

## Old Gods 761

Chapter 761: Battle Golden Monk!

These words, Lu Ran can only keep in his heart, not daring to speak out.

He is not sure what the current situation of Tufeng Master is, but everyone tacitly understands each other's actions.

If it is exposed, it could very well endanger the Forbidden City!

Tufeng Master clearly does not want to do this, yet still acts, obviously having concerns.

Possibly threatened by the Divine, possibly being watched by the Divine.

Or perhaps, everything Tufeng Master does will be revealed to the Divine, and he will be settled with in the future...

In any case, since Tufeng Master is subtly giving an opportunity, Lu Ran must seize it with all his might!

The only problem is, this opportunity is too difficult to grasp!

"Heavenly Realm" alone, with this Rank, is enough to crush those from the Sea Realm.

Moreover, Lu Ran is not facing a simple Heavenly Realm, but a disciple of the First-class God-Monk!

If only the Divine that Tufeng Master worships were weaker, and the Divine Technique not so omnipotent and dominant, Lu Ran could find a loophole.

But this Heavenly Realm Great Monk...

How on earth is he supposed to fight?

"Roar!"

"Hiss!" In the sky, the dragon and python rampaged.

The dragon's roar and the serpent's hiss intertwined, earth-shaking, heart-stopping.

Lu Ran's spirit remained taut, cautious to the extreme.

Heavenly Grade Divine Technique, especially the Heavenly Grade·Martial Monk Divine Skill, if it even grazes Lu Ran, could shatter his Defensive Armor, explode his Sea Realm body into pieces!

"What are you holding on to," a faint voice lingered in the sky.

The voice, devoid of human emotion, was deeply penetrating, piercing through the dragon's and serpent's hisses, drifting into Lu Ran's ears.

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple moved slightly, clenching the Jade Ruyi tightly.

Ever since his promotion to the Sea Realm in this Holy Spirit Mountain, he had rarely met an opponent. Lu Ran hadn't felt such "one misstep, life lost" danger for a long time.

Fleeing far away, avoiding the enemy's sharpness, is undoubtedly the right decision!

Right?

Is it right...

"Hoo~"

A surge of Divine Power roiled within Lu Ran.

Martial Arts Divine Technique·Yan Lingfan!

This is one of the three treasures of the Pear Garden, allows the believers of the Martial Artist to sway with the "wind", even idle amidst thousands of troops, truly achieving no leaves on oneself.

The Heavenly Realm Great Monk before him was absurdly strong, with a shockingly explosive output! Because of this, every skill Tufeng Master performed, had especially intense Divine Power fluctuations.

So before the Martial Monk Faction's Divine Skill actually hit Lu Ran, the terrifying Divine Power fluctuations would push Lu Ran away!

Clearly, Lu Ran made the choice he thought was correct; holding the Jade Ruyi in one hand, he reached out forward again.

"Buzz~"

The exquisite, bright-white Jade Ruyi suddenly shook gently, and a large-scale white-scaled python immediately shot out, hissing and lunging towards Tufeng Master.

Tufeng Master turned his head, looked at the location where the white-scaled python appeared, and immediately leapt over.

He didn't mind falling into a trap, fiercely pursuing, allowing the mysterious youth to lead him out of the skies above the Forbidden City.

But even after leaving the skies above the Forbidden City, what then?

Are you giving yourselves just a little extra time to catch your breath, to organize the city's evacuation?

Tufeng Master looked expressionless, his long stick in hand sweeping and his foot kicking out dragons one after another, each move a deadly blow to Lu Ran!

Do you really think the lives of those lowly servants are precious, worth the Divine personally ordering their collection?

"Roar!" Another golden dragon was kicked out from under Tufeng Master's foot.

In the moment of a spinning kick, Tufeng Master glanced again at the majestic Forbidden City in the distance.

Behind, came the hoarse sound of the serpent's hiss.

Tufeng Master silently turned to look, a touch of disappointment in his heart.

Is that all?

Then... forget it.

"I'm starting to get bored," Tufeng Master said indifferently.

Grasping the Second-rank Divine Weapon·Xuanhuang Stick, he reached forward.

The dark golden Xuanhuang Stick suddenly grew larger and longer, its tip pressed against the side of the massive snake's head, pushing it aside.

"Ugh." Lu Ran gritted his teeth tightly, as if putting all his strength into it.

The Immortal Sky Python, with a physical form, can move with the caster's mind, twisting its body and adjusting its assault direction at will.

But no matter how Lu Ran controlled it, the Immortal Sky Python could not move, only to be heartlessly pushed aside by the giant stick.

"Hoo!!"

The enormous Xuanhuang Stick swept out mightily.

The Immortal Sky Python hissed with rage, twisting its body and slamming obliquely to the ground.

"Rumble-rumble!"

The giant python crashed heavily into the ground, the earth shook, swaths of mountains and forests shattered and crushed.

The Xuanhuang Stick did not stop sweeping!

It continued circling Tufeng Master, completing a full sweep.

In an instant, a dark golden disk appeared in the sky!

The massive stick discharged thick golden energy, like a raging Cloud Sea, with a sky-covering magnitude.

Lu Ran's temples throbbed!

He flashed subconsciously, reappearing above the golden Cloud Sea.

Yet a dozen meters below his feet, the terrifying storm continued, the gale buffeting the tiny ants, flipping Lu Ran out in a jolt.

Tufeng Master's palm stuck to the bottom of the Xuanhuang Stick, sweeping it open once more.

"Buzz!!"

The Xuanhuang Stick quivered violently, already massive, its size seemed to be maddeningly increasing?

The ever thicker giant stick swept out more and more dark golden disks, at all angles, displayed in the high altitude.

The terrifying golden airwaves filled the heavens.

Lu Ran, like a small boat swaying in the stormy waves, appeared to be in danger, at any moment could be shattered by the golden waves.

But in reality, the Divine Skill from the Martial Artist Faction-Yan Lingfan, pulled Lu Ran up and down, left and right in mid-air.

Chapter 762: Battle Golden Monk!\_2

Undeniably, the monk is indeed very strong.

But the performer... is not to be underestimated!

Who among us isn't from a first-class Divine Sect?

"Swish!"

Lu Ran, swaying with the wind, strained to flicker and instantly appeared in the sky ten kilometers away.

From afar, Tufeng Master was still causing havoc!

Lu Ran knew very well that his time was running out.

That earlier comment from Tufeng Master, "I'm starting to get bored," was more of a reminder than a scornful taunt!

"Damn it!"

Lu Ran, anxious at heart, rarely swore.

He flung aside the Jade Ruyi, forcibly suppressing his racing heartbeat, and stared fixedly at the sky where dark golden energy surged in the distance.

One second, two seconds... it's now!

Lu Ran's eyes focused, and just as Tufeng Master paused his sweeping stick, his figure suddenly flickered.

The next moment, Lu Ran clung to the Xuanhuang Stick.

A tiny ant trying to shake a giant tree, ridiculous and overestimating oneself?

No!

This tiny ant had done an earth-shattering deed!

Lu Ran clutched the Xuanhuang Stick tightly, instantly teleporting again.

"Hmm?" Tufeng Master's movements paused.

Divine Weapon and its master, naturally attuned in mind, knew each other's locations.

Tufeng Master turned his head to gaze, ten kilometers north, there lay the Xuanhuang Stick, but it was invisible to the naked eye!

For a moment, Tufeng Master wore a peculiar expression.

He thought,

The mysterious youth was merely that.

Unexpectedly, in this instant life and death battlefield, he could still think on his feet and play some clever tricks?

But holding my Divine Weapon, aren't you just exposing your position?

"Bold!" Tufeng Master shouted fiercely for the first time, treading lightly as the Three Thousand Ripples Shoes spread out a ring of golden ripples.

With unmatched might, the Heavenly Realm Great Monk shot northward.

"Be still!" Lu Ran shouted fiercely as well, clutching the mere two-meter Xuanhuang Stick in his hand.

The Divine Weapon Domain naturally required the master and the divine weapon to jointly cast spells. When Lu Ran forcibly took the Divine Weapon, Xuanhuang Stick, away, this divine weapon reverted to ordinary specifications.

"Buzz!"

The Xuanhuang Stick struggled violently, but couldn't escape Lu Ran's grasp.

Even though the attributes of the second-rank divine weapon were explosive, it was futile as Lu Ran was already at the Sea Realm and infused with Fierce Heavenly Power.

However, when Lu Ran sensed Tufeng Master charging headlong at him, he immediately realized something was wrong.

"Off you go!"

Lu Ran decisively flung the Xuanhuang Stick away.

The moment the Xuanhuang Stick left his hand, it became visible and tried hard to slow down, attempting to return to its master's embrace.

[Take it away, take it away for me!] Lu Ran's mind raced, and Dawn Silence Night emerged in succession, piercing straight at the Xuanhuang Stick.

[Master!] An urgent female voice imprinted in his mind.

Yan Shuangzi?

At this moment, Lu Ran didn't have the time to scold her for disobeying orders and immediately said:  
[Take the stick away!]

"Swish~"

In the sky appeared a sudden figure of a cloaked woman, who grabbed the Xuanhuang Stick and flickered away.

Tufeng Master leaping rapidly forward couldn't help but slightly raise an eyebrow.

In just a moment, the Divine Weapon Stick was again far away from him.

Was she a disciple of Qiang Xiu? A follower of Sword One? Or a disciple of the Evil Dog?

In any case, she wasn't a Blood Skull disciple, as she left no blood-red afterimages when teleporting.

Or perhaps, she was another person with an Instant Teleportation Artifact?

Tufeng Master suddenly narrowed his eyes.

In the northern sky, a young woman wielding a Golden Zen Staff and draped in a wide golden robe flew over.

He Qifeng?

"You..." Tufeng Master slightly parted his lips, but the words stalled.

Are you not dead?

Not dead... but why are you appearing, why let me see you?!

"Boom!!"

Tufeng Master's face darkened as he clasped his hands together, an earth-shattering muffled sound erupted.

His body suddenly radiated a splendid golden light.

In the midday sky, the sun blazed hotly, but the brilliant light radiating from Tufeng Master could contend with the scorching sun!

A terrifying energy surged up, and Tufeng Master's fleshly body was coated with a golden layer.

Divine Martial Monk Faction's Heavenly Realm ultimate move: Battle Golden Monk!

"Tu..." He Qifeng's pupils trembled, halting suddenly in the air.

In the sky more than ten kilometers away, that small monk shadow was like a golden sun, radiating a golden dawn.

The next instant, a massive golden palm of a kilometer's scale appeared, shooting forth with overwhelming momentum.

He Qifeng gripped the Second-rank Divine Weapon - Nine-ringed Golden Zen Staff, and hurriedly dodged to the side.

Astonishingly, that gigantic golden palm over a thousand meters long wasn't the only one!

There was also a second palm, a third palm, a fourth palm...

With each push of his palm, Tufeng Master could unleash a golden monk palm that could destroy heaven and earth!

"Boom!"

"Boom..." The earth-shattering explosion sounds were endless.

The golden monk palms swept from the sky, stirring up waves of wind, uprooting the forest trees below.

The continuous mountain ranges in front of the monk palms were also blasted to pieces.

Truly capable of destroying heaven and earth!

However, this was not the entirety of the Heavenly Realm's ultimate move - Battle Golden Monk.

As Tufeng Master leaped rapidly forward and stomped fiercely in the air, the ground suddenly shook.

The forest swayed, trees toppled over, and stones and dust splattered chaotically.

Golden dragons burst from the ground, surging from bottom to top, attacking the frantically dodging He Qifeng in the sky.

Evade?

With what could He Qifeng evade?

To the top left, there were giant palms obscuring the sky, and below, densely packed dragon swarms were attacking...

A deadlock!

"Ah Ah Ah!" He Qifeng suddenly roared in anger, her short hair danced upwards in the wind waves, and golden light erupted in her eyes.

With both hands holding the Nine-ringed Golden Zen Staff, she fiercely planted it before her.

"Buzz!"

A slew of golden light rings emanated from the Nine-ringed Golden Zen Staff.

The massive golden light rings encircled He Qifeng, rotating in various directions and angles with her at the center, forming a spherical defense shield.

Divine Weapon Domain - Nine-ringed Compassion Shield!

Could these rapidly spinning rings withstand the attack of the Heavenly Realm Power?

Unknown.

What Lu Ran knew was that He Qifeng's appearance had completely diverted Tufeng Master's attention.

A heaven-sent opportunity!

"Swish~" Lu Ran's figure suddenly flashed, appearing directly beneath Tufeng Master's feet.

At this moment, Master of Ran Sect cast aside life and death, opting for close contact with the terrifying Heavenly Realm Power, and fiercely grabbed Tufeng Master's feet.

"Hmm?" Tufeng Master felt a chill at his feet just as he prepared to react.

The artifact on his feet - Three Thousand Ripples Shoes, disappeared.

Tufeng Master's shoes were snatched away by Lu Ran!

Tufeng Master: ???

In such a serious occasion, amidst an intense life-and-death battle, this kid...

Actually snatches others' shoes?

The key point is that it's surprisingly effective!

No matter how powerful the Heavenly Realm Great Monk, he couldn't fly!

"You..." For a moment, Tufeng Master's expression was extremely colorful, as he plummeted downwards.

"Hiss!!"

The familiar hissing of a snake resounded again.

Tufeng Master, falling backwards, saw a phantom gigantic python roaring fiercely and charging down.

"Whoosh~"

Energy surged in Tufeng Master's hand, and he casually grasped an Ancient Copper Stick constructed from pure energy.

However, just as he was about to thrust the stick upwards and detonate the golden energy...

Tufeng Master's face suddenly stiffened!

As he plummeted rapidly, he sensed a tremendous energy fluctuation bursting from the forest below.

This level of Divine Power fluctuation was absolutely not something someone from the Sea Realm could unleash!

For the first time, Tufeng Master sensed a crisis!

He instinctively aimed the Ancient Copper Stick to his side, planning to trigger an explosion in advance, leveraging the blast's airwaves to propel himself away.

Who said that not being able to fly meant one couldn't evade?

But at this moment, a phantom dark gigantic petal stained the golden monk's body, enveloping the tiny Human Clan.

Is this the Dust Shadow Sect - Other Shore Flower?

Tufeng Master's eyes subtly moved, abruptly halting the action of igniting the stick's end.

"Whoosh~"

Almost simultaneously, the petals swung gently, and the flower suddenly contracted.

Tufeng Master resumed his expressionless appearance, silently observing as all unfolded.

In mid-air,

The dark and beautiful enormous Other Shore Flower vanished without a trace, along with the dazzling Battle Golden Monk.

In the forest below,

An elderly man in a gray robe squinted, gazing at the sky, slowly lowering his arms.

Chapter 763: My Heavenly Emperor

"Crack! Crack..."

The sound, crisp and piercing, came from the northern sky.

Lu Ran turned his head to see an incredibly perilous scene.

The Tufeng Master had already been teleported away, but the battle had yet to cease; the golden monk's palm he'd previously launched was still there, and the dense crowd of golden dragons remained!

At this moment, a giant golden hand was pushing the Nine Ring Mercy Shield, blasting it further away.

In the blink of an eye, two of the nine golden rings had shattered, and they continued to fracture.

Lu Ran immediately tossed the fiercely struggling Magic Artifact·Three Thousand Ripples Shoes to Elder Lu, then hurriedly flickered and directly plunged into the Nine Ring Mercy Shield.

"Crack! Crack!"

The sound of the golden rings breaking continued, like a death knell being incessantly struck.

He Qifeng was gritting his teeth, striving desperately to wield the Divine Weapon in his hand, trying to reconstruct the golden rings. But how could his and the Divine Weapon's spellcasting speed compare to the destructive speed of the monk's palm and the golden dragons?

"I!" Suddenly, a voice came from behind.

The desperate look in He Qifeng's eyes immediately changed expressions.

Lu Ran had arrived!

Immediately, He Qifeng felt an arm wrap around him.

"Crack!!" Under the impact of the monk's palm in front and the golden dragons below, the last two golden rings exploded simultaneously.

He Qifeng's heart was in his throat, and in his sight, the immense golden monk's palm approached, blotting out the sun!

It seemed as if in the next moment, it would crush the two tiny humans mercilessly.

"Whew~" Suddenly, He Qifeng felt their backward speed drastically increase.

An eerie scene unfolded!

The distance between the golden monk's palm and Lu Ran and He Qifeng froze, maintaining a ten to twenty-meter gap as they continued flying northwards.

Martial Artist Divine Skill·Yan Lingfan!

Before the golden monk's palm could strike Lu Ran, the terrifying Divine Power fluctuations would first push him away.

No matter how fast the enemy's skill's speed was, Lu Ran always led by a body length!

And Lu Ran wasn't flying backward in a straight line; he was taking He Qifeng, swaying left and right, flying backward and upward.

There was also the dense crowd of golden dragons under their feet, pushing the tiny humans.

"Bang! Bang!"

"Rumble..." The golden dragons couldn't catch the tiny ants but blasted the golden monk's palm into pieces.

Yan Shuangzi watched from afar, her eyes' worry gradually turning into amazement.

In such dense output, Lu Ran truly achieved the feat of "passing through a sea of flowers without a leaf touching his body"!

As the golden monk's palm exploded, He Qifeng finally escaped the golden dragons' impact range, standing high in the sky.

Seemingly alone, Yan Shuangzi knew very well that Lu Ran must be standing behind He Qifeng.

"Didn't I tell you to stay still there?"

A voice, slightly stern, came to He Qifeng's ears.

Undeniably, the appearance of the Wind Emperor indeed assisted Lu Ran.

She attracted the Tufeng Master's attention, allowing Lu Ran to act recklessly, cooperating with Elder Lu.

But this level of battlefield isn't one that He Qifeng and Yan Shuangzi ought to involve themselves in.

A slight misstep could truly lead to death!

"Hmm..." He Qifeng pursed his lips, reaching down to hold the hand around his front.

The high and mighty Forbidden City Master hadn't been scolded in a long time.

Another voice, this time from a youth, reached his ears, slightly softer, "Tufeng Master has been sent to the Heavenly Realm, your Forbidden City is safe."

The apprehension in He Qifeng's heart finally eased.

The Forbidden City is fine.

It's fine...

[Master, Wuji Peak has been destroyed for a while now.] Yan Shuangzi's voice suddenly reminded Lu Ran in his mind.

Right, Soul Binding!

"We'll settle this later when we return." Leaving behind these words, Lu Ran flickered away.

He Qifeng, supported by the Divine Weapon, stood in mid-air, looking at the horrific battlefield stretching beneath for kilometers, his expression growing more complex.

Confusion, anger, fear, relief...

Various emotions welled up in his heart, rendering him momentarily frozen in place.

Meanwhile, back at Wuji Peak, Lu Ran opened his Pupil of the Dead World.

The collapsing mountains, the torn earth.

A thousand palaces turned to dust.

Lu Ran looked up, once more seeing many floating dead souls, and further above in the sky, those slowly ascending to the Heavenly Realm.

"Damn it! You got lucky!"

Lu Ran cursed hatefully in his heart, his figure flickering again, hovering above Wuji Peak, intercepting one dead soul after another.

One after another, the deceased martial monk disciples, angry, grief-stricken, desperately wailing...

This portrait of all living beings further dampened Lu Ran's mood.

What exactly did the Divine·Martial Monk say to the Tufeng Master?

Could it be that the Divine threatened the Tufeng Master's life or broke the contract, leaving the Tufeng Master without the Divine Technique?

It shouldn't be like this.

People always said that the Tufeng Master was upright, embodying righteousness.

Would he, just because of such a threat, willingly sacrifice the disciples of the entire sect and destroy the Forbidden City?

Or, did the Divine·Martial Monk use the Tufeng Master's family in Da Xia as leverage?

Would that be possible?

Lu Ran still didn't think so, yet felt he shouldn't overestimate human nature.

His mind was a tumult, continuously binding souls.

There must be other reasons...

"Alas..." A long sigh drew Lu Ran's attention.

He turned to see a somewhat familiar figure—Elder Zhang.

Recollecting those days, when Lu Ran invited He Qifeng to Mist Rain Lake, there were two elders surnamed Zhang who accompanied them.

As sect elders, they held a distinguished status and possessed great strength, both having reached the Fourth Rank of the Sea Realm.

Later, the two First Rank Divine Weapon Halberds that Lu Ran acquired from Madam Lü and Third Lady Lü of Thunder Mountain were given to them by the Wind Emperor.

This allowed the two Zhang elders to lock onto enemies on the fog-filled battlefield.

After the battle at Thunder Mountain, He Qifeng wanted to return the divine weapons, but Lu Ran refused.

The Divine Weapon Halberds, of course, could be used to win people's loyalty.

Rather than reclaiming the two Sky-piercing Halberds, it was better to use the opportunity to draw the two Zhang elders into the Big Wind Hall.

Since then, the two elders surnamed Zhang indeed became closer with He Qifeng.

This time, if Tufeng Master successfully ascended to the Heavenly Realm, both Zhang elders would stand by He Qifeng's side, endorsing her as the new Peak Master of Wuji Peak.

Regrettably, Tufeng Master entered into deviation.

All the efforts He Qifeng made before, all the plans, crumbled to dust.

"Hmm?" Elder Zhang sensed an absorbing force beside him, but Lu Ran concealed his presence, making it impossible for the other party to see clearly.

Lu Ran also sighed in his heart.

The Great Martial Monk at the Fourth Rank of the Sea Realm died just like that at the hands of Tufeng Master.

So humble was it.

The Divine Monk indeed chose the right time! Who is not tempted by the dense fog brought by Tufeng Master's promotion to the Heavenly Realm?

Many disciples of Wuji Peak, even those out on assignments, would go back specifically to enjoy the blessings of heaven, wouldn't they?

...

At night, within the Forbidden City·City Lord's mansion.

In the vast hall, Lu Ran sat silently on the Taishi Chair, enduring the buzzing vibrations in his mind from the Martial Monk stone sculpture.

Yan Shuangzi guarded in the shadows, silently.

Elder Lu had already left early, requesting the Magic Artifact staff from Yan Shuangzi on the noon battlefield, gave some instructions, and then headed to Qianhua Ridge.

Lu Yuan did not return to Cloud Sea Cliff because the owners of the Xuanhuang Stick and Three Thousand Ripples Shoes were still Tufeng Master.

Tufeng Master was merely transported to the Heavenly Realm, unable to communicate with the two treasures.

And not completely severed from them.

The Human World, Mountain Realm, and Heavenly Realm are each independent worlds.

Just like when Lu Ran was in Da Xia, wanting to contact disciples of the Ran Sect through a master-servant contract, there was simply no connection.

But if Tufeng Master were to return to Holy Spirit Mountain, the staff and battle shoes would naturally communicate smoothly with their master, divulging all the information they knew.

This was the fundamental reason Lu Yuan didn't return to Cloud Sea Cliff.

Before the Xuanhuang Stick and Ripple Shoes recognize a new master, they should not be aware of the location of Cloud Sea Cliff, much less Lu Ran's true identity.

Lu Yuan personally stated: After the Sect Master selects the new master of the divine weapons and artifacts, bring them to Qianhua Ridge.

Of course, Elder Lu behaved this way purely out of caution.

The Tufeng Master who ascended to the Heavenly Realm should not be able to return.

"Creak~"

The door was pushed open, and a woman clad in a luxurious golden robe walked in.

The room was pitch black, but it didn't impede He Qifeng from perceiving Lu Ran's presence. She turned to close the door and walked up to the Taishi Chair: "Sect Master."

Lu Ran possessed night vision, naturally seeing He Qifeng's expression clearly.

Her eyes were dim, no longer carrying the glorious air from before.

Throughout the daytime, those from Big Wind Hall returned to Wuji Peak but found no survivors.

Lu Ran already knew this outcome; during the Soul Binding, he had also tried searching.

However, the Heavenly Grade Dragon Soaring Strike's range was immensely wide, its damage output surpassed what should have been possible for Holy Spirit Mountain, and the dragons were densely packed, virtually destroying everything.

The Wuji Peak sect,

This powerful faction standing at the center of Holy Spirit Mountain's territory was thus erased.

And the Heavenly Realm Power who caused this disaster did so with just one move.

Just one move...

Truth be told, if the peak were full of Martial Artist disciples, there might have been some survivors.

But alas, the sect was filled with Martial Monk disciples, their fighting style predetermined by the Divine Technique list, and what the disciples were most proud of was the Martial Monk Divine Skill-Dharma Protector Golden Body!

However, this unparalleled defense technique was as fragile as thin paper when facing the Heavenly Grade attack output.

"How many Martial Monk disciples are left?"

"Only 28 disciples of Big Wind Hall stationed in the city are left," He Qifeng said softly, "Among the Sea Realm Martial Monk disciples, only the Wine-and-Meat Realman remains."

In Lu Ran's mind, an image of a plump monk immediately emerged.

"The Wine-and-Meat Realman is at the peak of the Sea Realm and doesn't need cultivation." He Qifeng managed a bitter smile, "He is very gluttonous and always stayed in the city, never returning to Wuji Peak."

Lu Ran remained silent for a long time, then gently acknowledged with a "hmm."

Suddenly, He Qifeng knelt before the Taishi Chair, expressing heartfelt gratitude: "On behalf of all the city's people, thank the Sect Master for saving our lives."

He Qifeng, the second genius of Da Xia, possessed an almost pathological competitiveness.

Her ability supported this heart. Crawling and struggling within Holy Spirit Mountain, she finally became a city lord with great power, transforming into a dignified and imposing empress.

This was probably the first time Lu Ran had seen He Qifeng bow her head in front of him since knowing her...

"Isn't the Forbidden City also mine?" Lu Ran replied softly.

He Qifeng pursed her lips, ultimately replying with a "hmm."

"Aren't you and I both the geniuses of Da Xia?"

"Hmm."

"There's no need for thanks."

He Qifeng remained silent for a long time, her voice low: "Thank the Sect Master for saving my life and safeguarding my Dao Heart."

A simple sentence carried with it Lu Ran's reckless and nearly suicidal act.

In the darkness, the young man's soft whisper was heard: "You are my Wind Emperor, my like-minded companion."

He Qifeng's nose suddenly tingled, lowering her head to hide her expression, though the tightly clutched fist betrayed her emotions:

"Yes."

...

#### Chapter 764: Night Under Star Official

In a pitch-black room, there came the low voice of a young man: "Today, you will join my sect."

"Alright!" He Qifeng agreed without hesitation.

Lu Ran rose from the Taishi Chair and stepped toward He Qifeng: "Lift your head."

He Qifeng looked up, only to have a hand press down on his head.

Lu Ran continued: "Currently, my Martial Monk Stone Sculpture is advancing in rank. After signing the Inheritance Contract with you, your body will also tremble."

Don't feel embarrassed, this will help you fuse with the Stone Sculpture."

Feeling the warm hand on his forehead, He Qifeng softly replied, "Mm."

"Hoo!!"

Within Lu Ran, a colossal phantom spread out, looking down at the humble Human Clan beneath.

Half a minute later, He Qifeng shivered uncontrollably, muffling a groan, "Ugh."

"Pop~"

A black little Mo Li appeared out of thin air, and Lu Ran held its tail, bringing it to He Qifeng's forehead.

The Mo Li shattered, transforming into a dense life force, pouring into the girl's delicate body.

A few minutes later, He Qifeng tremulously said, "I... wasn't too badly hurt?"

In the darkness, Lu Ran's voice echoed: "I found a way to tear the contract without harm. Just now, when you coordinated to mobilize Divine Power and tear the contract, the Stone Sculpture was always protecting you."

He Qifeng looked up with some surprise.

Lu Ran tidied He Qifeng's disheveled short hair, his expression softened considerably: "Why didn't you ask beforehand? Prepared to drop in rank?"

He Qifeng silently lowered his head.

Lu Ran sighed in his heart, bending over to support her, guiding her toward the Taishi Chair: "The drunken master is at the peak of the Sea Realm; he should also join my sect.

If he advances to the Heavenly Realm, he may very well become the second Tufeng Master."

He Qifeng's expression was less than pleasant, suggesting, "Shall I call him over now?"

Lu Ran replied, "There is only one position for the Inheritor, and he cannot rend the contract without harm. The drunken master will suffer severe wounds."

Upon hearing this, He Qifeng pondered briefly and then said, "The drunken master has always indulged in pleasure daily, drinking and eating, making it almost impossible for him to ascend to the Heavenly Realm.

Now, with the recent destruction of Wuji Peak, and the anxiety in the Forbidden City, nearby forces may be ready to move, this is precisely when we need people.

Why not let me negotiate with the drunken master, having him maintain the current state, what do you think?"

Lu Ran was willing to trust He Qifeng's capabilities, and given that she cherished the Forbidden City far more than him, she would never be careless in such matters.

However, Lu Ran still did not want to leave a hidden danger, and he said solemnly, "You don't need to worry about manpower. I'll assign a couple of halls from the Pear Garden Sect to help defend the Forbidden City."

"Alright." Seeing that Lu Ran had made up his mind, He Qifeng said no more.

Lu Ran added, "Once you recover, speak with the drunken master, clarify the pros and cons, and have him join my sect and subsequently venerate you."

"Al... alright," He Qifeng's voice was much smaller, her body trembling slightly, indeed feeling a little embarrassed.

Even in the pitch-black room, He Qifeng knew she was just fooling herself, while Lu Ran could see everything clearly.

He Qifeng tightly clutched the armrest of the Taishi Chair, her toes gripping the ground, trying to maintain dignity.

Lu Ran noticed her embarrassment and sped up his speech slightly: "Moreover, once you recover, I'll hand over the Xuanhuang Stick and the Three Thousand Ripples Shoes to you."

"To me?" He Qifeng looked at the dark side.

"They are the Divine Weapon Artifacts of the Tufeng Master, and you are his most favored disciple, making it easier to gain their acknowledgment. Your task is to persuade with both reasoning and emotion, showcasing your proper demeanor to have them recognize you as their master."

"All... all of them to me?"

"Heh." Lu Ran chuckled, turning his head to the side, "Aren't you my Wind Emperor?"

He Qifeng slowly lowered her head, softly affirming, "Mm."

Everything that happened today left He Qifeng feeling as if she had fallen into a frozen abyss.

From beginning to end, the young man who has constantly shielded and stayed by her side has constantly warmed and reassured her heart.

Just like he has always done since their encounter.

Looking back on their time together, she seemed never to have won.

But Lu Ran...

Never let her lose anything either.

A bitter smile gradually appeared on He Qifeng's face.

"I'll coordinate personnel from the Pear Garden Sect, approximately two Sea Realm Hall Masters and sixty River Realm Disciples." Lu Ran reached forward, summoning the Ancient Bronze Mirror, "Have people receive them at the Martial Arts Arena, and I'll lead them directly there."

"Yes, Sect Leader." As He Qifeng spoke, Lu Ran had already stepped into the mirror.

He Qifeng supported herself on the table, staggering toward the door, opening it, and loudly calling out, "Hou Yun."

"City Lord." In the distant night, a woman quickly approached.

He Qifeng gave a few instructions before closing the door and returning to her seat.

In the empty surroundings, the Forbidden City Master finally shed all pretenses, curling her long legs and tucking herself into the Taishi Chair.

With her head buried, curled into a ball.

However, whatever she recalled caused the slightly embarrassed expression to vanish, her gaze turning ever more resolute.

Twenty minutes later, within the desolate Martial Arts Arena.

A Landing Mirror silently opened, with a team emerging from it, stepping onto the arena shrouded in a mist of water.

"Sect Leader." Hou Yun approached immediately.

Lu Ran regarded the eighteenth-ranked Heavenly Pride of Da Xia, nodding, "Heavenly Pride Hou, you're doing well."

Hou Yun responded with shame, "I'm undeserving of the Heavenly Pride name."

Yet, to this day, she remained at the River Realm Peak, falling further and further behind Lu Ran and He Qifeng.

Perhaps her understanding isn't deep enough; her Dao Heart wasn't able to support her further advancement.

Or is it due to limited talent?

This possibility is small, but not non-existent. Strictly speaking, reaching the River Realm Peak is already quite an achievement.

The standards of Lu Ran are simply too high.

"These two are the Hall Masters of Zhenyue Hall and Hundred Battles Hall from the Pear Garden Sect," Lu Ran indicated the two people behind him, introducing them, "Qin Zhen, Qin Zhan."

"Honored Heavenly Pride."

"Honored Heavenly Pride, well met." With a personal introduction from Lu Ran, although the Hall Masters possessed the status of the Sea Realm, they courteously greeted him.

Hou Yun promptly cupped his fists in return, greeting each of them.

"You can go with Honored Heavenly Pride, follow her arrangements... hmm?" Lu Ran suddenly looked towards the southern sky.

There, a brilliant star was falling.

The so-called "star" wasn't very large, with a diameter of only about half a meter, yet its blue light was exceptionally brilliant, illuminating the night as it fell.

Could this be... a Believer of the Star Official?

Divine·Star Official, ranked third.

The Star Official sect is a classic offensive sect, proficient in ice, fire, thunder, and earth techniques, somewhat similar to the Jade Talisman Sect.

The difference is, this sect places more emphasis on single-target attacks, with superior killing abilities compared to the Jade Talisman Sect!

The most famous of these is the Divine Technique·Tianshu Po Jun.

The brilliant star descending from the sky lands on the enemy and can merge into the enemy's Water Flow Armor and other defense techniques, with additional damage when detonation occurs!

"Specialized in a particular skill" describes it perfectly.

However, the disadvantages of the Star Official sect are quite obvious; all of this sect's Divine Techniques summon stars to fall from the sky.

Perhaps it is due to this flaw that the Divine-Star Official is only ranked third.

"Could be someone from the Star-picking Platform." Hou Yun's expression wasn't good, preparing for the worst.

"Star-picking Platform?" Lu Ran slightly raised his eyebrows.

Hou Yun nodded and said, "A month and a half ago, twenty-eight disciples of the Star Official came to the Forbidden City."

Lu Ran understood in his heart.

Since Tufeng Master changed the sect rules and reformed the atmosphere, several force organizations have settled near Wuji Peak.

Lu Ran was aware of these small forces, but this Star-picking Platform was truly a first-time hearing for him.

It turns out it's been happening for nearly two months now.

Hou Yun continued, "We accepted them, hoping to make the Forbidden City stronger, but this group doesn't follow the rules."

"Oh?"

"This group is used to acting high-handedly, with bad habits hard to change, oppressing the weak disciples in the city, later clashed with the city guards, after being punished with rods, they were driven out."

Hou Yun paused for a moment, then continued, "Later, they settled on a mountain to the west of Wuji Peak and named it Star-picking Platform.

Lu Ran inquired, "How many Sea Realm do they have?"

"Two Sea Realm, the Sect Leader of the Star-picking Platform is at the Sea Realm Peak, the Sect Leader's sister is of the Middle Sea Realm, and it was the sister of the Sect Leader we punished with rods, it got quite ugly."

Qin Zhan felt as if he was hearing a tall tale, couldn't help but grin and said, "Punished a Middle Sea Realm with rods?

And not just punished, but you also drove her out?

Are you kidding me?

Isn't this leaving a future trouble? What Sea Realm can endure such humiliation?

Hou Yun helplessly said, "Wuji Peak has sect rules, the Forbidden City also has city rules, this is our foundation for survival.

That woman's crime wasn't deserving of death, didn't harm anyone's life, just publicly humiliated someone in a teahouse..."

"I'll go take a look." Lu Ran casually remarked, disappearing without a trace.

He reached above the Forbidden City in stealth mode, where torches illuminated the area, coupled with the grand city walls exuding the charm of ancient cities.

Upon arrival, Lu Ran immediately heard an angry male voice: "I said, we are not accepting outsiders at the Forbidden City recently, you all should leave."

This voice is... Yin Tianlong?

Lu Ran shifted slightly, looking towards the city gate tower, indeed spotting a familiar figure.

So much time has passed, yet He Qifeng's right-hand man remains at the River Realm, growing more distant from the goddess of his heart, afraid in this life, he will struggle to fulfill his dreams.

Not to mention, Yin Tianlong is indeed blind, directing his attention to the Wind Emperor.

This career-driven big woman, is she one for talking love?

"Isn't your Forbidden City a charitable refuge accepting many refugees?" a charming female voice came, quite pleasant.

Lu Ran turned his gaze, seeing a shapely woman draped in stars.

She was beautiful, dressed in a blue long dress, with jet-black hair cascading over her shoulders, highly bewitching.

Two small gleaming stars circled around her in an "X" shape.

Making her blue long dress extraordinarily beautiful.

Also making her eyes appear as if they were stars.

Only, a faint smile lingered at the corners of her mouth, adding a hint of wantonness to this charming face.

As she surveyed the fully alert Forbidden City guard, her smile became even more enchanting: "Why won't you accept us? Doesn't this go against your rules?

Or has something happened at Wuji Peak... hmm?"

## Chapter 765: A Severed Head

"Leave!" Yin Tianlong's face showed anger, a fierce shout.

"Hehe~" The woman covered her mouth and chuckled lightly, looking at Yin Tianlong with a pair of starry eyes full of interest, "Yin Hall Master is so imposing, so fierce."

In front of a Sea Realm Great Power, the anger of people from the River Realm was no different than the tantrum of a three-year-old child stamping their feet.

"You..." Yin Tianlong gnashed his teeth.

The woman's charming and enchanting smile seemed so hateful in his eyes.

Making Yin Tianlong deeply wary again.

"But Mei-er didn't do anything wrong this time, can't be swatted." Pan Rumei slightly tilted her head and smiled, "Instead, Yin Hall Master, you broke the golden rules of the Forbidden City, what punishment do you deserve?"

The anger in Yin Tianlong's heart flared up, but he could only suppress it.

In the vast Forbidden City, there were only two Sea Realm Great Powers, the Wuji Peak Sect had already been annihilated.

Who would dare come to the Forbidden City to cause trouble under normal circumstances?

Even if you are from the Sea Realm, even the Sea Realm Peak, when you come to the territory of the Forbidden City, you must humbly bow your head.

But today...

Damn it, this group of shameless gloaters!

The opponent clearly knew that the Forbidden City had lost its relied upon pillar and its power had plummeted.

The tragic situation at Wuji Peak could not possibly be kept a secret.

Furthermore, at noon, there were many citizens who fled in panic, to this day there are still more than two hundred people who have yet to return.

It stands to reason, all the small factions around should know that the once imposing Wuji Peak, Forbidden City, has now become a piece of fat.

Within the city, there are various Weak God Disciples, with all sorts of auxiliary functions, an incredibly tempting resource.

Including the magnificent city itself, it is an extremely significant fortune.

Yin Tianlong just didn't expect the actions of the surrounding forces to be so quick!

The Martial Monk Faction had just had a tragedy at noon, and these petty thieves dared to cause trouble at night?

This group is indeed brave!

At noon, even Tufeng Master fiercely clashed with an Evil Demon Disciple, Jade-faced Snake Believer, did this group really understand the specific situation before daring to come here rashly?

Or were they originally coming to the city for a detailed investigation?

Are they not afraid of inviting trouble for themselves?

"Yin Hall Master." Suddenly, a thick male voice came, causing this area near the city gate to become completely silent.

Yin Tianlong looked over and saw a middle-aged man with a blank expression.

The other party was wearing a blue robe, surrounded by the terrifying pressure unique to the Yangyang Sea, even speaking from afar, he could intimidate all the beings on the city head:

"The night is deep, we only wish to enter the city to stay for the night, please Yin Hall Master make it convenient for us."

"You, sir, lack awareness." Suddenly, a voice came, causing a commotion at the city head.

"The Wine and Meat Real Person is here!"

"Master! Master is here..."

Yin Tianlong couldn't help but breathe a huge sigh of relief, turned his head, and saw a fat monk with a big belly, holding a wine jar, climbing the city wall.

Pan Rumei's smiling face gradually darkened.

Pan Sect Master remained expressionless, glanced at the Fat Monk using the torches on the city wall.

"Our Forbidden City does not entertain guests, you all leave quickly." Upon finishing the sentence, the Wine and Meat Real Person lifted the wine jar and took three large gulps.

The wine brewed from wild mountain fruits was truly potent!

Bitter and spicy, it was indeed a good taste.

"Gulp, gulp... burp~"

The Wine and Meat Real Person drank heavily and then gave a delightful burp.

That appearance was as if Wuji Peak hadn't been annihilated, the Wine and Meat Real Person acted as usual, completely disregarding the Sea Realm·Peak Star Official Disciples.

[Master!]

[Evil Shadow?] Lu Ran was silently watching the scene, appreciating the unique charm exuded by the Wine and Meat Real Person.

The sudden female voice in his mind, carving through the humming sound of the stone sculpture, caught Lu Ran's attention.

[There are wolf pups inside the city, sensed by the patrol guards!]

Lu Ran frowned slightly.

Are the Greedy Wolf believers causing trouble within the city?

Heh,

The Forbidden City is truly a piece of fat that everyone wants a bite of?

Perhaps these wolf pups are actually colluding with the Star-picking Platform people!

"Woo~~"

"Woo~~" Suddenly, howling sounds came from inside the city, drifting in the night.

Yin Tianlong suddenly changed his expression!

This is Greedy Wolf Divine Technique·Howl, able to instill fear and deter battles.

Yin Tianlong's Divine Power surged, choosing to activate Divine Technique·Purify Golden Wind, using the turbulent airwaves to dispel all negative effects.

"Huh?" The next moment, Yin Tianlong's expression was startled.

Where is his Divine Technique?

Why couldn't he activate it?

"Gulp." Yin Tianlong swallowed hard, unbelievably mobilized Divine Power again, hoping for Lord God's mercy.

"Whew~"

Divine Power surged, the energy fluctuation around Yin Tianlong was especially intense.

Yet did not release a golden airwave.

Yin Tianlong's expression dramatically changed!

This... this this?

Not only did Yin Tianlong experience an abnormal state, but several other Martial Monk Disciples on the city wall were also in chaos.

"Why can't I use..."

"What is going on?" The Big Wind Hall Disciples who couldn't activate Martial Monk Divine Skill were even more panic-stricken amidst the eerie howling.

The light lotus fragrance saved the crowd.

On the city wall, several Sword Lotus Disciples held precious lotus flowers, the fragrance purifying everyone's abnormal situation.

Such a scene was of course seen clearly by the Star Official Disciples outside the city.

Pan Rumei couldn't help but raise an eyebrow slightly.

The Star Official Sect did not have Spirit Defense Techniques, but she was a Sea Realm Great Power, and her mental strength was undeniable.

Her eyes flickered slightly: "What happened, Yin Hall Master? As Vice Hall Master of the Big Wind Hall, why are you in such panic?"

Yin Tianlong desperately wanted to calm down.

But he couldn't control his frightened and scared heart.

The Divine Technique he relied on for survival, the foundation for the existence of all Big Wind Hall members, was severed?!

Great Martial Monk... why do this?

Why are the disciples not allowed to use spells?

First, the Tufeng Master fell into Deviation, slaughtering the entire sect. Now the surviving Martial Monk disciples are not permitted by the Divine to use spells...

What celestial rule did we break for the Lord God to treat us this way?

"Why? Ancient Copper Stick... why..." Atop the city wall, a Martial Monk disciple mumbled incessantly as if possessed, casting spells repeatedly.

Yet each time resulted in failure.

The Divine does not permit!

"No! No..." With each failed spell, the Martial Monk disciple gradually broke down.

The Divine Technique he'd used for over twenty years suddenly vanished! Such a blow is unimaginable to ordinary people, let alone believers.

In the Holy Spirit Mountain, if you don't have the Divine Technique, it means being at the mercy of others!

Even outside Holy Spirit Mountain, having twenty years of survival means suddenly taken away—how many can face that calmly?

"Calm down!" Yin Tianlong hurriedly stopped him.

"Hall Master, I..."

"Master, can you use spells?" The Big Wind Hall was already in disarray, and a Martial Monk disciple, like a drowning man clinging to a life-saving straw, rushed towards the strongest, the Drunken Master.

Exposing such information to a formidable enemy is unwise!

But the blow was too severe, far beyond what this believer could handle.

"Calm down!" Yin Tianlong strode forward, stopping the man, and ordered the city wall guards, "Precious Lotus, Fragrant Cold Plum, quick!"

In an instant, the fragrance of lotus and plum filled the air.

Both techniques are Purification Skills, with a certain calming and soothing effect on an objective level.

However, this ancillary effect had little impact on believers whose hearts were collapsing.

"Hehe~" A charming laugh echoed again.

Pan Rumei, eyes full of schadenfreude, didn't think the people on the city wall were acting: "Hall Master Yin, what is going on? Isn't extermination bad enough, and now you are not even allowed to use spells~

What did you do to displease the Lord God so much?"

"Huh!"

A brilliant star fell, trailing a long blue streak, directly above Sect Master Pan.

Soon, two small stars appeared on him as well, circling around him in an "X" shape.

He slowly rose, looking level with the high city wall: "There are villains causing trouble in the Forbidden City. We, from the Star-picking Platform, shall enter the city to help you quell the chaos."

The Drunken Master frowned, intending to perform the Divine Technique·Ancient Copper Stick, but couldn't bring it out.

He casually tossed aside his wine jar, grabbed an iron rod from a nearby Martial Monk disciple, and leapt onto the crenels.

"Smack!"

The Drunken Master's pudgy hand slapped his own big belly.

Ripples of flesh spread across his large belly...

He brandished the iron rod, pointing it at Sect Master Pan: "Come, with the strength of wine, let me play with you!"

Even having lost the Divine Technique, the Drunken Master showed no fear, just as unkempt as usual.

Such a Sea Realm Peak Great Martial Monk, standing on the high city wall, exerted overwhelming pressure.

Isn't the saying that a tiger fallen from grace is bullied by dogs true?

Apparently not!

The Drunken Master still had the Sea Grade·Water Flow Armor and unrivaled martial arts skills.

"Brother, stop talking nonsense with them!" Pan Rumei licked her full lips excitedly, "They must have offended the Lord God!"

This is an opportunity not to be missed!

No matter what the Martial Monk Faction went through... serves them right!

Recalling the humiliation she suffered in the city, Pan Rumei's anger boiled uncontrollably.

Wasn't it just asking that lowly person to kowtow and apologize?

Wasn't it just breaking that lowly person's hands?

What if she had trampled him to death? The Forbidden City was so majestic back then, caning her publicly, using her Sea Realm as a show of power...

The shame of the past will be repaid a hundredfold today!

"Hmm." Sect Master Pan responded indifferently, his gaze cold and indifferent, looking down at everyone on the city wall like a god who decides life and death.

He clasped his hands together, and above his head, a star disc suddenly appeared.

"Hoo!!"

Terrifying Divine Power surged forth, the ethereal star disc quickly turning blue, engraved with intricate patterns and stars, slowly rotating.

Star Official Divine Skill·Shaking Light Star Disc!

This is the River Realm Technique of the Star Official Sect, a collection of this sect's Divine Skills. Once formed, various stars fall randomly from the night sky.

Tianshu Break Army Star, Tianxuan Burning Body Star, Tianji Cold Essence Star, Megrez Bone Suppressing Star, Yuheng Frightening Soul Star...

Shaking Light has no form, Divine Techniques are random.

Star Disc rotates, stardust falls!

"Star Disc..."

"Quick, stop him!" A commotion broke out on the city wall, some people trembling like leaves, others turning and running.

A Sea Grade Divine Skill, how could these River Realm people possibly withstand it?

Now, with the powerful figures in the Forbidden City dwindled and to make matters worse, the Martial Monk disciples couldn't cast any skills...

Tonight, will the Forbidden City and its surviving citizens be shattered to pieces by the falling stars?

"Stop... huh?" The Drunken Master's chubby legs tensed, and phenomena suddenly arose.

"Crack!!"

The sound of the Sea Grade·Water Flow Armor shattering was immensely piercing, tearing through the night.

A long sword trace from the Night Charm Clan swiftly passed by, sending a head flying high.

Pan Rumei quickly turned to look, and her beautiful, charming face was no longer filled with excitement for revenge, but with sheer disbelief.

In the night sky, Sect Master Pan's headless body fell freely, his hands still clasped together.

His neck, cleanly cut by a blade, continuously spouted fresh blood.

Such an earth-shattering scene was absolutely horrifying to witness!

Whether on the side of the Forbidden City or the Star-picking Platform, all were shocked into stillness.

Sect Master Pan... is dead?

A Sea Realm Peak Great Power was decapitated with one stroke?!

What??

...

Chapter 766: That Person

"Sect, Sect Master?"

"Master Pan..." Panic erupted among the disciples on the Star-picking Platform!

The scene before them had already surpassed their understanding.

The Sect Master is at the Peak of the Sea Realm!

Who could stealthily approach Master Pan and, more importantly, kill him with a single strike?!

Pan Rumei stood there shocked, mouth agape, her voice stuck in her throat, completely speechless.

How... how is this possible?

"Hiss!" The hoarse cry of a serpent pierced the night sky as a thirty-meter-long phantom python appeared out of nowhere, diving into the midst of the Star-picking Platform's ranks.

In an instant, the sound of shattering continued to ring out.

The Water Flow Armor of the disciples in the River Realm was fragile as paper before the phantom python, their bodies smashed into smithereens.

"He..."

"That person! It's that person!" came waves of exclamations from the city wall.

What person?

No one knew; the figure remained hidden and had never revealed their true face.

Yet everyone on the Forbidden City's side was very sure this person must be the mysterious figure who battled Master Tufeng at noon!

Did this person... not leave?

"Gulp." Yin Tianlong swallowed, feeling a chill spread across his body.

There was no denying that the Forbidden City continued to exist, thanks to this mysterious Evil Demon Disciple's assistance.

Even at this moment, with the Forbidden City facing a great crisis again, it was still this Jade-faced Snake Disciple lending aid.

The mysterious figure always appeared as an allied force, yet Yin Tianlong couldn't stop trembling.

Both body and soul trembled!

To think this was someone capable of battling Tufeng Master in the Heavenly Realm...

How could Yin Tianlong not be filled with terror?

Pan Rumei, too, was terrified, hastily flying southward.

Revenge?

Revenge my ass!

Her elder brother, the Sect Master, dying so swiftly had scared Pan Rumei to death; the hissing sounds of the giant serpent and the screams of the Star Official Disciples further crushed her fighting spirit.

She just wanted to escape.

The farther, the better...

"Ah! Ahhh!"

"Uh." The screams and groans were unending as the White-Scaled Python appeared from all directions, madly slaughtering the Star Official Disciples.

The sky filled with falling stars, illuminating the dark night, yet they couldn't lock onto any enemy.

The invisible Evil Demon Disciple was like a specter reaping lives, rapidly claiming human clan lives.

In the blink of an eye, these once-arrogant Star Official Disciples were slaughtered and scattered everywhere, with those fleeing in all directions struck down one after another by the mysterious figure.

On the city wall, no one dared make a move, as if plunged into an icy abyss.

They felt like they were in an unreal dream, with the scene of cruel slaughter in the night sky being the deepest nightmare.

No one had seen the figure of the Evil Demon Disciple from start to finish.

All they could see were the phantom pythons emerging from various places, and occasionally a long sword trace darting across the night sky.

"Whew~"

Lu Ran flicked the Cloud Sea Blade, his face grim, turning his gaze southward.

There, a woman in a blue dress was fleeing madly under the cover of night.

The Star Official Disciples did indeed have flying abilities, but they needed to be enveloped by two radiant stars revolving in an "X" shape.

Yet the woman in the distance had no stars surrounding her.

So... a divine weapon?

Or a magic artifact?

"Shua~" Lu Ran twirled his blade, flickering in an instant.

Reappearing, he stood a hundred meters directly in front of the woman, reaching out a hand.

Five fine red silk threads extended from Lu Ran's fingertips, invisible.

The giant serpent and sword trace could not be concealed by Lu Ran.

The Immortal Sky Python was pieced together before Lu Ran's palm, the sword trace trailing from the blade's tip.

But the fierce flames on Lu Ran's body, the red silk thread extending from his fingertips, were all connected to his physical body, encompassed within the range of the Greedy Wolf Divine Skill·Wolf Concealment.

Regrettably, though this type of divine skill could render one invisible, it could not hide Divine Power fluctuations.

Nonetheless, the red silk threads were fine, and the Divine Power fluctuations were minimal.

Lu Ran stood silently in the night sky, spreading the five threads, waiting for the fish to take the bait.

Closer, even closer.

The woman, eyes filled with terror, flew desperately, clutching the necklace at her neck with a tight grip, occasionally looking back.

"Buzz!"

The tear-drop-shaped blue diamond pendant clasped in her hand abruptly trembled.

Pan Rumei's forward-flying figure suddenly halted.

What did the Star Tear Pendant say?

There was an unusual Divine Power fluctuation ahead?

[Go!] Pan Rumei couldn't care about anything else, shifting sideways with the help of the magic artifact·Star Tear Pendant.

Watching the prey change direction to flee, Lu Ran's body tensed slightly, instantaneously teleporting again.

"Shua~"

Pan Rumei's complexion changed drastically!

This time, she, too, sensed the Divine Power fluctuation, right in front of her.

She hurriedly commanded the Star Tear Pendant to launch backward, raising another hand high as a blue star with a diameter of about half a meter quickly descended.

Divine Skill·Tianshu Break Army Star!

As the Star Official Sect says: A star shatters ten thousand armors, Tianshu determines life and death!

"Sizzle—"

Pan Rumei's pupils almost shrank to the size of pinpricks.

The radiant star descended, illuminating the night, revealing an approaching Immortal Fog.

The star crashed onto the Immortal Fog's trajectory.

The woman hung suspended in the dark night sky.

Pan Rumei finally understood why her elder brother was beheaded with one strike!

Mysteriously, it seemed as if something tethered her body, rendering her immobile, with violent Divine Power rushing into her, hindering her from casting spells.

"No, don't..." Pan Rumei murmured, tremblingly, pleading incoherently.

Lu Ran remained silent, advancing with his blade.

"Huff!!"

A powerful surge of energy erupted.

Lu Ran's heart skipped a beat as he instinctively teleported away.

Reappearing, he found himself a bit bewildered.

Pan Rumei also flickered and disappeared!

Lu Ran: ???

The Star Official Sect does not possess the Instant Teleportation Technique; moreover, Lu Ran had just used the Silk Thread to control the opponent and forcefully employed the Evil Technique-Tangled Silk.

The only possibility is her Magic Artifact!

Unlike a Divine Weapon, a Magic Artifact does not need to work in tandem with its master when exhibiting its effects.

"Such a powerful Magic Artifact..." Lu Ran swiftly flickered to the sky, exerted Extreme Eye Power, and searched everywhere.

[Master!] Suddenly, Yan Shuangzi's voice echoed again in his mind.

Meanwhile, outside the Forbidden City.

By the headless corpse of Master Pan, suddenly appeared a tear-shaped outline with a flickering piece of starry light.

Within the radiant "tear," a graceful silhouette unexpectedly appeared.

Her long hair danced, her skirt fluttered, strikingly eye-catching in the dim night.

Pan Rumei?!

It was not unexpected; this was certainly against her wishes. This Magic Artifact must have some limitation, or the teleportation point was predetermined on Master Pan.

Otherwise, she wouldn't flee towards the Forbidden City.

"Damn! Demoness!" Meat-and-Wine Immortal saw the evildoer dare to return, immediately stomped, sending himself forward like a human cannonball, crashing fiercely.

Pan Rumei hastily retreated, with a flick of her hand.

Stars descended from the sky, and Pan Rumei leaped high.

One person and one star collided, with two small stars appearing once more around her, slowly orbiting her.

People then saw the woman was in a panic, her long hair messy, looking extremely disheveled.

"Boom!"

The pudgy form of Meat-and-Wine Immortal heavily crashed to the ground, creating a deep pit in the earth.

"Demoness, stop there!" Meat-and-Wine Immortal clutched an iron rod, looked up, and stomped again.

"Boom!"

Human cannonball, launched!

Pan Rumei had no intention of fighting any longer.

Wrapped in stars, she gained the ability to fly, dodging sideways while flicking her hand once more.

From a hundred meters high, stars fell.

Even in panic casting, the stars summoned by Pan Rumei landed with great precision!

As a result, the scene looked as if Meat-and-Wine Immortal deliberately jumped up, colliding with the falling stars.

"Whoosh!!"

A gale swept by, Night Charm descended!

Meat-and-Wine Immortal was about to shatter the stars but was blown fiercely by the gale.

The female Star Official in the night sky also swayed.

Pan Rumei's breath stalled!

He came,

that person came again...

Although the Jade-faced Snake tribe had no technique to summon such wind, Pan Rumei had a premonition:

The coming one must be that mysterious person.

Slayer of Master Pan, exterminator of the disciples from the Star-picking Platform, pursuer of Pan Rumei...

From beginning to end, it was the work of one person!

Despair rose in Pan Rumei's heart, the Star Tear Pendant hung around her neck had already dimmed.

It needed time to replenish energy before it could cast spells again.

Taking a step back, even if the Magic Artifact-Tear Star Pendant could now teleport its master, it would still take her beside Master Pan's corpse.

Master Pan, at Sea Realm-Peak stage, was an incomparably formidable existence!

And Pan Rumei's greatest reliance for her reckless actions.

But today...

The protector she used to exploit and oppress had fallen, and could no longer shield her.

"Swish~"

A vague fluctuation of Divine Power came again from behind.

"No!!" The woman suddenly let out a sharp yell, piercing the night sky.

The shout was so hysterical that everyone was dumbstruck.

"I'm wrong, I truly know I'm wrong, please spare me..." Pan Rumei, swiftly fleeing, was once again tethered.

Her words became blurred, her eyes full of pleading: "I'll do anything you say, I beg you...uh!"

The sound of Water Flow Armor shattering, as expected, came.

The Cloud Sea Dust Clearing Blade pierced through her back and emerged from her chest.

His heart, like his blade, was cold.

The bloodied blade tip appeared before her face.

Lu Ran placed a hand at her neck, took off the Divine Power Bead Strings, and held the Magic Artifact-Tear Star Pendant.

"Whoosh~"

The woman descended from the sky, her skirt fluttering, and landed heavily on the ground.

Meat-and-Wine Immortal gripped his staff tightly, gazing at the empty night sky with uncharacteristic seriousness: "Thanks to the Daoist's repeated assistance today, this great favor and nobility, the Forbidden City will certainly remember!"

May the Daoist leave a name so we can inform City Lord He, and repay this grace in the future."

Finally, the mysterious person spoke.

It was a deep young voice: "Master, it is I."

"Oh?" Meat-and-Wine Immortal was perplexed, feeling the voice somewhat familiar.

Suddenly, a cloaked figure appeared in the night sky.

Meat-and-Wine Immortal squinted, using the torch from the city walls and the myriad stars to strive to see the figure's face.

"Lu Ran?!" A voice of astonishment came from the city walls.

Yin Tianlong's eyes widened, looking incredulously at the cloaked young man.

The Master of Ran Sect?

The Pride of Da Xia!

But... isn't he an Immortal Sheep Believer?

"Slap!"

Meat-and-Wine Immortal was also bewildered, slapping his belly, sending waves of flesh rippling.

Lu Ran looked at Yin Tianlong: "Send someone to organize the battlefield quickly. Additionally, there are over sixty Martial Artist disciples inside the city; I brought them to help you defend the city."

Our own people, no need to worry."

Yin Tianlong stared blankly at Lu Ran, unable to speak for a while.

He certainly knew Lu Ran was strong!

But Yin Tianlong couldn't have imagined that at midday today, the mysterious Great Power fighting against Tu Feng Master in the Heavenly Realm...

was actually this Lu Tianjiao?!

...

### Chapter 767: Forbidden City Night (Third Update)

"Yin... Hall Master Yin, calling Master Lu by his full name, isn't it... not quite appropriate?" said a Sword Lotus disciple tremblingly beside Yin Tianlong.

Who the hell is this person?

Not to mention this person has saved us twice, just talking about their strength...

This is someone who duels on the peak of the Forbidden City with Master Tufeng!

Do you just call out someone's full name like that?

"Ah!" Yin Tianlong remained dumbfounded, gazing up at the 'rival' in the night sky.

The time before last, Lu Ran was still a person of the River Realm.

The last meeting in the Martial Arts Arena inside the city, Lu Ran had already become a Sea Realm Great Power.

Seeing him again today, Lu Ran could even contend with the Heavenly Realm·Master Tufeng!

Is this right?

Moreover, he... changed his profession, becoming an Evil Demon Disciple and apprenticing under the Jade-faced Snake?

"Master Lu told you to organize people to clean up the battlefield; can't you hear him?" Suddenly, a stern female voice came from the night sky.

A terrifying pressure swept across the sky, crushing towards the city walls.

Inside and outside the city walls, everyone looked up, seeing the City Lord standing in mid-air, holding a Golden Zen Staff.

"Yes!" Yin Tianlong quickly agreed, finally returning to his senses.

"City Lord He!"

"City Lord!" Everyone knelt and bowed their heads.

He Qifeng was undoubtedly the backbone of the Forbidden City, his personal prestige and his standing in the hearts of the city's people was unmatched by anyone.

Seeing the City Lord arrive, everyone noticeably felt more at ease.

[As long as I'm here, it's fine. You go rest; it's unbecoming for people to see you like this.] A voice transmission imprinted in He Qifeng's mind.

Her body still trembled slightly, indeed not suited to appear. Luckily, with everyone bowing their heads, no one dared to look longer at the Forbidden City Master.

He Qifeng turned to look at Lu Ran, wanting to express gratitude but stopped himself.

After all, he said, this city also belongs to him.

The Star-picking Platform invaders outside the city were single-handedly dealt with by Lu Ran; the chaos-causing ones from Wolf Bee Village inside the city were cleaned up with the help of Lu Ran's brought reinforcements from Pear Garden Sect and the city's guards.

If Lu Ran hadn't been there today, the Forbidden City would have been destroyed who knows how many times...

"Sigh." He Qifeng sighed inwardly, gazing at the young man flying around in a rain cloak, not knowing what to say for a moment.

"City Lord!" Just then, Yin Tianlong spoke shakily, "We... we can't perform the Divine Technique anymore."

"Hmm?" He Qifeng was somewhat surprised.

"Yes, City Lord, Lord God won't let us cast spells anymore!"

"No techniques can be used! City Lord, what's happening..."

"Silence." He Qifeng commanded solemnly, and the inside and outside of the wall fell silent immediately.

Her gaze swept down, seeing the real being of wine and meat, and the fat monk nodded to confirm it was true.

He Qifeng's face showed a hint of anger.

Having joined Lu Ran's sect, she was unaware of this, and now hearing such absurd words made her furious!

"Heh." While binding souls, Lu Ran couldn't help but let out a cold snort upon hearing such statements.

He had long noticed that Martial Monk disciples were prohibited from casting spells, being near the city walls.

Does Divine-Monk really want them to die?

Or should it be said that the Monk wants He Qifeng dead, wishing for the complete destruction of the Forbidden City.

It seems that Master Tufeng, acting with the Heavenly Realm's power, was supposed to wipe out the Wuji Peak Sect, but who would have thought that such a powerful being couldn't do the job properly, leaving some residues.

So the Divine gave orders to not allow any followers to cast spells?

Lu Ran understood well; within the Holy Spirit Mountain, the connection between followers and the Divine was extremely weak, could the Divine really distinguish which Martial Monk disciple belonged to the Forbidden City and which belonged to elsewhere?

Even Lu Ran, being among the few who entered the mountain under the Immortal Sheep Sect, was the only one cared about by Lord Immortal Sheep...

Lord Immortal Sheep can only vaguely give Jiang Ruyi the information of a "sea" character.

With so many disciples under a first-class god like the Martial Monk in the mountain...

Apart from the remaining two or three dozen Martial Monk disciples here in the Forbidden City, there must be many more scattered Martial Monk disciples all over the Holy Spirit Mountain.

Could it be that their Divine Technique is forbidden as well?

To annihilate this Forbidden City, Divine-Monk doesn't hesitate to sacrifice... hmm.

Lu Ran's face turned somber.

Yes, when have the gods ever cared about the lives of ants?

A batch dies, then just throw in another batch, continuing to collect Holy Spirit Energy as needed.

To the gods, the ever-proliferating human clan of Da Xia is an inexhaustible and endless resource.

[Qifeng, I've sent the pear garden sect's hall over to guard the city; you gather all martial monk disciples to retreat, do not enter the battlefield yet.]

[Yes!] He Qifeng responded solemnly, immediately giving the orders.

Lu Ran quickly collected the dead souls of the Star Official disciples and hurriedly flew back into the city, absorbing the dead souls of the Greedy Wolf disciples and Poison Bee disciples into the Pupil of the Dead World one by one.

"Buzz!!"

Lu Ran's body stiffened.

In the God Demon Sculpture Garden, the Greedy Wolf's Divine Sculpture of the Sea Realm·Fifth Rank began to tremble and increase rapidly in scale.

Plus, with the still trembling Stone Sculpture of the Martial Monk, it made Lu Ran quite overwhelmed.

He struggled to endure the buzzing in his brain, transmitting his voice: [Evil Shadow, come find me.]

Yan Shuangzi quickly came to Lu Ran's side, looking at his expression, feeling a bit worried.

"Help me store it for now, it'll teleport, don't let it escape." Lu Ran handed over the Magic Artifact-Tear Star Pendant, "Protect me, I'm not fit for combat right now, and don't transmit messages, I can't hear them well."

Yan Shuangzi immediately said, "Master, let's call for more reinforcements; it's been so many days, Jingxian Mountain should have stabilized by now."

"What did you say?" Lu Ran frowned, looking at the woman.

Yan Shuangzi leaned forward, whispering, "Ask Lady Ran to bring people over and take charge of the situation."

Lu Ran's head wasn't very clear, he was half a beat slow, but he still understood: "Hmm, let's return to the mansion first."

With those words, Lu Ran's figure flickered.

Upon returning to the Castle Lord's Mansion, Lu Ran immediately activated the Ashar Divine Skill-Azure Dragon Sea Domain.

Confirmed that within a hundred-meter radius, there were no petty fellows.

Afterwards, he sent a sound transmission to Jiang Ruyi and smoothly activated the Transmission Mirror.

In just over twenty seconds, a group of people flowed out like a stream.

Lady Ran brought along the Nightmare Guardian, Mad Immortal Guardian, Xuan Shuang Guard, and a full four Shadow Guards to protect "His Highness."

"Phew~"

On Si Xianxian's Mad Hammer, flames ignited, lighting up the hall.

Everyone saw Lu Ran sitting on the Taishi chair, his face stiff.

"What happened?" Jiang Ruyi hurriedly stepped forward to inquire.

The Evil Shadow Guardian explained for Lu Ran: "Lady, the Forbidden City is not peaceful..."

As Yan Shuangzi introduced the situation, the room fell into a dead silence.

Jiang Ruyi and Deng Yuxiang's eyes were unexpectedly identical, staring at Lu Ran on the Taishi chair.

You're crazy!

Actually clashing head-on with a Heavenly Realm Power!

Are you tired of living?

Si Xianxian was even more at a loss!

In just five or six days of not seeing you, kid, your abilities have really improved?

Daring to confront even a Martial Monk of the Heavenly Realm... Hmm, truly worthy of our young master!

How impressive~

"S... save the scolding for later." Lu Ran waved his hand, "First help hold the fort at the Forbidden City."

Jiang Ruyi also knew the importance of urgency, and said coldly, "Nightmare, Evil Shadow, you two take the Shadow Guard Team and protect him well. Whether he's in a daze or Soul Binding, not one step away from him."

"Yes!"

"Yes!"

Jiang Ruyi then said to Lu Ran, "You summon the Wind Emperor, I need to talk to her."

"Alright."

...

For the citizens of the Forbidden City, this night was very trying.

The battle ended rather quickly.

The members of the Zhenyue Hall and Hundred Battles Hall from the Pear Garden Sect, together with the city guards possessing perception techniques, nearly crushed the den of the Wolf Bee Village.

As for the people from the Star-picking Platform, those in the city didn't even see their shadows, dealt with outside the city gates.

Although the battle subsided quickly, anxiety naturally lingered in the city.

The Forbidden City is now a piece of fat meat, anyone might come to take a bite!

It wasn't until daylight that people felt slightly at ease.

The Forbidden City remained under martial law, every household unlocked their doors, and teams of guards patrolled the city employing various perception techniques.

As for Lu Ran...

After the night passed, his Greedy Wolf Stone Sculpture ascended to the Heavenly Realm and finally settled down, making Lu Ran feel much better.

This was his fourth Heavenly Realm Stone Sculpture!

Martial Artist, Dong Ting, Ash, Greedy Wolf.

Perhaps in a few days, Lu Ran would have a fifth Heavenly Realm Stone Sculpture—Martial Monk.

Lu Ran's heart was full of accomplishment!

If... the Big Nightmare's eyes weren't so sharp, he would feel even more comfortable.

"Sister."

"Hmm." In the bedroom, Deng Yuxiang sat in a chair by the window, responding coldly.

"Don't stare at me like that, it's creepy." Lu Ran lay on the bed, murmuring softly.

He'd been emptying his mind, and now that he was clear-headed again, with his perception back, being stared at by Lord Night Charm indeed gave him the creeps.

"Heh." Deng Yuxiang laughed coldly, "More frightening than Tufeng Master?"

Lu Ran: "..."

He paused for a moment, then spoke, "The Shadow Guard Team is here, give me some face."

Deng Yuxiang pursed her lips and eventually swallowed her words.

Lu Ran said softly, "You know, I can't back down."

Deng Yuxiang remained silent for a moment, then changed the subject: "You're awake, has the Stone Sculpture stopped vibrating?"

Lu Ran nodded gently: "The Greedy Wolf Stone Sculpture has stopped, and there's one Martial Monk Stone Sculpture advancing, already at the Sea Realm."

Deng Yuxiang turned to look out the wooden window, seemingly casual: "Do you want me to give your head a massage?"

"Yes!" Lu Ran immediately got up from the bed and quickly came to the Eight Immortals Table.

Deng Yuxiang looked at Lu Ran's expectant face, silently got up and walked behind him, her slender fingers pressing on his temples, gently kneading.

"How's the development of Jingxian Mountain?" Lu Ran sighed in enjoyment, slowly closing his eyes.

"Everything is going well, the sect is already taking shape, and the disciples are all quite disciplined." Deng Yuxiang's tone softened with her gentle fingertips.

"And Mr. Conglong?"

"He returned to Cloud Sea Cliff two days ago to work on his breakthrough."

"You're almost advancing, right? You could try hitching a ride with Mr. Conglong."

"Hmm."

...

### Chapter 768: Third Day of the Eleventh Lunar Month, Clear Skies

On the third day of the twelfth lunar month, the Cloud Sea Cliff was shrouded in a thick mist.

Inside the small yard of the Cloud Sea Residence, a floor mirror quietly opened, and a team of people filed out.

"We're home..."

Lu Ran took a deep breath, his whole body and mind relaxed, as over the past week, the Forbidden City had been tested by various forces.

Yet this ancient city, with the concerted efforts of the Ran Sect soldiers, still stood firmly at the center of the Holy Spirit Mountain Continent!

Nearly thirty martial monk disciples had pledged themselves under Lu Ran. Falling in rank was inevitable, but fortunately, they had regained the martial monk faction's Divine Technique.

The most lamentable among them was the Master of Wine and Meat.

This peak Sea Realm Great Martial Monk fell from the Fifth Rank directly to the Second Rank, causing much regret.

However, the Master of Wine and Meat had an excellent attitude.

He chuckled as he patted his big belly, continuously thanking Lu Ran for granting him the foundation for survival—the Divine Technique.

Having been a disciple of a First-class God-Monk all his life, why would he take a fancy to the skills of other factions?

It's rather like "extravagance leading to frugality is difficult."

When the Master of Wine and Meat once again took out the Divine Technique·Ancient Copper Stick, he displayed an immensely contented smile, his chubby cheeks quivering...

As for devotion to He Qifeng or to Lu Ran, it all did not matter!

The Master of Wine and Meat was quite willing to follow these two Da Xia geniuses.

It didn't interfere with him eating meat and drinking wine anyway...

Counting the 28 from the Big Wind Hall, the Forbidden City had a total of 346 people, indeed a small number. You must know, at its pinnacle, the Forbidden City had developed to nearly a thousand people!

Just on the day Tufeng Master attacked, too many people fled for their lives.

Regarding this, He Qifeng understood well; she said, as long as the Forbidden City continues to stand, the refugees will return.

For those city folks who fled, He Qifeng had rather complex feelings.

But in the end, she told Lu Ran, she did not blame them.

To the common people, Tufeng Master was an invincible threat, a cataclysmic existence.

You cannot expect a tiny ant to resist the majestic Heavenly Realm.

He Qifeng had once promised them stable days, which she failed to provide.

However, for those who stayed and shared the fate of the Forbidden City, He Qifeng almost visited each household.

As if to engrave each face deeply in her mind.

The Wind Emperor also carefully selected over seventy people from among the three hundred weak god disciples, asking Lu Ran to help them defy fate, transforming them into martial monk disciples.

Thus, the Forbidden City now again possessed a hundred martial monk believers.

These later-converted people generally were not high in strength level, lacked martial arts proficiency, and understood little of the martial monk faction's Divine Technique, but the Wind Emperor stated she would strive to train them to pass.

Well...try to pass.

Being a First-class God believer is not for everyone; mastering the warlike Martial Monk Divine Technique even less so.

Lu Ran also saw her determination.

It was truly called devoted nurture, day and night training!

Initially, other Forbidden City citizens were particularly envious of the seventy-odd lucky selected ones, but upon witnessing the training intensity, most secretly felt relieved.

Is there even a need for invasion by external enemies?

According to the Wind Emperor's requirements, this group would sooner or later be trained to death...

Remaining Forbidden City residents, excluding nearly fifty functional disciples, split into two groups to be apprenticed to Jade Talisman and Fierce Heavenly Sect.

Notably, Da Xia's eighteenth genius, Hou Yun, was also taken under Lu Ran's wing, devoted to the Luo Divine General (Pseudo-God-Ash).

Originally at the peak of the River Realm, she, on the other hand, "benefited," dropping only to the fourth segment of the River Realm.

Lu Ran was confident that Hou Yun could cultivate back! Regarding whether she could eventually enter the Sea Realm...the issue remained.

She needed to hone her Dao Heart independently.

It was unknown whether, after the Forbidden City weathered such storms and her fate underwent such changes, if Hou Yun could gain different insights into life and her future path.

Zhenyue Hall and Hundred Battle Hall of the Pear Garden Sect were still stationed within the Forbidden City, not withdrawn.

Now, both Pear Garden Sect and Tiangang City were developing orderly, undoubtedly requiring more defensive power for the Forbidden City.

If it weren't for Yu Changsheng activating the upgrade mode, Lu Ran and the others would continue staying in the Forbidden City.

At this moment, returning to Cloud Sea Cliff, Lu Ran, while sighing "home," was glancing at the thick white fog inside the cliff, feeling deeply gratified.

Mr. Cong Long was finally about to reach the Sea Realm's peak!

"Everyone, go back." Lu Ran spoke again, "Cultivate well."

"Yes!"

"Yes." Everyone accepted the command and left.

In the thick fog, Lu Ran also noticed Jiang Fairy quietly leaving.

He immediately hurried a few steps, intercepting Lady Fairy at the door, wrapping an arm around her slender waist, enveloping her in his embrace.

"Hmm?" Jiang Ruyi slightly turned her head.

Though the cliff was shrouded in mist, the two of them were close enough to see each other.

"It's been several days, and you're still mad?" Lu Ran whispered.

"No." Jiang Ruyi shook her head gently, "I need to seize the time to go into seclusion, make the most of this opportunity."

She was currently at the Second Rank of the Sea Realm, having ascended successfully on the eighth day of the sixth month, now nearly November, she was about to touch the bottleneck of cultivation.

Lu Ran cautiously leaned forward, giving her a light kiss on the lips: "You've been cold to me these days; it's almost freezing me to death."

Jiang Ruyi smiled softly, gazing silently into Lu Ran's eyes.

Initially, she was indeed quite annoyed.

More than that, she was terrified.

He Qifeng's Dao Heart was the Forbidden City; Jiang Ruyi's Dao Heart was the man Lu Ran.

A single Forbidden City could make He Qifeng "undergo a dramatic change in personality," lose her footing.

How much better could Jiang Ruyi be?

It was only because Lu Ran stood safely before her that she did not lose control. Over the following week, she adjusted a lot on her own.

Lu Ran's identity was clear, and his goals were extremely specific; she was unable to have him make any promises in these matters.

Promises forced are merely lies.

Harming both others and oneself.

Jiang Ruyi knew very well, next time when a Heavenly Realm Power tries to destroy the Forbidden City, trample its people, Lu Ran would undoubtedly make the same choice.

The myriad worries and countless sorrows in her heart finally found their resolution.

It might very well be the only solution—strength.

"Ruyi?" Seeing his girlfriend not speaking and staring at him, Lu Ran felt a bit uneasy.

"Hmm, it's hard to control emotions, staring at you means I'm truly staring." Jiang Ruyi finally spoke, "But it's much better now."

Someone still alive standing before her is better than any comforting words.

"Oh, I thought you might completely banish me to the cold palace." Lu Ran had a pitiful look.

"Hehe~" Jiang Ruyi chuckled.

Isn't that a good idea?

She raised her hand, gently tapping Lu Ran's forehead with her jade finger: "Then stay in the cold palace for now, I'm going to retreat for cultivation."

Lu Ran: "..."

His arms empty, the beauty floated away.

Lu Ran called after her as she departed: "Little Chi Feng, I give you."

In the mist, a cold voice gradually faded: "I'll first lend it to Sister Yuxiang; her cultivation progress is faster than mine."

"Oh." Lu Ran pouted, taking out the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd from his chest. "Mom doesn't want us anymore!"

"Buzz~"

Little Chi Feng vibrated gently, seemingly a bit aggrieved?

"It's okay, Aunt wants you." Lu Ran sent Little Chi Feng up to the sky, "Go to the Nightmare Residence, I'll have her wait for you in the courtyard."

Little Chi Feng: "..."

Mom might just be a bit strict, but that aunt... is simply terrifying!

The second function of the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd was forcefully brought out under the severe demands, even the threats, of Big Nightmare.

"Listen, go ahead." Lu Ran patted the treasure gourd.

"Buzz~" Little Chi Feng circled around Lu Ran once before reluctantly flying away.

Lu Ran stood at the doorway, quietly lingering.

The beauty had gone far, but the faint jasmine fragrance remained; both the front and back yards of Cloud Sea Residence were planted with beautiful Immortal Jasmine Trees.

[Master.] A Charm Shadow suddenly appeared beside Lu Ran.

"Hm?"

"The pendant." Yan Shuangzi handed over the Tear Star Pendant.

"Okay." Lu Ran took the blue diamond pendant resembling a water droplet and stepped through the door.

Crossing the hall, arriving at the backyard, small illusory Mo Li scattered everywhere.

Mo Li Evil Technique·Mo Li Covering the Sky.

Within a radius of a hundred meters, everyone or everything touched by the illusory Mo Li became linked to Lu Ran's perception.

With the help of Little Mo Li, Lu Ran found the girl meditating under the tree.

Two of them.

They were easy to distinguish.

Tian Tian was truly petite, while the 1.68-meter Little Yuanxi was seemingly small in Lu Ran's illusion.

Lu Ran walked towards the western house, stopping beneath the Immortal Jasmine Tree: "Yuanxi?"

"Brother! You're back~" A lively voice came through, full of vitality.

Lu Ran took a step forward, kneeling with one knee beside his sister: "You're so diligent."

Unexpectedly, Qiao Yuansi suddenly blurted out:

"It's almost!"

Lu Ran: ?

"Hehe... Haha~" Qiao Yuansi couldn't help but giggle, "It's really close! The cultivation environment at Holy Spirit Mountain is already good enough, but here at Cloud Sea Cliff, the resources for cultivation are absurd!"

Every now and then, there's a great power advancing, tsk tsk~

Brother, just give me one more month, and I'll definitely reach the peak, then jump straight into the Sea Realm!"

"Alright." Lu Ran smiled and nodded.

"What have you been doing these past twenty days? By the way, where's sister Ruyi?"

"Not much, I secured Jingxian Island and helped out at Forbidden City." Lu Ran avoided specifics, changing the topic, "I got a gift for you."

"A gift?" Qiao Yuansi was indeed drawn in.

She knelt forward, trying to peer clearly into her brother's face.

"Here." Lu Ran didn't tease, raising his hand with a diamond pendant in his palm.

"Wow, how beautiful!" Qiao Yuansi's eyes sparkled.

Lu Ran then said: "If you can tame it, it'll be even prettier."

At this moment, the Tear Star Pendant's luster was dim, its Artifact Spirit locked within, refusing to communicate with the outside world.

Qiao Yuansi reached out a finger, poking the diamond pendant: "What's its name?"

"That, you need to tell me."

"What functions does it have then?"

"Not too clear on the specifics, maybe... it can teleport you to my side."

"Huh?" Qiao Yuansi raised her eyes, looking at Lu Ran up close.

"Maybe." Lu Ran nodded gently.

Qiao Yuansi was overjoyed, showing a cheerful smile: "Thanks, brother, you're the best!"

"Hmm, I know."

"Eh?" Qiao Yuansi tilted her little head.

Lu Ran also smiled, switching to sound transmission: [Its functions are too potent; when attempting to awaken it or tame it, you must be cautious.

I'll leave Shadow One and Shadow Two for you; they're both Disciples of Evil Dog, capable of Instant Teleportation and each has a Divine Weapon dagger. If anything goes wrong and the pendant runs away, have them help you search.]

[Okay! My Evil Technique-Smoke Fire Cage also has a perception radius of 50 meters!] Qiao Yuansi pinched the small diamond pendant, examining it carefully.

Her affection overflowed with words.

That cute little look brightened Lu Ran's mood more and more, as if the whole sky had cleared.

Suddenly, Qiao Yuansi looked up at Lu Ran: "Brother, quickly! Help me put it on~"

"Alright."

...

## Chapter 769: The Shimmering Pendant

Lu Ran did not expect that this separation from his girlfriend would last a whole month.

Throughout the lunar winter month, Cloud Sea Cliff was almost completely shrouded in mist, with the advancement of Dragon Guardian, Nightmare Guardian, and Lady Ran connecting as a chain.

The Fake God Stone Sculpture avatars practiced day and night without rest, relying on mutual support and extreme diligence, constantly climbing upwards.

Under such rich Divine Power conditions, Qiao Yuanxi's previous boast that he would reach the peak period within a month was achieved earlier than expected.

However, once one reaches the peak period, it's not enough to rely solely on effort to make further progress.

Whether it is the Sea Realm Peak of Yu Changsheng or the River Realm Peak of Qiao Yuanxi, both need to refine their Dao Heart.

A sense of enlightenment is needed.

This is something mysterious and elusive, varying from person to person, and Lu Ran feels powerless to influence it.

However, Lu Ran believes in Mr. Conglong's wisdom and trusts Little Yuanxi's innate intelligence, so he isn't particularly worried, just waits patiently for good news.

Throughout the winter month, Cloud Sea Cliff was invaded by several Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragons.

Lu Ran took the opportunity to wash the blade repeatedly.

The Eight Desolate Blade was quite indulgent!

The vibrations of the Cloud Sea Blade noticeably increased, but Lu Ran did not attribute this to dragon blood.

He knew clearly which specific point was causing such a change in the Cloud Sea Blade.

It was precisely the day of Tufeng Master annihilation!

Lu Ran made the decision: to stand above the Forbidden City and wait for the Heavenly Realm Power to come.

From that moment, the Cloud Sea Blade seemed to enter a brand-new phase.

It frequently fed back to Lu Ran.

Yet, it lacked an opportunity for transformation.

Lu Ran understood that this Cloud Sea Dust Clearing Blade probably needed the life of a Heavenly Realm Power to sacrifice!

Or it might be said, it required a sufficiently qualified "Cloud Sea" for the blade to gather the Artifact Spirit and form.

There is no need to rush.

Over this month, the forces under the Ran Sect all developed pretty well.

The Forbidden City established a firm foothold and began welcoming refugees again.

Tiangang City at the foot of the Pear Garden Sect mountain has already been completed, with Zhenyue Hall and Hundred Battles Hall returning to the sect after serving as reinforcements, bringing back the experiences learned from the Forbidden City to guard the newly built ancient city.

Jingxian Mountain has always remained peaceful, and the Xun Luo couple did not disappoint Lu Ran's expectations, holding up the southern coastal area.

The flourishing development of Ran Sect made Lu Ran very gratified, with his mental realm extraordinarily clear.

So clear that Lu Ran found it somewhat unsettling!

After all, Holy Spirit Mountain wasn't a place where everything goes smoothly.

Lu Ran even began to be paranoid, feeling that something "big" was waiting for him...

Winter month twenty-ninth, dusk.

The night was tranquil, and the gentle sea breeze blew over the serene Cloud Sea Cliff.

In the backyard of Cloud Sea Residence, a bonfire was gathered.

The flickering firelight accompanied the relaxed and easy faces, making the scene especially warm.

This bonfire party was organized by Little Yuanxi.

To celebrate Sister Ruyi's exit from seclusion today, and also to celebrate Yu Changsheng and Deng Yuxiang.

There weren't many people invited; besides the two guardians Dragon and Nightmare, they were mostly close friends.

Such as Si Xianxian, Deng Yutang, Bai Manni, Tian Tian, and Niu Zhengzheng.

For this, Lu Ran even specially went to Mud Pig Forest, bringing back a six-seven hundred pounds Mud Mountain Pig...

"Mmm... Tasty, tasty~"

Qiao Yuanxi spoke muddily holding a piece of roasted pork belly.

The golden oil smeared on her rosy lips, her greedy look made Jiang Ruyi secretly smile.

"Eat slowly." Jiang Ruyi gently wiped Qiao Yuanxi's mouth corner with her finger.

"Mm-hmm." Qiao Yuanxi nodded repeatedly, picking up the roast pork belly, taking another bite.

Golden brown crispness, mouthful of meat fragrance.

Lu Ran had a peculiar expression, always feeling his sister was doing it deliberately.

Little Yuanxi seemed to enjoy Jiang Ruyi's care, purposely eating with oily corners?

By side, Bai Manni leaned against Deng Yutang's shoulder, somewhat enviously watching Qiao Yuanxi.

As a person from the River Realm, she found it difficult to act naturally in front of Lu Ran, Jiang Ruyi, and others.

Bai Manni felt both envy and puzzlement, not knowing why Ran Shen's sister could be so carefree.

Bai Manni could feel that Deng Yutang sitting beside her was somewhat trembling.

Well... all right, next to Deng Yutang was Deng Yuxiang indeed, he should be trembling.

From this aspect, her husband is still very reliable.

With his broad body, he blocked the terrifying aura of the elder sister, building a simple refuge for Bai Manni.

"Young Master."

"Mm?" Lu Ran turned and looked up, seeing Si Xianxian.

"Can you move over a bit?" Si Xianxian said softly.

Lu Ran snorted but still made space for the maid.

Si Xianxian quickly sat beside Jiang Ruyi, picked up a wooden stick, and fiercely bit into the pork belly on it.

Also oily mouth corners, then longingly looked towards the lady.

Lu Ran rolled his eyes displeasedly.

"Ha." Jiang Ruyi smiled and glared at Si Xianxian, "Eating with your mouth all greasy, what kind of look is this."

Si Xianxian: ?

This isn't just blatant favoritism, is it?

She's the Lu family young miss, I really am the Lu family maid?

"Haha~" Yu Changsheng couldn't help but laugh, exchanging a bitter glare from the maid Si.

Yu Changsheng promptly used his paper fan to cover his face, trying hard to suppress his laughter.

Lu Ran glanced over, laughing, "Mr. Conglong has been promoted for half a month now, how's the enlightenment going?"

"Back to Sect Master, I am still striving." Yu Changsheng suddenly remembered something and added, "Sect Master, could you please inform me ahead next time when improving the Mo Li Stone Sculpture?"

"Hehe~" Lu Ran smiled embarrassedly.

Deng Yuxiang and Jiang Ruyi's promotions had a few days gap in between. Lu Ran took this chance to go out to sea, reclaiming the Mo Li Squad and Sea Merfolk Squad, and built a new patrol squad again.

During this process, the Mo Li Evil Sculpture in Lu Ran's Sculpture Garden leveled up, advancing toward the Sea Realm Third Rank.

Sea Realm·Third Rank, obviously does not match Mr. Conglong's strength realm.

Lu Ran didn't return but continued to move toward the ocean, slaughtering the Mo Li Clan and Sea Merfolk clans.

Compared to the Sea Merfolk Evil Sculpture, the Mo Li Evil Sculpture is visibly easier to cultivate.

Because by the size, you can easily judge the strength realm of the Mo Li Clan.

Lu Ran hid himself, flickering and roaming in the far seas and deep seas, wielding the Fiery Fire Heavenly Leader and holding the Jade Ruyi, releasing terrifying Immortal Sky Pythons, targeting the leaders of the Mo Li Clan for slaughter!

Until a disciple from the Ran Sect sent a transmission saying that mist had drifted up the cliff again, only then did Lu Ran return to continue guarding.

Unfortunately, the Mo Li Evil Sculpture couldn't advance to the Heavenly Realm and ended up fixed at the Sea Realm·Fifth Rank.

"You promised, next time for sure." Yu Changsheng's eyes were dim, looking at the sect master, "As Yu trembled in public, it's somewhat losing face."

"Ah!" Lu Ran agreed, somewhat overwhelmed by Yu Changsheng's gaze, quickly changing the topic, "Lord Immortal Sheep said..."

As soon as these words were spoken, the people seated around the campfire suddenly quieted down, their eyes uniformly turning to Lu Ran.

The words Immortal Sheep evidently had a tremendous impact on the crowd!

Lu Ran's expression also grew slightly serious: "Lord Immortal Sheep once informed me that as long as the level is high enough, you can merge with Stone Sculpture."

I once asked, specifically how high the realm needed to be, and Lord Immortal Sheep said..."

Under the gaze of the crowd, Lu Ran slowly spoke:

"Very high, very high!"

The crowd: "..."

If there weren't so many people around, Si Xianxian really wanted to "tsk~" at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran changed his tone: "But I think the Heavenly Realm should be enough."

Yu Changsheng lightly shook his paper fan and gently nodded.

Lu Ran's eyes were full of encouragement, looking at the unrivaled strategist: "Once Mr. Conglong advances to the Heavenly Realm, I'll go out to sea again and push the Mo Li Evil Sculpture up!"

Let's see if the human clan's physical body can completely merge with the Stone Sculpture."

Deng Yuxiang quietly spoke: "Mr. Conglong must strive to gain enlightenment."

Yu Changsheng turned to look, showing a look of inquiry.

Deng Yuxiang rarely showed a hint of a smile to outsiders, mostly with a tone of provocation: "I also want to be the first to eat the crab."

"Hehe." Yu Changsheng laughed quietly, not thinking Deng Yuxiang simply wanted to try fresh things.

It seems that the Nightmare Guardian wants more to pave the way for the sect master's quest.

Wants to become the first genuine Pseudo-God Stone Statue under Lu Ran's command.

However... afraid the Nightmare Guardian might be disappointed.

Yu Changsheng lightly shook his paper fan, wearing a smile.

I, Yu, also want to be the first Pseudo-God Stone Statue under the sect master's command!

"Brother!" Little Yuanxi suddenly spoke.

"Hmm?"

"Is merging with Stone Sculpture becoming a Pure Energy Body?"

"Probably."

Qiao Yuansi looked at Jiang Ruyi, then at Lu Ran, opened his mouth, with an expression of wanting to speak but stopping.

"What's wrong?" Lu Ran was very curious.

Qiao Yuansi steeled himself and quietly asked: "If you and Sister Ruyi become Pure Energy Bodies, can you still have little babies?"

Lu Ran: ???

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

For a moment, the expressions of the people around the campfire became strange and exceedingly colorful.

Jiang Ruyi's beautiful eyes quietly glanced at Qiao Yuansi.

"Um." Qiao Yuansi shrunk his neck in fear, his voice growing smaller, "I was just asking... wanted to have little nephews and nieces to play with... um."

Even Si Xianxian shrunk her neck.

She didn't know where she went wrong, but Jiang Ruyi's aura, this gaze...

In any case, Si Xianxian felt like she was wrong.

"I don't know!" Lu Ran scratched his head, showing an odd expression, "Probably can, right? The Evil Demon Minions I created all have flesh and blood."

Although essentially they are energy bodies, all the structures of the physical body are complete..."

Jiang Ruyi's cheeks gradually turned a shade of red, turning her eyes toward Lu Ran.

"Ahem." Lu Ran lightly coughed twice, "Moreover, once you become a god, though not omnipotent, at least the abilities of the human race, the divine should possess... what! The meat, I'm hungry."

"Here~" Tian Tian hurriedly picked up a skewer of roasted pork belly and handed it to Lu Ran.

Yu Changsheng timely resolved the issue: "Sect master, what is our Ran Sect's next focus of work?"

"You all just stay at home to develop the subordinate forces well; the main task is still cultivation and perception." Lu Ran took the roast meat, "I'll continue heading west."

Qiao Yuansi was slightly moved: "Heading west?"

Lu Ran took a big bite of the meat: "Um, starting from Jingxian Mountain and exploring westward, traveling light."

Some people,

he hasn't found yet.

The central Forbidden City, Southern Tiangang City, Southeast Thousand Boat Island, Cloud Sea Cliff by the East Sea and South Sea, Jingxian Mountain.

Several areas have vast radiation ranges, yet still haven't brought the people Lu Ran wants.

Since this is the case, he'll look into the southwest area of the Holy Spirit Mountain Continent!

"Brother!"

Upon hearing this word again, Lu Ran only felt a tingling scalp! Afraid his sister might speak something shocking out of her mouth again.

Qiao Yuansi's eyes sparkled: "I am already at the Peak of the River Realm, no need for hard cultivation, just need a moment of enlightenment."

By this point, everyone already understood her meaning.

"Brother~" Qiao Yuansi got up and came to sit beside Lu Ran, hugging his arm and playfully shaking it, "At home, I can only build behind closed doors, besides you're going exploring, not going to war, bring me along!"

Brother, now you are so strong and powerful, being by your side is very safe... hmm?"

Qiao Yuansi paused, looking down.

Lu Ran also showed a surprised expression, looking at her neck.

The Divine Power Bead Strings she wore, one little diamond pendant attached to it, quietly brightened with a deep blue glow...

...

### Chapter 770: Farewell in the Rain

"Hmm." Qiao Yuanxi quickly reached out her hand, holding onto the diamond-shaped pendant, as if afraid it might run away.

But just a few seconds later, her slightly worried expression turned into one of increasing delight.

"Yes, yes!" Qiao Yuanxi nodded repeatedly, like a little chick pecking at rice, then got up and walked towards the west side of the house.

Who knows what the Artifact Spirit communicated to her.

Lu Ran watched the back of his sister, and mentally sent a message: [Shadow One, Shadow Two, protect her well.]

[Yes!]

[Yes.]

It wasn't until Qiao Yuanxi disappeared at the door of the house that the others withdrew their gaze.

The courtyard was silent, except for the crackling of the bonfire.

"Let's continue." Lu Ran spoke first, glancing at Deng Yutang diagonally across from him, teasing, "Deputy Hall Master Deng, are you still accustomed to being in the Law Enforcement Hall?"

Deng Yutang immediately nodded.

Leaning beside him, Bai Manni also sat up straight: "Thank you, Sect Leader."

Lu Ran waved his hand with a smile: "We're family, no need to be so polite."

Ever since the young couple was promoted to the River Realm, Deng Yuxiang had let her own brother join the Law Enforcement Hall.

The Law Enforcement Hall was originally dominated by the Phoenix and Swallow Generals, but with the Ran Sect's southward campaign, the Phoenix and Swallow Generals accompanied Lu Ran to first conquer the Pear Garden Sect and then Jingxian Island. They haven't been inside the cliff for a long time.

Deng Yutang was also promoted to Deputy Hall Master, fully commanding the Law Enforcement Hall of the Ran Sect.

His face was full of the words "connections".

Sometimes, Lu Ran even wonders if Mr. Deng has taken the protagonist's script!

Has a beautiful wife and a lovely daughter.

Has brothers who can shelter the sky, a sister with power in her hands, and a grandfather elder who is close across generations.

Isn't this purely a winner in life?

"You've trained well, showing some responsibility." Deng Yuxiang spoke calmly.

She always sat next to Deng Yutang, and throughout, Deng Yutang used his body to shield his wife, creating a makeshift haven for Bai Manni against the pressure from his sister.

"Hehe~" Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but shake her head and chuckle.

Visibly, with Deng Yuxiang's words, Deng Yutang couldn't help but shiver slightly again.

Bai Manni held her husband's hand heartily, and dared not say anything about her strong sister-in-law.

Lu Ran suddenly said, "Sister Yuxiang, accompany me to explore the southwest this time."

Deng Yuxiang immediately nodded, looking as if it were only natural.

Lu Ran's eyes carried a hint of sympathy as he looked at the suffering elder brother of the Deng family.

Brothers can only help you this far.

I'll take her away so that you can have a few comfortable days...

Deng Yutang evidently understood Lu Ran's intention, his face full of gratitude, but he immediately shifted his gaze.

Sister is a Sea Realm Great Power, but isn't brother too?

One is Sea Realm Fourth Rank, the other is Sea Realm Third Rank, not much difference to Deng Yutang.

"Sect Leader, during this westward trip, you might want to seek out the Ash Destruction Demon Clan." Yu Changsheng spoke softly.

"Hmm." Lu Ran nodded in agreement, "I'll search the southwest and then go north on the way."

In his mind, the image of a giant lava bear emerged.

The Ash Destruction Demon Clan possesses a rather remarkable skill that allows them to ignore high-temperature environments and even absorb fire attribute damage.

Similar to Yan Qing Faction/Sea Merfolk Clan's immunity to water-type skills, it has its unique charm.

If he can activate this Evil Sculpture, Lu Ran's survivability could be improved somewhat.

[By the way, Sect Leader, how many Stone Sculpture activation slots do you have left?] Yu Changsheng switched to sending a mental message.

However, Lu Ran hadn't connected spiritually with the Mo Li Evil Sculpture, making Yu Changsheng's words sink into the sea.

Yu Changsheng immediately prayed in his heart, pleading for the response of the Lord God.

Lu Ran indeed noticed a slightest anomaly, and after a mental search, he couldn't help but smile wryly, looking at Yu Changsheng right in front of him: [Mr. Cong Long, did you call me?]

Yu Changsheng was still reverent at heart, inquiring via prayer.

[Currently, I can activate five Stone Sculptures.] Lu Ran thought, [Don't worry, when I ascend to the Heavenly Realm, the activation slots will increase greatly.]

Since ascending to the Sea Realm, Lu Ran gained 15 new Stone Sculpture activation slots, and now he has used 10 of them.

[If there are still five slots left, we must plan well.] Yu Changsheng murmured softly.

[One for Sword One, one for Spiritual Fortune.] Mentioning these two gods, Lu Ran's face also turned somber.

Sword One is the god revered by his mother, and immune to frost-type skills, it is a must-have.

When Lu Ran first arrived at Holy Spirit Mountain, he had a grudge against the Sword Mountain Peak faction, and indeed, he was taught a lesson.

As for Spiritual Fortune, it is the god revered by Chang Ying...

Regardless of Chang Ying, the illustrious and great Lord Spiritual Fortune, in Lu Ran's view, has always had a high hatred value!

Yu Changsheng understood Lu Ran's expression and advised: [Sect Leader, beware of acting rashly, Sword One is the head god of Da Xia, and the Sword One Sect is a top-tier sect!]

This sect's Sword Control Technique is incredibly fast, capable of scattering a Sword Dance Clear Shadow, and swiftly traversing spaces. Encompassing it all is incredibly tough!

Yu Changsheng observed Lu Ran's expression and sincerely suggested: [You might as well cultivate to the Heavenly Realm and descend to Sword Mountain Peak, crushing it. At that time, I might also reach the Heavenly Realm and assist in taking down this sect together.]

"Hmm." Lu Ran nodded.

Everyone heard Lu Ran's nasal sound but didn't know who he was talking to.

And the relaxed and pleasant atmosphere also turned sharply with Lu Ran's mood changes.

Jiang Ruyi said softly, "It's late, let's end it here."

As Lady Ran spoke, everyone naturally got up and took their leave.

Jiang Ruyi came to Lu Ran's side, placing a hand on his back, her voice gentle: "Let's go back and rest too."

"Oh." Lu Ran stood up, apologetic, "Sorry for disturbing everyone's mood."

He always treated everyone as friends and comrades-in-arms, but unfortunately, others found it hard to regard Lu Ran in this light.

His joys and sorrows indeed influence everyone.

"It was already quite late anyway." Jiang Ruyi said nonchalantly, and in the empty environment, she rarely took the initiative, wrapping herself around Lu Ran's arm.

As she walked, she said softly, "Let me accompany you on this exploration trip."

Lu Ran said, "Aren't you planning to select a group of disciples and form an Evil Mirror Believer squad?"

Jiang Ruyi pressed her lips together, remaining silent.

Lu Ran desperately needed the Holy Spirit Energy descending from the sky to cultivate the Jade Talisman and Fierce Heavenly Stone Sculpture.

Throughout the Ran Sect, hundreds of Jade Talisman Believers and Fierce Heavenly believers haven't brought about any substantial change. These two stone sculptures continuously receive the Power of Faith from the Human Clan, but their growth rate is exceptionally slow.

Clearly, Lu Ran doesn't have enough believers yet.

He has been in the mountains for less than two years, with even less time spent establishing Ran Sect and recruiting believers.

At this stage, the pure Holy Spirit Energy descending from the sky is still an essential resource for Lu Ran's development!

Forming an Evil Mirror Believer squad would be very beneficial, as it could help Lu Ran collect and properly preserve this resource within the control range of Ran Sect and subordinate forces.

As Ran Sect's power spreads in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, the role of the Evil Mirror squad will become increasingly significant.

"Hmm." Jiang Ruyi was still deep in thought when she suddenly felt herself being lifted.

When she came to her senses, she was already placed on a soft bed, with someone's delicate kisses falling on her neck.

A soft whisper came from her neck: "I plan to travel light and increase the pace of search, only bringing the Nightmare Evil Shadow dual protectors.

Hmm... I will also take Little Wu along to help probe."

The Witch Crow Believer Wu Huan is undoubtedly an excellent scout.

Jiang Ruyi's face flushed, she slowly closed her beautiful eyes and said softly:

"Not taking Yuanxi either? She's begged you so much."

"Inability to obtain makes one desire more. The harder she pleads, the more diligently she'll research and comprehend."

"You..." Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but chuckle.

She could already imagine Little Yuanxi's spoiled tantrums.

"I understand Little Yuanxi; when she goes out exploring, her playful nature becomes more prominent." Lu Ran propped his hands on both sides of her body, slightly rising, looking down at the jade beauty beneath him.

A hint of a smile appeared on his face: "Trouble Lady Fairy, please look after her for me."

Jiang Ruyi snorted softly.

Lu Ran looked at her beautiful eyes, his gaze growing more fervent, and said softly: "Let's not talk about her anymore."

Jiang Ruyi shifted her gaze slightly, turning her head to look at the carved wooden window not far away.

Perhaps she was looking at the Immortal jasmine tree in the night, or at the stars scattered across the sky.

Yet her slightly trembling eyelashes indicated her heartbeat was tumultuous, unable to escape Lu Ran's eyes.

No words were exchanged for the rest of the night.

At dawn the next morning.

A light drizzle began in the early hours.

But, clearly, this couldn't hinder Lu Ran's pace of exploration.

In the master bedroom, in front of the wardrobe, Lu Ran took out a large bamboo hat, planning to dress uniformly with the Nightmare Evil Shadow, transforming into a mysterious Jianghu Hero.

Outside the front courtyard of the Cloud Sea Residence, Deng Yuxiang was waiting, astride the Black Fire Colt, having waited quite a while.

Beside him was another majestic Black Fire Divine Steed, with a completely black crow perched on the horse's head.

Lu Ran donned the bamboo hat and walked to the bedside, looking at his beautiful and alluring fiancée, and softly said: "I'm leaving."

Jiang Ruyi softly replied: "Remember to come back on New Year's Eve."

"Certainly." Lu Ran bent down, gently pressing a kiss on her soft lips.

Jiang Ruyi hugged the quilt, quietly watching him turn around and leave, disappearing behind the screen.

The Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts in the study flew out one by one.

Lu Ran took the Cloud Sea Blade given by the radiance, letting each Divine Weapon and Magic Artifact return to its place, smoothly putting on a wide bamboo hat, and pushed open the door to walk into the rain curtain.

Outside the fence, Deng Yuxiang sat on his horse, knife in hand, looking at the youth with a reluctant expression, slightly raising an eyebrow: [Is this all you've got?]

Lu Ran grumbled before swinging himself onto the horse.

"Brother?" Little Yuanxi, who had rushed over to share good news, suddenly changed her expression.

Lu Ran's face also stiffened.

A girl wearing a black dress rushed into the rain, clutching the diamond pendant around her neck, running all the way to the courtyard outside.

"Where are you going?" Little Yuanxi looked up, angrily at the youth in the bamboo hat on the horse's back.

Lu Ran internally sighed and said, "When you advance to Sea Realm, I'll take you out to explore."

Little Yuanxi's eyes were filled with displeasure: "I wanted to tell you that the Tear Star Pendant has accepted us, you...you! Liar!"

Lu Ran looked down at the beautiful yet angry black swan and continued: "The Holy Spirit Mountain is vast, with countless beautiful landscapes.

Once you advance to Sea Realm, wherever you wish to go, I'll accompany you."

Little Yuanxi suddenly jumped up, grabbing Lu Ran's wrist.

Lu Ran had to bend down, a hint of helplessness: "Yuanxi...ah? Be careful!"

He was startled, hurriedly waving away the Water Flow Armor; Little Yuanxi seemed determined not to worry about her teeth, as if convinced Lu Ran wouldn't harm her.

She grabbed Lu Ran's hand and bit down hard.

"Hiss..." Lu Ran took a sharp breath, "Are you like a dog?"

"Nou!" Little Yuanxi released Lu Ran's hand, wrinkling her little nose, "No! My whole family is like dogs!"

Lu Ran: "..."

As long as it's directed at me,

No need to involve our parents.

"Go, then, who cares~" Little Yuanxi turned her head towards the house, picking up the diamond pendant, wiping her lips stained with Lu Ran's blood.

Strangely, spots of blood merged into the crystal-clear diamond pendant.

Lu Ran watched her rain-soaked back, still opening his mouth to say: "I'll return before New Year's Eve; after the new year, I'll still have to celebrate your birthday."

Little Yuanxi's steps paused, then continued into the house.

Little brother!

That's somewhat better.