

Old Gods 701

Chapter 701: Goodbye, General Yang

Ah~ So comfortable~

Lu Ran enjoyed it for a while before realizing there was no sound from the other side for quite some time.

He felt a bit anxious and timidly inquired, "Lord Immortal Sheep?"

[Heh.] The response was a cold laugh.

"Uh." Lu Ran instinctively shrank his neck.

The cold laughter of the Sheep General is still as terrifying as ever...

Lu Ran opened his Pupil of the Dead World, watching the Blood Disaster Dog's lingering soul flickering in the night sky.

After the Soul Binding, Lu Ran instantly teleported back to his home, standing respectfully in front of the small shrine, with his hands folded: "Lord Immortal Sheep, long time no see!"

[You're only at the Initial Stage of the Sea Realm, how did you come back?] A deep voice echoed in his mind.

Only Sea Realm?

Lu Ran pouted.

The Sea Realm Second Rank is already quite formidable, okay? In the Human World, I can walk sideways!

[Hmm?] A slightly raised nasal sound, carrying a questioning tone.

The familiar sense of pressure is back!

Tsk tsk~

No matter if it's a river or sea, in front of Lord Immortal Sheep, it really makes no difference from a small fry?

Lu Ran sighed inwardly and said, "Disciple has taken on a subordinate, he is a Heavenly Realm Dust Shadow Believer.

I... I kind of missed you, so I had my subordinate send me back."

[Hehe.] The Immortal Sheep suddenly laughed.

Not sure if it was out of speechlessness or out of being amused.

Lu Ran immediately added, "It's true, disciple really missed Lord Immortal Sheep!"

Immortal Sheep: "..."

This time, Lu Ran also stayed silent, standing stubbornly in front of the shrine.

A long while later, the god transmitted the message again: [Hmph, you sure know how to take shortcuts.]

Lu Ran felt like rolling his eyes.

This person, how unyielding... uh, this sheep simply won't budge!

Hmm, tomorrow I'll go eat lamb skewers.

Sprinkle some salt, the sizzling oily kind.

[Is your heart's desire for the Divine Ruins amusing to you?] The transmitted voice descended again, carrying a hint of amusement.

Lu Ran fell silent.

Amusing?

It's practically a kind of purgatory!

Not to mention those lowly Weak God disciples struggling to survive, even when Lu Ran first entered the mountain, he was tricked again and again.

[Have you seen the true nature of this world?]

"I've realized some things." Lu Ran finally spoke, turning his gaze to the window, "People think they're resisting the invasion of Evil Demons, but in reality, Gods and Demons are all in cahoots.

After the Evil Demons wreak havoc, people will be even more devoted to the All Gods, offering worship day and night.

The Human Clan is just livestock reared by the joint effort of Gods and Demons."

"Roar!!"

Roaring sounds came from afar, another Evil Demon had appeared in the neighborhood.

Lu Ran instead withdrew his gaze, not paying attention to the outside window.

[You have grown a lot.] Rarely, Lord Immortal Sheep gave a positive evaluation.

Lu Ran smiled, but his smile was somewhat bitter.

He didn't realize that a fiercely burning Black Fire Sheep Head had already appeared in the God Demon Sculpture Garden.

Lord Immortal Sheep's positive evaluation earlier was not about Lu Ran's understanding, but about this Sculpture Garden.

[Your sculptures have been nurtured well, killed a lot of people?]

Lu Ran pursed his lips, after a while, he finally said softly, "All those killed were villains."

The Lord God let out a snort of laughter, indifferent to whether they were good or bad people: [Your growth rate at Holy Spirit Mountain is faster, if you wish to achieve something soon, you shouldn't be attached to the Human World.]

Lu Ran: "..."

Too strict, aren't you?

Do you know what the disciple went through at Holy Spirit Mountain!

I struggled painstakingly, barely making it back from that sea of blood and mountain of corpses...

Before he could say a few words, I'm being urged to leave?

[What, dissatisfied?]

"I wouldn't dare, wouldn't dare." Lu Ran quickly shook his head, his thoughts racing, "Disciple... Disciple has many confusions, urgently needing to seek guidance from Lord Immortal Sheep, which is why I came back."

[Not because you miss home, your family?]

Lu Ran's face was slightly embarrassed: "That is part of the reason... but the disciple indeed has serious matters."

[Speak.] A solitary word, sounding cold and indifferent.

Truly cold and heartless!

Fine, the day after tomorrow I'll eat lamb skewers too.

Lu Ran mumbled inwardly, picking up the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, probing to the side.

"Hoo~" Shadows appeared one by one.

Even though the protectors and Shadow Guards all had wonderful figures, Lu Ran's room was too small, making it inevitably seem a bit crowded.

The few didn't mind these things, they quickly surveyed the surroundings, the modern furnishings and decor leaving everyone somewhat in a daze.

The Human World!

It truly is the Human World...

Shadow One and Shadow Two suppressed their inner excitement, looking outside the window, witnessing the dim streetlights in the pouring night rain of the neighborhood.

"Lord Immortal Sheep." Jiang Ruyi spoke softly, kneeling properly in front of the shrine.

Lady Ran was like this, and the others also knelt to pay their respects.

The lofty god naturally could not manifest.

The Human Clan's respectful kneeling was met with only a solemn silence.

Only after Lu Ran spoke, did the others rise and leave, carefully closing the room door.

Lu Ran still stood with hands folded in front of the shrine: "Lord Immortal Sheep, disciple has created a force within Holy Spirit Mountain..."

Lu Ran briefly explained the situation of the Ran Sect.

And pointed out that he had already had some people sign the Inheritance Contract with the Pseudo-God Stone Sculpture, transforming into inheritors.

Lu Ran said a lot, and the Immortal Sheep just blandly replied one sentence:

[The road is one you walk yourself.]

Regarding the Ran Sect established by Lu Ran, including the many Jianghai Great Powers recruited by the Ran Sect, Lord Immortal Sheep seemed not to care much.

Ever since their meeting, the only positive evaluation the domineering Sheep General gave to Lu Ran was after witnessing the thriving stone sculptures in the God Demon Sculpture Garden.

"I walked this path myself," Lu Ran nodded heavily.

Since signing the contract on the God Worship Platform, Lord Immortal Sheep had only given Lu Ran a couple of suggestions in the early stages of his growth.

For example, activating the Evil Sculpture-Evil Dog.

It was precisely this evil sculpture that greatly increased Lu Ran's chances of survival.

In the days that followed, Lord Immortal Sheep always instilled a concept in Lu Ran:

Your path, you walk it yourself!

"The people chosen by the disciple have all been assessed and deemed trustworthy. They are loyal to the Ran Sect; we have common goals."

After a pause, Lu Ran continued, "Currently, there's an issue. Some disciples of mid to high rank Sea Realm, even those at the Sea Realm Peak, if they forcibly break the contract, will suffer severe backlash.

Disciple wishes to seek advice on how to break the contract without harm?"

Immortal Sheep snorted coldly: [Since you know you are the weak, do you still delude yourself into thinking you can fully retreat in front of the Divine with a lowly servant's status?]

Lu Ran pursed his lips.

Too long without communication, he almost forgot how cold the domineering sheep could be.

[Now, you know what to do.]

"Huh?" Lu Ran was a bit baffled.

Know... what?

After a long silence without a word from Lord Immortal Sheep, Lu Ran tentatively asked, "Would it trouble Lord Immortal Sheep to act, from a divine perspective, to sever the contract threads for the Ran Sect warriors?"

Though he said so, Lu Ran held a pessimistic attitude toward this method.

Senior Lu Yuan had already proven through actions that "sneakily returning to the human world" would bring about a devastating disaster!

Unless Lord Immortal Sheep has another divine ability, to hide these people from the eyes and ears of all gods?

[I take back what I said earlier.]

Lu Ran blinked: "What?"

[You have grown much.]

Lu Ran: "..."

All right all right, three meals!

Lamb skewers!

[After returning to Holy Spirit Mountain, think carefully about what I just said. Now, bring your people to Luoxian Mountain.] The transmission ended with an undeniable tone.

Lu Ran's heart tightened!

Lord Immortal Sheep... Is he sending me back?

[What, unwilling? Still want to see this Rain Alley City?]

Lu Ran immediately said, "This time, disciple's return to the human world indeed has other matters. Disciple plans to bring the partners left in the human world to Holy Spirit Mountain as well.

Rather than having the Divine throw them into the mountains, exposing corpses in the wilderness, I'd rather take them away myself!"

[Hmm.] Immortal Sheep responded faintly.

It seemed to somewhat approve of Lu Ran's clarity.

Lu Ran clasped his hands together and bowed, "I implore Lord Immortal Sheep to give disciple some time."

This time, the Divine did not respond further.

It seemed to have allowed it tacitly.

Lu Ran patiently waited for a moment, then said, "Actually, disciple's return this time has many questions, for instance, the Heavenly Realm..."

[That disciple of the Heavenly Realm-Dust Shadow did not inform you of the situation above the Cloud Sea.] It should have been a question, but Immortal Sheep's tone was rather certain.

It seemed that from the previous conversation, Divine-Immortal Sheep had already deduced Lu Ran's ignorance of the Heavenly Realm's situation?

"No," Lu Ran shook his head, "he was afraid of displeasing you, so he dared not inform me."

[If so, why do you still ask?]

Lu Ran: "..."

Immortal Sheep spoke sternly, rarely saying a long passage: [The path is walked by oneself! You need to personally ascend the Cloud Sea and explore the essence of this world.

With your own vision, recognize this world.

From your own perspective, contemplate how to interact with this world.

Rather than listening to outsiders tell you what is the cloud, and what is the sea.]

Lu Ran slightly parted his lips.

Lord Immortal Sheep is indeed domineering and indeed cold.

But rarely loses temper.

Including now, Lord Immortal Sheep should not be angry, but the particularly solemn words made Lu Ran secretly apprehensive.

So, has my understanding of the world always been somewhat biased?

This...?

[Go, do what you must do.] Immortal Sheep's tone eased a bit, with a faint hint of sarcasm, [Sea Realm Second Rank... huh.]

Lu Ran: "..."

In the pitch-black room, it fell into a long silence.

"Disciple... understands." After a long time, Lu Ran properly bowed and left.

When he walked out of the small house, he found several people were doing a major cleanup.

By the window light, Jiang Ruyi saw Lu Ran's grave face and also sensed his heavy heart.

Jiang Ruyi immediately approached, concerned, "Did Lord Immortal Sheep scold you?"

Lu Ran nodded, then shook his head.

It was more of a spur, an expectation perhaps.

Jiang Ruyi, naturally unaware of the conversation inside the room, just hadn't seen Lu Ran like this for a long time.

She extended her fair jade hand, gently holding Lu Ran's palm, silently comforting him.

Lu Ran sighed deeply, quickly composed himself, and started speaking about the main matter: "By the way, I asked just now how to break the contract without harm.

It seems like Lord Immortal Sheep gave me the answer, but I didn't understand it."

"What did Lord Immortal Sheep say?" Jiang Ruyi asked immediately.

"More or less, it means... the weak, lowly servants, cannot fully retreat in front of the Divine." Lu Ran frowned tightly, "But directly bringing people back and asking for Lord Immortal Sheep's help seems unfeasible."

Jiang Ruyi pondered, "Then let the servants not be lowly anymore."

"Hm?" Lu Ran's mind flashed with insight, "Let the Human Clan sign a contract with the Evil Sculptures in the Sculpture Garden, becoming an inheritor?"

In this way, wouldn't the identity of the Human Clan change?

[The young can be taught.]

The succinct four words made Lu Ran shiver.

He turned to look in the direction of the small house, nearly tearing up.

Oh, my domineering sheep, you finally praised me!

Goodness~

This scolding almost made me lose consciousness...

...

Chapter 702: Our Name

One servant cannot serve two masters.

You cannot become a believer of two deities at the same time.

Similarly, the role of an inheritor is also exclusive.

You cannot become the inheritor of two Pseudo-God Stone Sculptures simultaneously.

However, the roles of inheritor and servant can coexist, just like Deng Yuxiang!

She is both the genuine embodiment of the Pseudo-God Night Charm (Inheritance Contract) and an Immortal Sheep Believer (Master-Servant Contract).

Of course, for these two contracts to coexist in one person, the "master" in the Master-Servant Contract must be a True God with a divine position in the world.

The Stone Sculptures within Lu Ran's Sculpture Garden are all Pseudo-Gods, not qualified and exclusive.

These are what Lu Ran dares to try and can try.

Taking Deng Yuxiang as an example, it's precisely because she worships the Divine-Immortal Goat that Lu Ran dares to make her the Pseudo-God Night Charm.

If Deng Yuxiang were still a North Wind believer like before, how could Lu Ran dare to operate like this?

He fears the Divine-North Wind discovering something amiss about Deng Yuxiang's identity!

But according to Lord Immortal Sheep's meaning, if one wants to break the Master-Servant Contract without injury...

Can one first become the inheritor of a Pseudo-God Stone Sculpture?

Will the Divine not discover this?

"Lord Immortal Sheep..." Lu Ran expressed his doubts toward the direction of the small house.

The Immortal Sheep replied contently: [In the Human World, this method surely wouldn't work. But after you enter the Divine Ruins, the Godly whip cannot reach.]

At this point, the Immortal Sheep changed the topic: [Did you establish the Ran Sect in the Holy Spirit Mountain and take in many believers?]

Lu Ran immediately nodded, "Yes, nearly two hundred disciples."

[Contact them.]

"Alright." Lu Ran immediately closed his eyes, attempting to establish contact with the Feixian Hall's Hall Master, Song Yu.

However, it was impossible to contact them!

After returning to the Human World, Lu Ran completely lost his control over the Ran Sect disciples in the Holy Spirit Mountain.

And it wasn't just that!

As the Master of Divine Weapon, Lu Ran also attempted to contact his Divine Weapon, the Dawn Blade.

Still no success.

Lu Ran could only vaguely sense that the Dawn Blade still existed, but that was it.

Communication through speech, location information, etc., were all impossible!

"It's not working." Lu Ran's expression became somewhat complex as he turned to look at Jiang Ruyi.

After entering the mountain, she first broke the Master-Servant Contract and then signed the Inheritance Contract with a Pseudo-God Stone Sculpture.

For this, she even lost some progress.

Jiang Ruyi, smart as ice and snow, gently squeezed Lu Ran's hand, "It's never wrong to be cautious."

Just as the comforting words of his fiancée fell, Lord Immortal Sheep's message descended:

[Before you challenged the Divine Ruins, I already informed you that in the realm after the Divine Ruins, you can act as you please.]

"I understand, Master." Lu Ran lowered his head and said softly.

Seeing Lu Ran in this manner, the Immortal Sheep's tone softened somewhat: [You don't have to be this way. Since it's an extraordinary matter, you should indeed be prudent.]

"Yes... hmm?" Lu Ran suddenly thought of something, "Back then, how did Lord Immortal Sheep remind Jiang Ruyi about me being by the sea?"

[You are not a True God yet and do not have a divine position. There is indeed a slight difference in our control over the community of believers.]

The Immortal Sheep's tone softened a bit, then said sternly: [But when I told you, you could act as you please, it meant you could!]

"Alright." Lu Ran nodded.

Indeed, Lord Immortal Sheep merely gave Jiang Ruyi a single word—sea.

The information was very vague.

After pondering for a moment, Lu Ran gently freed his hand from Jiang Ruyi's, stepped back into the small house, and closed the door.

He approached the shrine, clasped his hands again, and lowered his head, saying, "Lord Immortal Sheep, I have always had a question."

[Speak.]

"I have my soldiers sign the Inheritance Contract with the Stone Sculptures with the clear goal of replacing the God Demon and seizing the Divine Position."

Lu Ran paused, then continued, "Lord Immortal Sheep once said, I am the Master of Gods and Demons. I can indeed steal the power of Gods and Demons and freely use all the techniques of the Stone Sculptures in the Sculpture Garden.

But my own Divine Position...

Is my mission just to constantly cultivate the Stone Sculptures to improve my own strength?"

A dead silence followed these words.

Lu Ran waited quietly for a long time, long enough to think the Immortal Sheep had left.

He couldn't help but call out, "Lord Immortal Sheep?"

[I.]

One solitary word imprinted itself in Lu Ran's mind.

"Ah?" Lu Ran looked up at the shrine.

[Back on the God Worship Platform, the contract I made with you was not a lowly Master-Servant Contract.]

Lu Ran's eyes widened slightly.

He clearly realized something.

[You are also an inheritor. Isn't the Sculpture Garden in your spiritual world obvious enough?]

The White Sheep Jade Carving in the small shrine, its head quietly turned black, and those lifeless horizontal pupils stared fixedly at Lu Ran, one word at a time:

[The one you will ultimately replace is me.]

"Lord... Lord Immortal Sheep..."

[I hope all this happens before I dissipate.]

Lu Ran's mind buzzed, circling back to the original topic.

Lord Immortal Sheep had long said it would gradually dissipate...

And would ultimately perish.

"Why, Lord Immortal Sheep?" Lu Ran couldn't help but ask, "All gods are pure energy bodies and can live as long as there is the Power of Faith. Why would you dissipate?"

"Or is there some way to stop all this? I'll go..."

[Do you really think I'm the Divine-Immortal Goat as the world sees me?] The Divine's tone noticeably softened significantly.

Lu Ran shook his head.

From every perspective, "Lord Immortal Sheep" is not the Divine-Immortal Goat.

[Do what you must, Lu Ran.]

[When you have enough strength and a thorough understanding of this world... I will tell you my name.]

[Our name.]

Lu Ran's heart skipped a beat: "Our name?"

[You are my inheritor, aren't you?]

Lu Ran quickly said, "I..."

[Go.] The gentle tone returned to normal, leaving no room for argument.

Lu Ran was silent for a long time, silently bowed, and turned to leave the room.

Once again, Jiang Ruyi saw Lu Ran return with a worried expression.

The emotions of the Yangyang Sea affected the surrounding environment, and anyone could feel that Lu Ran's mood was even heavier than the last time he came out.

This time, Jiang Ruyi did not inquire any further.

She simply stepped forward and suggested, "The master bedroom has already been tidied up. Go and rest well.

However, staying at home for too long isn't very safe as the Moon Gazer will keep patrolling.

Once the Evil Demon retreats, we'll go to Luoxian Mountain."

Why not go now?

Because Luoxian Mountain is where the true form of the Immortal Sheep resides, with immense energy, which would attract a lot of Evil Demons.

Tonight, Luoxian Mountain is bound to be battle-ridden and heavily guarded.

It is not convenient for everyone to go there at this time.

"Hmm..." Lu Ran pondered for a moment and looked at the woman, "Your family."

"I can't just show up unannounced," Jiang Ruyi calmly analyzed, "My family still has a small Jade Talisman god statue."

Even though the Divine is high above and unlikely to pay attention to Jiang Ruyi's household. But as she said before: being cautious is not wrong.

While speaking, Jiang Ruyi's beautiful eyes glanced over everyone present.

The intention was clear.

Your homes also have small devotional statues of various gods, so you all are forbidden from going home!

And Lady Ran's gaze lingered for a moment specifically on the Nightmare Guardian.

Deng Yuxiang was the most special person present.

She withdrew from the North Wind Sect while in the human world.

Moreover, she was the one whom Lord Immortal Sheep personally severed the contract thread under Lord Beifeng's nose.

For this "lowly" Human Clan believer, Lord Immortal Sheep apologized profusely and humbly.

That scene is still a hurdle in the hearts of both Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang.

Just thinking about it is infuriating!

"The small North Wind stone sculpture at my home has long been thrown away." Deng Yuxiang sat on the sofa, lifting her long legs and resting them on the coffee table, allowing Yan Shuangzi to wipe the floor under her feet.

That appearance was truly...

The Ran Sect's chief protector is bullying someone!

"However, if acting cautiously, I shouldn't return home either." Deng Yuxiang felt a slight pinch on her calf from her best friend, so she curled her legs and nestled on the sofa, "Yutang knows my whereabouts."

Deng Yutang has always been a Red Cloth believer, and still is today.

Including Deng Yuxiang's sister-in-law Bai Manni and Lu Ran's sister Little Yuanxi, they were all witnesses back then.

If Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang impulsively appeared in front of these people, it would indeed be inappropriate.

Jiang Ruyi gently nodded and murmured, "We need to have Little Yuanxi, Yutang, and the others first shift allegiance to the Immortal Sheep Sect."

A house filled with world-destroying Yangyang Sea perfectly encapsulated what it means to "walk on thin ice."

Caution to the extreme!

"Hmm." Lu Ran also nodded.

Summoning them to Luoxian Mountain and having Lord Immortal Sheep assist in severing the contract shouldn't be a major issue.

Unlike the Big Nightmare, the realms of strength for Deng Yutang, Tian Tian, and others shouldn't be high, making it unlikely they'll garner much attention from the Divine.

Moreover, this time, Lord Immortal Sheep is not blatantly tearing up the contract in front of the other Divine.

To put it bluntly: even if Deng Yutang's contract is destroyed, those high and mighty Divines might not even notice!

This isn't just Lu Ran's wild speculation.

In a sense, he is also a Divine, with almost two hundred disciples under him.

He introspects that if a disciple of the Ran Sect died, Lu Ran wouldn't likely notice either.

Unless he paid special attention!

Lu Ran has less than two hundred believers, so how numerous are the believers of the Divines in the world?

It's impossible to keep track even if they wanted to...

Thinking about this, Lu Ran quietly said, "Tonight, I've already disturbed Lord Immortal Sheep for a long time.

After we go to Luoxian Mountain, I'll seek Lord Immortal Sheep again."

Deng Yuxiang, seeing Lu Ran's expression, comforted him, "If Lord Immortal Sheep is unwilling to accept or pay attention to these matters, it's okay, you don't need to feel troubled.

When we return to Holy Spirit Mountain, have Shadow One knock Yutang out, stash him in a gourd, and take him away.

Once back at Holy Spirit Mountain, he's yours. You can do as you wish."

Lu Ran: ???

Forcefully, huh!

You really are a good sister, huh!

Poor Brother Deng~

Your sister said so; I can do whatever I want...

...

Chapter 703: Sister Ruyi?

The 19th day of the seventh lunar month, the first day of the city's reopening.

In Rain Alley City, in an ordinary residential house.

A middle-aged couple was putting on shoes at the doorway, and the woman kept reminding them: "Mom and Dad are going to work now, be good at home alone."

"Okay, okay." A petite short-haired girl nodded with a face full of obedience.

The middle-aged woman put on her high heels, turned her head to see her daughter's charming and lovely appearance, and couldn't help but look with affectionate eyes: "Don't open the door to strangers, okay?"

"Don't nag." The man said with a hearty laugh, "Our Tian Tian is a Sword Lotus believer, very powerful, right?"

Tian Tian seemed a bit embarrassed, protesting, "Oh, Dad!"

"Haha." The man chuckled lightly and turned to leave the house.

Tian Tian, clearly a twenty-year-old young lady, was often a strong warrior entering Demon Cave, guarding the city on nights of the fifteenth!

Yet, the couple still treated their daughter as a child.

Perhaps it was due to Tian Tian's charming appearance or her introverted personality.

Tian Tian watched her parents leave until they disappeared at the staircase corner, then gently closed the door.

"Click~"

Tian Tian was locking the door while sighing.

Summer vacation was soon ending, and she had to go back to school. She wondered how Chang Ying was doing now.

How was Manni recovering after childbirth...

"Buzz~Buzz~"

A sound of phone vibration came from the bedroom.

Tian Tian returned to her senses, bouncing her small short legs, and ran back to the bedroom, picking up the phone from the computer desk.

At the next moment, Tian Tian's almond eyes slightly widened.

In the message list, appeared a person she hadn't contacted in a long, long time.

That WeChat avatar, Tian Tian had secretly looked at countless times during the deep quiet of night.

It was at Wu Lie Riverside under the moonlight, a tall girl in a white dress, with a calm expression, quietly gazing at the river water.

"Sister Ruyi..."

Tian Tian murmured, holding the phone with her small hands, trembling somewhat.

How long had it been?

A year? Or two years?

The chat box mostly consisted of messages from Tian Tian, with the other party rarely responding.

Especially in the past year, there were only messages from Tian Tian; Sister Ruyi had not responded anymore.

Gradually, Tian Tian sent fewer messages.

Understanding not to disturb the other.

She and Sister Ruyi... seemed never to have been on the same path.

In high school, Jiang Ruyi was the school's big figure, a renowned scholar, the recognized Jiang Beauty.

That elegance and brilliance were something Tian Tian could only glance at from a distance, making her inwardly feel inferior.

But later, due to unexpected twists.

She joined Jiang Ruyi's team, thus gaining a gentle Sister Ruyi.

However,

They were ultimately not on the same path.

Just happened to be grouped together, spending part of the senior year together.

After graduation, they were destined to part ways.

Sister Ruyi didn't stay at Wulie River University for long, just after school started, she left for Luoxian Mountain, and later became a Great Power of the River Realm.

Became the lofty Human World Sect Master's Lady.

Such noble identities were simpler for Tian Tian: Sister Ruyi reverted to the high school era, the unreachable Jiang Goddess.

Drifting further and further apart.

And now today, Jiang Ruyi actually sent a message?

"Sister Ruyi..." Tian Tian whispered, both nervous and expectant, small hands tapping to open the chat box.

A cold string of words came into view:

Wu Lie Riverside community, second building rooftop.

Confidential.

"Hmm." Tian Tian read it over and over, confirming again that the message was sent by Jiang Ruyi, then looked at the wardrobe.

She hurried forward, quickly changed clothes.

Meanwhile, at Wu Lie Riverside, on a shabby rooftop.

A tall figure stood at a corner of the rooftop, she wore a duckbill hat, casually draped a white knitted sweater, wore a white T-shirt and jeans, and had on a pair of white skate shoes.

Though the outfit was ordinary, compared to retro-style long dresses, it better showcased the figure.

Especially those high-waisted jeans!

Made those long legs look even more elongated...

"Hmm?" Jiang Ruyi slightly turned her head.

With a faint energy fluctuation, Lu Ran silently appeared.

"Well, well~" Lu Ran clicked his tongue secretly.

Returning to the Human World had been three days, and Lu Jiang had already changed into modern clothing.

But every time he saw her, Lu Ran's eyes would light up!

And light up again...

For Lu Ran, the knitted sweater draped over his girlfriend's shoulders was truly annoying!

Without this piece of clothing, he could feast his eyes more, see her proud body lines, see her little waist...

"Tian Tian received the message?" Jiang Ruyi extended her hand, waving her slender fingers before Lu Ran's eyes.

"Ah!" Lu Ran came to his senses, "She received it, and then she hurriedly opened the wardrobe. I saw her about to change clothes, so I quickly came back."

Jiang Ruyi smiled and gave Lu Ran a sideways glance.

Consider you honest!

Not to mention, the Greedy Wolf Divine Technique·Wolf Concealment is simply a criminal Divine Skill!

In combination with the Instant Teleportation Technique, it results in two big words:

Invincible!

No exaggeration, Lu Ran in modern society is purely a troublemaker...

Luckily, he's not a villain.

Otherwise, things would truly be messed up.

"Of course~" Lu Ran grinned, "Has daddy finished eating?"

Jiang Ruyi looked at the railing in the corner of the rooftop, where there was a box of milk and a piece of bread: "It's only been a few minutes, let's wait a bit more."

"No worries, he eats quickly." Lu Ran stepped forward and picked up the milk.

Jiang Ruyi dissatisfaction slapped Lu Ran, scolding lightly: "Put it back."

Lu Ran: "..."

Alright then.

Lu Ran placed the milk box back on the railing, turned around, and sat down leaning against the stone wall.

Dirty, it's okay.

This kind of dust will soon be "washed" clean by the Water Flow Armor.

He looked up at his girlfriend: "It's still summer now, late August in the solar calendar, aren't you hot wearing a sweater?"

Jiang Ruyi seemed to see through Lu Ran's little scheme, glanced at him lightly, then looked at her phone:

"Do you think Tian Tian will agree to go with me?"

Lu Ran thought for a moment and said: "She should, she really admires you and quite relies on you."

Jiang Ruyi pursed her lips, muttering softly: "After ascending to the River Realm, towards my former teammates..."

"That's not your problem, don't blame yourself." Lu Ran's voice softened, comforting his girlfriend, "This path to ascension is one of gradually shedding human color.

Moreover, back then you were always nestled in the mountains, focused solely on cultivating and improving."

"Hm." Jiang Ruyi responded softly.

Under the system of divine and demonic powers, she was indeed the normal cultivator.

The abnormal one was instead Lu Ran!

He still cared.

"I..." Lu Ran was about to say something more, but paused slightly, listened attentively for a moment.

Soon after, Lu Ran's figure became invisible.

He couldn't appear before Tian Tian, but Jiang Ruyi could.

After all, ever since Jiang Ruyi joined the Immortal Sheep Sect·Luoxian Mountain, she had gradually severed ties with the outside world.

This behavior, instead, became an excellent "buffer zone."

Subsequently, no one knew Jiang Ruyi was summoned by the Divine·Jade Talisman and thrown into the Holy Spirit Mountain.

"Ha... ha..."

A petite figure ran onto the rooftop, panting and looking around.

Tian Tian blinked and indeed saw a familiar yet unfamiliar back in the corner of the rooftop.

More unfamiliar than familiar.

Jiang Ruyi had changed so much.

The girl just over 1.7 meters tall in high school was now 1.77 meters.

Her ponytail falling from the back of her cap now reached her waist, instead of just hanging down her back as it did before.

What made Tian Tian hesitate to recognize was the powerful aura the woman exuded.

So different from the gentle Sister Ruyi of the past.

"Sister Ruyi?" Tian Tian cautiously called.

Jiang Ruyi slightly turned, a gentle smile on her face: "Come."

"Um." Tian Tian's heart fluttered, and her just flushed face from running turned slightly pale, instinctively stepping back.

Jiang Ruyi turned away, back to the girl, and said softly: "I scared you."

You could feel that Tian Tian was just at the River Realm, yet to take the first step of Becoming a God.

Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi having stayed long on the Holy Spirit Mountain, would have a tendency to feel the whole world was River Realm, with a minority at Sea Realm.

How could that be?

Mist Realm, Stream Realm were the mainstay among the Believer community!

And someone like Tian Tian at the River Realm was already considered strong.

She could join the Moon Gazer squad, the strong ones who protect the city and its people!

The Holy Spirit Mountain was the abnormal existence!

Those qualified to enter the mountain were strictly selected by the Divine from among thousands of Believers.

"I... I..." Tian Tian stammered, looking at Jiang Ruyi's back.

After just one glance, Tian Tian felt that the figure was like a mountain pressing on her.

Making it hard even to breathe.

Lu Ran, invisible, watched silently with a thought dawning in his mind.

Perhaps he shouldn't interfere with Tian Tian.

Perhaps, with her strength at the River Realm remaining in the Human World, she wouldn't be picked out by the Divine-Sword Lotus and thrown into the mountain...

Suddenly, Lu Ran's expression brightened.

Because the petite figure was timidly stepping forward.

Step by step, walking towards Jiang Ruyi.

"Wow!" Lu Ran marveled in his heart.

A seemingly simple action actually required immense courage!

If Jiang Ruyi were only at River Realm, it would be easier, but she was at Sea Realm-Second Rank.

She didn't need to do anything, just standing there quietly was enough to intimidate the weak living beings.

Yes!

Tian Tian, walk, move forward!

Lu Ran murmured in his heart, watching as Tian Tian forced herself through the fear, step by step towards Jiang Ruyi.

Come a bit closer!

Move closer still.

The journey ahead, let's walk together...

"Um." A muffled sound came from behind Jiang Ruyi.

The petite figure surprisingly hugged Jiang Ruyi's waist from behind.

Lu Ran was quite surprised.

Such intimate actions he hadn't expected.

Tian Tian's emotions clearly weren't normal, otherwise, after not meeting for so long, there would be some awkwardness or a sense of distance, wouldn't there?

Jiang Ruyi was equally surprised, looking down at the small hands around her waist.

Gradually, a subtle smile appeared on her face, she gently patted Tian Tian's small hand, asking softly:

"Did you miss me?"

"Mm, I did, really, really did..."

...

Chapter 704: The Flowers Scattered in the Human World

"How have you been recently?" Jiang Ruyi asked gently.

"Mm." Tian Tian buried her face in Jiang Ruyi's back and nodded slightly.

To be precise, her small face was buried in the cascading black hair, with a faint jasmine fragrance lingering in the air.

Such a familiar scent.

Tian Tian liked it very much, it was an incredibly reassuring feeling.

After returning to the Human World, Jiang Ruyi deliberately used the same bath products as before.

She knew Lu Ran liked it.

Jiang Ruyi slowly turned around and looked down at the little one.

"Don't cry." She lightly touched Tian Tian's small face, gently wiping the tears from her eyes with her thumb.

Uncertain if they were tears of joy or fear.

Maybe both.

Jiang Ruyi could clearly feel the girl in her arms trembling, yet stubbornly burying her head in her embrace.

Involuntarily, Jiang Ruyi's gaze became even softer: "Are you at the Third or Fourth Rank of River Realm?"

"F-fifth Rank." Tian Tian responded timidly.

"Just a bit more, and you'll reach the Peak River Realm." Jiang Ruyi commented while tidying the girl's short hair.

"I've been stuck for so, so long, unable to move forward." Tian Tian said somewhat frustrated.

Reaching the Peak River Realm truly only requires a moment of enlightenment.

But sudden inspiration also has a prerequisite—aptitude!

Without sufficient talent, no matter how profound your insight, it is in vain.

And Lu Ran could provide the girl with this talent!

"Sister Ruyi, you're so strong." A muffled voice came from her embrace, "Not like the River Realm."

"Hmm." Jiang Ruyi absentmindedly responded, thinking about how to extend the invitation.

Tian Tian didn't dare to speak anymore.

She could sense that Sister Ruyi's gentleness had disappeared.

Suddenly, panic and urgency filled Tian Tian's heart.

Why?

Was it because she held on too long, and Sister Ruyi wasn't happy?

Or was her trembling demeanor annoying to Sister Ruyi...

[Say something, she's crying miserably!] a voice echoed in Jiang Ruyi's mind.

Jiang Ruyi came to her senses and realized the girl in her arms had stepped back, her head lowered, tears falling like little pearls.

It seemed Tian Tian hadn't changed much.

Still as self-conscious and sensitive as before.

Jiang Ruyi slightly frowned, recalling that in the latter part of the third year of high school, Tian Tian had become much more cheerful?

Why did she revert after a long absence?

Jiang Ruyi hesitated for a moment but ultimately chose to go straight to the point: "I've come to invite you to join the Immortal Sheep Sect."

"Ah?" Tian Tian was a bit stunned.

She instinctively looked up, her eyes, with a layer of mist, gazing at Jiang Ruyi.

After just a glance, Tian Tian hurriedly lowered her head again.

Jiang Ruyi gently wiped the tear stains from the girl's face: "Would you like to become a disciple of the Immortal Sheep?"

Tian Tian felt the gentleness in Sister Ruyi's actions, taking a small breath, and her previously fearful heart calmed down slightly.

Then, she nodded.

Lu Ran: "..."

Is it that simple?

Well... on second thought, it makes sense.

Apart from any prior affection, how many ordinary people can encounter someone as powerful as Jiang Ruyi, a Sea Realm Great Power, in their lifetime?

Jiang Ruyi is also the wife of the Human World Sect Master of the Immortal Sheep Sect, an undeniably important figure.

Whether considering her extreme personal strength or her status and position...

When Jiang Ruyi stands in front of someone and makes a request, it's difficult for them to refuse.

They don't even have the qualification to refuse.

Jiang Ruyi raised an eyebrow slightly: "You agreed?"

"Yes, yes." Tian Tian nodded repeatedly.

Jiang Ruyi lifted Tian Tian's face, looking directly into the girl's eyes: "No need to consult with your family or school?"

Tian Tian nervously averted her gaze: "I... I'll listen to Sister Ruyi."

Suddenly, three words popped into Jiang Ruyi's mind—a description Lu Ran once gave her—silly girl.

"I... I'll go home and tell Lord Sword Lotus..."

"No need, and don't summon it." Jiang Ruyi interrupted directly, almost adding "It doesn't care about you," but that seemed too hurtful.

Though everyone knew the truth, there was no need to say it aloud.

"Okay, okay." Tian Tian, with her chin held up by Jiang Ruyi, continually looked to the side.

Precisely in the direction where Lu Ran was hidden.

Her tear-stricken face truly elicited sympathy.

"From now on, you will live away from the mundane world, with me. Is that okay?" Jiang Ruyi asked softly.

Tian Tian's eyes widened slightly.

At that moment, surprise overtook fear.

Everyone knew Jiang Ruyi was the fallen Immortal Lady; Tian Tian had thought that joining the Immortal Sheep Sect would bring her closer to Jiang Ruyi.

Unexpectedly, an even bigger surprise followed?

Could she really stay close to Sister Ruyi like in high school?

The heavens... are so kind to her!

Deng Yutang, Bai Manni, and Chang Ying had all left, but Sister Ruyi had come back...

But soon, Tian Tian thought of something else and asked quietly: "Can't I see my parents?"

Jiang Ruyi smiled slightly.

Now, Lu Ran's situation had changed, with Elder Lu connecting the Human World and Mountain Realm.

It wouldn't be a complete separation.

"You can see them, but perhaps only once every few years. Is that alright?" Jiang Ruyi asked softly.

Tian Tian's heart struggled slightly.

Jiang Ruyi did not rush; she simply wiped the tears from the girl's face gently.

This simple act gradually strengthened Tian Tian's resolve:

"Alright!"

"Yes, the Immortal Sheep Sect will notify your family. Later, you can call your parents." Saying this, Jiang Ruyi placed a hand over Tian Tian's eyes.

She then drew the girl into her embrace.

Lu Ran scratched his head, watching this scene...

Why did it seem more and more like children being abducted?

As Jiang Ruyi's gaze swept over, Lu Ran cleared his mind and immediately summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror.

Jiang Ruyi, holding the "big doll," approached the mirror, but before stepping in, she paused and looked down to confirm: "Are you sure?"

Tian Tian lifted her small hands, holding the slender jade hand Jiang Ruyi placed over her eyes, and nodded gently, "Mm-hmm."

Jiang Ruyi said no more and stepped into the mirror.

The invisible person behind followed, and the bronze mirror vanished without a trace.

Tian Tian couldn't see anything, but she was aware that she must have entered a very solemn and dignified place!

She was embraced from behind by Jiang Ruyi, already surrounded by the pressure of the Sea Realm.

Terrified beyond measure.

Yet, the holy aura from the unique scene easily pierced through the overwhelming pressure of the Yangyang Sea, making Tian Tian's reverence surpass her fear!

Sniff~

Tian Tian wrinkled her little nose, catching a faint scent of incense.

This is...

"It might hurt a little, don't be afraid." A gentle voice came from above.

Tian Tian was still a bit perplexed when suddenly she felt intense pain in her brain.

The sensation was like a tendon suddenly snapping in her brain.

"Ugh..." Tian Tian, who originally was clutching Jiang Ruyi's hand, immediately moved down to cover her small mouth.

The subconscious action seemed like she didn't want to trouble others.

Or perhaps she didn't want to annoy Sister Ruyi.

Beside them, Lu Ran watched the girl in his girlfriend's arms and couldn't help but nod in approval.

Solving problems from a divine perspective indeed spares the believers pain.

The Weak God Disciples inside Holy Spirit Mountain needed to concentrate vast energy into their brains, using self-destructive methods like "self-detonation" to break free from master-slave contracts.

In comparison, the trauma Tian Tian suffered was almost negligible.

"Thank you, Lord Immortal Sheep." Lu Ran clasped his hands together, respectfully saluting the stone sculpture in the hall.

"Huh?" Tian Tian indeed hadn't suffered significant trauma.

At least she recognized it was Lu Ran's voice!

Lu...Lu Ran?!

Lu Ran was back?

Tian Tian was overjoyed and pulled down Jiang Ruyi's hands, blinking hard.

Only then did she realize she was in a great hall.

The walls on either side of the hall had many small niches, with hundreds of little Immortal Sheep sculptures placed within, all with different expressions, vivid and lifelike.

At the far end of the hall, there stood a large stone sculpture of an Immortal Sheep.

Lu Ran was performing a respectful ceremony before the Immortal Sheep stone sculpture.

"Lu..." Tian Tian opened her mouth, then timidly glanced at the Immortal Sheep stone sculpture.

"Come, let's thank Lord Immortal Sheep first." Jiang Ruyi led Tian Tian to the prayer mat, kneeling down properly.

Within just a few dozen seconds of entering the Immortal Worship Hall, the Sword Lotus Disciple had already become an Immortal Sheep Believer.

After a sincere bow and thanks, Tian Tian finally turned her head towards the young man.

Lu Ran smiled warmly, "Long time no see, huh?"

"Mm." Tian Tian shrank her neck again, instinctively hiding behind Jiang Ruyi, yet realizing that compared to Lu Ran, Sister Ruyi was somehow scarier...

"You'll feel much better once you advance to the River Realm." Lu Ran nodded apologetically.

Tian Tian pouted but still said nothing.

"Let's go, let's not disturb Lord Immortal Sheep." Lu Ran reached to the side and summoned an ancient, elegant bronze mirror.

Tian Tian's eyes widened immediately!

What's...what what what is this?

Evil Mirror Demon Evil Technique?

Lu Ran playfully winked at Tian Tian with his left eye and walked into the mirror.

Jiang Ruyi then led the bewildered Tian Tian into the mirror.

Beyond the mirror was a quaint pavilion located by the mountainside.

Mountain winds blew gently, causing the lush forest to sway lightly, sending a refreshing aroma of grasses and trees.

In the distance, a majestic Cang Mountain stood lined like a screen.

To the east of Cang Mountain, Erhai lay like a mirror, sparkling with shimmering waves under the sunlight.

"I know you have many questions." Lu Ran leaned against a pavilion pillar with his back to Tian Tian, gazing at the Human World scenery.

"Lu..."

"But don't ask yet."

Tian Tian: "..."

"Let me ask first." Lu Ran chuckled, "Your fixed teammates haven't changed, right? At Wulie River University, you still team up with Deng Yutang, Bai Manni, and Chang Ying?"

"No, they all...all left." Tian Tian lowered her head and said softly.

"Ah?" Lu Ran was quite surprised.

"Manni is pregnant with a little baby. She and Deng Yutang haven't come to school for a long time..."

"What??" Lu Ran was startled.

A little baby?

Tian Tian said timidly, "Manni had a baby a month ago, a girl, reportedly weighing six pounds and four ounces."

"Darn!" Lu Ran slapped his forehead.

What a great brother Deng!

A man who silently does big things!

Tian Tian whispered, "Last year, many classmates had babies and took leave, and the team fell apart."

Lu Ran: "..."

Indeed, in this special context, people can marry at eighteen.

The underlying reason is that All Gods need believers.

Endless waves of believers!

"This is tricky." Lu Ran pondered, feeling troubled, how to take Deng Yutang to Holy Spirit Mountain when his child has just reached full month?

Jiang Ruyi asked, "Is Chang Ying the same?"

"No, Yingying didn't have a baby. She's the most accomplished among us, having become a River Realm Great Power!"

Speaking of Chang Ying, Tian Tian felt a little proud inside.

"Oh?" Lu Ran chuckled softly, "So impressive?"

Unexpectedly, among the former teammates, the first to advance to River Realm was a gambler?

"Mm-hmm!" Tian Tian nodded repeatedly, "Chang Ying was even personally summoned by Lord Spiritual Fortune! She left school after the end of last semester to go on a pilgrimage."

Jiang Ruyi's expression cooled.

"Damn!" Lu Ran's expression turned sour, and he rarely swore.

Dammit!

Spiritual Fortune!!!

"Ah." Tian Tian flinched, not knowing what happened.

Audience with the Divine...

Isn't it a particularly glorious thing?

Why are Sister Ruyi and Lu Ran's expressions so unsightly?

...

Chapter 705: I miss you too

"Can you still get in touch with Chang Ying?" Jiang Ruyi asked.

Tian Tian's eyes dimmed, and she slowly shook her head: "After Yingying advanced to the River Realm, she talked less and didn't really interact with people anymore.

Ever since she went on a pilgrimage, I've messaged her, but she hasn't replied to me...

Seeing the girl's sad expression, Jiang Ruyi soothed her with an explanation: "When people advance to the River Realm, their personalities can change a bit."

I won't!

Tian Tian lowered her head, secretly clenching her small fist.

If I advance to the River Realm, I definitely won't change!

I will still cherish everyone in the team, love each and every one of you...

The eternally well-behaved girl seldom had her own will, always arranged since childhood, her feelings inconsequential.

Until her sophomore year, a beam of light shone into her life.

She was then mercilessly kicked out of the second-ranked scholar team in the school.

Such an embarrassing incident elicited many strange expressions and mocking gazes from her classmates.

By a twist of fate, she was arranged to try out in Goddess Jiang's team.

The top-ranked team in the school.

Tian Tian was prepared for rejection and disdain, knowing she was reaching too high for such a team.

Unexpectedly, the gentle Sister Ruyi accepted her.

And continually encouraged her.

Not just warmth, but respect.

In this team, Tian Tian realized her voice could be heard.

Her feelings were important.

At least, Jiang Ruyi and the others cared about her.

Tian Tian will always remember the day she joined the team, it was at the Martial Arts Arena on the school's back mountain.

Shy and timid, she was brought by the class teacher to Jiang Ruyi's presence.

The sun was just right that day.

It shone on Jiang Ruyi, casting a golden glow, making her look like a radiant goddess statue.

Goddess Jiang smiled gently, looking at the Lotus Shield she summoned, saying, "In the future, you can protect me by my side."

She thought.

She really wanted to.

But she couldn't keep up, falling further and further behind, until she could no longer see the silhouette of the goddess statue.

To this day, Tian Tian's phone unlock password is still the day she joined the team.

180607.

June 7th, 2018, on the lunar calendar.

The day she met Jiang Ruyi, Lu Ran, and Deng Yutang.

A girl's little secret, hidden within a six-digit password, hidden within the small clenched fist at this moment.

Also hidden in the overly excited embrace on the rooftop just now.

And hidden in every quiet late night, staring at the avatar on her phone that will never message again, silently dazing...

"After I advanced, my personality changed a lot, and I neglected you," Jiang Ruyi said softly to the silent Tian Tian, "Do you blame me?"

"No." Tian Tian's eyes were firm, shaking her head.

You are the one I want to protect.

How could I blame you?

Perhaps you said it casually back then, and have long forgotten those words.

But I still remember.

Always remember...

"Hmm." Jiang Ruyi showed a faint smile, her slender hand fell on Tian Tian's head, smoothing the girl's short hair.

Tian Tian closed her eyes, feeling the real touch, the gentle palm...

"Hoo!!"

A violent energy fluctuation surged from Tian Tian's body.

Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but raise her eyebrows slightly.

Lu Ran also turned to look, his expression surprised.

No!

You just switched to the Immortal Sheep Sect, I haven't signed a contract with you, haven't bound you to the Stone Sculpture yet!

This is... huh?

So, Tian Tian's talent is enough, but she just hadn't been enlightened deeply enough all along?

But that doesn't seem right either!

What kind of awakening did the content of the few people's dialogue just now trigger in Tian Tian?

What exactly is Tian Tian's Dao Heart?

By the way, Lord Immortal Sheep is too powerful, really "flawlessly" tearing up the contract huh?!

Well... after all, Tian Tian is just at the River Realm, still a mortal, fundamentally different from those Great Powers of the River Realm and Sea Realm.

At the same time, the exit of the airport in Yeyu City.

A tall figure emerged, dragging a small black leather suitcase, attracting side glances from the crowd.

She wore shoulder-length hair, a sun hat and sunglasses, dressed in a black dress, her jade feet in high-heeled sandals, carelessly looking around.

Until she saw a man holding up a sign with the word "Qiao" to welcome her.

She recognized the man, Wen Yang.

He is one of the few strong ones in the Immortal Sheep Sect still at the River Realm, also Cheng Yi's granddaughter's husband.

"Hello, Miss Qiao." Wen Yang saw the girl coming over and quickly took the luggage handle.

Qiao Yuansi walked out with Wen Yang, inquiring, "What did Grandpa Cheng call me here for?"

Wen Yang hesitated a bit, respectfully responding to the 19-year-old girl: "Miss Qiao, I don't know, I was just sent to pick you up."

As he spoke, Wen Yang quietly marveled at the girl's changes.

Before, when the Sect Master and Lady were cultivating on the mountain, he helped with airport pickups more than once, of course also having given rides to the Sect Master's sister.

Back then, Qiao Yuansi was a lively girl, but now...

Wen Yang could sense, the girl had reached the River Realm, with a faint sense of pressure in her words and actions.

The girl was no longer her formerly cute self.

The ponytail was now shoulder-length hair, clad in a black dress, gone was her previous cute style.

A powerful presence, making others look on with awe.

Logically speaking, the group of disciples under the Lanterns aren't usually this aloof.

It's uncertain why the sect master's sister has become like this.

"This way, Ms. Qiao."

"Hmm." Qiao Yuansi responded casually, following the man out the door, and then slightly lifted her head.

She wasn't the only one; many people were gazing toward the northern sky.

There, thick clouds gathered, with fog dragon rolls descending from the sky, connecting with a towering peak.

"It seems your Immortal Sheep Sect will have another Great Power." Qiao Yuansi placed a hand beside her face, slightly lowering her toad sunglasses, as if to see more clearly.

Wen Yang: "..."

Judging by where the fog dragon rolls are connected, it's indeed Luoxian Mountain.

But how could it be that a disciple of the Immortal Sheep Sect has advanced?

It should be the stationed soldiers on the mountainside or some friend that Lady Luoxian brought back a few days ago?

Wen Yang thought silently, quickly placing the suitcase in the trunk, and hurriedly opened the car's rear door for Qiao Yuansi.

Qiao Yuansi rarely smiled, jokingly said: "Could Grandpa Cheng have called me here to receive blessings?"

"I... I don't know."

"Hmm, drive on then."

"Yes." Wen Yang breathed a sigh of relief and started the car smoothly.

Qiao Yuansi rested her elbow on the window frame, her hand supporting her cheek, watching the scenery outside the window as memories filled her mind.

Luoxian Mountain, including Rain Alley City, are places she didn't want to visit.

Even her home in Beijing, she was somewhat reluctant to return to.

Too many warm memories.

So they hurt.

Anyway, her mother is often not at home; whether she goes back or not, it doesn't matter.

No one cares.

Qiao Yuansi thought silently, one hand resting on her neck, her fingertips gently pinching the smooth Peace Bead.

Stupid brother!

He left a Peace Bead behind and ran off; who knows if they'll meet again in this lifetime.

And Sister Ruyi!

Also a foolish sister.

When her brother left, their relationship was reset to zero.

She wouldn't answer calls or respond to messages, and couldn't be found in Luoxian Mountain.

"Is Lady Luoxian back?" Qiao Yuansi suddenly asked.

"Ms. Qiao, I don't know; Luoxian Residence is a restricted area, I'm not allowed..."

"Enough." Qiao Yuansi was slightly impatient.

Wen Yang immediately fell silent, driving quietly, with a feeling akin to "accompanying a prince as accompanying a tiger."

The vehicle finally reached the foot of the mountain, allowing Wen Yang to breathe a sigh of relief, though he recalled that he still had to accompany the Qiao family's heiress up the mountain...

Climbing the mountain, worshiping the divine, entering the rear mountain.

Eventually arriving in front of a grand gate within the village, Wen Yang quickly said: "Ms. Qiao, on entering, to the right is the Immortal Worship Hall, where you can wait.

I'll take the luggage to your residence."

Qiao Yuansi nonchalantly "hmm"ed and stepped through the gate.

The large stone-paved courtyard was empty.

To the right was the wide-open Immortal Worship Hall, also devoid of people.

Qiao Yuansi gazed into the depths of the hall, where the stone sculpture of the Immortal Sheep stood, before slightly raising her head to look toward the northeast, where the fog dragon roll connected.

After hesitating momentarily, she walked toward the silent, solemn Immortal Worship Hall.

Stepping inside, she felt as though the hundreds of small Immortal Sheep statues on the side walls were fixated on her.

Enough to send chills down one's spine.

Yet, Qiao Yuansi's expression remained calm as she moved unhurriedly to the deepest part of the hall, in front of the stone statue:

"I apologize for the intrusion, Lord Immortal Sheep."

Once a young girl, she now exhibited the demeanor of a Great Power.

No longer mischievous, her every move contained a hint of elegance.

Even so, her bright eyes seemed to lack some liveliness.

Qiao Yuansi picked up the incense from the altar, carefully selecting three sticks, lighting them at the altar candle.

After three respectful bows, she placed the incense in the incense burner and then knelt on the prayer mat.

"Lord Immortal Sheep, please bless my brother, let him be safe and well."

"Yuansi... no longer hopes for his quick return, just that he is safe."

"Just that he is safe..."

The girl's hands were clasped together, with her fingertips resting on her lips, murmuring softly.

Only, these pleading words gradually turned into a soliloquy.

"Is he still alive? Lord Immortal Sheep, he must still be alive."

"He is your proud disciple, Da Xia's genius, he must be alright, he must be safe and sound."

"Did he... think about me? Yuansi misses him dearly..."

The girl's voice was very light.

It tugged at the heartstrings.

"Hiss..." Immersed in her world, Qiao Yuansi suddenly opened her eyes wide, taking a sharp breath.

In her mind, it seemed like a string was forcibly severed!

She had just disconnected from the Divine-Lantern.

"Lord, Lord Immortal Sheep... you!" Qiao Yuansi was utterly shocked but quickly realized, feeling both astonished and angry, she looked up at the divine figure.

Yet the sheep's face still had a smiling expression.

"Why would Lord Immortal Sheep... why..." Qiao Yuansi's figure stiffened, realizing softly that a hand had landed on her head.

But the problem was, there was no one around her!

At this moment, a familiar voice echoed, warm and gentle:

"I miss you too."

...

Chapter 706: Eldest Miss

Qiao Yuansi suddenly looked up, feeling dazed for a moment.

Beside him, once empty, unexpectedly appeared a figure.

Qiao Yuansi's eyes were filled with disbelief.

That gentle smiling face seemed real, not just a figment of his thoughts or dreams.

"Don't recognize me?" Lu Ran patted Little Yuanxi's head.

"B-brother?" The girl's voice was soft, as if afraid any louder would wake her up and make the figure disappear.

"Long time no see, Little Yuanxi."

Qiao Yuansi did not respond, instead reaching out with her small, tender hands to pull down the young man's hand resting on her head, squeezing it firmly.

Constantly confirming the reality of the young man before her.

Lu Ran laughed, "What, don't believe... Oh!"

He instinctively embraced the girl who threw herself into his arms, stumbling back a step.

Qiao Yuansi was kneeling in front of the Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture.

When she got up to throw herself into Lu Ran's arms, it was like a player diving to head a ball in a football match.

Her head first collided with Lu Ran's abdomen.

Hmm... maybe she did it on purpose?

Lu Ran didn't dodge.

He even thoughtfully lifted the Water Flow Armor.

After all, she's his precious girl, what if she hit her head hard?

"You're back." Qiao Yuansi tightly wrapped her arms around Lu Ran's neck, burying her head beside his face.

Murmuring softly, as if speaking in a dream.

"Mm." Lu Ran gently rubbed Little Yuanxi's head, marveling how his once little sister had grown into a young lady.

In fact, Lu Ran had accompanied her ever since Qiao Yuansi climbed the mountain.

When he saw the girl, who used to be full of antics, transform into a Vast River, don an elegant black dress, and step into high heels, carrying herself so gracefully...

Lu Ran was indeed filled with emotion.

This path of cultivation truly changes people dramatically.

If possible, Lu Ran still wanted that mischievous little rascal, or perhaps he cherished the little tagalong who followed him every day.

"Naughty brother, you scared me! Lower your aura! I'll bite you!" The dissatisfied voice reached his ears.

Lu Ran: "..."

Can dreams be realized so easily?

Did the graceful young lady just revert to Little Yuanxi?

"Eh! Eh?" Lu Ran was momentarily stunned and just felt a pain in his ear.

She really bit!

His head tilted back, and his earlobe, still bitten by Little Yuanxi, naturally stretched a bit.

It hurt even more.

Lu Ran hastily said, "Lord Immortal Sheep is still here, this is the Immortal Worship Hall!"

"Oh." Qiao Yuansi realized her blunder and quickly let go.

Her face turned crimson abruptly.

Lu Ran quickly activated the Transmission Mirror, stepping aside, while Qiao Yuansi's arms still clung tightly around Lu Ran's neck, unwilling to let go, like she feared he'd escape.

So much so that her whole body tilted and was "dragged" by Lu Ran into the Ancient Bronze Mirror.

The Ancient Bronze Mirror quietly vanished, and the Immortal Worship Hall returned to its usual silence.

As if nothing had happened.

Only a lonely sun hat lay on the ground.

"Careful, you're choking me." In the main hall of Luoxian Residence, Lu Ran said helplessly.

"Good, it'll save me from worrying if you die." Qiao Yuansi continued to murmur softly with her eyes closed, "Save me the concern..."

Lu Ran: "..."

Isn't that a solution?

It's undeniable, Little Yuanxi is quite the character!

He activated Evil Mirror Magic-Mirror Flower Moon, yet she didn't react.

Probably hasn't sensed it yet.

"Alright, alright, I'm not going anywhere." Lu Ran patted her back.

"Hmph." Qiao Yuansi tightened her arms and gave Lu Ran's neck a vengeful squeeze before stepping back.

She didn't notice Mirror Flower Moon.

Lu Ran also didn't notice her reddened eyes.

The way to comfort someone isn't more than a few methods. Lu Ran understood Qiao Yuansi and chose the most effective one.

"Oh, a little pearl~" Lu Ran joked, poking the tiny tear under her eye with his fingertip.

"Go away." Qiao Yuansi huffed lightly and pushed Lu Ran.

Very unlady-like.

Since their meeting, this figure revered by the world as a Great Power of River Realm seemed to have reverted to her pre-River Realm self.

Qiao Yuansi raised her beautiful face, wiping her rims, shaking her head, her long, smooth hair flowing like a waterfall, tidying her hairstyle just like that.

Her hand, after wiping her tears, subtly fell to her forehead, slightly curling her ring finger, elegantly brushing aside a lock of hair on the side of her forehead.

This inadvertent gesture left Lu Ran slightly dazed.

Such a goddess-like move was something Lu Ran only saw in Jiang Ruyi or Leng Xushuang.

His sister indeed had grown up.

He couldn't continue treating her like a little mischievous kid anymore.

Thinking of this, Lu Ran couldn't help but feel some trepidation.

After all, he hadn't asked for Qiao Yuansi's consent before directly asking Lord Immortal Sheep for help, implementing an act-before-telling approach.

Might Little Yuanxi be really angry?

But Lu Ran had to do this, as Qiao Yuansi was already a Great Power of River Realm, and he truly couldn't take the risk.

What if one day, Lord God suddenly, among the tens of thousands of disciples, picked out Qiao Yuansi and called her to pilgrimage...

"Eh?" It was then Qiao Yuansi realized something wasn't right, looking around, "How did we get to Luoxian Residence?"

Lu Ran snapped back from his thoughts, smiling, "We couldn't keep disturbing Lord Immortal Sheep."

Hearing "Immortal Sheep", Qiao Yuansi's attention immediately shifted, remembering how she was just relieved of a contract.

Seeing Qiao Yuansi's slightly furrowed brows, Lu Ran spoke, "I asked Lord Immortal Sheep to do that."

Qiao Yuansi's frown deepened as she looked at Lu Ran.

Yet she saw her brother's apologetic expression, instantly dispelling much of her anger.

Lu Ran opened his mouth: "I..."

"Your aura is so strong." Qiao Yuansi suddenly spoke, his originally annoyed gaze turned curious, "You wouldn't be at the Sea Realm, would you?"

Lu Ran felt a bit numb.

This Little Yuanxi, his little brain turns too fast, and the topic changes with each word.

Who can take this!

"Yes, Sea Realm·Second Rank." Lu Ran nodded.

Qiao Yuansi immediately broke into a smile, his signature crescent-shaped eyes:

"I knew it, you wouldn't intentionally intimidate me."

Lu Ran: "..."

So that's what you were worried about.

I thought my promotion to the Sea Realm was the main focus.

Turns out I was the brother who couldn't recognize what's good.

Lu Ran asked: "Are you at the Middle Stage of River Realm?"

"Oh~ sharp eyes!" Qiao Yuansi said joyfully, grinning, "After you left, my strength soared!"

"Impressive, impressive." Lu Ran praised repeatedly, naturally unwilling to dampen the mood.

"Did you notice the problem, then?" Qiao Yuansi crossed his hands behind his back, slightly tilted his head, looking playfully at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran was puzzled: "What problem?"

Qiao Yuansi said dramatically: "You're hindering me!"

Lu Ran: ?

"Hehe~" Qiao Yuansi covered her mouth with a light laugh, in just a few words, her whole demeanor brightened vividly.

Lu Ran restrained the urge to roll his eyes, snorted, pulling the topic back: "You've indeed grown a lot, your inner strength is very strong."

"How so?"

Lu Ran shrugged: "Usually, people at the River Realm get flustered when they see me."

Qiao Yuansi came to the Taishi Chair and sat down, raising her charming face with a hint of a smile in her eyes: "Can't it be that you love me, so I don't feel much threat?"

Lu Ran's expression froze.

Just like the Xun Luo couple towards their child?

Qiao Yuansi elegantly crossed her legs, smoothed her skirt, seemingly absent-minded: "Just like Mom towards us."

Speaking of mother, Lu Ran fell silent.

Including Little Yuanxi, among many little companions, Lu Ran dared to let Lord Immortal Sheep help forcefully dissolve the contract.

But as for mother...

Lu Ran did not dare.

Lord Immortal Sheep wouldn't take such a risk either.

Mother is different from the masses, she's the Peak Master of Jinghong Peak, one of the nine Spirit Mountain sects of Sword One, specially watched by the Divine!

Up till now, Lu Ran didn't even dare to contact mother's guard, Chen Jingjing.

"No need to worry about her." Qiao Yuansi saw Lu Ran's silence, pouted, "She's so strong, how could anything happen."

"Did mom become the Peak Master of Jinghong Peak?"

"No."

"Oh." Lu Ran nodded.

Truly unclear, what kind of relationship mother has with Divine-Sword One.

Qiao Yuansi looked at Lu Ran, finally asked: "About my contract being dissolved..."

What's meant to come will come.

Lu Ran looked at his sister, feeling apologetic: "I'm sorry."

Qiao Yuansi, however, smiled: "No need, you must have had a reason for doing so."

Lu Ran's expression was somewhat complex.

Saying it's not touching, that would be false.

Little Yuanxi didn't blame him, her annoyance lasted only a short while, more was her trust in him.

Near unconditional trust.

"It's like this..." Lu Ran came to another Taishi Chair, slowly sat down, and began narrating the story.

The always smiling Little Yuanxi's expression gradually became heavy.

The atmosphere in the room grew more oppressive.

Until Lu Ran finished explaining everything, the hall fell into silence again.

After an unknown time, Qiao Yuansi softly spoke: "So, you were in that ghastly place, for a year and a half."

"Mm." Lu Ran nodded.

Qiao Yuansi quietly lowered her head, feeling waves of bitterness, secretly murmuring: "I kept saying, Little Yuanxi.

You have to endure, can't throw tantrums..."

"Yuanxi?"

"Mm?"

"As I just mentioned, I've prepared the stone sculpture for you, do you... do you want to become the Evil God·Black Lantern?" Lu Ran asked his silent sister.

After a moment of not getting a response from Qiao Yuansi, Lu Ran added: "It's okay if you don't like it, brother has other stone sculptures here, we can discuss."

The Master of Gods and Demons, being so cautious.

"Hehe~" Qiao Yuansi's emotions come quickly and leave quickly.

She looked happily at her brother.

Evidence shows that the Vast River is not terrified.

Instead, the Yangyang Sea appears timid~~

Qiao Yuansi placed her palm under her chin, quietly watching Lu Ran.

You've returned to my side.

In the future, you won't leave me again.

It's wonderful.

...

The depiction of familial and friendly relationships is a part of everyday life. Actually, a considerable portion of each book by Yu deals with daily life; it's not constant fighting and killing.

Yu always believes that writing a fantasy novel involves creating a world, depicting the protagonist in this strange world, encountering some people and events along the growth journey, forming together a stereoscopic life and period.

Some readers enjoy such daily scenes, while others aren't fond of such plots, taste varies widely. Reading novels emphasizes the process, everyone should be patient.

This book, written till now, has over two million words, thanks to everyone's long-term support.

And thanks to everyone for accompanying Lu Ran every day.

...

Chapter 707: Burning Black Swan

The Black Lamp Clan and Lantern Sect are both auxiliary factions.

However, the Black Lamp Evil Technique is far more dangerous than the Lantern Divine Technique!

Once Qiao Yuansi uses this clan's evil technique, most people can no longer behold her.

They will be caught in illusions!

More terrifyingly, in front of Qiao Yuansi, almost all enemies will be slowed down, and the weaker ones won't even be able to move.

Whether it's single target or group!

It's no exaggeration to say that both the Black Lantern and Tangled Silk Shadow carry a "poisonous" attribute.

The gap in combat power and threat level between the two is majorly due to one thing—intelligence!

Apart from their poisonous attribute, the Black Lamp Clan also has healing techniques, and another evil technique, the Smoke Fire Cage, which releases dense smoke to obscure vision, allowing the caster to hide or escape.

This technique, after advancing to the River Grade, even gains a perception function, enabling the caster to know everything within the black smoke.

The Lantern Sect is indeed the king of support, and isn't the Black Lamp Clan as well?

Binding Qiao Yuansi with the Black Lamp Evil Sculpture was the result of Lu Ran's careful consideration.

He did not want to change his sister's path in the auxiliary faction.

People have different types, forcing Qiao Yuansi to launch a frontal assault would indeed be unreasonable.

Among the front-line God Demon series, the only auxiliary factions are the Divine Sky Phoenix and its adversary, Paper Simurgh.

Further down in the third-class God Demon Series, the Lantern and Black Lantern are included.

In the hall, Lu Ran and his sister had a detailed discussion, and Little Yuanxi eventually chose the Evil God-Black Lantern.

After the siblings signed the contract, black flames immediately ignited on Qiao Yuansi's body.

Today, Little Yuanxi was already dressed in a black long dress, and the addition of the black fire made her incredibly beautiful...

Like a burning, graceful black swan.

Qiao Yuansi played with the newly acquired evil technique while talking to Lu Ran about the situation.

Lu Ran then learned that since last August, his sister's team had disbanded, and Guan Yiren and Wang Ling had gone to the ancient cities of their respective Divines.

Mentioning these two, Lu Ran immediately thought of "Heaven's Chosen," both of them were selected.

"By the way, I found out online these past two days that the 'Heaven's Chosen' tournament has been discontinued?" Lu Ran said.

Qiao Yuansi nodded, "Yes, the second season of 'Heaven's Chosen' wasn't completed. May 15th was the last match, and according to tradition, it was off-air in June and July. It hasn't resumed since then."

As they spoke, the black fire on Qiao Yuansi's dress gradually retracted, eventually concentrating in her palm, leaving only a single black flame.

At her command.

Only Lu Ran dared to observe so recklessly because he possessed the Spiritual Defense Technique.

This single black flame happened to be the Evil Technique·Caged Fire (Illusion)!

If it were anyone else, they would likely already have fallen into the dreamscape woven by Little Yuanxi without even realizing it.

Soon after, Lu Ran sensed that this flame no longer attempted to penetrate his mental defense, but it seemed as though something was pressing down on him.

Straining to impede Lu Ran's movements!

Evidently, the flame in Qiao Yuansi's hand had transformed in nature, from Caged Fire (Illusion) to Caged Fire (Shadow)!

"You should've seen it; three Heaven's Chosen died on the battlefield, causing a very bad impact," Qiao Yuansi said, controlling the flame in her palm and letting it spread to her fingertips.

"Yes." Lu Ran nodded, utterly astonished when he first saw this information.

In four months, three people successively made a series of extremely unwise decisions!

To put it bluntly, these three essentially self-destructed!

Subsequent investigations claimed that the 'Heaven's Chosen' title's weight led to an imbalance in the contestants' mental states.

A few contestants were too obsessed with gaining points and showcasing themselves...

Qiao Yuansi looked at Lu Ran, "Do you trust the official investigation results?"

"Why, do you know the inside story?"

"Not exactly," Qiao Yuansi shook her head, "until today, I did believe those findings."

"Why don't you believe it now?" Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly.

"You just told me about the Holy Spirit Mountain," Qiao Yuansi's eyes flickered, "and then thinking about those Heaven's Chosen who acted like they deviated..."

Lu Ran understood what his sister meant and said, "You suspect divine manipulation behind it?"

Qiao Yuansi nodded gently, "As you said, the God Demons colluded to enslave our Human Clan. This series of cruel methods is meant to secure perpetual dominance."

'Heaven's Chosen' holds a massive influence, which could bring about some changes. What do you think?"

Lu Ran looked at the calm and analytical Little Yuanxi with some surprise, but he was also quite pleased.

Indeed, Little Yuanxi appeared childlike only in front of him.

In truth, she was the commander of a powerful team.

"Phew~" With a wave of her hand, Qiao Yuansi filled the large hall with black lanterns instantly.

The prior Caged Fire (Shadow) was merely a single-target control skill.

The Evil Technique-Yin Lamp Formation, however, is a terrifying group control skill!

All beings illuminated by the lantern's firelight were slowed down, feeling like they bore the weight of a thousand pounds, making movement difficult.

Even though Lu Ran was in the Sea Realm, his speed of action decreased under the influence of such control techniques.

Qiao Yuansi looked satisfied at the Evil Technique-Yin Lamp Formation, dispersing it with a casual wave, "I've always wondered why 'Heaven's Chosen' suddenly compromised to stop broadcasting, given that it's such a great national interest and benefit, with so many die-hard fans. If they continued, the tournament would definitely go on."

Yet during that time, the official website got shut down, leaving the fans without a main base.

The officials seemed to allow chaos and turmoil online, fueling public anger and panic..."

Lu Ran agreed and analyzed, "Perhaps the officials were threatened by the All Gods, forcing them to cease 'Heaven's Chosen.'

It is even possible the online chaos was manipulated by the officials themselves."

"Perhaps." Qiao Yuansi sighed softly.

After seeing her brother today, she finally realized that she had been living in a huge lie all this time.

Qiao Yuansi just felt a suffocating pressure on her chest, making it hard to breathe.

Suddenly, she thought of something and looked at her brother: "Yiren sister and the skeleton were summoned by the Divine; we are powerless to help. But Niu is still at home, should we take him to Holy Spirit Mountain?"

"You want to take him?" Lu Ran questioned.

Lu Ran also had a good impression of Niu Zhengzheng.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have acted as a matchmaker for Niu Zhengzheng and Chang Ying.

Unfortunately, according to Little Yuanxi, their relationship wasn't very stable, especially after Chang Ying was called away for pilgrimage by the Divine-Spiritual Sign, they completely lost contact.

Whether they have broken up or not, even Niu Zhengzheng himself isn't sure.

"Niu is a good guy, loyal to his teammates, doesn't have any ulterior motives, and follows my lead without question." Qiao Yuansi finally came to life a bit, "After everyone advanced to the Jiang Realm, more or less they've all changed, but Niu is an exception."

"Oh?"

Qiao Yuansi laughed, "He was silly to begin with, and now he's in the Jiang Realm-Second Rank but still the same as before."

Lu Ran was taken aback: "Just the Jiang Realm-Second Rank... Your strength is even higher than Niu Zhengzheng's realm?"

Qiao Yuansi raised her pretty face, really like a proud black swan: "Why do you think I'm hindering you~"

Lu Ran: "..."

Qiao Yuansi looked at Lu Ran, who was at a loss, and laughed: "You've been so high above for too long, you don't understand the hardships of the human world!"

This is the Jiang Realm-Second Rank, isn't that high enough?"

Lu Ran pursed his lips, not saying anything in the end.

Qiao Yuansi shifted her focus: "However, Niu has indeed been stuck for a long time, maybe this is as far as he will go in his lifetime. If he follows my brother..."

Brother!

Since Holy Spirit Mountain is so dangerous, I'll take a big bodyguard with me!"

Lu Ran frowned slightly: "I can protect you, and I can arrange a maid for you."

Maid...?

Qiao Yuansi paused for a moment, then understood Lu Ran's meaning and immediately said, "Stupid brother, what are you thinking!"

Even if Niu and sister Chang Ying have a complicated relationship, I wouldn't choose that big oaf!"

Lu Ran hurriedly explained: "No, what I meant was..."

Qiao Yuansi propped her chin with one hand, her bright eyes sparkling as she looked at Lu Ran: "Then what did you mean?"

"I... my West Wilderness Divine Sculpture and Barbaric Female Demon Divine Sculpture have been reserved." Lu Ran responded quickly.

Qiao Yuansi snorted: "Compared to smoothly cultivating and upgrading, even becoming a god, having Niu change his line of work is nothing."

Hmm, true.

Lu Ran nodded silently, thought for a moment, his expression a bit odd: "Your nickname is quite foresighted."

"How?" Qiao Yuansi blinked.

"Soul-splitting Demon! This race also focuses on strength output and has the skill of Soul Binding." The more Lu Ran thought about it, the more it made sense.

Qiao Yuansi laughed: "You really plan to make Niu Zhengzheng a Niu? Then later get a horse?"

Lu Ran shrugged his shoulders: "Didn't you want a bodyguard? In the future, let Niu and horse protect you, standing at the door of your house every day, and see who dares to have malicious intentions towards you."

Kill them right there!

"Brother!" Qiao Yuansi's face looked annoyed, "Am I never going to get married in my lifetime?"

"Then it needs to be assessed carefully!" Lu Ran appeared quite justified, "If someone wants to pursue my sister, they must pass my approval, at least be stronger than me, right?"

Qiao Yuansi's eyes widened instantly: "Stronger than you??"

Do you want to think about what you're actually saying?

Do you know that you're the Pride of Da Xia?

It's over...

This young lady is going to be single forever...

Thinking about this, Qiao Yuansi pouted slightly, her eyes wistfully looking at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran felt a tingling sensation in his scalp, awkwardly said, "I was just speaking casually, but a proper assessment is necessary."

"Tch~ Do I still need you?" Qiao Yuansi raised her fair small hand, playing with Black Fire, "With a brother like you, can't you see how high my standards are?

Beijing University, the top school in Da Xia, the gathering place for Heaven's Chosen.

Two years in, have I found anyone I like?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Why am I suddenly blamed for this?

"Brother."

"Mmm?"

"When we overturn the sky... you have to help me find a boyfriend~"

"Alright!"

"Oh wow? You said it, I'm going to remember!"

"I agreed to the first part."

"..."

Chapter 708: A Red Veil

Late at night, Wulie River City.

A high-end residential area named Longhua Heavenly Garden is situated in the bustling city center, with lush greenery and tranquility within.

In a standalone villa on the southern side, within a luxuriously decorated second-floor master bedroom.

A family of three is soundly asleep.

However, someone is pretending to sleep.

A young man gingerly withdrew his slightly numb arm from beneath his wife's head, then sat up.

His wife beside him was sleeping deeply, and in the crib next to the bed, the little one was also slumbering sweetly.

The young man gazed tenderly, observing for a while before getting out of bed and quietly walking toward the door.

Like a thief.

"Click~" The door was gently closed.

"Phew..." The young man breathed a sigh of relief, picked up something casually in the living room, and then walked to the second-floor balcony, sliding open the glass door.

The summer night breeze blew, ruffling his short hair and robe.

"Sss... sss..."

Sparks flew.

The metal lighter's wheel slid, igniting a small flame.

The flame lit the cigarette in his mouth, reflecting off his rather handsome face.

The once heroic spirit between his brows had dispersed much, leaving a softer demeanor now.

"Phew..."

The young man comfortably exhaled a puff of smoke, moving to the railing, gazing into the distant night sky.

Suddenly, he seemed to sense something, looking down at the woods below.

Before he could look down, a charm shadow had already turned, leaning against a big tree, silently concealing itself.

[Hmph, learned to smoke.]

The icy voice entered Lu Ran's mind.

Lu Ran stood beside the tree, not hiding, because he was originally invisible.

Hearing the cold tone of the Big Nightmare, Lu Ran felt a bit intimidated, responding carelessly: [Maybe it's the pressure.]

After transmitting the message, Lu Ran felt puzzled.

Clearly, it's Deng Yutang smoking, why am I feeling scared?

[Just toss him into the mountains and make him quit.] Deng Yuxiang leaned against the tree, deciding her younger brother's fate.

Lu Ran looked at the tall young man on the second-floor balcony, communicating telepathically: [Your brother just had a baby, only a month old, do you really want to do this?]

Deng Yuxiang: [Yes.]

No reason, no explanation, only a decision.

Quite overbearing indeed.

[Let's go, take him back to the Immortal Worship Hall first.] Deng Yuxiang transmitted again.

Lu Ran looked at the tall young man with eyes full of pity.

Poor Brother Deng, with such a sister, truly... well, blessed?

Lu Ran flickered silently.

Deng Yutang immediately noticed a faint energy fluctuation behind him, but before he could effectively resist, a hand was already pressed against his back.

The hand was irrelevant.

The key was the red silk thread probing from the fingertips.

Deng Yutang was startled!

What... what?!

Deng Yutang realized he couldn't move, filled with fear and astonishment, yet he didn't even have the right to pale with fright.

Under the control of the Sea Grade · Silk Thread, the prey wasn't even allowed to blink, let alone make expressions—

An unprecedented threat made Deng Yutang start experiencing a "life flash before eyes" moment!

And the next scene yanked Deng Yutang back to reality.

A red veil was draped over his head.

The kind a bride wears when getting married.

The red veil not only obscured his vision but was incredibly agile, one corner slipping into Deng Yutang's mouth, stuffing it full.

"Mmm... mmm!" Deng Yutang was denied the chance to struggle, his voice coming out muffled.

Lu Ran, taking the young man in a robe, steadily retreated into the landing mirror.

At this moment, Deng Yuxiang also stood on the second-floor balcony, a faint grin on her lips as she watched her kidnapped brother.

With the Tethering Evil Technique · Silk Thread, the Vermilion Paper Evil Technique · Red Veil, and finally the Evil Mirror Magic · Mirror Flower Moon.

Even if her brother were to die today, it would be worth it!

Deng Yuxiang saw the dropped cigarette on the ground, stepping on it with her boot, gently twisting to extinguish it before stepping into the realm.

"Mmm!"

Having just entered the mirror, Deng Yuxiang heard her brother's wail.

It was no surprise his contract had been torn apart.

Within the Immortal Worship Hall, Lu Ran finally revealed himself, retracting the red silk thread and red veil as he stepped back.

"Who! You are... Sis?!"

Deng Yutang's expression stiffened, seeing the beautiful yet cold woman standing before him.

Behind the woman, a slender figure stood.

"Brother Lu!" Deng Yutang's face immediately lit up with joy.

Any thought of kidnapping or contract breach was utterly forgotten in this instant.

Lu Ran couldn't help feeling a bit wistful.

It had to be his own brother!

"Long time no see, Mr. Deng." Lu Ran waved with a smile.

Visibly, Deng Yutang's face turned pale, starting to tremble.

The joy of reunion couldn't conceal the lack of strength, trembling and barely breathing in front of these two mighty Yangyang Sea figures.

Strong men from the Human Plane are no different from ants before those from the Holy Spirit Mountain Plane.

"Thank you, Lord Immortal Sheep." Deng Yuxiang casually brushed aside her brother, then knelt down sincerely in worship.

Only then did Deng Yutang realize the surroundings had changed.

Holy crap?

Where the hell am I now?

"Kneel." The icy voice of his sister carried endless authority.

Deng Yutang's heart trembled violently, and he hurried to kneel down.

Deng Yuxiang almost laughed out of anger, "Am I asking you to kneel to me?"

"Ah!" Deng Yutang realized his mistake and immediately turned to face the Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture in the depths of the hall.

Seeing this, Lu Ran chuckled to himself.

Poor Mr. Deng, he was a Red Cloth believer... well, at least he was a few seconds ago.

To be scolded by Deng Yuxiang like this!

Without needing a contract with Lord Immortal Sheep, Mr. Deng had already become a poor little lamb.

After paying his respects, Deng Yuxiang stood up, "Let's go, don't disturb Lord Immortal Sheep."

Deng Yutang shakily rose, and the next moment, his pupils couldn't help but quake!

He saw with his own eyes that Lu Ran had summoned an ancient, elegant bronze mirror.

Deng Yuxiang stopped in front of the mirror, turned to look back, lightly furrowed her brows, and uttered a cold word:

"Go."

"Oh!" Deng Yutang avoided her gaze and followed with his head down.

He had never doubted his sister's strength.

From childhood to adulthood, he had always lived in her shadow.

But today was different!

His sister seemed excessively powerful...

"Don't be scared, Brother Deng." As Deng Yutang reached the mirror, a hand was placed on his shoulder, "Your sister may seem fierce on the outside, but deep down, she loves you deeply."

Deng Yutang: "..."

Honestly speaking, couldn't some of that love be shared with me?

A year and a half apart, and the first thing she says is to "kneel down."

Though there's a reason for it... no, wait!

My contract was inexplicably torn, why should I thank Lord Immortal Sheep?

Lost in thought, Deng Yutang stepped into the mirror and found himself back at the old house.

Since attending Wulie River University, the family had moved away from Rain Alley City and bought a house in Wulie River City.

The family had been living in Wulie River City for a long time and hadn't returned to the old home.

This detached villa was quite "clean"; the Divine Shrine Divine Sculpture had long been moved to the new house.

"I see, Mom and Dad are doing quite well." Her icy voice once again reached his ears.

Deng Yutang turned his head to see Deng Yuxiang sitting on the sofa, her commanding presence more formidable than before.

"Speak."

"Yes, Mom and Dad are quite...quite well, very healthy, and they miss you a lot." Deng Yutang forced himself to say.

There was no joy in the reunion.

Only a wave-like pressure surging at him.

Lu Ran looked at the woman on the sofa and said helplessly, "Be gentle with him. His realm is already low, if you don't ease up, how will the boy survive?"

Deng Yuxiang: "..."

Deng Yutang: "..."

Deng Yuxiang remained silent for a moment, her posture softened a bit.

She leaned back against the sofa, crossed her legs, and her voice was clearly softer when she spoke again, "What is your daughter's name?"

"Deng Lingyi."

"Lingyi or Lingse?" Deng Yuxiang slightly raised an eyebrow.

"Yes, Dad spent a long time flipping through the 'Classic of Poetry' before deciding." Deng Yutang nodded.

"Sit down and talk." Lu Ran patted Deng Yutang on the shoulder.

But just as he took a step forward, Lu Ran clearly noticed Deng Yutang's reluctance.

It seemed he didn't want to get close to Deng Yuxiang.

Deng Yuxiang naturally noticed Deng Yutang's leg movements and snorted, "You can sit, don't worry about him."

Lu Ran raised both hands, looking helpless.

Finally, Deng Yutang found his voice, "Brother Lu, your hair has grown longer, and you've grown taller."

"Still, I'm not as tall as you." Lu Ran smiled.

He had stopped at 182cm, already 20 years old this year, unsure if he could grow any taller.

As they spoke, Lu Ran also distanced himself from Deng Yutang, not wanting to put more pressure on his friend.

"Brother Lu, you and my sister..." Deng Yutang looked at Lu Ran's departing figure.

Deng Yuxiang directly replied, "We're here to take you away, to train after Divine Ruins."

Deng Yutang looked shocked, "After Divine Ruins?"

Deng Yuxiang nodded lightly, "There the divine power is stronger, but also more dangerous. Death could come at any moment, it will keep you on your toes, rather than idling away your life in the human world."

Lu Ran sat on an independent sofa to the side, looking at Deng Yuxiang with an expression of disbelief.

Deng Yutang stammered after a moment, "But my believer status, I just..."

"Don't worry, Lu Ran will provide for you." Deng Yuxiang's beautiful eyes shifted to Lu Ran.

"Yes, your sister is right, I've prepared a Ghost General Evil Sculpture for you." Lu Ran nodded immediately, then added, "If you don't like it, we can discuss it."

Deng Yuxiang's heart warmed as she quietly watched Lu Ran, her gaze growing gentler.

Deng Yutang was completely bewildered.

He genuinely trusted Lu Ran and his sister, no matter how far-fetched their words seemed.

Deng Yutang opened his mouth, "Sister, Lingyi was just born..."

"You love your daughter very much?"

"Of course!" Deng Yutang nodded emphatically without hesitation.

"Then all the more reason to come with us." Deng Yuxiang moved her gaze from Lu Ran to the night outside the window, "You should create a peaceful world for her.

So she can live happily and with dignity."

Deng Yutang stared at his sister in a daze.

The woman's calm voice continued to penetrate his ears, "And not let your daughter be a slave her entire life, a beast at the mercy of others."

Deng Yutang's breath hitched!

Chapter 709: Fire Pit

In the living room, Deng Yuxiang spoke at length.

About what happened after the Divine Ruins, about all the gods and demons.

Throughout, Deng Yutang had his fists clenched, growing more furious as he listened.

It wasn't just the deception, but a deep sense of humiliation!

Whenever he thought about how he daily bowed in worship before the shrine, grateful for the protection the Lord God provided for his family, Deng Yutang felt utterly ironic.

The one he worshipped day and night, turned out to be the culprit?!

Damn it...

Deng Yuxiang paused his narrative, giving his brother time to digest, and went to make tea.

Upon returning, he found his brother, who had been standing in the living room all this while, was finally persuaded by Lu Ran to take a seat.

Deng Yutang seemed to be craving a smoke. He had just put a cigarette to his lips, but then remembered something, looked at Lu Ran and said, "Brother Lu, you..."

"Don't you dare." A cold female voice came low and stern.

Deng Yutang was so startled he quickly drew back his hand.

Lu Ran was also taken aback!

Neither of them could understand whom she was speaking to.

Both felt it was aimed at them...

Deng Yutang sheepishly put down the cigarette, lowered his head, and dared not make a sound, seeing the once mighty Deng turning into a meek figure, Lu Ran felt somewhat pity.

Lu Ran looked toward the woman and advised, "Actually, it's not a big deal. We are so skilled in medicine, I can give Mr. Deng two Resurrection Carps, and any ailment will be healed."

Besides, the Deng family's eldest son was to be bound with the Evil Sculpture-Ghost General.

He's either going to die on the battlefield or become a god, transforming into a pure energy body.

What does heart, liver, spleen, lungs, and kidneys matter...

"Hmph." Deng Yuxiang placed the teacup on the coffee table in front of Lu Ran, "In the future, he needs to undergo seclusion training for a month or half to ponder over these trivial matters?"

Lu Ran pursed his lips, saying nothing more.

Deng Yutang sneaked a glance and found Lu Ran also looked quite obedient, feeling much better in his heart.

Brother Lu is the Pride of Da Xia and an unattainable Sea Realm Great Power for most people!

Even in front of his elder sister, he behaves so obediently, right?

I'm just a little pawn at the River Realm·Fourth Rank, bowing my head to take a scolding is perfectly normal.

Deng Yuxiang sat heavily on the sofa, looked at his brother who was making small movements, and said, "Call Mom and Dad later, and have them remove the little divine statues at home.

I've gotten two small Immortal Sheep divine statues at Luoxian Mountain for the family, you take them back and worship them."

"Okay." Deng Yutang nodded and mustered up the courage to look at Deng Yuxiang, "Sister, can you ask Lord Immortal Sheep to also tear up Manni's contract?"

Deng Yuxiang finally felt satisfied with her brother this once and nodded, "It has already been requested."

"Thank you, Sister." Deng Yutang was filled with gratitude.

After learning about the real state of the world, Deng Yutang was also worried that one day his wife might be summoned by the God·Caster and thrown into the Divine Ruins afterward.

Caster, a sixth-class god.

The disciples under this class generally don't have high qualifications.

Yet Bai Manni was quite ambitious, reaching the River Realm·Fourth Rank at just twenty years old.

Previously, Deng Yutang was happy for his wife's accomplishments, but now he couldn't help but break into a cold sweat!

If Bai Manni were any stronger, might she have already been thrown into some Holy Spirit Mountain?

"Don't thank me." Deng Yuxiang nodded toward Lu Ran's direction, indicating subtly, "Not just anyone has the qualification to converse with the divine and ask for assistance."

Deng Yutang realized, turning to look at Lu Ran with immense gratitude, "Brother Lu..."

Lu Ran waved it off with a smile, "Family, don't mention it."

"What's your plan? Leaving Lingyi with Mom and Dad, taking Manni into the mountains with you?" Deng Yuxiang asked casually.

Upon hearing this, Deng Yutang was immediately anxious!

"Sister!" He stood up bravely facing the Evil God-Night Charm, "I'll go with you guys, let Manni stay at home to take care of the child, and keep our parents company."

Deng Yuxiang looked blankly at him.

The brother only realized the dangers of the Holy Spirit Mountain, without noticing her earnest intentions.

Was she pushing her brother and sister-in-law into the fire pit?

The fire pit indeed wasn't an exaggeration.

However, entering the mountain also meant being tightly bound with Lu Ran, meant gaining a divine position!

Mom and Dad were both ordinary people, lacking the qualifications for cultivation.

Deng Yuxiang couldn't possibly make such an unreasonable request to Lu Ran, so long as the parents could live in peace for a century, it would be enough.

But it was different for her brother and sister-in-law!

Now the two were married with children, truly a family...

The room fell into a silence, the atmosphere growing tenser.

Deng Yutang cautiously lowered his head, his heart growing more anxious by the moment.

"Um..." Lu Ran picked up the teacup, meekly asked, "This tea, has it been stored at home for years?"

Deng Yuxiang finally shifted her gaze, softly saying to Lu Ran, "Raw Pu-erh, the older the better."

"Oh." Lu Ran took a sip, blinking immediately.

He wasn't in the habit of drinking tea, only occasionally using Smoke Rain Tea for alertness after going to Holy Spirit Mountain.

Now, sipping authentic human world tea, he couldn't help but feel utterly comfortable.

Truly, comparing goods leads to rejection!

What does Smoke Rain Tea even count for~

"Tasty." Lu Ran looked at the woman, "Let's bring more when we return this time!"

Deng Yuxiang looked at Lu Ran somewhat helplessly, he had completely messed up the mood.

You really stand by your brother, huh?

"Will you?"

"Fine, fine." Deng Yuxiang repeatedly obliged, then looked at Deng Yutang, "Call now."

"I didn't bring my phone." Deng Yutang looked embarrassed.

He had been taken so suddenly!

He was only carrying cigarettes and a lighter, even now he was still in his pajamas...

Deng Yuxiang tossed her own phone over: "What to say and what not to say... never mind, I'll teach you."

Lu Ran quietly savored his tea, listening to the Ran Sect's Great Protector lecturing her brother.

Over ten minutes later, Deng Yutang's call woke up his sleeping father, instructing him to take down the family's small divine sculpture, "inviting" it to the apartment Deng Bai had bought near the university before.

An hour later, Deng Yutang, with his wife's eyes covered, knelt in the Immortal Worship Hall at Luoxian Mountain.

The Evil Mirror Magic-Mirror Flower Moon was indeed overwhelmingly powerful.

When Lu Ran and others returned to Rain Alley City-Deng Family's old residence, there was now also Bai Manni in the house.

Although Bai Manni recovered very well, Lu Ran still sent two tail Sea Grade-Resurrection Carp to his former classmate.

Just consider it as wedding gift money.

One was for his friend's wedding, and the other for the child's first-month celebration.

Lu Ran didn't mind giving more gifts.

The main concern was whether Bai Manni would suffer from excessive nutrition and be over-supplemented...

"I was just saying, I felt something good would happen today, turns out Ran Shen and sister are back."

Bai Manni sat on the sofa next to Deng Yutang, speaking softly.

Her appearance hadn't changed; she was still that pale-skinned girl.

Under the God Demon power system, it's difficult for women who have given birth to not recover quickly.

However, as a mother, Bai Manni's demeanor had changed somewhat, becoming much gentler.

With her sister-in-law present, Deng Yuxiang's attitude became much milder: "Recently, you won't be able to perceive anymore."

Recently?

Bai Manni hugged her husband's arm, secretly glanced at her elder sister, not daring to ask.

Strength rules everything, followed everywhere.

This elder sister, Deng Yuxiang, had far more parental authority than their own parents.

Deng Yutang knew exactly what his sister was planning, looking troubled: "Sis..."

Deng Yuxiang looked over coldly.

Unexpectedly, Deng Yutang didn't evade.

Lu Ran was quite surprised, a hint of anticipation rising in his heart, was Mr. Deng finally going to stand up?

Yes, fear nothing~

Overthrow the nightmare tyranny!

Lu Ran was still expecting, but noticed Deng Yuxiang stood up first, said to Lu Ran, "I want a private chat with him, you sit tight."

"Oh." Lu Ran nodded obediently, a face full of compliance.

Deng Yuxiang stepped towards the stairs.

Deng Yutang, crestfallen, quietly followed.

In the living room, only Lu Ran and Bai Manni were left, the atmosphere slightly awkward.

"Ahem." Lu Ran took a sip of tea, trying to make conversation, "You've been doing well lately, huh."

"Yeah, Yutang treats me well." Bai Manni's expression was worried, watching the two disappear by the stairs.

"Don't worry, after all, they are siblings." Lu Ran comforted, "At most, a few slaps and kicks, not enough to crush Mr. Deng."

Bai Manni: ???

Meanwhile, the two went up to the second floor of the villa, to the terrace outside Deng Yuxiang's master bedroom.

"Do you know what you are refusing?" Deng Yuxiang looked as if hating iron for not becoming steel.

Deng Yutang laid it all out, speaking in a low voice: "Sis! I know, you've made it very clear, I know you mean well! But this path it's not necessarily viable!

Those are... are deities..."

Deng Yuxiang furrowed her eyebrows tightly, looking at her brother who was emotionally charged in front of her.

For so many years, this was the first time he had so vehemently argued back.

Deng Yutang grasped his sister's shoulders, showing unprecedented courage: "We might fail, might be torn to pieces!

I am willing to do all this for Lingyi, to change something, even if it means being shattered to pieces!

But at least, leave the child a mother! If we fail, at least Manni can accompany Lingyi, help her grow..."

Deng Yuxiang's gaze grew sharper.

Deng Yutang forcibly suppressed his fear, trembling yet unwavering from her gaze.

"Naive." Deng Yuxiang finally spoke.

"Ah?" Deng Yutang's voice trembled.

"Do you think that by dying you can end it all?" Deng Yuxiang's voice was ice-cold, "This is a no-return path, if we fail, can your wife and daughter live?

Will crushing you satisfy the gods' wrath?"

Deng Yutang's expression grew stiffer.

He looked at the woman before him, dumbfounded, for 1 second...2 seconds...3 seconds...

Suddenly, Deng Yutang slumped like a deflated balloon, his body softened.

The hands grasping Deng Yuxiang's shoulders, powerlessly slid down, slipping off the woman's arms, ending in emptiness.

"Thud!"

The disconsolate young man knelt on the ground.

Deng Yuxiang stood silent, looking down at her brother, new to fatherhood.

Dejection? Pain? Despair?

Maybe all of them.

Deng Yuxiang's stern expression gradually faded, gently ruffling Deng Yutang's hair: "There's still time.

You haven't joined Lu Ran's sect yet, after the Divine Ruins, you don't necessarily have to go.

I'm giving you time to consider, I'll notify you before I leave, you'll choose then."

With those words, Deng Yuxiang stepped away.

Just before entering the bedroom, her hand paused slightly on the doorknob.

Without turning back, she lowered her head and said, "Your Brother Lu is omnipotent, Ran Sect has many with exceptional medical skills, even there, Lingyi will still be able to grow up healthy.

If you don't go, then assume nothing happened, you are already Immortal Sheep Believers, there's no need to worry about entering the mountain.

Sorry for involving you and our parents.

Before I fail, enjoy family life, please... please be filial to our parents for me."

"Click."

Deng Yuxiang lowered her head, opened the door, and left.

The inky terrace left behind a despondent young man.

Downstairs in the villa, Lu Ran chatted with Bai Manni about recent events, hearing footsteps, he turned to look.

Surprised to find, Deng Yuxiang's eyes were slightly red?

"Sis?" Lu Ran immediately stood up.

Deng Yuxiang stepped forward, one hand pressing Lu Ran's shoulder, making him sit back on the sofa: "I'll go refill your tea."

"You..."

"I'm fine." Deng Yuxiang forced a smile, looking at Bai Manni, "You and Yutang go back soon, the child is still young, you can't stay away too long."

Bai Manni didn't dare speak too much, nodding cautiously: "Okay."

Chapter 710: Unchanged

As night deepened, only two people remained in the old Deng family home.

Lu Ran looked at Deng Yuxiang, whose mood was low, and asked, "Are you going back to see your parents? It's not easy to come back once."

"No, I've seen them from afar." Deng Yuxiang shook her head, "Meeting them would be a burden for them."

Lu Ran looked at the downcast woman, feeling somewhat uneasy himself.

Big Nightmare quickly adjusted his emotions and changed the subject: "Any news from Shuangzi's side?"

Lu Ran looked helpless: "Today is only the first day of unfreezing, it hasn't even been past midnight yet! You need to give them more time."

At this time, Yan Shuangzi was already carrying out a mission with two shadow guards in Yueyang City, Xiangnan Province, looking for Senior Lu Yuan's wife and daughter.

But, it's uncertain whether they can find them.

During those days of lockdown before, Lu Ran and others tried searching online for information about Wen Lanxin and Lu Huang'er but couldn't find anything.

"Hmm." Deng Yuxiang responded softly, "Would you like some more tea?"

"No, no." Lu Ran waved his hand repeatedly.

"Are you sleeping here? Shall I tidy up a room for you?" Deng Yuxiang asked again.

"Sis."

"Hmm?"

"Don't be so gentle with me, I can't handle it."

"Heh." Deng Yuxiang finally laughed and glared at Lu Ran, "If I tidy up for you, that will make you comfortable?"

Lu Ran savored his tea as if thoroughly enjoying it.

No need to tidy up!

With your words alone, I'm already comfortable.

Lu Ran put down the teacup and said, "Shall we go back?"

"If you don't have any tasks assigned, I'll stay here." Deng Yuxiang sized up the familiar home.

"Okay." Lu Ran stood up and summoned the ancient bronze mirror, saying softly before leaving, "Everyone has their own ambitions and cannot be forced, be open-minded."

Deng Yuxiang turned her head just in time to see the landing mirror break apart and disappear.

She stared at the direction where the mirror vanished for a long time, then lowered her head and smiled:

"Hmm, alright."

Yutang may or may not come.

People have their own ambitions.

Little Lu Ran is always around.

Success or failure, whether soaring in the cloud sea or being shattered.

He is always around.

Meanwhile, in Luoxian Pavilion.

Tian Tian was still upgrading, surrounded by a dense fog.

Lu Ran couldn't see anything, but he smelled a faint jasmine fragrance and found the person he was looking for on the south side of the pavilion bench.

Whatever can be said or not, Little Ruyi is still the best!

Since Big Nightmare returned to the human world, it didn't mention replenishing the camellia fragrance...

[Back.] Jiang Ruyi didn't want to disturb Tian Tian's upgrade, so she chose to communicate through sound transmission.

Lu Ran sat beside his girlfriend, taking her into his arms.

[Not in a good mood?] The attentive Jiang Fairy could always detect Lu Ran's emotional discomfort immediately, [Things are not going well with Deng Yutang, are they?]

[It's alright, given he has a family, let's give him some time to consider.] Lu Ran held up his fiancée's waterfall-like hair, letting thousands of strands fall through his fingers.

[Deng Yutang has become an Immortal Sheep Believer, hasn't he?]

[Yes, Bai Manni too.]

[Then that's enough.] Jiang Ruyi's delicate hand fell on Lu Ran's chest, gently smoothing it up and down.

Lu Ran could be at ease, and Sister Yu Xiang could be at ease, that's all that matters.

The rest is not important.

[Cultivate, calm your mind, you've done too much today.] Jiang Ruyi advised.

[Finish things early, and return to Holy Spirit Mountain as soon as possible.] Lu Ran played with his fiancée's long hair, [The Pear Garden Sect is still waiting for us to take over.]

[We've only returned to the human world for three or four days, it's not that quick.] Jiang Ruyi leaned into Lu Ran's embrace and closed her eyes.

[By the way, your parents' flight is scheduled for tomorrow?]

[Tomorrow night, Wen Yang arranged it, he will pick them up at the airport.] Speaking of this, Jiang Ruyi reminded, [Once my parents leave, you can visit my house and play with the little tabby cat.]

Lu Ran: "..."

[The Jade Talisman Divine Statue has been sent away, so when you go to my house, bring an Immortal Sheep Divine Statue along to help consecrate it.]

[At your command!]

[By the way, you are not allowed to torment the little tabby cat!]

"Tut." Lu Ran pursed his lips.

How could that be?

That's my sister cat! Back in the day, she insisted on nurturing me...

In the midst of thinking, Lu Ran suddenly felt someone calling him.

He searched within the spiritual world and soon connected closely with an Evil Sculpture.

[You two! Pushing and shoving, shamelessly~] The cute voice imprinted in his mind.

Such a tone and sound hadn't occurred in sound transmission.

Little Yuanxi!

At this moment, she was also cultivating in the pavilion, benefiting from the resources, sitting on the bench on the north side.

[The fog is so thick, as if you can see.] Lu Ran snorted.

[Bah~ don't I know you?] Little Yuanxi muttered, [Sister Ruyi is the same! I went to sit next to her, she told me to focus on cultivating, and not to disturb Tian Tian's upgrade.

But when you come, you can sit beside her!]

Lu Ran unexpectedly uttered: [Is sound transmission fun?]

Little Yuanxi, who was just grinding her teeth, suddenly replied happily: [Fun~ Now you'll always be in my mind!]

I can always find you and secretly plot! I can complain about Sister Ruyi, and she wouldn't even know... huh? No, don't interrupt me!]

[I'm telling her now.]

[No! Ah~ Brother! Good brother~]

[Focus on cultivating, I won't tell.]

[Yes! I'll focus on cultivating! Sitting meditation, start~~~]

Lu Ran: ?

Uh-oh!

Haven't I just installed a chatterbox in my brain?

That pesky Little Yuanxi, just now Ruyi seemed to transmit a message too, but I didn't catch it clearly...

Lu Ran thickened his face and asked, insisting that he was distracted.

[I said, so next we'll just wait, wait for news from the Evil Shadow side.]

Lu Ran thought for a moment, then said: [Should I go and try my luck at Li Rouyin's place?]

We went through so much trouble just to find her beloved childhood sweetheart!

If Little Chef Li doesn't let me eat or drink or take something...

That's just unreasonable, right?

Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but laugh: [The Holy Spirit Mountain Realm is full of dead souls, why bother her?]

Li Rouyin has to collect dead souls arduously every fifteenth of the month.

Lu Ran over here has as many as he wants, there's really no need to trouble the girl.

[I'm not interested in dead souls.]

[Oh? So what do you want?] Jiang Ruyi lifted her gaze, looking at the face close by.

The sky was dark and the fog was thick.

But Lu Ran could still feel the faint gaze of his fiancée.

Lu Ran murmured: [Her family's Magic Artifact Fragment · Rebirth Money seems plentiful.]

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

[There's a bridal gift even for a wedding! I give her a great childhood sweetheart, just a few copper coins, not excessive, right?]

Jiang Ruyi laughed speechlessly.

The couple of copper coins you want, are they real copper coins?

Jiang Ruyi knew well how much the Magic Artifact Fragment · Rebirth Money helps Lu Ran.

With one more person able to bind souls, Lu Ran can avoid more losses and not have to do everything personally, tirelessly running in battles.

As of now, in the Ran Sect, there's only Deng Yuxiang with a copper coin who can help Lu Ran.

Thinking of this, Jiang Ruyi advised: [Don't go recklessly, before going, first communicate with Lord Immortal Sheep and get its permission.]

Lu Ran nodded.

Indeed!

Divine-Forget Spring has just Li Rouyin as a disciple, one person one god almost inseparable.

Lord Wang Quan surely knows Lu Ran went to the Holy Spirit Mountain.

[Hmm, bothered Lord Immortal Sheep a lot today, I'll ask tomorrow or the day after.] Lu Ran responded.

Regarding this matter, he remained optimistic.

Immortal Sheep and Wang Quan are old acquaintances, both sides should know each other's situation.

The most important is: Lord Wang Quan's current predicament!

Even on the first meeting, Wang Quan gave Lu Ran a greeting gift, even entrusted him with a "lifelong duty".

Divine-Forget Spring should eagerly want Lu Ran to chop the rampant gods and demons to bits...

In future endeavors, the Forget Spring Sect should definitely be a support for Lu Ran!

Thinking secretly in his heart, Lu Ran lowered his head, smelled Jiang Fairy's faint hair fragrance, and entered cultivation mode.

And this cultivation lasted a full two days.

Tian Tian truly is amazing!

River Realm Peak advanced to River Realm, requiring 2~3 days, she stretched the duration fully, her flesh enjoyed the maximum nourishment!

On the morning of July 22nd, only then did the thick fog between heaven and earth gradually disperse.

By then, Lu Ran was no longer sitting beside Jiang Ruyi.

He was sitting at three different positions with Jiang Ruyi and Qiao Yuansi, cultivating while protecting his comrades.

"Whew..."

Tian Tian sat cross-legged in the pavilion's center, gently exhaled.

Upon reopening her eyes, brilliance sparkled within, finally tinged with a hint of divinity.

"Congratulations!" Lu Ran faced Tian Tian, first to greet her.

"Congratulations, miss!" Qiao Yuansi suddenly jumped beside Tian Tian.

"Oh!" Tian Tian was startled, turning around, yet couldn't immediately recognize who it was.

Both sides hadn't seen each other for long, and Qiao Yuansi's change was particularly significant.

"What, you don't recognize me?" Qiao Yuansi gathered her long hair into a ponytail with one hand, "It's me, you've forgotten?"

Back at the station, I ate hamburger meat, and made my brother eat greens! Dumping minced meat fragments into his mouth!"

"Pfft~" Tian Tian couldn't help but laugh, quickly covered her little mouth with a hand.

Lu Ran: "..."

Are you really proud?

Also, the promised great talent of the River Realm?

Why is each one more cheerful and playful than the next?

"Hehe~" Qiao Yuansi bent her smile into crescent shapes, looked at Lu Ran, "She remembered the minced meat fragments!"

Lu Ran, with a dark face: "Wearing high heels, bouncing around, what does that look like!"

Qiao Yuansi's expression changed, sat back on the bench.

She gazed far at Erhai, elegantly tucked a strand of long hair behind her ear, quietly said: "Wait until I treat you coldly like others, then you'll behave."

"I'm sorry." Lu Ran gave in.

Utterly gave in.

Being away from the human world too long, forgotten the fear of being dominated by a quirky sister.

"Sister Ruyi." Tian Tian came before Jiang Ruyi, softly called.

Jiang Ruyi bore a light smile: "Congratulations."

Tian Tian tilted her little face, revealing a sweet smile.

She accomplished it.

Becoming a great talent of the River Realm, was secondary.

Most importantly, Tian Tian clearly realized, she hadn't changed.

Her feelings for Jiang Ruyi, all sorts of them...

Stayed the same!