

Old Gods 82

Chapter 82: Evil Sculpture·Night Charm

The Night of Ghosts procession had lasted nearly three hours.

The Night Charm Clan finally stopped emerging.

This evil demon, made entirely of pure energy, didn't even leave a corpse behind after death.

It was like a highly unreal nightmare.

After waking from the dream, devastation was all around.

"Let's return."

"Team Leader Zhang." Chang Ying's expression was complex as she stood at the entrance of the teaching building, watching Zhang Feng standing outside the door.

The sign she drew earlier had proven accurate.

It indeed was an ominous one.

Bai Manni's Heart Sense Curse was also spot on—her anxiety was a warning signal.

Inside Rain Alley City, there weren't just these two spiritual entity believers and caster believers with low powers.

Realizing the imminent danger, the students of course understood something was off, as did the forces from Rain Alley City.

A large number of Moon Gazer forces were timely thrown into the fight, with military troops appearing throughout the city for support, all results of prior warnings.

However, Lu Ran, trapped inside this small sanctuary, was oblivious to the overall war.

"Tonight, you'll stay in the first-floor hall, guarding next to the shrine," Zhang Feng said, his voice somewhat low.

It wasn't hard to hear the melancholy in his tone.

In fact, everyone's hearts were heavy.

After the Night of Ghosts, everyone had to accept a reality: the female leader of Squad 18 had sacrificed herself.

And what the students didn't know was that it wasn't just this one Moon Gazer who had fallen in the line of duty.

During the "Night of Ghosts," the casualty numbers of the Moon Gazer teams in the shelters of Rain Alley City skyrocketed!

"Yes." Chang Ying trudged back in front of the shrine.

"Whew..."

Zhang Feng let out a deep sigh.

The Night of Ghosts...

On the fifteenth night of every lunar month, indeed, some places would experience such events.

But Rain Alley City?

How could this small county withstand such battering?

"Heh." Thinking of this, Zhang Feng laughed at himself in self-derision.

If Rain Alley City shouldn't endure this, then where in the world, which places and people, should bear it?

The Evil Demon Clan,

why exactly do they appear in this world...

In the first-floor hall, by the windowsill.

Lu Ran stood quietly, clutching the Silent Night Blade that he had recovered.

The blade lost in battle had returned.

But some people did not.

Like Team Leader Lin Yue who fell tonight.

Or like his father, who was brutally killed fifteen years ago on the bank of the Wu Lie River.

The bright and solitary moon hung in the empty sky.

The river's moon, generation after generation.

Lu Ran looked up silently at the full moon in the night sky.

You shined on me and saw him too.

Tell me, what exactly happened on that fifteen night?

Was it like today?

Did he go swiftly and decisively, or did he suffer greatly...

"Hm?" Lu Ran felt someone approaching from the side.

He turned to look, seeing Jiang Ruyi's profile.

The girl was also looking up at the bright moon and did not speak.

She just stood beside Lu Ran, quietly accompanying him.

Since the "Night of Ghosts," the types and numbers of invading evil spirits returned to normal.

Even so, Lu Ran and the other students were not allowed to join the fight anymore.

They stayed put in the first-floor hall, enduring the long night together.

...

As day broke, Lu Ran and the others received another order: continue to guard the sanctuary.

What was called guarding was actually the cautious approach of the Moon Gazer team, fearing the students might encounter accidents on their way home.

No one could guarantee if there were remnants of the Night Charm left in the city.

Naturally, the students had no objections to the decision of the Moon Gazers.

Lu Ran and the others were arranged to stay in an empty office on the fourth floor.

"Everyone rest for now; we'll take turns on watch."

In the office, Jiang Ruyi addressed Squad 18, speaking out.

The group remained silent, none responding.

The atmosphere in the room was oppressive; everyone was somber, even Qian Hao, who usually enjoyed joking around, was now silent.

Jiang Ruyi sighed softly, unsure how to comfort her classmates.

Only when a Moon Gazer came to deliver breakfast did the silent room become somewhat alive.

"Did Brother Lu fall asleep?" Deng Yutang came up behind Jiang Ruyi and whispered, "Should we wake him for breakfast?"

Jiang Ruyi looked toward the corner of the room, where Lu Ran lay on his side facing the wall, and she shook her head gently:

"Let him sleep."

Perhaps he was just too tired, or maybe he had been through too much last night.

Jiang Ruyi had always paid close attention to Lu Ran and had long noticed that he seemed to be in a daze.

What Jiang Ruyi didn't know was that Lu Ran wasn't exhausted on a physical or mental level, but on a spiritual level!

While his classmates were eating buns and drinking porridge, Lu Ran had entered the Evil Demon Sculpture Garden alone.

"Lord Immortal Goat?"

Lu Ran looked around, calling out, but he received no response.

Not far ahead, a massive Evil Sculpture stood in the mist, faint and indistinct.

Lu Ran walked toward it, his gaze lifting higher and higher.

The mist silently dispersed to reveal a towering female sculpture, standing proudly.

Bamboo hat, veil, Night Clothes.

Her entire being exuded a mysterious aura.

Lu Ran even considered climbing up to see the true face behind the black veil.

However, he suppressed the impulse.

Because around the giant Evil Sculpture, many Night Charm souls were being devoured continuously.

"We can activate the Night Charm Sculpture now."

A deep voice came from behind him.

Lu Ran turned and saw Black Fire Sheep Head approaching: "It's ready?"

Activating an Evil Demon Sculpture required many souls.

At least 2000 souls from the Mist Realm Evil Demon.

If converted to River Realm souls, that would be twenty.

Suddenly, Lu Ran realized something, his expression changing slightly: "Has the Night Charm arch-entity noticed?"

Black Sheep Head: "You've captured over thirty River Realm souls, and a similar number of Stream and Mist Realm souls, not enough to alarm it."

Lu Ran silently breathed a sigh of relief.

Soon after, he was equally alarmed.

During the Night of Ghosts, the number of invading Night Charm from the River Realm was on par with those from the Stream and Mist Realms?

This meant that the River Realm Night Charm was the main force!

And keep in mind that Lu Ran spent most of his time inside the teaching building.

His range for soul binding was only fifty meters!

Even under such constraints, he had captured so many souls...

The Night of Ghosts was indeed terrifying!

Black Sheep Head spoke solemnly: "This clan, like the Yan Zhi Clan, is extremely difficult to control.

If you insist on activating this sculpture, you might have to make some sacrifices in the number of activations."

Lu Ran heard the implications and asked: "Do you not want me to activate it, Lord Immortal Goat?"

The Black Fire Sheep Head slowly floated up, its Dead Sheep Eyes staring at the Night Charm veil:

"The Night Charm Evil Demon arch-entity is extremely powerful!"

With your current level of spiritual strength, it is best to attempt activation after reaching Stream Realm Fourth Rank.

Otherwise, you might suffer its backlash."

Lu Ran nodded quietly.

Black Sheep Head: "Additionally, before you activate this sculpture, you can't activate any other Evil Demon Sculptures."

Lu Ran: "..."

Black Fire Sheep Head: "If you can remain patient, you could also wait until after reaching the River Realm to proceed with the activation.

By that time, your spiritual strength will have leapt in quality.

You won't need to be as cautious as you are now."

Lu Ran nodded firmly: "Alright, let's do that!"

This Evil Demon Sculpture would eventually belong to him; there was no rush.

Now, with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture ready for activation, he just needed to wait for the right time to make use of it.

The Evil Technique of the Night Charm Clan filled Lu Ran's heart with anticipation.

Evil Technique·Night Charm Blade: Summons a single blade.

Evil Technique·Night Dance: Allows the caster to produce wind beneath their feet, stepping through the air, freely moving within it.

Evil Technique·Night Wind Assault: Unleashes a fierce wind to blow enemies away.

Evil Technique·Night Wind Trace: Drags a long slash on the blade, chopping enemies to pieces.

Of the first four Evil Techniques, Lu Ran liked Night Dance the most.

Although a low-grade "Night Dance" couldn't let Lu Ran float and fly effortlessly, at the very least, he'd be able to borrow some force in midair and no longer fear falling from heights.

The River Realm Evil Techniques of the Night Charm Clan were even more characteristic!

Evil Technique·Night Charm Shadow: The caster can split into several clones, swapping places between them and the real body.

This was practically a bug skill!

Just the previous night on the battlefield, Lu Ran had witnessed a powerful Night Charm executing this technique.

She was even able to use the mechanics of the technique to forcefully break through blockades when creating clones.

Evil Technique·Night Charm Robe: Allows the caster to don a bamboo hat and black veil, wearing Night Clothes.

This spell was a formidable defensive tactic.

Once activated, what seemed like ordinary Night Clothes would become incredibly durable!

To the believers in the world, this was most terrifying.

Because this was the exact appearance of the Night Charm.

Meaning, you couldn't differentiate whether a Night Charm had reached River Realm·Third Rank.

You couldn't visually determine whether the Night Charm had used any defensive technique.

On the battlefield, one miscalculation could lead to doom!

For Lu Ran, this Evil Technique...

Doubtless provided an excellent disguise!

As a member of the Human Clan, it was hard for Lu Ran to publicly use Evil Techniques unique to the Night Charm Clan.

These spells were too distinctive; Lu Ran would surely expose himself.

But with a bamboo hat, black veil, and Night Clothes, it would be a different story!

Could Lu Ran not act with impunity?

The only issue was:

The Night Charm Clan bore the image of females, and moreover, those with excellent physical conditions.

Lu Ran was male...

"Lord Immortal Goat, does the Night Charm Clan have a male image... hmm?"

Lu Ran's words were cut off as he suddenly furrowed his brows, looking into the distance.

An inexplicable feeling arose in his heart.

As if,

something was calling to him.