

Old Gods 801

Chapter 801: One Step to the Peak

Inside the number one seclusion room, mist swirled.

Lu Ran sat cross-legged silently in meditation, appearing as though a monk in deep trance, but in reality, his body was tumultuous as waves.

The surging mist from between heaven and earth was forcibly compressed by him, condensed into streams, flowing into the rushing rivers within his body, merging into the boundless ocean.

Intense Divine Power fluctuations nourished the Divine Weapon and Magic Artifact around him.

The little Blazing Phoenix was the busiest among them.

It had already reached full capacity, clinging tightly to Lu Ran's palm, continuously channeling Divine Power into Lu Ran's body, creating a little space before absorbing more Divine Power, and then continued to nourish the master...

Happy as can be.

"Buzz~" Suddenly, the little Blazing Phoenix trembled lightly.

"What's wrong, Chi... Chi Feng?" Lu Ran stuttered, knowing he should focus on his breakthrough, yet still couldn't resist his concern for the unusual reaction of the little Blazing Phoenix.

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd immediately ceased its trembling.

"What's really... wrong?" Lu Ran frowned slightly.

The little Blazing Phoenix rarely spoke human words; even when it did, it would emit pleasing phoenix chirps.

As the master of the Magic Artifact, Lu Ran usually understood its intentions, but this time, he was genuinely puzzled.

[Want to, trap, trap the enemy.] A tender child's voice imprinted into Lu Ran's mind.

The voice was soft and sweet, almost melting Lu Ran's heart...

[Trap them, in the belly, don't let them move.] the little Blazing Phoenix whispered.

Lu Ran understood the intention of the little Blazing Phoenix. Recently, he often imprisoned enemies inside the gourd, with the Evil Shadow Guardian forcing prisoners to tear up contracts and control them.

So, did the little Blazing Phoenix want to help out?

Want the enemies to be controlled and immobilized immediately upon entering the gourd?

"You're such a good boy." Lu Ran hugged the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd to his chest, gently stroking it.

"Chirp~" The little Blazing Phoenix was extremely happy, continuously snuggling in Lu Ran's palm.

To this day, it had helped many people advance.

Most of the time, it was business as usual; for example, when helping Xue Fengchen, Gao Yunyan, and Niu Zhengzheng, the little Blazing Phoenix would just quietly stay on the ground.

For some particular individuals, it would express affection appropriately, like when helping Jiang Ruyi.

It would carefully nestle in her lap, not daring to move too much, afraid of annoying her.

But with Lu Ran, the little Blazing Phoenix could express its joy freely and unleash its nature.

It especially liked Lu Ran's palm.

Warm and soft, snuggling feels so comfortable...

"Buzz!" The trembling amplitude of the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd increased a bit, but its small movements were completely overshadowed by the Divine Power fluctuations caused by its master.

"Phew..." Lu Ran suddenly looked up, even his sigh was trembling slightly.

The surging energy within him filled his body to the brim, tirelessly expanding his limits, even giving Lu Ran the illusion of imminent body explosion.

This is the feeling!

The Eight Desolate Blade slanted on Lu Ran's back, within which the Sword Spirit, amidst its master's "illusion," continued digging deeper.

Earnestly seeking.

Self-detonation?

Like the Evil Technique-Skull Explosion ceremony encountered before, like the current master, is the body unable to withstand more?

The Eight Desolate Blade Spirit researched the entirely new Divine Weapon Domain, seeking the key to advancing to a Third-rank Divine Weapon.

"Phew!!"

Suddenly, a terrifying wave of air rippled out from Lu Ran's body.

He held the little Blazing Phoenix with one hand, while the other reached down to press the Cloud Sea Dust Clearing Blade resting on his knees.

Glorious Light, Silent Night, Eight Desolates are all Divine Weapons; they'll take good care of themselves.

Yes, the Silent Night Blade has long completed its task, and Lu Ran has retrieved it.

Since Lu Ran activated the Divine Sculpture of Nu Ying and signed a contract with the Divine General Wang Longxiang, allowing communication through soundwaves, he has taken back the Silent Night Blade.

"Uh ah ah ah~~~"

Lu Ran stretched lazily, feeling refreshed.

With his movement, several crisp bone cracks echoed from within.

Sea Realm·Fourth Rank!

"Hehe~" A blissful smile appeared on Lu Ran's face, looking a bit silly.

From today onwards, this seat is also the legendary high-ranking Sea Realm!

One more step, and I'll reach the Sea Realm Peak!

"Uh." Lu Ran transformed into a puddle of mud, leaning back, but the Silent Night Blade exerted a slight force, supporting its master and preventing him from lying down.

Lu Ran: "..."

This revealed the extent to which the Divine Weapon cares for its master.

Glorious Light, Eight Desolates were always in sync with Lu Ran's mind; when the master wanted to lie back and relax, neither sword stopped him.

Only the Silent Night Blade, fond of silence, was immersed in its world, caught off guard by this scene.

Poor Silent Night, still a First-tier Divine Weapon, constantly overran by another faster Divine Weapon, preventing it from comprehending the Divine Weapon Domain.

Lu Ran raised his hand, grabbed the hilt above his shoulder, and drew the Silent Night Blade.

He finally lay down, softly saying, "That guy, where on earth is it..."

Silent Night rarely expressed its thoughts: [It's best if it's strong.]

"Hmm." Lu Ran nodded with agreement.

Back in the Human World, the Silent Night Blade had already glimpsed the proper way of understanding, subsequently hindered all along.

Lu Ran's strength soared, now reaching Sea Realm·Fourth Rank!

The longer it dragged on, the stronger he would become; someday, when Lu Ran truly finds that Divine Weapon Blade that always suppressed the Silent Night Blade...

The opponent better be really strong!

Otherwise, it would be smashed to pieces by Lu Ran's kick.

Will that Master of Divine Weapon be in the Heavenly Realm? Or in some Demon Cave deep in the Human World?

Is the Master of Divine Weapon part of the Human Clan or the Divine Demon's true self...

Lu Ran lay on the ground, lost in thought, and only after a long time did he realize that the mist in the seclusion room hadn't completely dissipated.

Someone else is advancing?

[Ruyi.]

[Congratulations.] A gentle voice of Jiang Fairy immediately echoed in his mind.

[Who's advancing?]

[Your Hall Master of the Starry Sky Hall.]

[Chang Ying?] Lu Ran's face lit up with joy, [She was at the River Realm Fourth Rank before, right?]

[Yes, she has been advancing for two days now and could reach River Realm Peak any moment.] Jiang Ruyi felt quite sentimental.

Thinking of the members of Lu Ran's squad, Tian Tian, Deng Yutang, Chang Ying...

The last to join Ran Sect turned out to be the most promising!

When Heaven confers a great task on someone, it truly tests their resolve and strength first, doesn't it?

[Just before, I thought, once Chang Ying advances to the Sea Realm and can take charge, we'll let her lead the team to reclaim Starry Valley, coordinating with Longxiang Valley for mutual support.] Lu Ran transmitted with a smile.

Jiang Ruyi pondered for a moment and nodded inwardly, thinking if it's Chang Ying, she should be able to handle major responsibilities.

She turned to ask, [Are you planning to stay in the seclusion room a bit longer? Little Yuanxi really wants to see you.]

[I need to get used to my new body. Just now, when I lay down, the ground was cracked. I need to adjust a bit more.]

[Then I'll let her wait for you at home.]

[By the way, what's today's date?]

[February 19th.]

...

Late at night, when everything was quiet, the mist inside Cloud Sea Cliff finally dispersed. It seems Chang Shen Gun got his wish fulfilled.

Lu Ran also secretly slipped back home.

Coincidentally, Jiang Ruyi, who was cultivating in the study, was about to leave, when Lu Ran caught her.

"Long time no see, esteemed Empress." Lu Ran embraced the soft and warm Jiang Ruyi and returned to the study. One by one, the weapons automatically returned to their places, and Little Chi Feng flew back to the desk.

Unfortunately, Little Chi Feng still couldn't advance or realize new effects.

However, as a mature magical artifact, it would strive to research diligently, especially after being praised as "good girl" by Lu Ran, which fueled Little Chi Feng's motivation even more.

"Hmm." Jiang Ruyi's expression was slightly coquettish, as the prestigious phoenix robe she wore indeed boosted her aura significantly.

Being both second-rank magical artifacts, Lu Ran's Ink Jade Tiger Talisman only came to life when necessary.

While her phoenix robe was exactly the opposite. It only restrained its power when Jiang Ruyi ordered it.

In this magical artifact's perception, the world was forever hierarchical and orderly; initially, even if someone dared to look at its master, it would be deemed as defying heavenly awe...

Phoenix soaring above nine skies, all beings lower their heads.

It's much better now.

Jiang Ruyi and her phoenix robe were embraced by Lu Ran, the robe like her, allowing him as he wished.

"There are dead souls in the Nightmare, Evil Shadow, and Shadow One's Rebirth Money. Remember to collect them tomorrow."

"Another Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon?" Lu Ran said with a smile.

Every time someone advances, the invasion of Cloud Sea Cliff by the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon had become a routine occurrence.

If it weren't for Lu Ran's Ink Carp Squad and Sea Shark Squad controlling the Mocean Bay area, the Mo Li Clan and Sea Merfolk Clan wouldn't have been spared either.

"Plus a few human dead souls."

"Humans?" Lu Ran was somewhat surprised; since Ran Sect's founding, there had been occasional appearances of others, but in the days that followed, few humans dared to invade.

"Four disciples of Yan Qing, I've had Niu Zhengzheng interrogate them. They drifted from the north."

Niu Zhengzheng, being the presiding Soul-splitting Demon, naturally possessed a Soul Prison and Soul Fire.

Lu Ran could completely free himself, letting Niu act as a ruthless executioner.

Jiang Ruyi's voice cooled considerably, "Their time entering the mountain wasn't long, yet they understood the rules thoroughly."

"Hm." Lu Ran recalled when he first entered the mountain.

Such ignorance and fearlessness.

"You're getting closer to the Heavenly Realm." Jiang Ruyi no longer dwelled on the minor thieves, resting on Lu Ran's shoulder, her voice softening again.

"Yes, so I need to speed up." Lu Ran said softly.

"Hm?"

"Tonight, I'll sleep well, and tomorrow morning, I'll go to the Jinmi Demon Clan's lair to activate the Evil Sculpture soon, so I won't fear fire anymore."

Jiang Ruyi was quite pleased with Lu Ran's decision.

Along with this, the Phoenix Nine Heaven Robe graciously lowered its long trailing hem, encircling Lu Ran.

"What is this?" Lu Ran was somewhat puzzled.

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

At times, a shared mind isn't very beneficial.

She could have many thoughts, yet her face remained as calm as a lake, but the magical artifact, loving her as its master, expressed its owner's and its feelings.

Lu Ran felt the phoenix robe gently caressing his back, his expression somewhat odd: "Isn't the Empress very satisfied?"

Is this... encouragement or reward?"

Jiang Ruyi's cheeks flushed slightly, changing the subject: "When you set off tomorrow, aren't you taking Yuanxi? I'll accompany you, to guard her."

Lu Ran smiled, not making it difficult for her: "Alright, bring the Xuan Shuang Guard along too; Jinmie Ridge is too hot, she can help cool it down... Oh right!

Speaking of Xuan Shuang, does she often help you with bathing and dressing?"

"Yes, Xuan Shuang truly takes care of me, always... who told you that?"

"Who else could it be?"

Jiang Ruyi, smart as ice and snow, instantly thought of that fierce-tempered, petty, and jealous confidante.

Yet Lu Ran slyly turned the conversation, whispering: "You know, I also really want to take care of you..."

Jiang Ruyi blushed bright red, lightly scolding: "Go!"

Foolish ruler!

...

Chapter 802: Sinister Young Lady?

Next morning, inside the Tianque Pavilion.

"Ring ring~ ring~"

Accompanied by the crisp and pleasant sound of a bell, a girl in a golden dress hurriedly made her way through the southwest corner of the forest at the valley's bottom.

This secluded and hidden corner of the valley harbors a private courtyard, which was once Jin Que'er's residence but was later gifted to the Master of Ran Sect, renamed "Sky Sparrow Residence".

Lu, the Master of Ran Sect, really has quite an abundance of property.

What Cloud Sea Residence, Thousand Flower Inn, Pear Garden Residence...

Can't possibly live in all of them~

As Jin Que'er stepped into the small courtyard, she heard a crisp and pleasant bell sound coming from inside the house.

Little Yuanxi?

The face hidden behind Jin Que'er's golden gauze showed a hint of a smile.

At the end of January, another Heavenly Sound Bell recognized its owner and became Qiao Yuansi's magic artifact.

Since then, the two Heavenly Sound Bells, separated by thousands of kilometers, became the communication devices for the two girls.

Both have delightful personalities and are lively and charming, quickly becoming friends, often chatting endlessly.

Today, they were finally going to meet!

Honestly, thanks to the Magic Artifact·Heavenly Sound Bell also being lively and active; if it were changed to Silent Night Blade, it would have given up long ago...

"Click~"

The door opened to the left and right.

A girl wearing a green straw hat cautiously peeked in.

Under the wide brim, a pair of cute big eyes locked onto Jin Que'er's ankle.

Jin Que'er similarly looked at the girl in the straw hat, also noticing a little shining golden bell at her ankle.

Both simultaneously lifted their gaze to look directly at each other.

Confirming the eyes!

It's the person who talks on the phone every day!

Qiao Yuansi smiled with crescent-shaped eyes, "Sister Qiao'er?"

"Hello, Little Yuanxi." Jin Que'er smiled and nodded, then quickly showed a respectful gesture, "Sect Master, Lady."

Lu Ran, behind the door, did not think he would frighten the Golden Pavilion Master.

Apparently, Jin Que'er was startled by seeing the Empress wearing the phoenix robe, hence the panic.

The four-person squad from Cloud Sea Cliff truly had the aura of a host of stars gathered around the moon.

Qiao Yuansi's first experience going out with Lu Ran, was very excited, causing quite a stir in the green straw hat, joining her brother in becoming Jianghu Heroes.

Although the Xuan Shuang Guard wore a white dress, she obviously was a follower behind Jiang Ruyi.

This four-person squad...

Hmm, Lady Empress and her followers.

During this trip, Lu Ran rarely did not bring the Evil Shadow Guardian; this morning, Yan Shuangzi borrowed Little Chi Feng from Lu Ran and went into seclusion.

The Great Evil Shadow advanced last October, and calculating the days, it should soon have a breakthrough.

"Be at ease, Golden Pavilion Master." Jiang Ruyi softly spoke.

"Lady, you... you can just call me Qiao'er." Jin Que'er lowered her head and stood up.

During this time, Jin Que'er also heard many details about the Ran Sect from Little Yuanxi.

When she heard that Lady Ran was Lu Ran's childhood friend, the one who appeared with him in "Heavenly Pride", Jiang Ruyi, Jin Que'er couldn't help but be moved.

Also had greater respect for Lu Ran.

Holy Spirit Mountain is not like the Human World, how difficult is it to find someone here?

In this realm filled with constant parting and death, Lu Ran managed to keep his closest ones by his side, simply astounding.

"Ring ring~ ring~"

Qiao Yuansi walked quickly to Jin Que'er, closely examining the girl: "Sister Qiao'er is so pretty, even prettier than imagined!"

Jin Que'er hurriedly shook her head, "Don't dare, don't dare."

"Golden Pavilion Master, don't be so polite." Lu Ran spoke, his words sounding a bit muffled due to the eerie and beautiful Blood Crystal Mask, "How's everything in the pavilion lately?"

"All is well." Jin Que'er reported, "Today, most disciples drew the Middle Sign, the valley should indeed be calm."

Lu Ran nodded slightly, "Everything in the pavilion is arranged properly?"

"Sect Master, rest assured."

"Alright, then let's head to Jinmie Ridge first, and once we return, you can show Lady around the Tianque Pavilion."

"Yes." Jin Que'er's energy surged, transforming into a delicate Little Huang Que, landing on Qiao Yuansi's shoulder.

"Tsk tsk~" Qiao Yuansi's eyes sparkled, gently smoothing its gleaming golden feathers with one hand.

"Let's go." Lu Ran smiled at his sister and casually activated the Transmission Mirror.

With Lu Ran present, travel was naturally swift.

Plus, with Jin Que'er as the guide, they quickly reached the northern edge, tens of kilometers away, of Jinmie Ridge.

Jinmie Ridge, stretches over a thousand miles.

Volcanic caves are endless.

Lu Ran and the others stood on a cliff, watching the lush mountain forest gradually wither and die, until there was not a blade of grass.

Looking towards the north, scorched earth!

The sky was dim, with specks of ash floating in the air, chasms visible on the ground between mountains, forming natural canyons.

Like wounds torn open one by one.

The scene like the end of the world, making one secretly click their tongue.

"Well, well~" Lu Ran took off the Blood Crystal Mask, shook his nose, and quickly put it back on.

Even so, the pungent sulfur smell kept drilling into his dog nose.

This place, seems like it really experienced a volcanic eruption.

"Whoosh~"

Suddenly, plum petals drifted down the cliff.

Not only did it bring a faint fragrance, but also carried frost and snow, delivering a touch of coolness to them.

Evil Technique·Plum Fall Surprise.

Jin Que'er turned her head towards the white-dressed woman, discovering with astonishment that as she lowered her hand, she left frames of illusions behind.

Like a dream, like a fantasy.

Isn't this the perception-related Divine Technique·Plum Blossom Fall from the Cold Plum Sect?

This is not an Ice Plum Clan movement technique, it's an Evil Technique·Falling Plum Startles the Swan!

This stunning woman, is she actually a disciple of the Evil Demon·Ice Plum Demon Queen?

The people around Sect Master... none of them seem quite normal?

Jin Que'er still remembers the last time they met, the two women in straw rain capes brought by Lu Ran, one was a Night Charm disciple, the other an Evil Dog believer!

This... is this really okay?

"Much better." Lu Ran said sullenly, turning his head towards Qiao Yuansi, apologizing, "Taking you out for the first time, and we come to a place like this."

"It's fine!" Qiao Yuansi no longer covered her mouth and nose, inhaling the refreshing floral fragrance, "This scenery is so breathtaking!"

Besides, I also want to give those big black bears a hard time~"

"Mm." Lu Ran smiled and nodded.

Jin Que'er snapped back to reality, immediately introducing, "Sect Master, look at the tallest volcano in the distance, the Evil Nest of the Ash Destruction Demon Clan is likely inside that volcano."

Lu Ran looked far ahead and said, "We'll kill some Evil Demons on the periphery, don't go deep inside."

Jin Que'er immediately said, "Then we can choose a nearby ravine, the bottom has many caverns and interconnected tunnels, where Ash Destruction Demons might be hiding."

"Let's go." Lu Ran flew down, with figures following closely behind, plunging into the sky full of ashes.

In this utterly breathtaking doomsday backdrop, the few insignificant humans appeared somewhat heroic.

The group dropped straight to the bottom of the ravine, indeed finding many caves.

Before they could choose one, at a cave entrance, they saw a massive black bear.

Upon seeing the human figures, the creature was instantly dumbfounded.

On its face, Lu Ran read two large words—Uncommon Guests!

"Roar!!"

The next moment, the Ash Destruction Demon roared furiously, suddenly standing up.

"Oh no." Lu Ran grinned awkwardly.

This Ash Destruction Demon was enormous, a towering four and a half meters high, resembling a small mountain.

It had the appearance of a black bear, crimson eyes releasing a terrifying bloodthirsty aura, sharp teeth inside a large mouth that made one's hair stand on end.

Vicious and ferocious energy surged endlessly towards the group.

Extremely savage!

This clan's strength level could be judged by body size, and this Ash Destruction Demon should be at the Middle Stage of the River Realm.

Moreover, the brains of the Ash Destruction Demon Clan contained Demon Crystals, which wouldn't turn into energy and disappear upon their death.

In other words, on the menu of Ran Sect disciples, ingredients like bear heart, bear gall, and bear paw could be added...

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The Ash Destruction Demon began to run, every step causing the ground to tremble.

As it advanced, its body was covered with a layer of lava armor.

The gray-black stone armor had considerable defensive power, and in the cracks, brilliant magma streams were faintly visible.

Evil Technique·Ash Destruction Armor!

Evil Technique·Ash Destruction Charge!

The Ash Destruction Demon roared loudly, surging forward like a mountain of flesh rolling over.

"I'll do it, I'll do it~" Qiao Yuansi said, but she was hiding behind Lu Ran, holding his arm with both hands, only revealing a small head.

In her large eyes, suddenly black flames ignited.

Black Lamp Evil Technique-Caged Fire (Shadow)!

This was a single-target control technique, enemies illuminated by the black fire would be greatly hindered in their movements.

"Huh?" The Ash Destruction Demon was instantly bewildered.

Its charging steps abruptly slowed, as if burdened with a ten-thousand-pound load.

"Hehe~" Qiao Yuansi giggled coyly, seeing the cumbersome big black bear, her courage grew, walking out from behind Lu Ran.

The lovely girl, with a sweet smile on her face, yet emanated a chilling malevolence...

"Woo~ Woo! Woo!!"

The Ash Destruction Demon roared sorrowfully and indignantly, born with divine strength, it truly was remarkable, still striving to charge ahead.

Alas, it was only at the River Realm.

Sea Realm Great Power·Qiao Yuansi, with absolute dominance, somehow transformed this soft control technique 'Caged Fire (Shadow)' into exhibiting some hard-control effects.

"Boom! Boom..."

The Ash Destruction Demon resumed its beast-like stance, crawling forward laboriously on all fours.

"Oh?" Qiao Yuansi tilted her head, the fire in her eyes burned more fiercely.

The Ash Destruction Demon roared in humiliation, struggling to crawl forward.

"So hardworking." Qiao Yuansi playfully winked her left eye, in which the nature of the flame changed.

She gazed at the continuously crawling Ash Destruction Demon, their eyes interlocked, the demon's movements suddenly halted, it froze in place!

Its pair of crimson eyes appeared much more dazed now.

Black Lamp Evil Technique·Caged Fire (Illusion)!

The Ash Destruction Demon lacked Spirit Defense Techniques, completely succumbing to the Illusion Technique, its Ash Destruction Armor rapidly dissipating.

The Black Lantern, just like the Tangled Silk Shadow, was filled with poison all over!

When facing off against Qiao Yuansi, most creatures cannot look at her...

"Sis Qiao'er?" Qiao Yuansi slightly lifted her shoulders.

"Ah!" The little Huang Que on the shoulder of the girl immediately snapped back to reality.

Just now Jin Que'er was shocked to discover the woman in the white dress was a follower of the Evil Demon·Ice Plum.

And now she was astonished to find that Qiao Yuansi, who had once shown the Divine Technique of the Flower Lantern on "Heavenly Pride," had now become a follower of the Evil Demon·Black Lantern?!

Sect Master has under him... all Evil Demon disciples?

Not a single Divine follower?

"Whoosh~ Whoosh~" Jin Que'er suppressed her swirling emotions, flicked her brilliantly colored tail feathers, causing three golden feathers to stab straight into the bear's head.

Qiao Yuansi clasped her hands behind her, turning around, coquettishly looking at Lu Ran:

"Aren't I amazing?"

"Mm, mm, amazing!" Lu Ran nodded repeatedly.

Seeing Lu Ran's praise, the black flames in Qiao Yuansi's eyes jumped a bit higher, a joyful smile appearing on her face.

Getting more and more sinister...

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Chapter 803: Third-rank Divine Weapon?!

Jiang Ruyi looked at the little Yuanxi, who was asking for praise, and couldn't help but smile: "Go replenish some Divine Power."

"Okay." Qiao Yuansi ran over, her ankle touching the furry bear skin.

Her ankle not only had the Magic Artifact·Heavenly Sound Bell, but also several Divine Power Pearls tied on the winding red thread.

Similarly, Lu Ran also wore a string of Divine Power Pearls around his ankle, specifically prepared for this hunt against the Jinmi Demon Clan.

"Hm?" Lu Ran suddenly looked up.

He could only feel the surrounding temperature suddenly rise, and the scattered ashes floating in the air inexplicably started to burn.

Carrying a burning effect!

Coincidentally, some ashes fell on the back of Lu Ran's hand, continuously burning through his Water Flow Armor.

Evil Technique·Destruction Domain!

This is a Domain Technique; its diameter is only 50 meters at the River Grade, but can reach 500 meters at the Sea Grade!

Lu Ran squinted his eyes and looked around; the Destruction Domain they were in clearly exceeded fifty meters in diameter.

So... is there a Sea Realm·Jinmi Demon nearby?

"Hold Qiao'er... Pavilion Master Jin in your arms." Lu Ran reminded his sister.

But before her brother's reminder, Qiao Yuansi had already opened her large raincoat, hiding the exquisite Little Huang Que in her bosom.

Golden Sparrow: "..."

In her bird form, she was unable to cover her body with Water Flow Armor, and the scattered ashes in the air could burn holes in her bird body.

Golden Sparrow originally wanted to transform into human form, but Qiao Yuansi, quicker than Golden Sparrow herself, was even more nervous.

She nestled in the girl's embrace, isolated by the large raincoat from the dangerous world, inhaling the faint fragrance on the girl, feeling exceptionally cozy.

Since coming to Holy Spirit Mountain, Golden Sparrow had never felt like this.

She was momentarily stunned, then couldn't help but curl up, rubbing her bird head against the warmth of the girl's embrace.

Suddenly, Golden Sparrow chuckled mockingly at herself.

She was also a Sea Realm Great Power, yet was being protected in the arms of someone younger, shamelessly enjoying it!

Truly...

At the same time, Lu Ran's gaze fixed on a large cave to their left front.

"Hoo... hooo..."

Heavy breathing, accompanied by weighty footsteps, came from within the cave.

Gradually, a massive creature emerged from the darkness.

It was over five meters tall, with enormous bear eyes glowing with terrifying red light, staring intently at Lu Ran.

Could a Sea Realm Great Demon appear even at the edge of Jinmie Ridge?

The tunnels deep in the rift really were interconnected.

"Woo~ woo..." Jinmi Demon, initially fierce and evil, now screamed miserably.

"Heh." Lu Ran sneered, who are you trying to scare?

Your eyes are red?

When my eyes turn red, can you handle it!

"Woo..." The Jinmi Demon screamed, its bear paw slapping its head fiercely, clearly suffering from the Tethering Silk Pupil.

From its massive paw, ashes yet to extinguish were scattered continuously.

In the blink of an eye, a ring of ashes encased the Jinmi Demon, then expanded outward!

"Hoo!!"

The unextinguished ashes churned with terrifying airwaves, collapsing the cave walls.

Jiang Ruyi immediately summoned a circle of Golden Jade Stone Plates, with three pieces in front rapidly expanding into shields of ten meter specifications.

The burning ash ring struck the Golden Jade Stone Plates heavily, emitting a terrifying humming sound.

Although it did not harm them, the heat wave was suffocating and oppressive.

The dense ashes further obscured their vision, imprisoning the prey within, burning relentlessly.

"Hoo!!"

Another ash ring expanded, far more formidable than the previous strike.

And that was not all!

The third and most scorching, aggressive ash ring followed suit.

Evil Technique·Ash Inferno Triple Devastation!

"Crack! Crack..." A series of ash rings finally crawled fracture lines across the Golden Jade Stone Plates.

Jiang Ruyi looked at Lu Ran in surprise, as she knew too well his combat rhythm.

His attack and displacement speeds should be alarmingly fast! With Lu Ran present, the Jinmi Demon shouldn't have managed to unleash all three ash rings! But now...

Jiang Ruyi slightly raised her eyebrow, only to see Lu Ran holding the Eight Desolate Blade, assumed in a bow-legged posture before Instant Teleportation, frozen in place.

Even with ashes obscuring his eyes, she realized the Eight Desolate Blade, so close by, was vibrating intensely.

"Buzz!!"

Lu Ran was frozen, diverse thoughts flowed through his mind: burst, flatten, destroy.

Obliterate everything...

Those were the desires from the Eight Desolate Blade, extraordinarily strong.

It was just like in Red Rain Valley before, when the Eight Desolate Blade realized the Divine Weapon Domain·Eight Directions Annihilation, what a special state it was in.

"Xuan Shuang, use the Soul Capturing Cold Fragrance to control the Evil Demon, be quieter when you kill." Jiang Ruyi whispered.

"Yes, Lady." Leng Xushuang swiftly soared up.

Amid the burning ashes and drifting fallen plums, the woman left beautiful fleeting shadows.

The subtle fragrance of plum blossom spread out.

The Jinmi Demon, as a beast demon with lesser intellect to begin with, and with no Spirit Defense Techniques, quickly fell for it.

Not only this Sea Realm Great Demon! In the surrounding area, each approaching Evil Demon that caught the intoxicating scent had their flames quickly die down.

Each black bear stopped in place, dazed and bewildered.

With a slight thought, Jiang Ruyi transformed eight Golden Jade Talismans into a cuboid fortress, as the Magic Artifact·Immortal Binding Whip at her waist automatically extended, wrapping around Qiao Yuansi, bringing her close by.

"My brother he..." Qiao Yuansi started to speak, the bell at her ankle faintly ringing.

"Shh!" Jiang Ruyi issued the command for silence.

"Let's go out first." Lu Ran suddenly spoke.

"Don't miss the opportunity, comprehend it on the spot, and we'll protect you." Jiang Ruyi's voice was very serious, clearly knowing what she was doing.

Comprehending in the Evil Demon Base Camp sounds indeed audacious, but Leng Xushuang greatly restrains this clan.

Jiang Ruyi also knows that the Eight Desolate Blade is a second-rank Divine Weapon!

If there is a chance to advance to the third rank, the terrifying attribute amplifications and brand-new Divine Weapon Domain will surely have unimaginable power.

From childhood to adulthood, Jiang Ruyi had never seen a third-rank Divine Weapon!

Even the two Divine Swords hanging in Qiao Wanjun's study, Lu Ran's mother, seem to have only reached the second rank?

Jiang Ruyi is not quite sure.

What she can be sure of is that the opportunity for a Divine Weapon upgrade is a rare chance.

It must be firmly grasped!

"You... dig a hole, make it deep." Lu Ran held the Eight Desolate Blade's hilt with both hands, speaking in a deep voice.

He could directly open the Transmission Mirror and step into the Pear Garden Sect, to calmly comprehend.

But Lu Ran did not dare to gamble too much.

Ruyi was right; he should comprehend it on the spot!

The Eight Desolate Blade "opened its mind" in this world, and abruptly returning to a peaceful and comfortable environment might have implications.

"Okay." Jiang Ruyi thought for a moment, flipped her palm and pressed downward.

A Golden Jade Talisman obeyed its master's will and crushed downward.

Lu Ran struggled to keep his mind stable, ignoring everything external.

He closed his eyes tightly, pressing his forehead against the cold Eight Desolate Blade, repeatedly deepening the blade's desire.

Burst, destroy...

Sweep away everything!

In the midst of his perception, he sensed the eagerness of the Eight Desolates Blade Spirit, quickly keeping pace with the Divine Weapon.

In the past, by the Blood Pool.

The Blood Skull, which performed the head-exploding grand burial with the jade burning.

Previously, when Lu Ran advanced, there was a feeling of fullness within him, like the illusion of bursting to death.

"Buzz!!"

The vibration amplitude of the Eight Desolate Blade became increasingly severe, and the clanging hum sounded exceptionally clear in the hot and dark underground cave.

Jiang Ruyi had already "crushed" an underground cave using the Golden Jade Stone Plate, hiding everyone inside.

She was extremely careful, not even letting Leng Xushuang use the Ice Plum Technique to avoid disturbing Lu Ran.

"Explosion, huh?" Lu Ran's murmuring voice was clearly audible.

"First Domain-Eight Directions Annihilation is you and me together casting the spell, injecting energy into the earth, pouring it into the mountain... Hmm?"

Lu Ran frowned tightly, recalling the recent battle under the guidance of the Eight Desolates Blade Spirit.

The Ash Destruction Demon roared angrily, scattering layers of unextinguished ashes, followed by expanding rings of ash fire.

"Release energy directly from the blade, spreading out..."

"Buzz!" The Eight Desolate Blade was extremely excited.

As master and blade synchronized, it faintly perceived that an invisible shackle seemed to be gradually breaking.

But soon, this sensation vanished.

"Don't panic, I'm here." With eyes tightly shut, Lu Ran guided the Divine Weapon to deepen its desire.

Eight Desolates is merely a place name.

It refers to a distant place, particularly the realm after Divine Ruins for Lu Ran.

The key is on "Annihilation"!

That is the foundational existence of the Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade in the world.

"Destruction, destruction... don't make noise!" Lu Ran's expression was somewhat unpleasant.

Qiao Yuansi shivered with fright, hugging Little Huang Que tightly, curling up in the pitch-dark cave.

Her brother was always gentle; even on the life-and-death battlefield, he only glared coldly and faced the enemy calmly.

It was rare to see Lu Ran lose his temper.

But the crowd was unaware that the remark "don't make noise" was directed not at the Eight Desolates Blade, but at one of the stone sculptures in the God Demon Sculpture Garden!

Simultaneously, in the southeastern region of the Holy Spirit Mountain Continent, by the Mist Rain Lake.

On the Central Island, He Yingcai frowned slightly.

She gazed at the fog that filled the sky, witnessing the dense mist transforming into Fog Dragon Rolls, eventually connecting to the island she was on, completely enveloping Mist Rain Lake.

In the underground seclusion room beneath He Yingcai's feet, Yu Changsheng was advancing!

From Sea Realm Peak, ascending to Heavenly Realm!

Such an important matter, she immediately tried to contact the Sect Leader, but the other party didn't respond for a long time.

"Alliance Leader He!"

"Alliance Leader He, what is this?" Two voices, male and female, came from the fog.

The three islands of Sky Phoenix are located at the center of Mist Rain Lake; nearby, Tianya Island Master and Mingyue Island Master had arrived immediately.

He Yingcai temporarily suppressed the idea of contacting the Sect Leader, slightly parted her thin lips: "Pass it down, from now on, the Thousand Boat Alliance is in the highest alert state."

As she spoke, a strand of proud gleam flashed through He Yingcai's beautiful eyes:

"My husband, is advancing to the Heavenly Realm."

"Heaven... Heavenly Realm?"

"Heavenly Realm!" Tianya Mingyue's faces showed astonishment, naturally knowing who Alliance Leader He's husband was.

When the two arrived, they indeed had a slight guess but did not dare to confirm; now with the confirmed news, it truly startled them.

"No need to worry, I'll contact Master Lu and have him come here with people." He Yingcai stood with folded arms, softly instructing, "You two, pass down the order."

"Yes!"

"Yes, Alliance Leader He!"

Chapter 804: Renown

At the edge of Jinmie Ridge, within the underground cavern.

"Ugh!" Qiao Yuansi covered her mouth with one hand, her eyes widening slightly.

In the pitch-black environment, Lu Ran's eyes were so bright, brilliant with splendor.

"Buzz!!"

The Eight Desolate Blade trembled violently, while in a place unseen by others, in the gray sky of Jinmie Ridge, endless fog surged forth madly.

Whenever a Divine Weapon upgrades, the scale of the celestial phenomenon is always grand.

Dense fog automatically transformed into Fog Dragon Rolls, piercing through the ash-filled sky, reaching deep into the rift.

"Roar!"

"Roar..." All of a sudden, roars echoed endlessly within Jinmie Ridge, and the Ash Destruction Demons rushed over, only to be immediately engulfed by the mist, losing sight entirely.

Beasts lost in the dense fog would inevitably collide with each other.

Being of the same tribe, they shouldn't have fought much, but the mist clouded their eyes, making the Ash Destruction Demons unable to recognize each other. Coupled with their naturally ferocious nature and low intelligence, minor frictions soon escalated into a chaotic skirmish.

The commotion outside did not disturb Lu Ran.

He sat cross-legged on the ground, his forehead against the cold blade, focusing entirely on guiding the Divine Weapon's upgrade.

Ten minutes... a quarter of an hour... half an hour...

The Eight Desolate Blade continued to hum, its momentum unabated.

Typically, the upgrade time for a Divine Weapon isn't long, lasting either a few minutes or up to half an hour.

The cavern remained silent, and every second was an ordeal for everyone.

If it takes too long, it's not a good sign and might mean there are problems with the upgrade.

If this threshold isn't crossed this time, future opportunities would be even harder to come by!

Qiao Yuansi became increasingly worried, hearing the muffled thuds and explosions from the distant surface above.

"Boom! Boom!"

"Rumble!!"

Jiang Ruyi pondered for a moment and then cast the Divine Technique·Golden Jade Eight Talismans, planning to stabilize the cave's ceiling using the Golden Jade Stone Plate.

At this moment, Jin Que'er suddenly turned its head, used its beak to lift the girl's raincoat, and burrowed into Little Yuanxi's embrace.

"Ugh!" Qiao Yuansi was about to ask when she felt a violent gust of wind.

She hurriedly shielded her face with one hand, her delicate body pushed hard against the stone wall by the wind.

"Whoosh!!"

The gale hadn't dispersed when she heard hearty laughter:

"Haha!"

"Brother?" Qiao Yuansi naturally understood what this whirlwind meant.

She was equally thrilled, crawling over at once.

"Silly girl." Lu Ran's tone carried a hint of spoil, "So close, and you still crawled off track?"

As he spoke, he reached for Qiao Yuansi's bamboo hat, helping her adjust its direction.

"Hmph!" Qiao Yuansi scrunched her little nose, crawled over to Lu Ran, shaking his arm excitedly, "Did you succeed?"

"I did!" Lu Ran nodded emphatically, his heart filled with emotion.

He still held the Eight Desolate Blade, feeling the terrifying energy fluctuations emanating from it.

Third-rank Divine Weapon-Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade!

Its attributes alone would utterly crush the Second-rank Divine Weapon·Dawn Blade.

As he pondered, Lu Ran decisively tested it.

"Eight Desolates, try to break free from me." Lu Ran gripped the hilt tightly, commanding in a deep voice.

The Eight Desolate Blade immediately obeyed, attempting to break free of Lu Ran's grasp.

Lu Ran's eyes widened as he gripped the hilt tightly, exerting more force.

The strength of the Eight Desolate Blade was astonishing, unexpectedly dragging Lu Ran forward.

Lu Ran was shocked!

Is it that strong?

Suddenly, the voice of the Eight Desolate Blade Spirit rang in his mind: [Master, you need to activate a power amplification technique! Otherwise, you won't be able to hold me.]

Lu Ran: ?

The Eight Desolate Blade wasn't bluffing; it directly dragged Lu Ran forward by more than a meter.

Bear in mind, Lu Ran was at the Sea Realm Fourth Rank!

This... this is?

"Whew~" Lu Ran's blood surged as he activated the Blood Skull Evil Technique·Burning Blood Body, dramatically increasing all his attributes.

"Buzz!" The Eight Desolate Blade, held in Lu Ran's hand, trembled continuously.

The contest of strength between them reached their limits.

Were they evenly matched?

After all, Lu Ran still held the hilt, so he was barely winning by a margin.

"Gulp." Lu Ran swallowed.

Is this the explosive properties of a Third-rank Divine Weapon?

The strength of someone at the River Realm can wield a First-tier Divine Weapon; those at the Sea Realm can wield a Second-rank Divine Weapon.

So only those at the Heavenly Realm can control a Third-rank Divine Weapon?

The real-life example was right here; Lu Ran, being high-level in the Sea Realm, could barely hold the Eight Desolate Blade even after activating the Evil Technique·Burning Blood Body with all his might.

"Stop." Lu Ran quickly spoke.

The Eight Desolate Blade, highly intelligent, slowly eased its strength, fearing that Lu Ran might topple backward and crash deeper into the ground...

"Goodness~" Lu Ran placed the Eight Desolate Blade across his knees, his fingers constantly caressing the blade.

He couldn't get enough of it.

This was just a rough test of the power of a Third-rank Divine Weapon; how fast could it be?

What level of sharpness would it have?

Could an ordinary Sea Realm person truly withstand a single strike from the Eight Desolates?

The more Lu Ran thought about it, the more delighted he became.

Take Jin Que'er at the Initial Stage of the Sea Realm as an example: could it be that even without making a move, the Eight Desolate Blade will fight on its own and pin Jin Que'er down on the spot?

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

No wonder it's on par with the grade of the Heavenly Realm!

In his thoughts, Lu Ran thought of the Dawn Blade again, inwardly lamenting: Clearly, the Dawn Blade arrived first, yet the Eight Desolate Blade took the lead.

How wonderful would it be if the Dawn Blade were also a Third-rank Divine Weapon?

"Buzz~" The Dawn Blade trembled slightly, with minimal amplitude.

Does it feel a bit aggrieved?

"Uh?" Lu Ran came to his senses and quickly consoled it, "Such opportunities are rare and hard to come by, Dawn, I know you've worked hard too..."

Nearby, Jiang Ruyi's voice came, "No need for that, Dawn, the Holy Spirit Mountain is clearly more suited for the growth of the Eight Desolate Blade."

"Yes, yes, yes, this place is more fitting for the Eight Desolates." Lu Ran subconsciously echoed her, and then he realized that Jiang Fairy wasn't giving empty comfort.

What is the existence philosophy of the Eight Desolate Annihilation Blade?

The answer lies within the premise.

Through Lu Ran's journey, in this dirty and brutal Holy Spirit Mountain, battling with blood and fire every minute and second, it aligns perfectly with the existence philosophy of the Eight Desolate Blade.

If it didn't grow, it would be a miracle!

Lu Ran nodded secretly and sighed, "If I were still in the human world, still guarding Rain Alley City, the Dawn Blade might have advanced to Third-rank too."

A youthful Lu Ran once made a wish:

To pierce through the night of the fifteenth and welcome boundless rosy clouds and a sky full of auspicious clouds.

Now, he's no longer in Rain Alley City, no longer battling to dawn every fifteenth of the month.

But from a higher perspective, what Lu Ran does, his ultimate goal, is also to shatter the darkest of the human world.

On the day when gods and demons lay slain, is when dawn breaks upon the human world!

At that moment,

will come the true spectacle of boundless rosy clouds and a thousand radiant beams!

"Buzz!" The Dawn Blade clearly agreed with Lu Ran's thoughts.

What it seeks isn't the narrow light of dawn each sixteenth morning of the month.

Instead, it should be a world covered in auspicious clouds!

Within the pitch-black cavern, a solemn air pervaded, anyone could sense the boiling heart of Lu Ran and his Divine Weapon.

Such people, such blades.

Such extreme purity of a child's heart, coupled with an audacious ambition that knows no bounds...

Jiang Ruyi suddenly became aware of an issue: it wasn't because Lu Ran owned a Sculpture Garden that he came to where he is today.

But because Lu Ran inherently possessed such qualities, which is why Lord Immortal Sheep found him among the masses, carrying a Sculpture Garden.

Jiang Ruyi also admits having a strong filter for Lu Ran, which might bias her judgment.

But humbly speaking, Jiang Ruyi believes that, at least between Lu Ran and the Sculpture Garden, there's a complementary relationship that pushes them further on this path.

Never veered even a bit,

Nor did he ever retreat an inch.

Jiang Ruyi collected her emotions and gently reminded, "Lu Ran, it's been chaotic outside for a while now."

"Oh." Lu Ran nodded, knowing there should be a considerable number of Dead Souls in the ridge, he casually picked up the bamboo hat that had fallen on the ground, "I'll be right back."

With that, he left a blood-red afterimage in place.

Lu Ran appeared on the cliff outside Jinmie Ridge, looking afar, he saw that much of the fog in the world had already dissipated.

He opened his horizontal pupils and immediately saw many Dead Souls of Ash Destruction Demon disappearing into the grey sky.

It seems that in the past half an hour, many Dead Souls of Ash Destruction Demon had ascended.

But many Dead Souls of Ash Destruction Demons were still lingering on the surface or mid-air.

Of course, Lu Ran would capitalize on such resources, his figure becoming formless, switching to Instant Teleportation Technique·Evil Shadow Flash to avoid leaving any traces when flickering.

Silently, he engaged in Soul Binding, feasting sumptuously.

Where his gaze reached, there were numerous battle groups, but as the fog dissipated, most fires of war had ceased.

Only one battle group remained excessively fierce.

Even though the Ash Destruction Demons recognized the enemy as their kin, they couldn't suppress their savage hearts; they were already in a blood frenzy.

[Master.] A familiar voice echoed in his mind.

It was Lu Ran's own voice, with its distinct clangor, uniquely charismatic.

[What, can't hold back any longer?] Lu Ran absorbed another Dead Soul of Ash Destruction Demon into his pupils, while adjusting his lower half-face mask.

[Master, let's try it... let's give it a try!] A mighty Third-rank Divine Weapon, yet its stance was so low, even somewhat pleading.

Its surging desire for destruction was evidently hard to suppress.

Lu Ran couldn't help but smile a bit.

The Eight Desolate Blade, strong as a bear, yet loyally seeking permission from him, the Master of Divine Weapon.

To know, last time when it realized the Divine Weapon Domain, it was quite assertive with Lu Ran in a tight spot.

The Eight Desolate Blade had grown.

It deserved a reward!

"Alright." Lu Ran's eyes concentrated, settling on the largest, most chaotic battle group, "You and I shall test out your Second Divine Weapon Domain!"

"Crack!"

Lu Ran gripped the hilt with both hands as a storm of energy soared around him.

The broad bamboo hat flew away with the wind, revealing his semi-long black hair swirling upwards, exposing his radiant, illustrious eyes.

Where divinity should have reigned supreme.

Yet due to his tempestuous divine energy fluctuations, along with that blood-red eerie half-face mask, he seemed rather sinister.

"Eight Desolates, what do you intend to name this Divine Weapon Domain?"

"I earnestly ask for the master to name it!"

"Hmm." Lu Ran pursed his lips slightly, directly making one flash, standing at the center of the chaotic battle group...

First follow me to destroy heaven and earth!

Then establish illustrious renown!

...

Chapter 805: Three Calamities Annihilation

Over thousands of miles of Jinmie Ridge, specks of ash drifted down.

In an extremely chaotic battle formation, the roaring sounds of bears suddenly had a momentary pause.

The Jinmie Demon, with blood-red eyes from killing, stopped their infighting. They now had a new target:

A human youth with an imposing presence, clad in a large raincoat, wearing a blood crystal mask.

"Roar!"

"Roar!" The roar sounded again, as massive bears charged towards the human youth.

The ground trembled, and the Evil Demons surged wildly.

The Jinmie Demons at the forefront, before even trampling the tiny human, were knocked down by a back surge of ash rings.

"Huff! Huff! Huff..."

A Jinmie Demon from the Sea Realm, standing over five meters tall, scattered thick ash and expanded three rings consecutively.

Strangely, the tiny human remained unmoved?!

This scene was truly unbelievable.

Even the surrounding gigantic Jinmie Demons were swayed and contorted, yet the human youth...

Barbaric Evil Technique·Wilderness Power!

The power drawn from the earth enabled Lu Ran to fearlessly withstand thunder and stand proudly amidst the gale!

Only one thing, Lu Ran couldn't yet withstand.

That was the embers covering his body, relentlessly burning through his Water Flow Armor.

Right at this moment, Lu Ran's might had reached its peak.

"Open!!"

Lu Ran shouted fiercely, with brilliant light in his eyes.

He held the sword handle with both hands, the blade pointing upwards, positioned vertically in front of him.

The next instant, the Eight Desolate Blade erupted with a terrifying divine power wave, merging man and sword into one, spreading an energy wave visible to the naked eye.

"Huff!"

The energy ring sped rapidly, instantly sweeping through endless Evil Demons in all directions.

"Crack! Crack..."

A series of armor shattering sounds echoed continuously.

A multitude of Jinmie Demons shrieked miserably, their defense armor breaking into pieces, their thick bodies torn apart.

The battlefield's Jinmie Demons had previously been attacked by the Sea Realm Great Demon's Evil Technique-Emberfire Three Calamities.

But this Evil Technique, essentially a fire output, did not harm the Jinmie Demon Clan, which was immune to fire element damages, hence they weren't severely injured.

Now it's different!

The energy ring from the human youth's sweep had no attribute, just pure energy.

"Boom!"

The Eight Desolate Blade exploded again, man and blade expanding another energy ring, even more terrifying than the last.

The Ember Annihilation Evil Fire Three Calamities can output three times.

Lu Ran, wielding the Eight Desolate Blade, realized a new Divine Weapon Domain here, capable of the same triple output.

And each more fierce than the last!

"Woo... woo." The Sea Realm Great Demon's screams suddenly came to an abrupt end.

Its extremely hard Jinmie Armor had shattered from the previous strike, and now its bloody body was completely engulfed.

Bear in mind, the Jinmie Demon from the Sea Realm was a giant five meters tall!

After the second energy ring's impact, only its two paws clinging to the ground remained standing.

The rest of the body was entirely obliterated, turned to dust.

The second energy ring reached an astounding width of 10 meters!

The Sea Realm Great Demon perished miserably, and the Evil Demons from the River Realm had already been completely obliterated in the previous strike.

"Huff!!"

The Eight Desolate Blade was still unsatisfied!

Devastatingly powerful, it hadn't finished casting.

The third, and most powerful energy ring expanded suddenly with triple the previous width, with an even more aggressive force and speed.

The chaotic battlefield was entirely cleared.

The rugged mountainous terrain was also leveled.

The surrounding Jinmie Demon Clan vanished without a trace, not even leaving remnants.

The ash shrouding the sky was cleared, leaving an empty region starkly mismatched with the ashen Jinmie Ridge.

Between heaven and earth, it seemed only one raincoated youth stood proudly...

Hmm, not so much "proudly".

His figure wobbled, knelt heavily on the ground, chest heaving intensely.

"So... so fierce," Lu Ran stammered.

At first, the divine power within him surged wildly, blood and qi roiled, his face flushed red, and with the second and third strikes, Lu Ran's face grew paler.

The divine power within him was nearly drained!

This was even after Lu Ran activated the Divine Power Bead Strings around his neck, frantically absorbing energy.

Had he absorbed divine power any slower, he would likely have already collapsed, exhausted, to the ground.

"Woo~~~"

"Woo!" The bear roars echoed distantly, accentuating the silence of the nearby area.

The only surviving human on the battlefield leaned on his sword, gasping for breath.

[Please Master, give a name!]

In his mind, the Eight Desolate Annihilation Blade's powerful voice resounded.

Lu Ran gasped, replying in his mind: [Since we were inspired and enlightened from the Jinmie Evil Technique-Emberfire Three Calamities...

How about including 'Three Calamities' in this Divine Weapon Domain's name too?]

[Good!] The Eight Desolate Blade Spirit agreed to these words without hesitation.

Those three energy rings that destroyed everything were, to its enemies, three inescapable, irresistible calamities!

Lu Ran surveyed the silent battlefield, occasionally seeing blood and limbs in the low-lying terrain, proving their enemies once existed.

[Annihilation.]

[Master?]

[After the Three Calamities, all things meet their end.] Lu Ran slowly lifted his head, closed his eyes, and listened to the sounds of the battlefield.

"Buzz~" The Eight Desolate Blade trembled slightly.

The first Divine Weapon Domain: Eight Directions Annihilation!

The second Divine Weapon Domain: Three Calamities Annihilation!

Excellent!

Lu Ran suddenly opened his eyes and saw the ashes floating down from the sky, slowly filling the area that had been cleared.

In fact, what he originally thought of was the word "Extinction."

Does it seem more fitting for the current battlefield situation?

The problem is, Lu Ran also has a Divine Weapon: Silent Night Blade!

It's already been oppressed, unable to advance even a bit for so long, and is truly very miserable.

As the Master of Divine Weapon, if Lu Ran were to bring out the word "Silent" for the Eight Desolate Blade to use...

It seems a bit inappropriate.

"Phew..." Lu Ran let out a long breath. After a brief rest, he absorbed a large amount of Divine Power from the Divine Power Bead Strings, finally recovering.

Then, his figure turned invisible, yet he opened a pair of horizontal pupils.

The corpses of the Jinmi Demon Clan were gone, but in another dimension, the souls still existed.

No matter how astonishing the destructive power of the Eight Desolate Blade, it couldn't interfere with the souls.

Lu Ran naturally wouldn't miss such a feast, and just as he was indulging, the stone sculptures in the Sculpture Garden called to him again.

Only then did he recall that someone had been disturbing him while he was comprehending the Divine Weapon Domain earlier.

Lu Ran furrowed his brows slightly, and after searching for a moment, he was somewhat surprised:
[Senior Sister He?]

[Sect Leader, you've finally shown yourself! I... did I disturb you?]

[Not disturbing now, what does Senior Sister need from me?] Lu Ran asked while binding the souls.

[Sect Leader, Dragon Guardian has broken through the cultivation bottleneck and is advancing to the Heavenly Realm on the island!] He Yingcai immediately reported.

Lu Ran paused.

Advancing... to the Heavenly Realm?!

He was overjoyed and repeatedly said: [Good, good, good! Senior Sister, clear out the wooden house on Green Lotus Island for me; I'll bring people over right away.]

[Sect Leader, if you don't mind, you can come from the north, and I'll lead people to welcome you.] He Yingcai requested.

[Alright!] Lu Ran understood what she meant, [Today, I'll support my Divine Color General with some flair!]

[Hehe~] He Yingcai laughed softly, her voice gentle, [Thank you, Sect Leader.]

Lu Ran gave a few more instructions to Divine Color General, capturing all the souls of the Jinmi Demon Clan into the Sculpture Garden, and then flashed back to the underground: "Let me tell everyone some good news."

Flames ignited on Lu Ran's blade as he looked around: "Mr. Conglong is advancing to the Heavenly Realm."

"Oh?" Jiang Ruyi was overjoyed.

To this day, Lu Ran had already stood atop Holy Spirit Mountain, barely anyone could shake him.

And Jiang Ruyi knew that Lu Ran's goal was not just to tread the Mountain Realm!

If Yu Changsheng became a Heavenly Realm power, he could accompany Lu Ran to ascend to the Heavenly Realm in the future, naturally providing more security for Lu Ran's life.

"Wow!" Little Yuanxi opened her small mouth slightly.

Heavenly Realm?

That beautiful and charming big brother was finally going to combine with Evil Sculpture and become a truly Pseudo Evil God?

Uh... why does that sound so strange?

"Pavilion Master Jin." Lu Ran looked at Little Yuanxi's embrace and casually summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror, "You return to Sky Sparrow Pavilion to oversee the situation, we'll find you next time."

"Yes, Sect Leader!" Little Huang Que jumped out of the girl's arms, bowed to Jiang Ruyi, then jumped into the Landing Mirror.

Lu Ran waved the copper mirror away and cast another spell: "Let's first go to Jingxian Mountain, pick up the Phoenix and Swallow Generals, and then return to the Cloud Sea Cliff..."

A quarter of an hour later, ten kilometers north of Mist Rain Lake.

In the lush forest, a Landing Mirror opened quietly.

A pair of women in straw raincoats stepped out first, quickly scouting the surroundings, then looked to the south and saw a magnificent scene.

Scale-exceeding Mist Dragon Rolls connected heaven and earth, crashing into Mist Rain Lake.

The central area of the Qianzhou Islands was entirely obscured by mist.

Only the areas near the shore had relatively thinner mist.

"Ha, you managed to get ahead after all." Deng Yuxiang snorted coldly but had a slight smile on her face.

Behind her, a young man in a straw raincoat approached, patting Yan Shuangzi's shoulder: "All set, you can now seclude yourself at Mist Rain Lake, riding Mr. Conglong's coattails."

"Yes." Yan Shuangzi nodded lightly.

Lu Ran glanced back, then his body floated up slowly, saying: "Let's go, to escort our Dragon Guardian of the Ran Sect!"

"Yes!"

"Yes!" Noble and majestic, or majestic and mighty figures flew one after another, heading for Mist Rain Lake.

And by the lakeside north of Mist Rain Lake, the newly appointed Alliance Leader He was waiting with many Sea Realm Island Lords from the four major sects.

When she saw a black crow fly out from a distant mountain peak, her beautiful eyes lit up.

Soon after, He Yingcai indeed saw a large contingent!

As the Ran Sect's generals approached, the various island lords felt a secret dread.

Leader of the Ran Sect, and the three Great Protectors: Nightmare, Evil Shadow, and Mad Immortal.

The Lady of the Ran Sect, Xuan Shuang Guard, and Tian Tian Guard.

Qiao Yuansi and her Niu Guard.

Phoenix General, Swallow General, Qin General...

This earth-shattering force clearly hailed from various sects, different in styles and temperament.

But they all shared one name:

People of the Ran Sect!

Chapter 806: The Torches of Tiangang City

The arrival of Ran Sect calmed the Thousand Boat Alliance's army!

The alliance members felt more confident that they would be able to smoothly survive the coming month, as the forces opposing the Thousand Boat Alliance had already been completely destroyed.

Without the encirclement of the Thunder Shock Sect, all they had to guard against were the wandering humans.

The various island masters didn't believe anyone could break through the defenses of the Thousand Boat Alliance.

What about the Sea Realm Peak Sect Master Lv Xiao?

Wasn't he personally slain by Da Xia's genius?

Back then, Lu Tianjiao was only in the River Realm; now he has reached a high rank in the Sea Realm!

In fact, when the island masters followed Alliance Leader He to welcome the Ran Sect members, what shocked everyone the most was the young master of Ran Sect!

Sea Realm, Fourth Rank?!

At the time of their last separation, Master Lu was merely at the peak of the River Realm!

This... damn...

In less than a year and a half, Lu Tianjiao had transformed to such an extent; what had he gone through?

Everyone was filled with confusion and awe.

More importantly, they felt relieved!

Indeed, standing behind Alliance Leader He Yingcai was Lu Tianjiao! With this, the Thousand Boat Alliance could be stable and secure for a long time.

Lu Ran couldn't fully grasp everyone's thoughts but could infer a rough idea from the faces filled with admiration or excitement.

He was naturally pleased to see this scene and, under the arrangement of Divine General Cai, led his team to settle in Thousand Boat Island.

This trip was indeed to protect Dragon Guardian Cong Long.

But everyone also came to take advantage of the cultivation benefits!

Yu Changsheng's advancement to the Heavenly Realm brought about a mist so dense it was shocking! With Central Island at the center, within a radius of eight hundred meters, it was virtually impossible to see one's hand.

Who wouldn't cultivate quickly at Mist Rain Lake?

Lu Ran specifically brought Tian Tian, Niu Zhengzheng, and others, hoping they could make breakthroughs.

Including Yan Shuangzi from Sea Realm, Second Rank, Gao Yunyan, Qin Yanzhi, among others all possibly rising rapidly like a gust of wind!

Once Mr. Cong Long completes his advancement, Lu Ran's next plan is to continue heading north, advancing towards Ten Thousand Blade Mountain in the northwest region of the Holy Spirit Mountain continent.

By then, let the two generals Feng Yan, who reached a high rank in the Sea Realm, serve as the Sect Master of the West Desolation Sect, Tianhuang Mountain...

Wouldn't that be wonderful?

Lu Ran dreamed of a beautiful future and activated the Evil Sculpture of Ash Destruction Demon as soon as he settled in the Qianzhou Islands.

The Evil Technique of this clan is excellent for both attack and defense.

But what appeals to Lu Ran is only one skill—Ash Destruction Body!

This technique allows Lu Ran to ignore high-temperature environments, even immunizing and absorbing all fire attribute outputs.

Thus, Lu Ran has one less weakness.

Indeed... even harder to kill~

The strength and realm of the Evil Sculpture of Ash Destruction Demon in the garden finally settled at Sea Realm, Second Rank.

Fell short of expectations.

Unfortunately, the Divine Weapon, Eight Desolate Blade, took too long to advance, and many Dead Souls of Ash Destruction Demon went to heaven; otherwise, the level of this Evil Sculpture could be raised another notch.

Still, it's no big deal!

The Evil Nest of the Ash Destruction Demon clan is right there; it won't run away; for Lu Ran, it's like a fixed resource refresh point.

Thus, Lu Ran diligently stationed himself at Mist Rain Lake, also taking advantage of the cultivation benefits in a timely manner.

Striding towards the Sea Realm Peak!

Meanwhile, far in the south of the Holy Spirit Mountain continent...

In the dead of night, southwest of Tiangang City, in a lush mountain forest.

A woman with long hair worn high, dressed in snow-white clothes, stood on the mountain top, slightly surprised as she gazed at the ancient city that had risen from the ground.

Under the pitch-black night, this majestic city was actually lit brightly with torches?

It wasn't hiding itself!

On the contrary, a large number of torches seemed deliberately lit for travelers, guiding the lost.

The expression of the woman in white gradually changed, becoming intrigued, as she carefully examined the towering ancient city.

In her impression, Holy Spirit Mountain was an exceedingly harsh place.

Even the strongest First and Second-class Divine Sects would build their sects in the deep mountains, making them easy to defend and hard to attack.

At least, they wouldn't dare to be so conspicuous!

The woman in white slightly narrowed her beautiful eyes, her gaze subtly shifting.

Without an accident, this should be the territory of the Pear Garden Sect, right?

After leaving the Mountain Realm, it had been only a few years, and had the overall atmosphere of Holy Spirit Mountain already changed to this extent?

How could it be!

Regardless of whether this ancient city belongs to the Wusheng Sect or not, its existence philosophy must run contrary to that of the entire Mountain Realm.

Therefore...

This city was indeed established single-handedly by the legendary "Pride of Da Xia"?

A heavenly pride entered the Pear Garden Sect and became the de facto ruler?

"Whew~" The woman in white gracefully took to the air.

She silently approached Tiangang City, stealthily traversing the forest, observing around the city.

Suddenly, the woman in white stopped her steps, gazing at the torch-lit city walls, observing the somewhat sleepy soldiers on it.

She slowly raised her hand, two fingers reaching into her high piled-up hair, extracting a small embroidery needle.

"Go." The red lips of the woman in white lightly opened.

The embroidery needle, less than an inch long, thin and small, flew out from her fingertips, instantly merging into the night.

The woman in white quietly retreated, disappearing into the forest.

At the watchtower, a guard gazed at the dozing "veteran," feeling stifled but not daring to wake him.

If all went well, it was another peaceful night, with no differences from the past months.

Who dared to cause trouble in Tiangang City under the rule of Pear Garden Sect?

If there were refugees coming, wouldn't that be a matter for the city gate, unrelated to this side...
hmm?

Suddenly, the guard felt a stabbing pain at the back of his head!

An embroidery needle, thin and small, easily pierced through the Jiang Grade-Water Armor, directly drilling into the man's skull.

Seemingly not like a solid entity piercing through.

More like the tip of the needle merged into the man's brain the instant it touched the back of his head.

"Uh." The man let out a muffled sound from his throat, his eyes becoming vacant.

The night grew deeper, the forest quieter.

In the mountain forest outside Tiangang City, a woman in white quietly waited, not knowing how long...

She suddenly turned her head, a faint smile playing at her lips.

Only to see a man with empty eyes and a dazed expression, step by step, arriving behind the woman.

"Whoosh~" A faint sound echoed.

A fine embroidery needle, darted out from the man's forehead.

Strangely, there was no needle hole at his brow, and the water flow armor covering his forehead regarded the embroidery needle as nothing.

"Uh..." The man again made a muffled sound, gradually coming to his senses, suddenly shivering.

He abruptly widened his eyes, faintly seeing the woman's face in front of him through the hazy moonlight.

The woman was very beautiful, bearing an extremely unique temperament.

At first glance, she seemed like a noble and holy fairy.

At second glance, however, she appeared somewhat alluring, very contradictory.

And at this moment, the woman's temperament and appearance no longer mattered; the terrifying aura emanating from her made the man tremble involuntarily, instinctively lowering his head.

From her red lips, she uttered a sentence with a hint of amusement: "Planning to speak to me while standing?"

"M-Madam." His legs gave out, hurriedly kneeling on the ground, "Madam, spare me, I..."

"Shh."

The man dared not make another sound.

"What disciple are you?"

"Shanwei, I am a Shanwei disciple..."

"Perfect, if you discover anyone nearby, notify me." The woman casually instructed.

"Yes...yes, Madam." The Shanwei disciple said, trembling slightly.

"What is the name of this city?"

"Tiangang City, Madam, Tiangang of Tiangang Earth Fiend."

"Why are the torches bright, not afraid of anyone coming to pillage?"

"We... we Tiangang City accept refugees, shelter weak god disciples, so we light torches... Tiangang City is under Pear Garden Sect, no one dares to have ill intentions."

The woman gently nodded, then asked: "Who is your city lord?"

"Wu...Wu Xiao! The City Lord of Tiangang City, the Sect Master of Pear Garden Sect·Master Wu Xiao! He is at Sea Realm Peak, and has a second-rank divine weapon..."

The Shanwei disciple spoke shakily, pouring out information in a flood.

Emphasizing how powerful Wu Xiao was, perhaps thinking that this might increase his chances of survival.

"Da Xia's genius?"

"Ah?" The man hesitated a moment, then quickly shook his head, "No, not Da Xia's genius."

The woman in white slightly furrowed her brow.

Not a genius huh?

Just a powerful and righteous martial believer?

She suddenly asked, "How do you know Da Xia's genius? Have you seen them?"

"We... supposedly our Lord Wu belongs to Ran Sect! The Master of Ran Sect is indeed a Da Xia's genius!"

Upon hearing this, the woman in white's beautiful eyes lit up.

Indeed!

In this dark and cruel Holy Spirit Mountain, able to light up an ancient city and shelter fellow people could only be Da Xia's genius of this unique group.

And this genius is so powerful!

Even able to incorporate the Sect Master of the first-class Divine Sect·Wusheng Sect into their ranks?

Truly impressive...

"Tell me about this Master of Ran Sect." The woman in white slightly raised her head, gazing at the distant night sky.

The vast city, with flickering firelights, dyed that part of the sky a faintly fiery red.

"It's said that the Master of Ran Sect is named Lu Ran, Da Xia's first genius!"

The woman in white couldn't help but raise her eyebrows slightly.

Her slender jade fingers gently pinched the embroidery needle, her thoughts nimble.

Da Xia's first genius?

Sounds indeed like an extraordinary figure.

"...I heard he helped Lord Wu to kill the previous Pear Garden Sect Master, support Lord Wu's position, rectify Pear Garden Sect's ethos, and then established this Tiangang City."

The Shanwei disciple narrated exhaustively, his voice becoming increasingly soft.

"Continue." The woman in white looked down upon the trembling creature beneath.

"Madam, I...I only joined after Tiangang City was established, I am a later one..." The man was extremely frightened; his intermittent words carried a hint of sobbing.

As a high-rank in River Realm, he was acutely aware that the mysterious woman before him, her power and realm were certainly beyond Sea Realm!

Under her gaze, he shook like a leaf, unable to muster a shred of resistance.

"Later one." The woman murmured softly as if somewhat disappointed.

"Madam!" The Shanwei disciple's heart tightened, suddenly thinking of something, quickly said, "I heard that this Da Xia's first genius is incredibly powerful, and can even help people defy fate and alter destiny."

"Oh?" The woman in white was slightly stunned.

"Yes, Madam! It's said many strong god disciples within Tiangang City, Jade Talisman believers, Fierce Heavenly believers... were originally weak god disciples!"

The woman in white's expression turned increasingly shocked.

"I asked them, though they wouldn't say, their personalities and conduct are completely different from the disciples of Fierce Heavenly Sect and Jade Talisman Sect, even their divine techniques seem problematic! I probed... ah!"

The Shanwei disciple let out a small cry, enveloped and crushed under the terrifying pressure.

The noble yet enchanting woman in white extended her long red tongue, licking her lips.

Her beautiful eyes sparkled with a peculiar luster, she softly spoke:

"Slowly, meticulously..."

Chapter 807: Slaughter All Heavenly Pride?

In a silent mountain forest, the trembling voice of a Shanwei disciple was constantly heard.

He shivered as he knelt at the woman's feet, speaking without reservation.

The cold moonlight, filtering through the branches, cast strange patterns on the beautiful face of the woman in white.

It made the face, which seemed to be smiling yet not smiling, appear even more eerie.

After listening for a long time, the woman slowly raised her head, gazing at the bleak moonlight, murmuring softly:

"First Heavenly Pride, defy the heavens and change fate..."

"Yes, my lord." The Shanwei disciple responded quietly.

The woman gazed at the bright moon, as if trying to see through the illusion to the world above.

Her eyes gradually became dazed, and only two simple words remained on her red lips, murmured repeatedly: "Lu Ran, Lu Ran..."

The Shanwei disciple didn't dare to breathe!

Afraid for even a moment of carelessness, he would disturb the woman's thoughts, inciting her displeasure and causing her to casually crush him.

Who knows how long it was before the woman suddenly spoke: "You are a Shanwei disciple, Weak God disciple."

The man paused for a moment, then hurriedly replied: "Yes, my lord."

God-Shanwei, ranked fourth.

The disciples of this sect severely lack offensive techniques, both in terms of divine ranking and sect power, in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, Shanwei believers are unmistakably Weak God disciples.

"It's said that disciples of the Shanwei sect are faithful and reliable." The woman's lips curved slightly, with a hint of mockery.

"Yes, my lord!" The Shanwei disciple misunderstood and hurriedly pledged loyalty, "If the lord doesn't mind, I am willing to perform the duties of a horse for you..."

The woman interrupted: "Tiangang City sheltered you, allowing you, a Weak God disciple, to survive in the mountains.

And this is how you repay the kindness?"

The Shanwei disciple's pupils slightly contracted!

The woman in white looked down at the trembling person at her feet and lightly laughed: "Serve me? Should I spare your life just to wait for you to betray me later?"

"No! It's not like that, my lord!" The Shanwei disciple broke out in cold sweat, repeatedly kowtowing, "I dare not! You...you are like a god, I dare not defy you, so I returned, answered..."

"Hehe~" The woman couldn't help but laugh. Her naturally hanging jade hand lightly clenched.

The white jade belt around her waist turned out to be a soft sword, its hilt in the woman's palm, the blade straightened.

The Shanwei disciple clearly sensed something, and kept kowtowing, begging for mercy: "My lord! I dared not defy you, that's why I..."

Like mutton-fat jade, the soft sword extended much longer, its tip placing against his throat and lifting his chin.

"Gulp." The Shanwei disciple swallowed hard, forced to raise his head.

The woman's gaze was playful: "Do you know your crime?"

"I... I know my crime, I shouldn't have..." He couldn't finish his words, his violently trembling body suddenly stiffened!

"Hoo~"

The woman lightly parted her red lips, exhaling a wisp of Immortal Qi.

Jade-faced Snake Evil Technique·Immortal Breath!

The thin white mist landed on the man's face, instantly corroding away his Water Flow Armor.

The Jiang Grade·Water Flow Armor was like this, and the Shanwei disciple's head had no resistance at all, dissolved completely.

He didn't even have the chance to feel pain or cry out.

The woman in white just blew a wisp of Immortal Qi, and where the faint white mist passed by, everything melted away!

The person kneeling at her feet had already turned into a headless skeleton.

The scene was particularly horrifying!

"A summer insect cannot discuss ice." The woman's face showed no smile as she spoke quietly.

The soft sword in her hand suddenly bent, the blade extended again, and the tip appeared to pierce something, unseen to ordinary people.

"Ah! Ah ah ah! Ah ah..."

In another dimension, the soul of the Shanwei disciple screamed miserably, clutching the long sword piercing his abdomen, kicking and struggling.

But he had nowhere to escape, ultimately consumed by the soft sword.

"Hoo~" The woman looked at the headless skeleton, and her red lips exhaled another breath of Immortal Qi.

In an instant, the man's remains vanished completely.

No bloody debris remained, not even a drop of blood.

"Hoo~"

The soft sword was retracted to the waist of the woman in white, once again becoming a delicate white jade belt.

The woman slowly raised her head, gazing at the bright moon in the night sky: "Lu Ran..."

It seems things are getting interesting?

The woman's eyes sparkled, and her long red tongue licked her rosy lips.

At the same time, in the center of the Holy Spirit Mountain Continent·Forbidden City.

The ancient city is built against the mountain, and at the top of the high mountain on the north side of the city, a woman dressed in a noble golden robe stood quietly.

She lowered her head, gazing down at the magnificent city, watching the flickering lights.

In the pitch-dark night, the towering Forbidden City appeared so enchanting.

At least for He Qifeng, this city surpasses all others.

"Buzz~" The dark golden copper rod in her hand suddenly trembled.

Not only was the Divine Weapon affected, but also the Magical Artifact·Wind Barrier Treasure Pearl around her neck resonated with a hum.

"Hmm?" He Qifeng turned around and looked, using Extreme Eye Power, vaguely saw a figure at a position about a hundred meters away.

He Qifeng frowned slightly, her voice full of authority: "Who goes there..."

The questioning words were left unfinished.

A familiar male voice floated out from the darkness: "You are still alive."

In an instant, He Qifeng's pupils nearly shrunk into needlepoints!

The figure drew closer with each step, and with it came an overwhelming pressure.

It must be known, He Qifeng had already reached the third rank of the Sea Realm! Yet in the face of the newcomer, she began to tremble.

"Buzz!!" The Divine Weapon, the Xuanhuang Staff in He Qifeng's hand, vibrated violently.

The exquisite golden boots, the Three Thousand Ripple Shoes under her feet, also began to buzz.

"It's good to be alive," the middle-aged man said in a low voice, his pace unhurried.

Moonlight poured down, outlining the imposing silhouette of his body. He stood over 1.9 meters tall, and the neat golden-brown robes of a Martial Monk could not conceal his bulging muscles.

Beneath the small gray bamboo hat lay a solemn face.

With thick eyebrows and big eyes, his appearance was dignified.

The cold moonlight set off everything, making He Qifeng feel as if she had fallen into an ice cave.

"Tu...Tu Peak Master..." He Qifeng opened her mouth, looking at the newcomer in disbelief.

"Hmm." The man did not walk towards He Qifeng but instead went to the edge of the cliff dozens of meters away, looking down at the Forbidden City.

Her Forbidden City was also his Forbidden City.

At the mountaintop, there was dead silence.

He Qifeng tightened her grip on the Xuanhuang Staff. Seeing Tu Peak Master gazing at the Forbidden City, her face turned pale, and her heart sank into an abyss.

"Follow her." The man suddenly spoke, leaving people puzzled, "I don't blame you."

Immediately, the Divine Weapon staff in He Qifeng's hands and the Magic Artifact boots she stepped on all settled down peacefully.

Tu Peak Master slowly turned his head, gazing at He Qifeng's heroic face.

After silently watching for a moment, Tu Peak Master spoke softly, "You are not wrong, she was the successor I chose."

He Qifeng suddenly remembered something!

The team of spiritual believers inside the Forbidden City drew lots every eight hours, with Caster disciples constantly anticipating crises.

Tonight, no one reported any danger!

Does this mean...

He Qifeng still did not relax her vigilance: "Tu Peak Master, why are you... you..."

"Unable to complete the task assigned by the gods, I was thrown back in." Tu Peak Master, with hands behind his back, looked down at the torch-lit ancient city.

He Qifeng tensed up.

At the same time, the black jade Tiger Talisman hanging around her neck transmitted thoughts to its owner, conveying someone else's words:

"I'm here, don't make a noise! Tu Peak Master doesn't seem to have murderous intent, try to understand the situation."

From the moment He Qifeng recognized Tu Peak Master, she had contacted the Sect Master through the Tiger Talisman.

With Lu Ran's words, He Qifeng, who was nearly suffocating, could finally breathe a little easier.

"So, you merely betrayed the Martial Monk and did not die," Tu Peak Master said softly.

"Tu Peak Master!" He Qifeng finally voiced her lingering doubts, "Why did you slaughter the sect's disciples? Why destroy the Forbidden City?"

Tu Peak Master remained silent.

"Tu Peak Master, the Forbidden City is also your labor of love, why destroy it? Why deny yourself?"

Tu Peak Master still remained silent, quietly watching the Forbidden City.

He Qifeng spoke, her voice trembling, filled with both anger and confusion, "You know well the gods and demons are in cahoots, enslaving the Human Clan!

The gods throw us into the mountains, strangling our clan's strong, letting us die in infighting, why do you still aid the oppressors..."

"It's not completely right." Tu Peak Master gently shook his head.

He Qifeng's words stopped, and she stared blankly at the other party.

"All Gods also want believers from the Heavenly Realm," Tu Peak Master's voice was low, "Only in an environment like the Holy Spirit Mountain can force out Heavenly Realm disciples."

Under the tree not far away, Lu Ran furrowed his brows tightly.

He and He Qifeng shared the belief that the All Gods and demons wanted to consolidate their rule, eternally enslave the Human Clan, and thus threw potential and powerful human believers into the mountains, letting them slaughter one another.

But listening to Tu Peak Master's meaning...

Was this Holy Spirit Mountain not just a slaughterhouse, but also a place for cultivating leaders?

Were All Gods and demons using this cruel method to force the Human Clan to ascend?

"Too comfortable." Tu Peak Master didn't give He Qifeng the chance to speak, gesturing to the Forbidden City below.

"What?" He Qifeng's eyes slightly widened.

"Your Forbidden City made people too comfortable."

He Qifeng bit her silvery teeth tightly, gripping the Xuanhuang Staff with such force that her hands were trembling.

Tu Peak Master said in a low voice, "You should not exist."

You, the group of Da Xia's genius, have made this Holy Spirit Mountain different."

"Hoo~"

He Qifeng lowered her head, a storm of energy swirling around her, her beautiful short hair dancing in the air: "You... you still want to destroy the Forbidden City?"

Tu Peak Master just smiled.

For any other person, they should have been more concerned about their own safety.

But from start to finish, He Qifeng's focus was the Forbidden City, her personal life and death was never within her sphere of consideration.

"I'm not the only one who entered the mountain." Tu Peak Master changed the topic.

He Qifeng suddenly raised her head.

"The Holy Spirit Mountain must return to its original state." Tu Peak Master looked directly into He Qifeng's eyes, word by word, "Return to the way it was before you existed, the Forbidden City is not important.

The important thing is you.

Are every one of Da Xia's genius still living in the mountain."

Lu Ran: !!!

Chapter 808: The Secret of the God Demon

Everyone?

Every Da Xia's genius still alive...

Lu Ran's face was solemn, there was no doubt that he had already been listed on the hunt list.

However, ever since he entered the mountain, he had been traveling far and wide, yet he really hadn't encountered many of Da Xia's geniuses.

In theory, this group of individuals fits the positioning of Holy Spirit Mountain very well.

Outstanding talent, formidable strength.

But, when counted down, there are a full hundred geniuses, and Lu Ran had only heard of or seen He Qifeng, Wang Longxiang, Jin Luyang, Hou Yun, and Xue Fengchen.

Including Lu Ran himself, there are only six of them.

The ratio seems a bit off?

Of course, Holy Spirit Mountain is vast and boundless, so it's not out of the question that there are other geniuses struggling for survival elsewhere.

But considering Lu Ran's footprint covers almost all of Holy Spirit Mountain, if there are other geniuses out there, there shouldn't be too many of them.

And Lu Ran and the other five all entered the mountain soon after the first episode of "Heavenly Pride" ended.

Afterwards, All Gods must have discovered the problem! Not only did they immediately call off the second "Heavenly Pride", but they also stopped bringing in the crowd of geniuses from the first into the mountain?

As Lu Ran pondered in silence, he heard Peak Master Tu say in a low voice:

"Leave here, Qifeng."

Lu Ran thought, indeed!

This time Peak Master Tu came, not with an intent to act, but specifically to warn He Qifeng.

"Take your resilience and ambition, and seek a way out." Peak Master Tu looked into He Qifeng's eyes, "Don't let me see you again."

He Qifeng looked at Peak Master Tu, stunned.

Peak Master Tu gestured towards the majestic ancient city below the mountain: "Before you leave, disperse everyone; this Forbidden City will only attract executioners like me."

He Qifeng tightly pressed his lips together, his emotions raging violently.

Anger, unwillingness, helplessness...

Peak Master Tu looked at He Qifeng, and after a long time, he sighed lightly: "Qifeng, you are the most outstanding young talent I have ever seen, the title of genius is truly deserved.

But your current strength is not enough to support your actions."

Peak Master Tu paused, his tone suddenly softened slightly, resembling a kind elder giving advice: "Live on first, Qifeng."

He Qifeng's hand stopped trembling, his eyes lowered, his whole demeanor terrifyingly silent.

Live on first?

"Three days." Peak Master Tu's tone returned to normal, turning to leave, "In three days, I will return to the Forbidden City, seek your news, and destroy everything here."

He Qifeng suddenly turned his head, looking at the receding figure of Peak Master Tu: "You're letting me go just like that, aren't you afraid of the gods' punishment?"

Peak Master Tu's steps halted.

He was silent for a moment, his face void of any emotion, and without any response, he resumed his steps into the night.

[Find out! See if we can keep him.] Lu Ran's commanding voice echoed in his mind.

"Ta~"

He Qifeng executed the order without hesitation, her toe lightly tapped, and a ring of golden ripples spread, resembling beautiful ripples on a lake.

In the blink of an eye, she blocked Peak Master Tu's path: "Aren't you being watched by the gods right now?"

Even with this question, the answer should be affirmative.

The hands of All Gods certainly cannot reach inside Holy Spirit Mountain.

If Divine Monk could communicate with Peak Master Tu at all times, then definitely, Peak Master's current actions would be severely punished by the Monk!

It wouldn't even reach the stage of "punishment." If a person and a god were spiritually connected, Peak Master Tu would not be here at all.

There would be no way to warn He Qifeng or convey information to her.

So, it should be only during the extremely special period of Peak Master Tu's promotion to the Heavenly Realm that he could communicate with a god.

Which led to Peak Master Tu's "drastic change in temperament," annihilating the entire Ran Sect.

"The Martial Monk will find out sooner or later." Peak Master Tu looked at He Qifeng a few meters ahead and continued to walk, "He wants a result."

Find out sooner or later?

Which means not now!

Lu Ran silently considered, watching this great power of the Heavenly Realm, his mind becoming increasingly active.

On the other hand, He Qifeng was enduring an unimaginable predicament.

When a Heavenly Realm Martial Monk Believer approaches step by step, also carrying the identity of an "executioner," it is enough to make any creature's body and soul tremble!

"Pa."

As they passed by each other, Peak Master Tu lightly patted He Qifeng on the shoulder: "I will give him a result too."

He Qifeng endured the dread in her heart, blocking the executioner once more.

In that moment, her resolute nature couldn't help her at all.

Under the God Demon system, the suppression of hierarchy caused her body to tremble violently: "You obviously didn't... don't want to kill me, came here to warn me, but you still have to act in three days.

Just like how you previously slaughtered everyone in Ran Sect, you had a reason you couldn't avoid, didn't you?"

Peak Master Tu continued to walk in silence, brushing past He Qifeng's shoulder.

He Qifeng shouted: "If you tore up the Divine Contract and are no longer the Martial Monk's puppet, what would happen then?"

Peak Master Tu left expressionless, a cold sentence echoed from far away:

"The Mountain Realm must restore its original order."

"Tell us why, Peak Master Tu." Suddenly, a young man's voice came.

Peak Master Tu's expression changed, looking to the right front.

Under the tree, there was emptiness, no sign of anyone, nor any fluctuations of Divine Power.

But the young man's voice indeed came.

Peak Master Tu recognized this voice!

It was the mysterious young man who had previously stopped him in the sky above the Forbidden City!

An unknown follower of the Jade-faced Snake, a human youth more powerful and supreme in battle strength than the successor he handpicked, He Qifeng!

"He Qifeng is saving our human compatriots." The young man inquired, "Why must the Mountain Realm restore its original order?"

Why must our compatriots suffer and die in batches in the slaughterhouse?"

Listening to the young man's relentless questioning, Peak Master Tu was filled with emotion.

The previous reckless behavior of the mysterious youth, including the thoughts revealed in his words at this moment, greatly impressed Peak Master Tu.

He looked at the empty space under the trees, remained silent for a long time, and finally spoke:

"Only this way can we ensure the battle power of the God Demon."

"Ensure the battle power of the... God Demon?" Lu Ran opened his eyes slightly wider.

Utterly preposterous!

He was eager to chop up the God Demon and restructure the Human World's order.

Yet, Peak Master Tu, who was also from the Human Clan, was diligently upholding this order.

Acting as a traitor?

Helping the All Gods and Evil Demons ensure battle power, securing the eternal ruling status of the God Demon?

"Don't you think that our Human Clan's situation can't possibly get worse?" Peak Master Tu looked toward the direction the voice was coming from, "Our Human Clan has nothing left to lose."

"Isn't that right?"

Peak Master Tu suddenly asked, "Who do you think is responsible for the deafening sounds coming from the sky?"

Lu Ran knitted his eyebrows: "Isn't it the Divine Monk and Evil Demon fighting?"

Peak Master Tu slowly shook his head: "Martial Monk Jade-faced Snake, Martial Artist Yin Flower Dan, Qiang Xiu Evil Spear Emperor... God Demon has always been one."

God Demon as one!

Two sides of the same coin?

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple rolled once.

"God and Demon oppose each other, but they also share the same source."

Peak Master Tu's words felt like a thunderbolt, making Lu Ran's mind buzz.

Strictly speaking, Lu Ran was somewhat mentally prepared.

After all, those groups of "sworn enemies," the God Demon, had too many similarities at the skill level, inevitably arousing suspicion.

But now hearing the definite answer, Lu Ran couldn't help but feel secretly anxious.

Peak Master Tu's voice was grave: "What if I say that the thunderous sounds from the sky are...?"

God Demon joining hands to fight against external enemies, can you accept it?"

Lu Ran stared blankly at Peak Master Tu.

God Demon joining hands?

Such terminology, of course, Lu Ran could accept. He had always believed the whole world was a huge lie jointly woven by the God Demon.

But joining hands to fight against external enemies?

Peak Master Tu stepped forward: "Our Clan still has what we can lose, after all, our Clan still exists and continues."

Lu Ran didn't evade.

Peak Master Tu tried to raise his hand to press on Lu Ran's shoulder.

Everything was as expected, this exceptionally talented mysterious youth indeed had enough courage and boldness, allowing this Heavenly Realm Executioner to lightly pat his shoulder.

Peak Master Tu's words softened a lot: "Young one, two cups of poison wine are placed before you, which would you choose?"

So, Peak Master Tu chose the one with the milder poison...

"Survive first." Peak Master Tu's palm slightly applied force, gripping Lu Ran's shoulder, "Only by living is there hope."

As long as our Clan can continue, generation after generation will arise.

Maybe some generation in posterity, some clansman, can break this setup, can slightly change our Clan's predicament."

Lu Ran remained silent, digesting the shocking news.

Thus, the Immortal Sheep master kept everything under wraps.

And forcibly ordered himself to personally ascend to the heavens and make a decision belonging to Lu Ran.

In some sense, the existence of the God Demon ensures the continuation of the Human Clan?

Peak Master Tu said no more, gently patted Lu Ran's shoulder, then walked away.

"Peak Master Tu." Lu Ran regained his senses, turned to watch the tall back of the man.

Peak Master Tu continued moving forward, ignoring the call.

Lu Ran spoke in a deep voice: "I am the clansman you mentioned."

Peak Master Tu suddenly sensed the intense wave of Divine Power coming from behind, turned his head slightly, and found the mysterious youth revealing his true form.

Under the moonlight, a young man clad in a rain cloak, raised the brim of his broad bamboo hat, revealing handsome eyebrows.

Peak Master Tu only then understood why the youth's voice was muffled.

The other was wearing a half-face mask, the peculiar yet beautiful Blood Crystal Mask with thin wisps of blood mist flowing within.

"Let's get acquainted." Lu Ran looked at the Heavenly Realm Great Martial Monk, introducing himself, "Lu Ran."

Peak Master Tu's heart moved slightly, recognizing the name.

Lu Ran, Master of Ran Sect.

Qifeng often spoke of Da Xia's genius!

Peak Master Tu was stunned for a moment, looked at the golden-robed woman standing behind, then at the determined-eyed youth in the rain cloak.

"Haha." He chuckled involuntarily.

Of course!

Aside from Da Xia's genius, who would so recklessly, knowingly attempt the impossible, yet resolutely stand above the Forbidden City, blocking a Heavenly Realm Great Power... huh?

Peak Master Tu recalled the day Lu Ran summoned several Immortal Sky Pythons, then asked:

"I heard you are an Immortal Sheep Believer?"

"I am the clansman breaking the setup you mentioned," Lu Ran spoke as he suddenly sprouted two golden bodies, transforming into Three Heads and Six Arms.

Martial Monk Divine Skill · Fierce Glare Three Bodies!

More frighteningly, within one of the golden bodies, he held an exquisite Jade Ruyi.

Jade-faced Snake Evil Technique · Jade Ruyi!

Peak Master Tu's face changed! He slowly turned, facing Lu Ran directly.

"No need to wait for future generations."

Lu Ran stared straight at him, enunciated each word: "You and I can be the generation you spoke of."

Chapter 809: Sinner

God Demon, same origin.

One body, two faces.

And tonight, Peak Master T'u truly and clearly saw "same origin" in a young human.

Lu Ran, The Pride of Da Xia!

Simultaneously wielding the Martial Monk Divine Skill and Jade-faced Snake Evil Technique.

Peak Master T'u not only saw it but also heard Lu Ran's explanation, describing why this youth could perfectly unify Divine Technique and Evil Technique.

In the youth's Spiritual World stood a Sculpture Garden, filled with many Stone Sculptures.

And these Stone Sculptures could allow the Human Clan to approach, replace, and even surpass Gods and Demons!

Such a fantastical tale, yet under Lu Ran's "God Demon as one" form, it seemed so persuasive.

"Qifeng," Lu Ran suddenly called.

"Sect Leader."

"Three Faces of Wrath." Lu Ran commanded softly.

He Qifeng immediately obeyed, transforming into Three Heads and Six Arms.

Peak Master T'u looked around to see He Qifeng, who had renounced the Divine Monk, once again performing the Martial Monk Faction's Divine Technique.

Lu Ran said in a deep voice, "As Peak Master T'u previously mentioned, Qifeng indeed tore up the master-servant contract and is no longer a Martial Monk Believer. But you have seen, she can still perform the Martial Monk Divine Skill.

Now she is my Martial Monk."

Peak Master T'u silently watched He Qifeng, appearing like an old monk in meditation, speechless for a long time.

"Peak Master T'u." He Qifeng said sincerely, her eyes profoundly serious, "This situation can be broken! In our generation, it can be broken!"

Peak Master T'u suddenly moved, slowly raised his head, and closed his eyes, deeply sighing.

He Qifeng stepped forward, standing next to Lu Ran, firmly gazing at the speechless Peak Master T'u.

The golden hand of her side and rear body stretched out to grasp Lu Ran's arm.

Whether providing support for him or calming herself,

perhaps both.

"Alright," Peak Master T'u suddenly spoke softly, "Alright, alright, alright..."

Because his head was raised, Lu Ran clearly saw Peak Master T'u laughing.

A silent laugh.

Humiliation, sorrow, waves of emotions affecting the surrounding environment.

For the two young geniuses of Da Xia, it was the first time they sensed this middle-aged man's deeply painful heart.

Exchanging the lives of descendants, generation after generation as livestock for the sake of survival of the race...

Is it right?

Is it wrong?

Peak Master T'u took a deep breath.

Like someone drowned in the depths of a dark well finally emerging to gasp for air.

"Why did the Immortal Sheep give you these?" Peak Master T'u's voice was soft, almost as if talking to himself.

"I'm not sure, but after hearing the news you brought tonight..." Lu Ran pondered for a moment, then said, "Perhaps the Immortal Sheep is a reformer.

Maybe it thinks things can't continue this way, and so wants to replace the Gods and Demons to solve the plight?"

Peak Master T'u frowned slightly, "Why does the Immortal Sheep possess such a Sculpture Garden?"

Do other Gods and Demons also have such abilities?

How could it be possible!

If other Gods and Demons had this ability, within the past decades, the Divine Demon camp should've secretly achieved "Great Unity"!

It wouldn't be as it is now, where they're opposed yet cooperating, plotting against each other.

This weak and low-ranked deity seems different from other Gods and Evil Demons...

"I cannot provide you an explanation for this." Lu Ran paused and invited, "Peak Master T'u, join us."

Peak Master T'u looked at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran continued, "Every Stone Sculpture has only one inheritor; I cannot give you the Martial Monk Stone Sculpture, but I have other sculptures."

"To pledge to your sect, does one need to destroy the original Divine Contract?"

"That's the safest way." Lu Ran nodded slightly.

Peak Master T'u shook his head.

Lu Ran's heart immediately tensed!

He Qifeng's expression also changed slightly: "Peak Master T'u..."

Peak Master T'u interrupted her, "I am Heavenly Realm, not ordinary beings, and I carry tasks came to Holy Spirit Mountain with great focus by the Martial Monk."

Upon hearing this, Lu Ran's heart eased slightly, vaguely understanding what the other wanted to say.

Peak Master T'u's eyes were deep and unreadable: "In this realm, I truly can't establish contact with the Martial Monk, but if I tear the contract I'm sure to attract divine attention."

At that time, more Heavenly Realm beings might descend into this realm."

Lu Ran looked somber.

Peak Master T'u looked at the young man and woman, and his gaze began to change, as if a family elder watching young ones grow strong.

He said slowly, "I can buy you time."

"Buy time?"

"Lu Ran, Qifeng, you two need to change your survival mindset, to recognize reality, in the future you must live in the cracks, grow amidst the hunt."

As he spoke, Peak Master T'u walked back, "Until a certain moment, you truly have the power to challenge and replace the divine."

He continued forward, reaching the cliff edge, gazing down at the Forbidden City: "Staying here, protecting them, only quickens their demise."

He Qifeng tightly pressed her lips.

"Remember! Growth is your top priority!" Peak Master T'u's voice was stern, "Lu Ran, maybe your guess is right."

"What?"

"Perhaps the Immortal Sheep does want a new team." Peak Master T'u pondered, "Gods and Demons are resisting external enemies, but internally they don't seem united."

If you can lead the Human Clan, to replace the Gods and Demons, maybe everything could truly change."

"Mm!" Lu Ran nodded heavily, never wavering in his actions.

No matter what awaited him on the road ahead.

Whether it be divine beings or evil demons, or just a heap of rocks...

Tread onward!

"The executioners might seek this place at any time." Peak Master Tu gave the final ultimatum, "Disperse the city dwellers, leave quickly."

He Qifeng immediately grasped Lu Ran's arm tightly.

Lu Ran said at once, "Peak Master Tu, you might not be aware, but most of the citizens in the city are my followers."

"Your followers?"

"Yes, He Qifeng is the real form of the Fake God Stone Sculpture, the others are believers."

Peak Master Tu furrowed his brows and immediately said, "Impossible, if someone arrives at the Forbidden City to investigate the genius, your identity and abilities might be exposed..."

The pair of Lu and He clearly sensed the murderous intent surging from Peak Master Tu!

He took a step forward, seemingly about to step into the void, towards the Forbidden City.

"Peak Master Tu!" He Qifeng's expression changed dramatically, her toes tapped the ground.

Lu Ran's shadow flashed suddenly!

The pair of man and woman appeared almost simultaneously beside Peak Master Tu, grasping his arm.

"I'll take them away," Lu Ran said urgently.

"The more people, the more gossip, secrecy makes success! Lu Ran, you must understand what you carry on your shoulders; you're already struggling to protect yourself now." Peak Master Tu gave Lu Ran a deep look.

Heavenly Pride, you are.

Sinner, I am.

"I cannot save even the people of a single city, how can I speak of generations of the Human Clan?!" Lu Ran shouted fiercely.

His hand was filled with Fierce Heavenly Power, forcibly pulling Peak Master Tu back.

The Second-rank Magical Artifact, Black Jade Tiger Talisman, stunned Peak Master Tu's heart.

With a solemn look, Lu Ran said in a low voice, "Peak Master Tu, your understanding of my abilities is still not clear enough! I can transmit up to three thousand kilometers in one go!

However, in one respect you're right, the more people, the more gossip, so what you can't solve, the Forbidden City is just my piece of land, I've already taken half of the Holy Spirit Mountain!"

Peak Master Tu's expression was stunned.

Half?

Half???

You're... you're really Da Xia's genius, aren't you?!

Peak Master Tu was truly shocked, unaware that Lu Ran had exaggerated.

How vast is Holy Spirit Mountain?

How could Lu Ran conquer half a kingdom, he just painted a few areas red.

"I will take them to sea, to places thousands of kilometers away, far from the mainland!" Lu Ran's mind raced, instantly coming up with a plan.

Upon hearing this, He Qifeng's eyes brightened!

She had been pondering where to take people to hide, the hiding place Lu Ran proposed was undoubtedly perfect.

No!

Not only going to a distant island thousands of kilometers away, but digging caves on the island, deeply hiding underground!

Peak Master Tu steadied his footing, frowned, and asked, "Besides the Forbidden City, where else?"

"My Ran Sect at Cloud Sea Cliff, Pear Garden Sect, Tiangang City below the mountain, Jingxian Island, Mist Rain Lake..."

Lu Ran casually mentioned a few, then said, "I'll now put people into a magic artifact gourd and take them far from the continent!"

Pear Garden Sect? Jingxian Island? Thousand Boat Alliance?

Peak Master Tu had reason to believe Lu Ran hadn't mentioned everything, but just these few sects were enough to leave him astounded.

He had thought the second genius, He Qifeng, was already impressive, and yet...

This is Da Xia's first genius?

No wonder all gods target geniuses, what have you done?

Probably Da Xia Country didn't expect their own genius to not only truly accomplish tasks but to the extent as this.

Without even a stable transition period!

Immediate results, learned in two years?

"By the way, Mist Rain Lake!" Lu Ran's expression grew solemn as he looked at Peak Master Tu, "Under my command is a Dragon Guardian, he's the real form of Evil Sculpture Mo Li.

Now, Dragon Guardian is advancing to the Heavenly Realm at Mist Rain Lake, he can't move for the time being."

He Qifeng immediately said, "Peak Master Tu, Dragon Guardian is the first under Lu Ran's command to ascend to the Heavenly Realm, about to fuse with the Stone Sculpture and become the real Fake God!"

Peak Master Tu understood their meaning, his expression shifted, finally saying in a low voice, "I'll help you watch over him."

Lu Ran rejoiced in his heart, "Good!"

Peak Master Tu then said, "Now, take all followers from all regions and flee as far as possible."

"I'll issue the command right now." Lu Ran turned his head to look at He Qifeng, "Go, have everyone in Forbidden City gather at the Martial Arts Arena."

"Yes!" He Qifeng responded solemnly, nodding slightly to Peak Master Tu, then immediately descended down the mountain.

Moments later, after issuing the command, Lu Ran turned his head to look at Peak Master Tu, "Senior, don't be so impulsive next time."

Peak Master Tu: "..."

How could you understand the reaction of someone on the brink of drowning, grabbing a life-saving straw.

You don't seem to realize what you mean to the survival of the Human Clan.

Or you know, but you... are Da Xia's genius.

Like Qifeng.

Sincere, pure.

"Let's go, Senior Tu."

"After taking people away, remember to destroy the Forbidden City."

Lu Ran paused, pondering, "Let's say the Heavenly Realm Executioner found this place?"

"Mm."

...

Chapter 810: Uneasy Hearts

Fifteen minutes later, at the mountain peak outside the city.

Lu Ran and He Qifeng stood side by side, one gazing at the sky, one looking at the ground.

"Golden Monk Palm." Lu Ran murmured, seeing a gigantic golden hand appear in the distant night sky, stretching ten thousand meters vast!

Ten thousand meters!

A full ten kilometers, and even the mountain peak Lu Ran stood on was engulfed within its range.

"Let's go, Qifeng," Lu Ran reminded her.

He Qifeng kept gazing at the majestic city beneath her feet, watching the flickering flames within, recalling all the past events.

The hardships and struggles to build this city were known only to her.

And now all her effort was about to be entirely obliterated under the pressure of a gigantic hand...

"Qifeng, let's go." Lu Ran's voice had softened, and without waiting for the Wind Emperor to gather herself again, he wrapped his arm around her waist, fog billowing beneath their feet.

"Sss—"

The pair of them shot backward instantly.

He Qifeng suddenly felt a pang in her nose.

There was no gradual parting in this farewell.

Her sight was obscured by the edge of the cliff, and she could no longer see that Forbidden City.

Lu Ran swiftly carried her backward, as thick mist enveloped them, while the golden monk palm descended from the high heavens with a massive crash.

"Rumble!!"

The golden monk palm carried the force of ten thousand tons, thoroughly crushing the towering ancient city.

The deafening sound made He Qifeng's heart clench violently.

She possessed many excellent qualities, but whenever it involved the Forbidden City, she always lost her composure.

Nothing else,

but the cause of her Dao Heart.

"Qifeng... Qifeng?" Lu Ran called out a bit louder.

"Hm?" He Qifeng turned her head to look at Lu Ran, appearing lost and disoriented.

Lu Ran certainly understood that this city was her emotional support.

It was her step-by-step ladder to heaven.

And this path to the heavens must be straightened out, otherwise, not to mention advancing, she might even lose ranks!

"Qifeng, the Forbidden City is not just a Stone City."

Lu Ran lifted the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, which contained nearly 500 citizens of the Forbidden City, and said softly, "It's these people."

"Buzz~"

The Treasure Gourd quivered lightly, and the beautiful golden phoenix pattern on it shimmered brilliantly, dreamlike.

He Qifeng was momentarily dazed, her eyes slightly reddened, as she looked at the beautiful Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

"And it's you." Lu Ran's voice was gentle, "Wherever you are, there will be a Forbidden City."

"Mmm." He Qifeng wiped her eyes with the back of her hand, "I'm fine, let's quickly..."

Before she finished speaking, the ground trembled again.

Both of them were a bit stunned, turning to look, only to see the collapsing mountain raising a dense cloud of dust.

"Hiss!"

"Hiss..." The sound of dragon roars informed them what had happened.

Martial Monk Divine Skill·Dragon Soaring to the Sky!

Peak Master Tu... truly ruthless!

A single monk palm had already crushed everything, yet he wanted the dense swarm of golden dragons to emerge from the ground, shattering everything in this world.

Lu Ran patted He Qifeng's back: "The Forbidden City shouldn't be just these four or five hundred people within the gourd."

He Qifeng felt the trembling earth, heard the sounds of dragon roars, and looked at the young man close at hand.

At this moment, Lu Ran was no longer her competitor nor her Sect Master.

He was a comrade-in-arms, perhaps even her support.

"Fusion Stone Sculpture, to replace divinity, to surpass divinity." Lu Ran's expression was resolute, "With you here, the Forbidden City is here.

When the day comes that we sweep away the cloud sea that shrouds the heavens and earth...

The entire human world will be your Forbidden City."

He Qifeng pressed her lips tightly.

"Tell me, is it so?" Lu Ran looked directly into her eyes.

He Qifeng did not respond with words.

She suddenly moved forward half a step and hugged Lu Ran tightly.

Not far away, Peak Master Tu gripped the Divine Weapon-Silent Night Blade, flying over slowly, watching the man and woman under the moonlight.

The He Qifeng he remembered was always resolute and steadfast. Though a daughter by birth, she mingled with powerful Martial Monk Believers at the top sect of Holy Spirit Mountain·Wuji Peak and carved out a place for herself.

Later, she transformed into the vast Yangyang Sea, adorned in a prestigious golden robe, and became the revered Forbidden City Master that everyone admired.

She became the human emperor within this realm.

He had never seen her like this night, like a fragile woman.

Sometimes, Peak Master Tu would even forget, that she's just a twenty-something-year-old girl.

And that youth in the straw raincoat was even younger, likely only in his early twenties...

Peak Master Tu turned his gaze to Lu Ran.

I destroy, you build.

It should indeed be so.

Everything was as Peak Master Tu had thought before:

Heavenly Pride, you should.

Sinner, I shall!

Peak Master Tu did not interrupt them, knowing well what the Forbidden City meant to He Qifeng, that this hurdle must be overcome.

Someone like him in his forties or fifties, with a more mature mind, possesses more experiences and insights.

Great ups and downs, great sorrows and joys.

That Dao Heart was forged over the long years, day and night.

The group known as the Heavenly Pride is quite special.

Though they are merely twenty years old, they have already reached extremely high realms, growing at an astonishing pace.

They are hoisted up by the anticipation of Da Xia and thousands of people.

Their unique mission and ambitious vision are like a double-edged sword, propelling their rapid growth, yet the towering edifice built in such a short time can easily topple and collapse...

"Let's go." He Qifeng exerted strength in her arms, giving Lu Ran one last firm hug before standing upright.

She left behind the reliance.

Lu Ran softly asked, "Feeling better?"

"Mm." He Qifeng managed to force a slight smile on her face.

She must be "better," for the citizens of Forbidden City were waiting for her to settle them.

Just as Lu Ran had just said, the entire human world was waiting to become their Forbidden City!

When He Qifeng looked at Lu Ran again, her eyes, misty with emotions, were exceptionally bright.

Peak Master Tu was slightly surprised, unsure of what kind of magic Lu Ran had or what he had said to He Qifeng before.

Was it a blessing in disguise?

The ancient city beneath their feet collapsed.

But the Forbidden City in He Qifeng's heart seemed more solidified.

"I will first send you to the island, where you can settle the citizens." Lu Ran said while casting spells, "A large group will arrive later, showcasing your leadership skills."

"Yes." He Qifeng replied solemnly.

"Let's go, Senior Tu." Lu Ran led with his hand, and the landing mirror rapidly formed.

Peak Master Tu looked at the Evil Technique·Mirror Flower Moon from the Evil Mirror Clan, without uttering a word, he flew over with Silent Night Blade.

In just a step, he reached the northern mountains of Mist Rain Lake.

Light rain drizzled here, dark clouds cover the sky, plunge everything into darkness.

"Lu...Ran." A clear and cold female voice came from the side, Jiang Ruyi arrived with several soldiers, having waited there for quite some time.

Yan Shuangzi was not among them.

Just two days ago, she successfully broke through her cultivation bottleneck, now in the midst of advancing.

Even as strong as Jiang Ruyi, facing the Heavenly Realm Great Martial Monk emerging from the mirror, hesitated in her words.

"Is everything going smoothly?" Lu Ran inquired.

"The Divine General has already notified the islands, everyone is gathering, but some island masters have expressed doubts." As Jiang Ruyi spoke, her tone became icier.

At times like this, they cling to the notion of staying rooted.

Some Sea Realm island masters seem unable to find their rightful place.

"I'll send a message urging her." Lu Ran frowned slightly, summoning the Ancient Bronze Mirror with one hand, while two black crows flew out from the gourd in the other.

When Alliance Leader Yun advanced, the Witch Crow Believers, Big Black and Four Black, were once sent by He Qifeng to serve as scouts for Lu Ran.

Though night and dense mist obscure vision, the crow's eyes could see through everything, gathering intelligence.

There were still two Witch Crow Believers inside the gourd, which He Qifeng planned to bring to the island.

"Thank you, Peak Master Tu." Before entering the mirror, Lu Ran turned to speak.

"Go." Peak Master Tu responded softly, holding the Silent Night Blade.

Lu Ran stepped into the mirror, directly arriving at a fairly large island.

His numerous experiences at sea proved invaluable at this moment!

Without any searching or locating process, Lu Ran knew this place directly, saving a massive amount of time and energy.

This island wasn't solitary, within a radius of several hundred meters, there were several smaller islands.

A perfect base for the Ran Sect.

In the night, the Ran Sect's soldiers who arrived first spread out swiftly, searching for any potential enemies.

Lu Ran also consulted with the small Blazing Phoenix, releasing the remaining two Witch Crow Believers.

In the thick night, all was silent.

Only the sound of waves crashing against the shore could produce a sense of tranquility.

Moments later, Lu Ran came to Qin Yanzhi's side: "Did you record the coordinates?"

"Yes, Sect Master." Qin Yanzhi nodded immediately.

"Mm." Lu Ran turned to Jiang Ruyi, "Cloud Sea Cliff and Jingxian Mountain are entrusted to you. I will go to Pear Garden Sect, Tiangang City, Longxiang Valley, and Sky Sparrow Pavilion."

"Rest assured." Jiang Ruyi gently nodded.

The composed demeanor of the aloof fairy reassured Lu Ran immensely.

Back at Forbidden City, he became someone else's reliance, yet back home, Jiang Ruyi, standing behind him, was always his most solid support.

"Phew~" Lu Ran released the citizens of Forbidden City from the gourd, cleared the small Blazing Phoenix's belly, and immediately activated the Transmission Mirror, stepping away.

After Lu Ran departed, Jiang Ruyi's face gradually became tense, no longer the tranquil demeanor she had earlier.

All Gods actually sent great powers of Heavenly Realm into the mountains to hunt Lu Ran...

Once, the Mountain Realm was a slaughterhouse for the Human Clan.

Will it become a hunting ground for slaughtering the Heavenly Pride in the future?

At the same time, within the torch-lit Tiangang City.

The city was bustling with activity, dense footsteps echoed throughout, with people loudly calling and urging something.

Inside the great hall, led by Wu Xiao, the crowd saw the youth stepping out from the mirror, and they instantly bowed respectfully:

"Sect Master!"

"Sect Master!"

Lu Ran slightly furrowed his brows, sensing the heavy atmosphere, and asked, "What happened?"

Guard Liu Huo immediately disclosed: "Sect Master, the Spiritual Fortune disciples in the city tonight mostly drew middle fortunes, there was one upper fortune, and two lower fortunes.

Yet several Ghost Moon Fox believers reported increasingly uneasy minds in real-time."

"Phew~" Without saying another word, Lu Ran directly cast a spell.

He slightly raised his head, his eyes turning into eerie crescents, with Divine Power surging violently around him.

Lu Ran's breath slightly froze!

His heart, which had just been calmed by Jiang Ruyi, was abruptly shattered.

A growing sense of unrest stirred within him...