in the air, holding the brim of his bamboo hat cautiously to conceal his face while swiftly observing the surroundings.

I... have returned home?

Is this the human world?

Not sure, better take another look...

Above is the full moon of the fifteenth, below is the deep canyon.

Surrounded by dense forest on all sides.

All natural scenery, no signs of human civilization, cannot prove anything.

Lu Ran reaches out with one hand, activating a landing mirror, and steps into it alone.

One step later, he's at his home in Rain Alley.

The familiar small bedroom, a dusty computer desk, a small bed placed against the wall, and the shrine on the cabinet by the window.

And within the shrine, a small divine sculpture.

Looking at the familiar environment, Lu Ran feels as if a lifetime has passed.

His nose tingles a little.

I'm back.

I killed my way back from that cruel Holy Spirit Mountain!!

A full year and a half.

Doesn't sound long, but the myriad experiences on Holy Spirit Mountain are worth a lifetime, aren't they...

"Woo~~~"

A low alarm suddenly sounds, echoing through this wind-battered small city.

Lu Ran slightly widens his eyes.

This alarm sound... he's all too familiar with it!

"Heh." Lu Ran suddenly chuckles.

Oh Rain Alley City, oh Rain Alley City, you're still the same, truly living up to your cursed reputation.

Lu Ran listens with a tilted ear, noticing the alarm sound is short and powerful.

Alternating short and long, the night of ghosts walking.

Short and forceful, the Demon Lord descends!

"The Demon Lord descends, huh..." Lu Ran's expression turns slightly strange.

Is this so-called Demon Lord referring to me?

Lu Ran glances at the small divine sculpture quietly placed inside the shrine and can't help but grin, his figure quietly vanishing.

Greedy Wolf Divine Technique·Wolf Concealment!

Lord Immortal Sheep, wait for me!

Lemme give you a good rundown when I get back~

Lu Ran blinks as he appears in the night sky.

Previously at Tianmen Mountain in Xiangnan Province, he could still see the full moon above. Now back in Rain Alley City, no stars or moon are visible.

Thick dark clouds cover the city's sky, light rain drizzles.

Yes, this is exactly it!

A night with the alarm blaring.

Never-ending dark clouds, ceaseless night rain.

"I'm back, it's all back..." Lu Ran murmurs, flying higher and higher, looking over his hometown.

On the street, a team of Moon Gazers is fighting against the Fog Shadow Man.

The demon made of gray mist tosses a ball of gray mist towards the Red Cloth believer at the front.

The Fog Shadow Man!

Such an "ancient" demon indeed.

Gazing down at the street below, Lu Ran sees both sides struggling weakly, with movements slow as if wading through mud.

Like toddlers learning to walk, having a fight.

Lu Ran's naturally lowered right hand subtly conjures a small paper figure.

In the next moment, the Fog Shadow Man on the street below stiffens.

Strictly speaking, Lu Ran could only crumple the enemy by grasping the paper figure.

Before death, the enemy could move and struggle.

Yet Lu Ran's realm is too high!

The power of the Sea Grade·Vermilion Paper Evil Technique is truly terrifying!

To the point where the Fog Shadow Man is immobilized in place.

Just like how, back then, when Lu Ran experimented on little tabby cats, weak creatures had no chance to struggle.

"Ssh!"

A burly man in Red Cloth deals a fatal blow, slashing the throat of the Fog Shadow Man demon.

Thick clouds of gray mist spray out.

"Haha!" The Red Cloth man laughs heartily, full of vigor, thinking the Fog Shadow Man was too dimwitted to react, unaware someone assisted him.

Lu Ran also smiles.

The young man, honed through trials on Holy Spirit Mountain, has shed his immature demeanor.

Now exceptionally brave, imposing beyond compare!

But his smile is sweet.

Like a child.

He flies beneath the rain and mist, seeking the descending Demon Lord.

Special event·Demon Lord descent?

Heh,

Let me see, which Demon Lord comes to Rain Alley City tonight for the feast?

I'm usually not at home, apologies for not being a good host.

It just so happens today,

that you've come at the perfect time!

Lu Ran flies swiftly, looking down at familiar streets, memories of previous times rushing to his mind.

This small city that gave him life and raised him has become more rundown.

It seems that in the past year and a half, Rain Alley City has endured much wind and rain.

"Sigh..." Lu Ran internally sighs deeply.

[Lu Ran?] A cool voice enters his mind.

[Hmm?] Lu Ran narrows his eyes, seeing the narrow and old overpass again outside Hexi Park.

Memories flood in his mind.

The Big Nightmare clad in a yellow raincoat, wielding a long Night-slaying Great Saber, as she paces forward, the saber's tip constantly clanging against the railing...

Another figure in a yellow raincoat cheerfully follows behind the woman.

Back then, wasn't he shorter than her?

[Have you returned to the human world? No issues, right?] Jiang Ruyi asks with concern.

[Oh, I forgot about you guys.] Lu Ran snaps out of it.

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

[I just got back to Rain Alley City and heard the alarm. A Demon Lord has descended. You guys stay in the gourd for a while, I'm going to check it out.]

[You.....] Jiang Ruyi was both annoyed and amused, but in the end, she still gave a reminder, [Be careful, don't expose yourself, to avoid attracting the attention of the Divines.]

The Pride of Da Xia, once he shows up, this news will inevitably spread nationwide in no time.

Success comes from secrecy!

There is no need to unnecessarily increase risks and add trouble.

"Oh?" Lu Ran's forward motion halted as his gaze locked onto the head of Wu Lie Bridge.

So it's you, kid?

Evil Demon·Blood Disaster Dog!

The Blood Disaster clan can have their strength realm judged by their size.

Three meters is a watershed.

The Blood Disaster Dog rampaging at the bridgehead was over three meters long and clearly a Jiang Realm Evil Demon.

It looked like a wolf dog, its entire body covered in jet-black fur, its eyes glowed crimson, and flames spewed from its mouth.

It also had blood-red patterns all over its body, both shocking and eerie.

"Quite ferocious, huh..."

Lu Ran smirked, watching the enormous wolf dog spew flames all around.

"Woof! Woof woof!" The Blood Disaster Dog roared with its bloody maw agape.

Fiery whips lashed out from the blood-red patterns on its body, madly whipping everything around it.

"Crack! Crack! Crack!"

The fiery whips shattered the ground, leaving flame lines on the asphalt that even the rain couldn't extinguish.

Blood Disaster Evil Technique·Blood Pattern Fire!

"Retreat, quick retreat!"

"Be careful!"

"Captain Ge is on his way! Everyone, hang in there..." The Moon Gazers shouted loudly, constantly resisting and retreating, the battle situation was extremely critical.

"Woof!" The Blood Disaster Dog lunged forward fiercely.

Flames gushed from its mouth, about to spray towards the crowd.

Lu Ran frowned slightly, noticing the Lotus Shield from the Sword Lotus Sect and the Wumu Shield from the Bi Wu Sect within the Moon Gazer team seemed unreliable.

Facing a Jiang Realm Evil Demon, Lu Ran's Sea Grade·Paper Craft could mash it into a flesh ball, but couldn't pin it down.

The mighty Vast River's physical strength was still present.

Lu Ran didn't hesitate either, his figure flashing.

He directly appeared beneath the Blood Disaster Dog, lying flat, closely stuck to its belly.

"Huh?" The Blood Disaster Dog was startled.

It was still airborne, unsure of what the hell was under it.

An invisible person stretched out an invisible hand, pressing it against the dog's belly.

Sea Grade Evil Technique·Silk Thread!

The blood-red pupils of the Blood Disaster Dog contracted tightly!

Its body was completely uncontrollable; after a stumbling landing, it continued to rampage, pouncing left and right.

"Huh?"

The Blood Disaster Dog was completely bewildered.

What?

Who's controlling my body to bite people?

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

You call yourself a Demon Lord, and what am I?

Inside this Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd of mine, there are still 5 Great Demon Lords!

Two Rivers, Three Seas!

If summoned, you'd be scared into acting like a little puppy...

"Woof!" The Blood Disaster Dog's intelligence was low, its beast nature was fierce, even when self-consumed it mindlessly sprayed a massive pillar of fire towards the crowd.

Lu Ran, no doubt, was an exceptional actor.

To make the show realistic, he did not use Evil Technique·Tangled Silk. The Blood Disaster Dog's body was controlled, but it could still perform magic.

However, in the next moment, it suddenly raised its head, the fire column spraying straight into the night sky!

Blood Disaster Dog: ???

"Such a wild beast!"

"Damn arrogant!" Several Moon Gazers cursed angrily.

With the Human Clan close in sight, the Blood Disaster Dog wasn't in a hurry to hunt them, instead, it sprayed fire into the sky, flaunting its evil might?

"Foul beast, die!" A Sword Lotus Disciple, seizing the opportunity from a distance, summoned a string of Lotus Flying Swords from a blooming lotus to stab at the dog's head.

"Swish! Swish! Swish..."

The blades pierced the flesh!

Everyone was dumbfounded.

The Sword Lotus Disciple was also stunned!

The Lotus Flying Swords... actually hit?

The Blood Disaster Dog, in the midst of its wild rampage, didn't dodge?

A string of Lotus Flying Swords pierced in from the left side of the dog's head and flew out the right side, the inertia lifting the massive Blood Disaster Dog slightly off the ground before it crashed back down heavily.

The pair of crimson beast eyes gradually lost their light.

Just... died?

The dignified Jiang Realm Demon Lord, was slain by a Sword Lotus Disciple, who was merely at the River Realm·First Rank and had only recently joined the Divine People Bureau?

"Good!!"

"Beautiful! Hahaha! Brothers, awesome!"

"Great achievement! Xiao Zhang, a huge accomplishment, slaying a Jiang Realm Demon Lord!"

"After tonight, kid, you can go right to becoming full-time!" A group of Moon Gazers gathered around, patting the Sword Lotus youth on the shoulder, excitedly ruffling his hair.

The young man remained in a daze, constantly muttering "a lucky chance."

At this moment, an Ice Butterfly Disciple arrived with Ge Bin, seeing the already dead Jiang Realm Demon Lord, and Captain Ge was also full of shock.

This...?

"Captain Ge! Xiao Zhang killed the Jiang Realm Demon Lord, it's Zhang Zheng, who just got into the bureau last month! Hahahaha!"

The night of July 15th seemed not suitable for hearty laughter.

But for the warriors risking their lives, their mirth shouldn't be overly suppressed.

The laughter drifted far away.

Drifting up into the night sky, into Lu Ran's ears.

He bore a smile as well, looking down at the city beneath...

Captain Ge is still the same, hasn't changed a bit.

I wonder how Sun Zhengfang and Wei Long are doing, I'll look for them later.

[Lu Ran?] Suddenly, a voice imprinted into his mind.

Lu Ran's body trembled.

It's been too long.

He hadn't heard this voice in too long.

Divine-Immortal Goat!

[Lu Ran?] The transmission came again, with a hint of surprise.

In Lu Ran's impression, Lord Immortal Goat's voice was always deep.

Very dignified.

Not this startled way it was now.

Lu Ran chuckled hehehe, standing tall in the high sky, gathering his thoughts:

"Lord Immortal Goat, long time no see."

[You... how did you return?]

"Uh?" Lu Ran's heart stirred greatly.

Opportunity!

Always digging into people's plastic bags, today heaven presents an opportunity, it mustn't be missed!

Lu Ran scratched his head, his smile a bit shy: "Just... swoosh, and I'm back~"

Immortal Goat: ???