

Old Gods 821

Chapter 821: The Secret of Holy Spirit Energy

Lu Ran looked at Yu Changsheng, hesitating to speak.

Yu Changsheng clearly understood the Sect Master's expression and smiled, "Does the Sect Master think I'm not suited to this style?"

"Not at all." Lu Ran shook his head, "As long as Mr. Cong Long is happy."

Pretending to be cool!

It suits anyone.

Lu Ran just realized that when he took out a plastic bag, he really deserved a beating.

Mmm... I deserve a beating, I'll still take it out!

Love taking it out~

Lu Ran walked back to the Eight Immortals table and plopped into the Taishi Chair, "Mr. Cong Long, return to Ran Sect later and summon some Sea Realm underlings.

Use the Great Demons of the Sea Realm to control the sea area around the Ran Sect Islands."

"As you command." Yu Changsheng replied, patting the shoulder of a Cong Long underling in passing.

The underling immediately looked up and, at the signal of their Evil God, stood up.

With Yu Changsheng as the base color, the Evil Demon underlings created were quite intelligent! No problem executing tasks.

"By the way, how does Mr. Cong Long cultivate now?" Lu Ran asked.

All along, the Human Clan and Stone Sculptures cultivated separately.

Take Yu Changsheng for example:

Yu Changsheng himself cultivated Divine Power, constantly breaking through and improving.

The Mo Li Evil Sculpture devoured Dead Souls, absorbing the Holy Spirit Energy within, thus advancing realms.

Now that the two are one, transformed into a Cong Long Stone Sculpture, how do they improve?

"Sect Master, I can cultivate anything."

"Oh?" Lu Ran raised an eyebrow.

Yu Changsheng casually swirled the faint mist lingering in the room, "The Sect Master should know, this so-called Divine Power, including the Power of Faith provided by the Human Clan, negative emotions, and so on, is all a form of energy."

Lu Ran nodded lightly.

"Holy Spirit Energy is the product of refined various energies."

"The product of refinement..." Lu Ran pondered over these words.

"Before the Heavenly Realm, the Human Clan can only cultivate Divine Power." Yu Changsheng paused, emphasizing, "When the Sect Master advances to the Heavenly Realm, you will personally feel a qualitative change in the Divine Power within your body."

Lu Ran listened attentively, focused and intent.

Yu Changsheng explained fully, "During your advancement to the Heavenly Realm, the vast Jianghai within you will be further refined and transformed into strands of Holy Spirit Energy."

Lu Ran's heart stirred, "So, the Heavenly Realm is somewhat linked with God Demons?"

After all, Holy Spirit Energy is the exclusive cultivation material for God Demons.

Lower Humans can't use it.

Yu Changsheng nodded, "You could say that! Sect Master, during my breakthrough, the refined Holy Spirit Energy helps me change the nature of my physical body.

But it doesn't last long, it quickly disappears, merging into my soul, leaving only the vast Jianghai within me.

That's how I continually cycled in this process and eventually ascended to the Heavenly Realm."

Lu Ran: "This..."

Yu Changsheng nodded, "Until I completely fused with the Stone Sculpture, only then could I release all the Holy Spirit Energy and utilize this energy in a true sense.

Looking back now, this Holy Spirit Energy should have been prepared for the Divine Demon itself."

Lu Ran stared blankly at Yu Changsheng.

Within Holy Spirit Mountain, those under the Heavenly Realm in the Human Clan, are all diligent ants, collecting Holy Spirit Energy everywhere, carrying it with their souls, awaiting their return to the embrace of God Demons after death.

And the Humans who ascend to the Heavenly Realm, become... higher level ants?

They can produce it themselves!

While alive, they can continuously purify and produce threads of Holy Spirit Energy from the vast energy within, waiting to offer it to God Demons after death?

"Oh my." Lu Ran saw a new perspective, realizing another significance of Heavenly Realm Great Powers.

So, once a Heavenly Realm Executioner falls in the Mountain Realm, and the God Demon doesn't receive their soul...

What will the consequences be?

No wonder!

Lu Ran thought again of Elder Lu Yuan.

No wonder Elder Lu caused a great catastrophe, returned to the Human World on his own, and wasn't executed by Divine Dust Shadow.

The more Elder Lu lived, the more satisfying it would be for Lord Dust Shadow after his death?

If you no longer want to be exploited, you can also choose not to refine Holy Spirit Energy.

But the problem is, as Mr. Cong Long just said, the hard requirement for believers' cultivation and advancement is to continuously refine Holy Spirit Energy, changing the body's nature during its brief existence, repeating this cycle.

So, only by completely giving up can you truly be free?

But at the level of the Heavenly Realm, under close watch by the God Demons, how many can truly give up?

Heh,

What an awe-inspiring Heavenly Realm!

Even if you can stir the seas and overturn the heavens, what of it?

You still can't escape the fate of exploitation.

Instead, you become an even more delicious meal.

"That is one of the differences between me and other Heavenly Realm Great Powers," Yu Changsheng spoke again, "After transforming into a Stone Sculpture, I can use Holy Spirit Energy when performing skills."

Lu Ran snapped out of his thoughts, looking at the other.

Yu Changsheng nodded, "The skills performed by my true body are of Heavenly Grade specification.

But with different energy purity, the intensity of the skills is sure to surpass those of the same realm!"

Lu Ran set aside his previous emotions and asked, "Does that mean you gave yourself a Fiery Fire Heavenly Leader buff?"

Yu Changsheng hesitated for a moment, then slowly nodded, "That's one way to understand it."

"Hmm, that's more like it!" Lu Ran nodded repeatedly.

This is the transcendent stance that should exist after integrating Humans and Stone Sculptures!

Otherwise, where did the advantages of fusion go?

Unable to act rashly, only to stay in the Sculpture Garden? Only by using the body of a lower realm underling could they manifest?

Isn't that a joke?

"Sect Leader, I believe it's better to use Divine Power to drive skills, and use Holy Spirit Energy sparingly."

Yu Changsheng looked at Lu Ran, half asking, half explaining: "Purifying this energy is extremely difficult."

"The gentleman's words are indeed true!" Lu Ran immediately agreed, "For now, you should use Holy Spirit Energy to strengthen yourself, and when we engage in a life-and-death struggle with the God Demon, then use this energy."

"Understood!"

"By the way, there's another matter! Are you aware that God Demon shares the same origin, two sides of the same coin?"

"I previously asked Peak Master Tu about the relevant situation." Yu Changsheng's face grew slightly solemn.

Lu Ran stated directly: "The Divine Sculpture of Dragon Carp in the Sculpture Garden should share the same origin with the gentleman!"

Yu Changsheng appeared vaguely excited.

Even if Lu Ran hadn't mentioned it, he would have found an opportunity to remind them.

"Shall we give it a try?" Yu Changsheng eagerly proposed.

"Let's try!" Lu Ran nodded immediately.

"Sect Leader, you can enter the Sculpture Garden, my true form has always been inside."

"Hmm." Lu Ran slowly closed his eyes.

He then appeared in a world shrouded in gray mist, directly landing in the palm of the Dragon Stone Sculpture.

"Follow me!" Lu Ran gently flew up, reminding, "Watch your step, don't tread on other Stone Sculptures."

Yu Changsheng: "..."

Actually, I can fly too.

Besides, this isn't the real world, it's a spiritual world.

The enormous Dragon Stone Sculpture followed the tiny master of the God Demon, flying all the way north.

The man and sculpture crossed over a wide river, and Yu Changsheng felt the sky brightening!

Indeed, although there was faint mist swirling around the side of the Divine Sculpture faction, the lighting was quite sufficient.

Just after breaking into the Divine Sculpture faction, Yu Changsheng saw a few gigantic statues.

In the first row were Martial Monk Divine Sculpture, Martial Artist Divine Sculpture;

In the second row were Ash Divine Sculpture, Dong Ting Divine Sculpture;

In the third row were Greedy Wolf, Jade Talisman... these Stone Sculptures were similar in size to Yu Changsheng.

All were of the First Layer of Heaven!

"There!" Lu Ran found the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture in the third row.

Since it hadn't been activated, its size was quite small.

Yu Changsheng cautiously flew down, as if worried about stepping down and crushing this little carp to bits...

"Check it out." Lu Ran gestured.

Yu Changsheng bent down with slow and careful motions, picking up the Dragon Carp.

As soon as his large hand touched the Divine Sculpture of Dragon Carp, the entire Sculpture Garden buzzed!

Along with it, Lu Ran's brain buzzed as well.

"Sect Leader, it truly feels different!"

"How so?" Lu Ran's brows furrowed.

"I didn't have this special feeling when interacting with other Divine Sculptures or Evil Sculptures, only with this Dragon Carp Stone Sculpture, it feels..."

"What?" Lu Ran looked expectant.

Yu Changsheng paused for a moment and then said, "Sect Leader, please give me some time."

"Ah... alright, you stay here, I won't disturb you."

"Sect Leader, I need to concentrate on researching this matter, I'll recall the external shadows."

"Okay."

Inside the residence, Lu Ran opened his eyes, just in time to hear a shattering sound.

"Poof~"

The vessel holding the shadow of the Evil God burst into mist, leaving only another ordinary Evil Demon minion inside the house.

Since it had already been summoned, Lu Ran naturally didn't intend to waste it.

This was a Great Demon of the Sea Realm.

And at the Peak of the Sea Realm, one rank higher than Lu Ran...

"Hmm?" Just as Lu Ran was about to leave with the minion, he suddenly noticed that the already thin mist in the house was dispersing at a visible speed.

Xue Fengchen succeeded in advancing?

Divine General Qin and Yan God General had previously hitched a ride with the Dragon Guardian, advancing earlier.

Currently, Mist Rain Lake was still shrouded in mist, as Xue Fengchen was advancing!

Logically, Lu Ran should be happy.

However, thinking about the possibility that if Yu Changsheng could indeed merge with the Divine Sculpture of Dragon Carp...

What would happen to Fengshen General and Yan God General!

If the couple could harmoniously assimilate, it wouldn't be a bad outcome.

However, the fear was that one might end up engulfing the other...

Forget it!

Wait for news from Mr. Long; at worst, just don't let the two merge~

"Let's go." Lu Ran opened a Transmission Mirror, taking the Dragon minion into the council hall.

The mist in the hall was also rapidly dispersing.

Nearly two months had passed, and Qianzhou Islands were finally returning to normal.

Lu Ran seated the Dragon minion in a chair under the hall and turned to walk towards the depths of the hall.

On the throne, Bai Rao twisted her charming figure, crawling down, seemingly puzzled: "He doesn't seem to be the Dragon Guardian?"

"Aunt Bai is indeed perceptive." Lu Ran smiled, "How did you notice?"

Bai Rao also smiled: "He's just a Sea Realm bug... um, a Great Power of the Sea Realm."

Lu Ran: "..."

Aunt Bai's scolding is so crude~

...

Chapter 822: The Ends of the Earth

"Sect Leader!"

"Sect Leader." Outside the main hall, a grand procession of people entered.

Lu Ran sat steadily on the throne, looking at Jiang Ruyi at the forefront, and couldn't help but sigh.

He had already learned from the little Blazing Phoenix that Jiang Ruyi and Deng Yuxiang hadn't managed to catch this lucky ride.

The two had both advanced last mid to late winter month.

Based on the timing, coupled with the blessings drawn during the advancements of Yu Changsheng and Gao Yunyan, Lu Ran believed they should have made some breakthroughs.

Yet, the heavens did not grant their wishes.

However, the successive advancements of Divine General Qin, Divine General Yan, and Divine General Feng to the fourth rank of the Sea Realm did bring Lu Ran some joy.

Lu Ran's emotions fluctuated, and Jiang Ruyi's mind was also complex.

Her gaze swept over the beautiful snake at Lu Ran's feet. Due to the protection of the Heavenly Realm Great Power for Lu Ran and its contributions to the Ran Sect, Jiang Ruyi ultimately said nothing.

Alright...

Let's treat her as a pet for now, just as Lu Ran suggested.

Jiang Ruyi looked on pensively at the minions seated below, her brow furrowing slightly: "Mr. Cong Long?"

The elegant young noble, how did he become so stiff?

"That's not Cong Long, but an evil demon minion," Lu Ran explained, "Now, the Mo Li Evil Sculpture in my garden has transformed into the Cong Long Evil Sculpture."

With these words, the expressions of those seated below varied.

Some were surprised, and some were curious.

Others, like Deng Yuxiang, had a faint sense of excitement.

As expected!

When a Human Clan inheritor merges with a Stone Sculpture, the summoned evil demon minion will be in the form of a Human Clan.

Deng Yuxiang was eager at heart!

If that's the case, the Night Charm minion will eventually become his own likeness.

"Congratulations to you all on reaching the fourth rank of the Sea Realm," Lu Ran looked over Divine General Qin, Divine General Feng, and Divine General Yan.

"Thank you, Sect Leader, for your nurturing!" Gao Yunyan responded solemnly and loudly.

Before meeting Lu Ran, she had always been stuck at the River Realm Peak rank, held back by her Dao Heart.

Since following Lu Ran, her life changed completely; great aspirations and burgeoning ambition helped her rise smoothly.

Undoubtedly, it was Lu Ran who led her into the Sea Realm.

Including Qin Yanzhi, who could reach such a high rank as Sea Realm Fourth Rank, was also due to the Sect Leader's bestowed Stone Sculpture.

Only Xue Fengchen was the exception.

This is a true Heavenly Pride!

Ranked eighty-seventh, not because of lack of skill, but because of growing too fast...

Even without Lu Ran's intervention, Xue Fengchen would likely have achieved something.

"Originally, I intended to take Tianhuang Mountain and let you couple lead the West Desolation Sect," Lu Ran lamented softly, "It's not possible now."

Feng Yan understood the reason behind it.

Especially since Xue Fengchen was also on the executioner's hunt list, feeling even more thankful for Lu Ran's protection: "Sect Leader..."

Lu Ran raised his hand to stop the words: "Time is pressing, and the situation is urgent, you must continue to cultivate diligently, not slack off!

Now the Dragon Guardian has reached the Heavenly Realm, Martial Emperor and Luoshen are both at the Sea Realm Peak, and you must not fall behind.

Strength is the solution to everything."

"Yes."

"Yes!"

Lu Ran rose and walked down towards the hall, approaching Jiang Ruyi, his tone softened considerably: "Not planning to continue seclusion?"

Jiang Ruyi gently shook her head: "Let's return to the Seven Islands of Ran Sect, Mist Rain Lake is too conspicuous."

The so-called Seven Islands of Ran Sect is currently the base of Ran Sect.

Located in the far-sea area directly east of Mist Rain Lake, more than two thousand kilometers away from the coast, centered around a central large island, along with six surrounding small islands, collectively known as the "Seven Islands of Ran Sect."

"Very well." Lu Ran pondered for a moment, cast a spell, then looked at the two Heavenly Realm Great Powers, "Please wait here, I'll be right back."

The two had no objection.

Even Bai Rao, normally unruly, said nothing, only watched the Sect Leader and Lady enter the territory.

One step to the edge of the sea.

Lu Ran stood in the island forest, observing the blue sea and sky, his mood eased considerably.

Watching, Lu Ran noticed a slight sense of anomaly.

The total number of people in the Ran Sect and its subsidiaries had reached an astounding more than two thousand five hundred.

However, on the central island, and the six surrounding small islands, there was no trace of human activity.

The sound of waves hitting the shore, and the sea breeze blowing through the forest, only made this piece of the world seem even more silent.

It was as if...

This was a forgotten corner.

"Being forgotten is good," Lu Ran murmured, gazing at the blue sky and white clouds, "Being forgotten is good..."

"Sect Leader!"

"Sect Leader, Lady!"

Clearly, there were secret sentinels reporting the situation, from deep within the forest, a hidden underground cave, emerged two Sea Realm Great Powers.

Forbidden City Master: He Qifeng.

Deputy City Lord of Tiangang City: Liu Huo.

Ran Sect's central island hosts the citizens from the Forbidden City and Tiangang City.

The surrounding six small islands are respectively stationed by Cloud Sea Cliff, Pear Garden Sect, Jingxian Mountain, Sky Sparrow Pavilion, Longxiang Valley/Starry Valley, and Thousand Boat Alliance.

Due to the number of people, Longxiang Valley and Starry Valley support each other, sharing one island.

The Starry Sky Hall of Ran Sect reverted to a sect.

Under Jiang Ruyi's orders, Hall Master Chang Ying took on a heavy responsibility, reverting from hall master to Starry Valley's Valley Master.

Of course, the islands only have the sect main body.

To better protect the Seven Islands of Ran Sect, disciples from various major sects are mutually loaned to establish a more comprehensive defense system.

Jingxian Sect undoubtedly became a coveted resource!

The disciples of Ash and Yan Qing, led by Luoshen, are masters of naval warfare, making this faction the most dispersed.

The Thousand Boat Alliance is also a relatively special force.

Compared to all other sects, the Thousand Boat Alliance's loyalty to the Ran Sect is relatively low.

However, the overall strength of the Thousand Boat Alliance certainly cannot compare to the giant that is the Ran Sect.

It couldn't stir up much of a storm.

Since the last invasion of Thunder Mountain, the Sky Phoenix was left with two islands, Bi He with six, Chenghua with five, and Sword Lotus with only four.

Including He Yingcai, the Alliance Master, the Thousand Boat Alliance still has 17 Sea Realm Island Masters.

The River Realm members of the alliance were brutally massacred by the Thunder Shock Sect, with less than three hundred people remaining.

After arriving at the seven islands of the Ran Sect, under Lu Ran's absolute prestige and Alliance Master He's iron-fisted management, the Sea Realm Island Masters were stationed across the seven islands, assisting the sects on the islands with their defenses, temporarily following the orders of the island's sect masters.

"Is everything well?" Lu Ran asked softly, looking at his two capable subordinates.

"There's great potential beneath the island; we've already constructed a small underground city." He Qifeng immediately reported, "The people's spirits are stable."

Liu Huo chimed in: "Sect Leader, the Feixian Hall is complete, and a divine statue of you has been erected within. Would you like to take a look?"

Lu Ran remained silent.

Feixian Hall?

Forget it, let's not go, I'm too embarrassed.

Jiang Ruyi sensed Lu Ran's mood and said softly, "Providing the disciples of the Ran Sect with a spiritual anchor is ultimately a good thing, making it easier for people to survive."

"Mm." Lu Ran let go of his scattered thoughts and closed his eyes.

Jiang Ruyi gave a look to everyone, and they all retreated.

[Mr. Cong Long.]

[Sect Leader?]

[Sorry to disturb, I've returned to the seven islands of the Ran Sect, please come out and arrange for some Great Demons of the Sea Realm to guard this area, and then study the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture.]

[Not a disturbance, just in time.] Yu Changsheng's response left Lu Ran a bit surprised.

"Hoo!!"

The vast figure of Cong Long unfolded magnificently.

"Lady." Yu Changsheng bowed his head to the small Human Clan, greeting them with cupped hands.

Jiang Ruyi gazed at the enormous remnant shadow of the Evil God, feeling somewhat dazed.

Over time, she had seen Lu Ran summon the residual shadows of the God Demon and make pacts with the Human Clan countless times.

And this time, the remnant shadow representing the God Demon was someone she knew well...

"What did Mr. say by 'just in time'?" Lu Ran asked, puzzled.

Yu Changsheng, usually calm and collected, showed a hint of excitement: "Sect Leader, indeed, I share the same origin as the Divine Sculpture. If the Sect Leader consents, I should be able to merge with it!"

Lu Ran's eyes lit up.

Yu Changsheng calmed his excited emotions: "Sect Leader, since becoming a believer, I have always studied the Dragon Carp Divine Skill and am deeply versed in it. Later, following you, I used the Mo Li Evil Technique for a long time and know well the compatibility of both techniques. I think, after merging with the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture, these divine and evil techniques might also be able to fuse!"

"Good!" Lu Ran clenched his fist and turned to look at Jiang Ruyi.

That means that Jiang Ruyi can not only inherit everything from the Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture but also the Evil Sculpture, Ghost Talisman Doll, altogether! Not only add the Evil Technique of the Ghost Talisman Doll clan but perhaps even fuse Divine and Evil Techniques again?

Similarly,

Yan Shuangzi is not only the Evil Dog but also the Greedy Wolf.

Deng Yuxiang is not only the Night Charm but also the North Wind!

Great!!

Lu Ran's heart grew more and more excited; these are all part of his capital to challenge the God Demon!

Jiang Ruyi, infected by the youth's joy, reached out and gently took his arm.

Originally, she had a bit of a temper.

After all, she just saw Lu Ran sitting grandly on the throne, with a seductive beauty snake nestled at his feet.

Becoming more and more like a foolish ruler!

At this moment, seeing Lu Ran's ecstatic appearance, Jiang Ruyi decided to set aside her slight displeasure.

She didn't want to disturb Lu Ran's mood.

The days on Holy Spirit Mountain had already been difficult.

Ever since God Demon sent a Heavenly Realm Executioner, Lu Ran's mood became even more repressed, and it had been rare to see him so cheerful.

"Hmm." Jiang Ruyi felt herself being encircled at the waist, and then someone kissed her.

Yu Changsheng quickly averted his eyes, just in time to see several Ran Sect disciples staring in shock.

Under his gaze, all lowered their heads.

The Fake Evil God is in contrast to the True Evil Sculpture.

To the Human Clan, Yu Changsheng is a god!

"We should... hmm, talk business." Jiang Ruyi struggled lightly, speaking vaguely.

"Business?" Lu Ran momentarily let go of her, playfully thinking, and gazed earnestly at the fairy in his arms, "I missed you."

Jiang Ruyi's face froze for a moment.

Lu Ran leaned foreheads together, their brows touching, and whispered, "It's been over two months since we've quietly spent time together, having tea and chatting."

The deep yet gentle voice sent a pang of sadness through Jiang Ruyi's heart.

The peaceful times at Cloud Sea Cliff were hard to come by now.

A single order from the God Demon changed everything.

The foundation that Lu Ran built during his years of war was painted with strokes of red across the Holy Spirit Mountain continent, all vanished.

Their living space was compressed to the extreme, perpetually anxious and driven to this end of the world.

Jiang Ruyi stopped struggling and buried her head on Lu Ran's shoulder, softly saying, "First... handle the business."

Yes, I miss you too.

"How should I cooperate with Mr. Cong Long?" Lu Ran looked up at the remnant shadow of the Evil God.

Yu Changsheng carefully organized his words: "I will mobilize the Origin Power to assist the Sect Leader in first activating the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture. Then the Sect Leader can command the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture to welcome and accept me."

"Come!"

...

Chapter 823: Next Stop

In the Sculpture Garden, within the Divine Camp.

Lu Ran stood before the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture and said in a low voice, "Let's begin."

"Yes." From the misty sky, a gigantic stone hand reached down.

The Dragon Stone Sculpture extended a finger, gently tapping the head of the Dragon Carp Stone Sculpture, injecting strands of Holy Spirit Energy into it.

"Buzz!!"

Under Lu Ran's guidance, the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture was instantly activated, remaining at the lowest level of the Mist Realm.

Mist Realm?

A word from a distant past.

It wasn't that Yu Changsheng was being stingy, but it was his first time doing such a thing, he had to proceed gradually.

One must say, after Yu Changsheng merged with the stone sculpture, the operability was immense, and flexibility was full!

Unlike the other stone sculptures in the park, which stood motionless like "dead things."

"Channel more, it's too weak," Lu Ran instructed.

"Yes!" Yu Changsheng slowly injected Origin Power, and soon, the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture reached the River Realm·Fifth Rank, and was still vibrating.

"That's enough," Lu Ran said.

Before the River Realm, the stone sculptures grew almost instantly; after the River Realm, it took time to expand their scale.

As the Divine Sculpture·Dragon Carp crossed over the peak, reaching the initial stage of the River Realm, Lu Ran felt a stirring in his heart.

Immediately, threads of mist, like a beam, tightly connected the person and the sculpture.

"Mr. Cong Long, come!"

The Dragon Stone Sculpture's large hand slowly grasped the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture.

Even though the Dragon Carp had reached the River Realm, its size, in front of the over two-hundred-meter-tall Dragon Stone Sculpture, was still negligible.

"Buzz!!"

The Sculpture Garden suddenly trembled.

What was strange was that the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture, which should have remained forever motionless, actually began to struggle?

It kept shaking its head and tail, as if trying to escape the large hand.

"Don't resist!" Lu Ran commanded with a stern face.

The little Dragon Carp indeed stopped and turned back into a motionless stone sculpture.

"Accept it! You originate from the same source, you are one!"

"Crack! Crack..."

The sound of the stone statue cracking kept coming.

Lu Ran felt a shock in his heart, quickly looking up, and what he saw completely baffled him.

The Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture was cracking, its stone body pieces falling off.

The Dragon Stone Sculpture's large hand was also covered in cracks?

"Mr... Mr. Cong Long?" Lu Ran hurriedly spoke.

Yu Changsheng quickly released the little Dragon Carp.

In an instant, silence returned to the park as it was before.

In the midst of the dead silence, Yu Changsheng carefully kneeled on one knee, lowering a large stone face: "Sect Leader, this should be the process of fusion.

Just like when you summoned the Mo Li Evil Sculpture and fused with me."

"Hmm..." Lu Ran hesitated a bit.

Yu Changsheng had inherited a lot of knowledge from the Mo Li Evil Sculpture, and Lu Ran, as the God Demon Master, could also comprehend some information from various stone sculptures on his own.

But the fusion of Divine and Evil Sculptures didn't fall within the scope of knowledge inheritance.

"If the Sect Leader is concerned about the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture, then let's put this matter on hold," Yu Changsheng said in a usual tone.

Unfortunately, he was within Lu Ran's Spiritual World, and his emotions couldn't escape Lu Ran's discerning eyes.

"Mr. Cong Long misunderstood, I am not worried about the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture; rather, I was anxious seeing your palm crack," Lu Ran explained.

"Oh." Yu Changsheng smiled, with some cracks on his handsome stone face.

Carrying a sense of fragile beauty.

Lu Ran inquired, "Mr. Cong Long, are you certain about this matter?"

Yu Changsheng looked serious: "Subordinate is very certain, originating from the same source as the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture. It is no longer a matter of whether we can merge, but rather a craving from the heart."

"A craving?"

"For completeness," Yu Changsheng confirmed, "Earlier, there was nothing unusual in the Evil Demon Camp, but since crossing that Boundary River, the situation is different.

Especially when the subordinate came close to the Dragon Carp, truly touching it after..."

"Good!" Lu Ran interrupted Yu Changsheng's words, "Since Mr. Cong Long desires it, then let's do it!"

Yu Changsheng was both startled and pleased: "Thank you, Sect Leader, for the fulfillment!"

"Continue," Lu Ran agreed.

Yu Changsheng slowly opened his large hand, once again grasping the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture.

"Crack! Crack..."

The Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture was indeed fierce!

In terms of both strength and size, it was completely crushed by the opponent, yet even so, as the little Dragon Carp cracked, it also shattered the Dragon Stone Sculpture.

The sound of stone sculpture coming apart grew denser, making Lu Ran's heart pound!

He dared not lose focus, always guiding the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture to embrace its destiny, to merge with the same source Evil Sculpture...

"Booming!!"

The two stone sculptures shattered simultaneously, causing the entire Sculpture Garden to shake violently.

Lu Ran's mind went blank, and he instantly lost consciousness.

At the same time, in the Human World Da Xia·Luoxian Mountain.

The Immortal Sheep God Sculpture stood proudly between heaven and earth, quietly trembling.

The eternally gentle and kind smiling face seemed to smile even more.

And on the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm·Ranmen Island, Jiang Ruyi quickly reached out to support: "Lu Ran! Lu Ran?"

The young man in her arms, with knitted brows and sagging arms, was obviously unconscious.

Jiang Ruyi, full of worry, hurriedly laid Lu Ran on the ground, and shouted towards the distant woods: "Call for a healer to come!"

"Yes!"

"Lu Ran..." Jiang Ruyi whispered, having never seen him in such a condition.

What on earth happened inside the Sculpture Garden?

Lu Ran's spiritual strength is not just typically strong! How could he faint... huh?

"Uh." Lu Ran let out a vague throat sound, grimacing.

Jiang Ruyi immediately showed a joyful expression.

The cold and aloof Jiang Fairy was not as calm and collected as imagined when the matter really involved a Dao Heart...

Like the Wind Emperor, she also lost her composure.

"I... how long was I out?" Lu Ran lifted his gaze upwards to that stunning face.

The emotions in her eyes were constantly changing.

Sometimes relieved, sometimes worried.

No matter the emotion, it did not hide those beautiful eyes.

"A few seconds." Jiang Ruyi knelt on the ground, carefully cradling Lu Ran's head in her arms.

"Oh." Lu Ran felt much more at ease, searching briefly in his spiritual world.

He was stunned to find the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture and the Cong Long Evil Sculpture were merging!

Slowly reorganizing.

Shattering again, and reorganizing once more...

As if each little stone had to find its suitable place, relentless.

Or perhaps they had been apart for so long, they were now reconciling?

Lu Ran withdrew from it, and what greeted his eyes was still that slightly worried face.

He suddenly propped himself up and pressed his lips against those soft ones.

Jiang Ruyi's beautiful eyes widened slightly!

Lu Ran took a step further, lifting his hand to embrace the back of her head.

"Hoo~"

The sea breeze blew past, making the branches sway, bringing a pleasant rustling sound.

It also caused Jiang Ruyi's long hair and robe to gently flutter.

Her gaze gradually became reproachful, yet she still closed her eyes. A worried heart calmed down, then began pounding again.

The fact proved that Lu Ran's remedy was very effective.

For both her and himself.

Lu Ran slowly lay back down, whispering, "My head hurts."

"Mm." Jiang Ruyi responded softly, her gentle brow low, her slender jade fingers resting on Lu Ran's temple, gently massaging.

"Heh..." Lu Ran closed his eyes, taking a deep breath in relief.

He had said before that it had been a very long time since he had properly spent time with Jiang Ruyi.

Was his wish fulfilled at this moment?

"It's alright now." Jiang Ruyi turned her head slightly, glancing behind her with the corner of her eye.

The hastily arrived team of physicians paused in place.

Such a scene should have been very beautiful.

Yet because of Ran Sect's current predicament, the disciples found it hard to bear in their hearts.

This time, when all the forces under Ran Sect converged, it caused an earthquake in everyone's hearts!

The disciples naturally knew the Sect Leader was very strong, and also knew the deeds of The Pride of Da Xia.

But it wasn't until this time of escape that the disciples from the various regions of Holy Spirit Mountain realized the kind of great achievements the Sect Master had accomplished!

The disciples from Cloud Sea Cliff of East Jinshi encountered the Sea Battle Corps from Southern Sea-Jingxian Sect.

The citizens of the central continent's Forbidden City met the Long Xiang Cavalry from the southwest mountain region's Soul-locking Mountain.

Pear Garden Sect, Sky Sparrow Pavilion, Thousand Boat Alliance, Starry Valley...

Just how much did the first pride do for the fellow Human Clan?

But...

The young Sect Master was once so high-spirited, invincible, the ruler of Holy Spirit Mountain, the savior of all living beings.

Now, he could only flee to the sea for a moment of peace away from the world's clamor.

They hoped he wouldn't be beaten down.

The disciples dared not say more, only praying silently in their hearts.

They were still fantasizing that one day, the Sect Master would truly join the ranks of the Divine, and under Ran Shen's protection, they could return to the Human World.

To reunite with their families.

"Go down now," Jiang Ruyi gently ordered.

"Yes, my lady." Everyone responded and departed.

Lu Ran suddenly said, "After Mr. Cong Long's matter is resolved, I plan to make a trip to Tianhuang Mountain."

"Mm." Jiang Ruyi gently lowered her brow, "I'll go with you."

"You should go into seclusion to cultivate, to ascend to Sea Realm Fourth Rank soon."

"I... was once chased by people from Tianhuang Mountain, don't you remember?" Jiang Ruyi quickly found a suitable reason for herself.

Lu Ran was silent for a moment, then spoke, "Alright, after going to Tianhuang Mountain, return to seclusion. I'll go to each Evil Demon stronghold to cultivate the Evil Sculptures."

He already had a plan in his heart.

To advance to the Sea Realm-Peak, he must cultivate all the Evil Sculptures to the Heavenly Realm first.

Furthermore, Lu Ran needed to prepare more Evil Sculptures.

For instance, the Ghost Talisman Doll!

From the current perspective, the Evil Sculptures and Divine Sculptures can indeed merge, so naturally Lu Ran needed to prepare beforehand for little Ruyi.

At this time, in the Sculpture Garden, the Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture that Mr. Cong Long was merging with was too weak.

If Jiang Ruyi steps on the Jade Talisman Divine Sculpture of Heavenly Realm, then devours the Ghost Talisman Doll Evil Sculpture of the same realm...

Would her strength be able to reach the second level of the Heavenly Realm?

After the Ran Sect generals merged with stone sculptures, naturally they enhanced through Holy Spirit Energy.

The greatest difference appeared!

Soldiers can continue to cultivate, constantly purifying Holy Spirit Energy through divine power, but they can also directly devour evil spirits and dead souls, rapidly empowering themselves by plundering the origin power of God Demons!

The Divine Demon Sculpture Garden bestowed to Lu Ran by the Immortal Sheep, its true power...

Perhaps it would only be truly revealed after the fusion of the person and sculpture!

...

Chapter 824: Fire

Three days later.

At the eastern part of the Central Island among the seven islands of the Ran Sect, atop a cliff facing the sea, a few figures stood silently, gazing down at the coast below.

The cliff here was steep, at least thirty to forty meters above the sea level.

A mere thirty-some meters high, it was hardly enough to catch the eyes of the crowd.

Consider the Cloud Sea Cliff, which is eight hundred meters high! One could reach the stars and moon with a raised hand, and see raging waves and crashing surf below by lowering their gaze.

By comparison, this place is nothing.

Yet, this small sea cliff has an extraordinary name—Heaven's Edge.

A name just chosen by Lu Ran.

As the saying goes, a mountain does not need to be high; once a dragon is present, it becomes divine.

In this sea area thousands of kilometers away from the mainland, there are stationed over two thousand five hundred disciples of the Ran Sect from various regions of the Holy Spirit Mountain.

They have many identities.

For example, exiled residents of ruined cities.

Rebellious followers who abandoned divine beliefs.

To the executioners of the Heavenly Realm, here lie the remnants of Da Xia's genius, stragglers deserving to be crushed underfoot.

Yet, to Lu Ran, the fire of the Ran Sect burns here.

This fire,

is one that neither executioners of the Heavenly Realm nor the God Demon can extinguish.

Every living inhabitant on this island is upholding the Dao Heart of Da Xia's genius.

These people, striving to live well, objectively support and urge the soldiers of the Ran Sect to ascend step by step.

Lu Ran believes that one day, in this distant corner forgotten by the heavens, tall flames will ignite.

Spreading across the sky!

And that day is not such a distant future.

At Heaven's Edge, Lu Ran, Jiang Ruyi, and the Xuan Shuang Guard closely observed the shadow of Cong Long below, watching him continually create evil minions.

He Qifeng, who arrived early upon hearing the news, is also at the foot of the cliff, accompanying Yu Changsheng up close in creating a Great Demon of the Sea Realm.

She was surrounded by Yu Changsheng.

So many Yu Changshengs~

However, these beings had only beautiful shells but were expressionless.

He Yingcai's true love, on the other hand, had no physical body, merely a shadow...

The fusion of Divine Sculpture and Evil Sculpture has been successfully achieved.

It took Lu Ran and Yu Changsheng a full three days.

Thinking back on what he had been through these past days, Lu Ran could not help but wear a bitter expression.

When the two stone sculptures first merged, Lu Ran briefly fainted, illustrating the magnitude of the events in the Sculpture Garden!

In the following days, Lu Ran's mind buzzed incessantly, never finding peace.

He couldn't even enjoy Jiang Ruyi's lap pillow properly.

Fortunately, the result was good.

The weak Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture, under Lu Ran's command and guidance, willingly embraced its destiny with Yu Changsheng.

God and Demon share the same origin, two sides of the same coin.

They are essentially one whole, merely divided for various reasons.

Now, Yu Changsheng, uniting Dragon Carp and Mo Li, has finally become complete.

But the problem has also arisen!

After this fusion, both Yu Changsheng and Lu Ran remain uncertain if, should Feng Yan and the two generals become one, one of them would perish.

As someone directly involved, Yu Changsheng clearly states he feels whole.

The Dragon Carp Divine Sculpture is completely extinct, becoming a part of him.

Judging by the general situation, something seems amiss?

Lu Ran dares not act rashly and has resolved to wait until he advances to the Heavenly Realm, then consult with the Immortal Sheep before deciding.

As for the fusion of the Dragon Carp Divine Skill and the Mo Li Evil Technique, Yu Changsheng still needs time to research and experiment, planning to delve into it diligently after he finishes creating the Great Demon of the Sea Realm.

"Do you want to rest a bit before executing the mission?" Jiang Ruyi softly asked.

"It's already delayed for a long time, I'll rest when we return." Lu Ran shook his head, sending a mental transmission, [Sister He.]

[Sect Leader?] He Yingcai turned and looked up at the sea cliff.

[We're heading out on a mission, stay with Mr. Cong Long. Tell him to leave a body for himself.] Lu Ran instructed.

[Yes.] He Yingcai performed a formal salute.

Lu Ran raised his hand to cast a spell, sending a mental transmission again: [Evil Shadow, come.]

The Evil Shadow Guardian appeared silently, stepping into the mirror ahead of them.

With a single step, he reached Mist Rain Lake.

This step also made the Evil Shadow Guardian's body tense, feeling an overwhelming pressure.

"Little Master Lu." The woman's voice carried a trace of resentment, "Didn't you say you'd come right back?"

"I had some things to handle in between, apologies for making you wait, Aunt Bai." Lu Ran smiled apologetically.

Seeing this beautiful snake again, he couldn't help but sigh softly in his heart.

Lu Ran also feared Bai Rao's hopes would be dashed.

He was more worried that one day in the future, Bai Rao might "devour" He Qifeng.

Hmm...such an extreme scenario likely won't happen.

Not to mention that by then, Lu Ran's own strength will be considerable, and from the moment Bai Rao became a stone sculpture, she was already a puppet in Lu Ran's hands.

Under his control.

"Two seniors." Lu Ran spoke again, "I'm planning a trip to Tianhuang Mountain. Would you two like to stay here or enter my Treasure Gourd?"

"Why risk traveling?" Tu Feng's face was expressionless.

Tu Feng was willing to be a bodyguard for Lu Ran, but he believed that Lu Ran should find a secluded place to close himself off and cultivate.

Now the Mountain Realm is in turmoil, executioners are running rampant.

How can Lu Ran be allowed to run around aimlessly?

"Senior Tu should also be able to infer that devouring the dead souls of human believers and demonic minions and seizing the Holy Spirit Energy that belongs to the God Demons are critical ways for me to grow," Lu Ran's words were concise and to the point.

Tu Feng nodded thoughtfully.

Certain intelligence had always been unspoken by Lu Ran, but Tu Feng's mind had indeed reached this conclusion long ago.

Bai Rao's eyes flickered, her bright red tongue couldn't help but lick her lips, carrying a hint of bloodthirst: "Then I really should help young Master Lu properly."

Lu Ran's terrifying methods had an uncanny resemblance to the evil technique of the Jade-faced Snake clan's Heaven-swallowing Immortal Python.

Whenever the Jade-faced Snake clan unleashed this ultimate move, they could swallow the enemy's flesh and dead souls into their stomachs.

Unfortunately, Bai Rao was not qualified to use the devoured Holy Spirit Energy, unable to cultivate and enhance herself.

All resources were stored for the Evil God, Master Jade-faced Snake.

Until one day, when Bai Rao dies, her soul will return with all the Holy Spirit Energy she has devoured to the embrace of the Evil God.

Lu Ran, however, was different.

He had no shackles, no exploitation.

He could freely use and cultivate the Holy Spirit Energy, just like a deity!

"Aunt Bai, the Ran Sect has its rules. When facing heinous evildoers, no means are too cruel for us..."

Lu Ran spoke solemnly, explaining the sect's rules.

"Yes, I understand," Bai Rao's eyes flickered, looking at this unique young man.

To achieve great things, one should not be bound by trifles.

However, in this cruel world, among a group of cold-blooded beings, such a presence being suddenly found was really...

Quite good~

The most ruthless are the imperial families.

From a follower's perspective, Lu Ran's style made his subordinates feel at ease.

Looking at the dangerous woman before him, Lu Ran still felt uneasy and decided to say, "If the two seniors come with me, then please enter the gourd. If something happens, I'll ask for your help anytime."

Tu Feng had no more words, he stood up and walked toward Lu Ran.

Bai Rao wanted to say more, but seeing Lu Ran's serious face, she wisely decided to drop it.

A woman's intuition is sharper, she vaguely sensed that Lu Ran's firm attitude might be because Jiang Ruyi was nearby?

As Lu Ran tilted his head to gulp down the Divine Power, Bai Rao looked at the Lady of Ran Sect.

Jiang Ruyi tried hard to maintain her composure, forbidding her phoenix robe from acting up.

Bai Rao approached slowly, smiling broadly: "I call you Lady, and you, along with Little Lu, can call me Aunt Bai, alright?"

The situation being what it was, it was time to establish a good relationship with the girl.

Jiang Ruyi was a bit surprised, then quickly realized the subtlety in this olive branch from a master of the Heavenly Realm. She lightly nodded: "Aunt Bai."

Considering Bai Rao's contributions to the Ran Sect and her protection of Lu Ran, Jiang Ruyi also willingly called her that.

"Good, Aunt Bai cares for you too~" Bai Rao smiled and naturally took Jiang Ruyi's hand, carefully examining the girl's ethereal beauty, "Truly gorgeous, so very likable."

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

Likeable?

She didn't think that the Xuan Shuang Guard standing slightly behind was any less competent than herself.

Yet from beginning to end, Bai Rao hadn't spared a second glance at the Xuan Shuang Guard.

"Here~" Bai Rao suddenly raised her hand, plucking an embroidery needle from her high-piled hair, "Since Little Lu won't let Aunt Bai stay close, I'll temporarily lend you this needle to help you in your mission."

She placed the less than an inch long, thin embroidery needle into Jiang Ruyi's hand: "Presumably, you need to gather intelligence first."

This needle can silently pierce through the enemy's Water Flow Armor and merge into their minds, controlling their consciousness."

Jiang Ruyi's eyes narrowed slightly.

Such magical artifact effects were indeed somewhat terrifying.

Nearby, Lu Ran also put down the gourd, no longer gulping.

Bai Rao turned to look at Lu Ran, her mouth slightly raised: "So you should be wary of someone like me; the first time we met, you shouldn't have let me approach so easily."

Lu Ran: "..."

"Remember, you mustn't easily trust anyone in the future." Bai Rao's smile grew wider.

Lu Ran nodded silently.

In fact, during the meeting outside the hall at Tiangang City, Lu Ran had consulted a Bright Moon Fox Heart before entering the hall with composure.

But he didn't explain, instead just picking up the Treasure Gourd and pointing it at the seductive snake.

Bai Rao felt a suction force, but she did not resist, allowing her body to gradually shrink until it was absorbed into the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

Lu Ran then turned the Treasure Gourd toward Tu Feng.

"She's right in reminding you," Jiang Ruyi twisted the embroidery needle with her fingers, able to discern it's a powerful second-rank magical artifact.

Lu Ran was indeed strong, but in this world, the effects of Divine Weapons and magical artifacts were bizarre and enchanting!

Who could guarantee they wouldn't flip in the gutter?

"Oh." Lu Ran still didn't explain and instead said, "Let's destroy this place before we leave."

"I rarely get a chance to unleash my ultimate move."

"The Angry Thunder Burning Fire Formation?" Lu Ran thought of the River Realm Technique of the Jade Talisman Sect.

He then suddenly remembered that the ultimate move of the Ghost Talisman Doll clan was the Evil Technique: Cold Ice Flowing Sand Array!

In the future, when this divine and evil skill merge...

What a blast that would be!

...

Chapter 825: Return to Ten Thousand Blade Mountain

Mist Rain Lake ushered in a natural disaster.

The clouds churned in the sky, continuously struck by lightning; the ground of the islands trembled, and pillars of fire spewed forth.

Jade Talisman Sect's River Realm Technique-Raging Thunder Fire Formation!

Cast by Jiang Ruyi, naturally it was of Sea Grade, centered around her, destroying everything within ten thousand meters.

Heavenly Thunder and Earthly Fire made no distinction between friend and foe, with astonishing destructive power!

Everyone knew the Jade Talisman Sect was a late-game player, and now, Lu Ran personally witnessed a "Divine Technique" that could destroy the world!

"Let's go," Jiang Ruyi floated over, softly whispering.

This spell requires the caster to maintain it, even though Jiang Ruyi had stopped, the dense clouds in the sky hadn't dispersed, and the ground still trembled.

Clearly, the Raging Thunder Fire Formation had some inertia and would take a while to completely halt.

Lu Ran looked at the scene behind her and sighed inwardly.

Jiang Ruyi understood Lu Ran very well. She flew to Lu Ran's side, turned to look at the destroyed Qianzhou Islands: "Don't be too attached to material things."

Mist Rain Lake had picturesque scenery, the islands were dotted with numerous well-crafted buildings.

If an executioner saw such a large-scale architectural group here, with no one inside, they would inevitably have some other thoughts.

Jiang Ruyi gently took Lu Ran's arm: "When your mission is completed one day, you can rebuild this place."

Lu Ran remained silent, raising his hand to cast a spell.

A Landing Mirror formed, and Lu Jiang, along with the Evil Shadow Guardian and Xuan Shuang Guard, quickly departed.

After a brief transfer, the group returned to Ten Thousand Blade Mountain after a long time.

The setting sun fell on the long river, with sandstorms swirling.

Even though it was already dusk, the Great Desert remained hot, with waves of heat that choked the breath.

The rapidly changed natural environment was somewhat difficult for the people to adapt to.

Lu Ran was quite adaptable.

He possessed Dark Incineration Magic·Dark Incineration Body!

In battle, Lu Ran was immune to all fire attribute techniques; in survival, he ignored all high-temperature environments.

Reaching into his cloak, he took out a Blood Crystal Mask and put it on, his gaze sweeping over towering stone pillars, looking into the distance:

"That grandest mountain must be Tianhuang Mountain."

Tianhuang Mountain was indeed easy to spot.

In the seemingly endless terrain of Ten Thousand Blade Mountain, a towering mountain rose abruptly, making it stand out.

The endless stone pillars formed a natural barrier, shielding Tianhuang Mountain from the sandstorm's intrusions.

In the desert environment, this mountain was undoubtedly an excellent place to establish a base.

Jiang Ruyi pondered for a moment and handed the Divine Weapon·Cold Night Sword to Lu Ran: "Go invisible."

"Hmm?"

"For this mission, should I lead?"

"Sure," Lu Ran naturally had no objections, casually taking the Cold Night Sword, "Just like during our high school years."

Back in those days, it seemed so far away.

In fact, it was only two or three years ago.

"Buzzing~" The Cold Night Sword hilt trembled with excitement the moment it touched his hand.

The sword spirit's energy surfaced, conveying deep longing.

Lu Ran froze for a moment, then felt a little guilty.

He gripped the hilt with one hand, his other hand stroking the blade, soothing the turbulent emotions of the Cold Night Sword.

All along, Lu Ran and Jiang Ruyi hadn't truly been apart, but in recent months, both had been indeed very busy.

The usually obedient Cold Night Sword had even fewer opportunities to be with Lu Ran.

Lu Ran felt genuinely guilty, having almost forgotten about such an existence that silently longed for him.

Previously, Big Nightmare said Lu Ran was flirtatious everywhere.

Though joking, it wasn't completely baseless.

Lu Ran knew that those who often thought of him were not just this forgotten Cold Night Sword but also his many classmates, comrades... and many people within the Ran Sect.

Thinking of this, he felt a bit happy~

What's a charm demon?

I've devoted so much, it's only right to think of me!

"Don't let your feet touch the ground; it's easy to be discovered by the Shanwei disciples." Jiang Ruyi handed over an embroidery needle, advising, "Also, don't rashly climb the mountain.

First, explore the foot of the mountain, capture a prisoner if possible, and inquire about the situation."

From afar, the Tianhuang Mountain sect didn't seem to have suffered any blow.

But Jiang Ruyi still wanted to act cautiously, if there was a Heavenly Realm-Executioner among them, they would have to reconsider.

"Got it," Lu Ran replied sullenly, clutching the embroidery needle, his figure vanishing without a trace.

"Evil Shadow, keep watch all around and act stealthily," Jiang Ruyi ordered neatly, "Xuan Shuang, create a cave."

Yan Shuangzi instantly teleported away, while Leng Xushuang immediately drew the Divine Weapon-Beauty Sword.

The sword tip pierced the solid desert ground like slicing through tofu, quickly excavating a small cave.

The sun gradually set.

Jiang Ruyi sat calmly in the underground cave, without disturbing Lu Ran, she remained closely linked to the Cold Night Sword, constantly monitoring Lu Ran's situation.

She realized that Tianhuang Mountain was not as peaceful as it seemed.

This place seemed to have weathered a storm?

Tianhuang Mountain was a sect established by Second-class God-West Desolation's disciple, its comprehensive strength ought to match Thunder Mountain, Sword Ridge Peak, and other sects.

However, Tianhuang Mountain's defensive forces were not as abundant as expected.

Suddenly, Jiang Ruyi opened her eyes, as Lu Ran returned with the Cold Night Sword, immediately finding the cave.

Lu Ran revealed himself, casually picking up a Treasure Gourd, letting the little Blazing Phoenix spit out a prisoner.

This was a rugged man, appearing not young, with a tall and strong physique that fit the stereotype of West Desolation disciples.

Currently, the man looked dazed, with empty eyes, seemingly having lost his soul.

"Come." Jiang Ruyi gently beckoned with her hand.

Suddenly, a thin embroidery needle shot out from the man's forehead, flying back to the space between Jiang Ruyi's two fingers.

Such a scene could not help but make people silently marvel.

What a terrifying magic artifact!

However, this magic artifact could only control the target's actions; it couldn't force the target to speak the truth directly.

If Jiang Ruyi wanted information, she still needed to interrogate personally.

"You... you all... ah!" The rough man slowly regained his senses, immediately consumed by terror.

All three people in the cave were from the vast Yangyang Sea!

The rough man was merely at the River Realm Peak. In his shock and dread, he couldn't help but think, "Why the hell do I deserve this?"

Shooting a cannon at a mosquito was already overkill.

But using three cannons?

"I ask, you answer," Jiang Ruyi said calmly.

The rough man instinctively looked in the direction of the voice, and in an instant, his entire being trembled, as if his soul were being fiercely scorched. He hurriedly lowered his head.

With the Feng Yi Nine Heavens Robe, also a second-rank magic artifact, how could a lowly creature be allowed to look directly at its master?

Jiang Ruyi asked, "Recently, has any Great Power from the Heavenly Realm visited Tianhuang Mountain?"

"Yes, someone has," the rough man responded shakily.

As soon as he finished speaking, the temperature in the cave plummeted!

Jiang Ruyi said coldly, "Who was it? Which sect's disciple? And why does Tianhuang Mountain still exist?"

"He was... our previous sect master of Tianhuang Mountain, named Jiao... Jiao Lieshan."

"He didn't destroy Tianhuang Mountain?"

"No, he didn't! Sect Master Jiao was looking for Da Xia's genius, but there were no geniuses in the mountain by then. There had been one earlier, but no one knows where they went..."

Lu Ran's expression was gloomy.

If Xue Fengchen were still at Tianhuang Mountain, he would surely have died without a burial place!

Lu Ran said in a deep voice, "Having not found a genius, Jiao Lieshan just left so easily?"

"Sect Master Jiao chopped up many divine weapons and magic artifacts within the sect, took away a portion of the disciples, and all the scouts in the mountain... only then did he leave."

"Chopped up the divine weapons and magic artifacts?" Lu Ran was quite shocked.

Even if Sect Master Jiao were to rob the inner disciples, Lu Ran could accept that.

But why chop them up?

"Sect Master Jiao's Divine Weapon Axe lived to destroy other divine weapons and magic artifacts! This was how he advanced!"

The rough man tremblingly said, "Back then, when Sect Master Jiao dominated Tianhuang Mountain, the sect had only one divine weapon axe in his hand."

Lu Ran: "..."

"Now that Sect Master Jiao has returned, the several divine weapons and magic artifacts Tianhuang Mountain acquired over the years have been harvested by him again! Even the current sect master's two Xuanhua Axes were chopped to pieces."

Damn it, that's simply a waste of heavenly resources!

Lu Ran cursed silently.

He was still planning, on this trip to Tianhuang Mountain, to get a Divine Weapon Axe for Xue Fengchen!

Well, now that's out of the question.

But come to think of it, the Divine Weapon Axe in Jiao Lieshan's hand should be quite powerful, right?

If there's a chance in the future, could he let Feng Shenjiang have a go with it?

"When did Jiao Lieshan leave?" Jiang Ruyi inquired.

"Not... not exactly sure, could be a month or two ago."

Jiang Ruyi gently nodded: "Currently, how many disciples do you have left in Tianhuang Mountain, and how many Sea Realm experts?"

"There are eleven Sea Realm Great Powers left, and over a hundred River Realm disciples..."

"What about servants?"

"Around twenty to thirty."

"Hmm?" Jiang Ruyi frowned slightly, "So few?"

"Tianhuang Mountain never had many servants, and some were taken away by Sect Master Jiao before..."

With the rough man's words, Jiang Ruyi recalled that Tianhuang Mountain had always had few servants.

Because the consumption was too large.

The disciples of the West Desolation Sect were mostly rampant and domineering, completely letting loose after arriving at Holy Spirit Mountain.

And disciples from other sects were inherently enemies. No matter how humbly they submitted, their life and death were entirely subject to the whims of the West Desolation disciples.

Jiang Ruyi contemplated for a moment and asked, "Is there anything else you can tell me?"

"My lord!" The rough man seemed to catch the meaning in the girl's words, and hastily said, "I know everything!"

"Do you want to take down Tianhuang Mountain? I can be your front-runner, I've been at Tianhuang Mountain for one or two decades, I have a certain amount of influence..."

One or two decades, he had enjoyed enough.

Jiang Ruyi slightly lifted her eyes and looked at Leng Xushuang.

"Hoo!" The beauty wielded the White Rainbow Sword, releasing a slash of ice sword energy.

"No..." In the nick of time, the rough man turned his whole body into a yellow sand form.

West Desolate Divine Skill-Western Wilderness Body!

Unfortunately, the West Desolation Sect's most proud defense technique couldn't withstand this sword energy.

What does it matter if it's the River Realm Peak?

In front of a Sea Realm Great Power, there's no room for resistance.

The yellow sand form was instantly cut in two, turned back into a flesh and blood body, and was soaked in ice frost. Not even a drop of blood flowed from the severed bones.

Lu Ran silently watched this scene.

After a few short seconds, the West Desolation Divine Sculpture in his mind buzzed and tremored.

...

Chapter 826: Blood-Red Setting Sun

The wind and sand swept by, revealing the desolation of Tianhuang Mountain.

At the foot of the mountain and at its waist, corpses were scattered haphazardly, crimson blood flowing constantly from fatal wounds, soaking the ground.

The setting sun further accentuated the melancholy.

In an underground tunnel near the mountaintop, a mysterious young man in a straw raincoat was holding a blade, pinning a Tianhuang Mountain guard to the stone wall.

The guard had already lost his breath, yet his eyes remained wide open, filled with terror.

As if he had seen something horrifying before his death.

With a "thud,"

the young man in the straw raincoat stepped back and withdrew his knife, causing the corpse pinned to the wall to collapse to the ground, joining another guard in becoming a dead soul.

Lu Ran adjusted the blood crystal mask with one hand and turned to look at the living quarters behind him, where more than ten people were trembling with fear.

"Come." Lu Ran picked up the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd and aimed it at the dozen or so slaves.

Yangyang Sea, a raging aura.

The people were filled with despair, but they dared not disobey, only moving forward shakily.

Lu Ran frowned slightly, speaking softly: "Hurry up."

His condition was not very good, his brain constantly buzzing.

In the Sculpture Garden, the trembling West Desolate Stone Sculpture was one of the few River Realm sculptures Lu Ran possessed, only at the Fourth Rank River Realm.

After this trip to Tianhuang Mountain, the Blazing Phoenix General could finally upgrade its equipment to match its realm with appropriate Divine Techniques.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran suddenly turned his head.

The Evil Shadow Guardian quietly appeared, reaching out an arm: "Master, the dead souls."

Yan Shuangzi summoned Rebirth Money, and three dead souls emerged. She continued, "In a mountain residence, I found four more servants."

Lu Ran picked up the Treasure Gourd and handed it over casually: "Collect them all, continue."

The River Grade Third Rank Evil Dog effortlessly carried out investigations and assassinations.

Lu Yan and the others were wreaking havoc within the mountain, searching and slaughtering along the way, leaving no target unscathed.

The scenes at Tianhuang Mountain matched perfectly with this twilight moment.

The sun was setting.

"Who goes there?"

"Enemy attack! Enemy attack!!"

As time slowly passed, Tianhuang Mountain finally descended into chaos. The Ran Sect squad was eventually exposed, as the scattered corpses inevitably drew attention.

It was of little consequence.

The West Desolation Sect was not known for speed; none of them could escape.

Lu Ran's figure became invisible as he emerged from the underground cave, ascending to the mountaintop.

He discovered that the recently chaotic Tianhuang Mountain had suddenly quieted down somewhat.

Following the gazes of the people, Lu Ran looked up at the western sky.

The setting sun was like blood.

Amidst the blood-red silhouette stood a tall figure.

The woman's face was legendary and stunning, though indistinct against the backdrop of the sunset.

The large phoenix robe draping her body was also deep red like blood, adorned with beautiful phoenix patterns emitting a faint golden glow.

The expressions of those present varied; some were astonished, others terrified.

More than a few were too intimidated to fight, despite being in their own stronghold and facing the invaders, kneeling and bowing shakily.

As if worshiping a deity.

The Phoenix Garment of Nine Heavens did its name justice, indeed majestic and commanding, intimidating all living beings and decimating the souls of all things.

"This...this..."

In front of a stone building, a middle-aged man widened his eyes.

The horror in his heart actually overshadowed the damage caused by the Phoenix Garment of Nine Heavens.

The man stared dumbfounded at the woman in the phoenix robe, his mind full of the period a year and a half ago when she first entered the mountain.

Junior sister?

The fiancée of Da Xia's foremost genius, a Jade Talisman disciple with an inherent halo.

"Surrender." The woman in the phoenix robe looked down upon all beings, her cold voice echoing across the sky, full of authority.

Just as Jiang Ruyi intended to say more, her eyes suddenly focused.

She too saw the middle-aged man.

Wasn't he the Jade Talisman disciple who entered the mountain with her?

What was his name again?

Mon...Mon...

Jiang Ruyi had already forgotten his name, remembering only that she used to call him Senior Brother Meng.

She recalled how he assumed leadership due to his seniority, attempting to morally coerce and manipulate her, and undermine her contributions to the team, suppressing her emergence.

Back then, Jiang Ruyi hadn't yet shifted her mindset, with no intention of assuming any leadership role.

She just wanted to find Lu Ran.

But her very existence was a threat; her great strength and immense influence aroused fear in those with ulterior motives, blocking someone's path.

Jiang Ruyi either had to submit and work for them or leave in disgrace.

The Jade Talisman team could not accommodate her.

Suppressing her anger all the way, Jiang Ruyi eventually confronted him.

She was indeed expected to do things befitting the fiancée of Da Xia's foremost genius.

But that didn't mean she was weak and easily bullied.

Times had changed, and the two met again...

Back then, the squad leader Song Yu whom Senior Brother Meng desperately sought to recruit had now become the Hall Master of Ran Sect's Feixian Hall.

The once deeply intimidating junior sister had also found her place, becoming the Lady of Ran Sect.

Transforming into the Yangyang Sea.

At this moment, she stood in the air, hovering above Tianhuang Mountain, overlooking the entire Sect.

Jiang Ruyi quietly watched Senior Brother Meng, the look of reminiscence in her eyes gradually fading, leaving only cold indifference.

It seems Senior Brother Meng was doing quite well.

Despite being a disciple of another sect, he had firmly established himself at Tianhuang Mountain.

Senior Brother Meng was still wearing his exquisite white robe, exuding an aura of immortality, and should not have been classified as a servant.

[Do you know that person?] Jiang Ruyi's mind was suddenly imprinted with the voice of a young man.

[Kind of.]

"Who are you, daring to invade my Tianhuang Mountain?!" A voice exploded at the mountain's peak, interrupting the conversation between Lu Jiang.

Beneath the phoenix robe, all beings were supposed to lower their eyes.

But there were always those with strong power, unwilling to bow their heads in submission.

A burly man hefted the long-handled battle axe in his hand. It was evident that his palm trembled slightly, clearly being scorched by the phoenix robe's soul-burning aura.

Yet his eyes remained fervent, greedily eyeing the magnificent phoenix robe.

"Hoo~"

A gust of wind and sand blew by.

The wide phoenix robe swayed gently, appearing even more regal, continuously suppressing all beings in this realm.

The burly man's eyes were full of covetousness as he clenched his battle axe: "You picked the wrong place to act presumptuously..."

Before he finished speaking, his expression changed dramatically!

"Crack!!"

The sound of the Water Flow Armor shattering was extremely piercing.

The burly man froze on the spot, his throat brutally torn open, torrents of blood gushing out.

"Desolate Mountain!"

"Desolate Mountain Hall Master?!" Shouts of astonishment echoed, as everyone's faces turned to horror, feeling a spine-chilling fear.

A Hall Master in the Sea Realm, Fourth Rank, was actually killed with his throat cut so easily?

In a place unseen by others, more precisely, right behind the Desolate Mountain Hall Master, stood a young man in rain gear.

He quietly descended behind the Desolate Mountain Hall Master, while his left hand pressed on the opponent's back, five thin silk threads extended from his fingertips.

Tethering Silk controls the body.

Tangled Silk confuses the mind.

At the same time, the young man in rain gear infused his right hand with Fierce Heavenly Power, holding the Third Rank Divine Weapon · Eight Desolate Blade, pressed against the opponent's throat, slashing fiercely!

The sharp blade tore through the Desolate Mountain Hall Master's Water Flow Armor, directly slicing through his throat.

"Puff!"

Great jets of blood gushed out, yet the Desolate Mountain Hall Master remained motionless.

He was not even allowed to raise his hand to cover the wound.

"Who's there?"

"Damn, who?" Amidst the growing chaos, a thick sandstorm rose over Tianhuang Mountain.

West Desolate Divine Skill · Floating Sand!

This skill, at River Grade and below, could only kick up yellow sand in front, obscuring the enemy's vision.

Beyond River Grade, West Desolation disciples could raise terrifying sandstorms, covering the sky and perceiving everything within.

Truthfully, if a sandstorm had been constantly raging on the mountain, Lu Ran and the others wouldn't have been discovered so late.

"Ah!"

"No... ugh."

"Ahhhh!" As the sky-covering sandstorm surged forth, blood-curdling screams echoed from all directions on the mountain.

The sound of Water Flow Armor breaking, and the explosion of sand bodies, continued endlessly.

"Fellow Daoist, please halt!" The Tianhuang Sect Master shouted angrily, both shocked and furious.

Within the sky-covering sandstorm, he realized that two figures were flashing around, taking lives.

Moreover, arcs of blade swept everywhere, shattering everything in their path...

The Tianhuang Sect Master didn't know what had happened to the world.

Everything seemed to have changed.

Just one or two months ago, the previous Sect Master, who had already ascended to the Heavenly Realm, unexpectedly returned to the Mountain Realm.

Jiao Lie Mountain descended on Tianhuang Mountain without any warning, saying he was looking for Da Xia's genius.

How could people in the Sea Realm be a match for a great power in the Heavenly Realm?

The Tianhuang Sect Master didn't dare to offer any resistance, could only watch helplessly as Jiao Lie Mountain chopped up everyone's Divine Weapon and took away a large number of disciples and scouts.

And now, a mysterious woman arrived.

Was this excessively young woman the so-called genius of Da Xia?

Were those two even more mysterious teleporters the ones Jiao Lie Mountain was looking for?!

The Tianhuang Sect Master sadly realized that he couldn't resist Jiao Lie Mountain, the great power of the Heavenly Realm, and similarly couldn't resist the invasion of these mysterious people.

They had even cut the throat of a Sea Realm Hall Master right under his nose!

And that was a Hall Master of the Sea Realm, Fourth Rank...

What had happened to the world?

"Rumble!"

The ground shook, and endless yellow sand surged beneath the feet of the West Desolation disciples, spreading in all directions, trying to save themselves and bury the enemies shuttling about.

Unfortunately, against the Instant Teleportation Technique, the surging sand had very little effect.

"Whoosh~ whoosh~"

The woman in the phoenix robe, standing in the sky, threw down pieces of White Jade Stone.

In an instant, flames erupted throughout the battlefield, ferocious fires spread widely, explosions ceaselessly echoing.

"Gods above! May the gods bless us..."

Jade Talisman disciple · Meng Zhixuan was filled with terror, the Jade Talisman Formation swirling around him, taking off early to hastily escape the area.

Yet, just as he flew out of the sandstorm's range, he caught sight of beautiful figures.

With the scattering plum blossoms, those fleeting shadows seemed dreamlike.

Could this be...

The Evil Technique of the Ice Plum Demon Queen's clan?

Meng Zhixuan suddenly turned his gaze, just in time to see a woman in a white dress turning her head to look at him.

Seeing her raise her long sword, Meng Zhixuan hurriedly shouted loudly:

"I have a history with Sister Jiang! I know Jiang Ruyi! I....."

...

Chapter 827: Disrespect

On Tianhuang Mountain, chaos reigned.

Amidst the dense sandstorm, terrifying explosions echoed continuously, a sea of fire raging wildly.

"Damn it!" The Sect Master of Tianhuang Mountain's face turned ashen.

The disciples of Tianhuang were perishing one after another, slaughtered by mysterious figures darting around, swallowed wholly by the raging sea of fire...

The West Desolation Sect, known as the kings of close combat.

The disciples of this sect possess immensely powerful strength, with astounding defensive power in their sandy bodies, a sand sea vast enough to engulf all beings...

They have many strengths, but their weaknesses are also obvious:

No long-range output skills.

Nor do they have flight capabilities.

The woman in the phoenix robe above just kept bombing the sect mercilessly.

The River Realm disciples were unable to withstand such an assault, let alone the Sea Realm Hall Masters being slaughtered until they couldn't even lift their heads, left exhausted to cope.

"Boom!"

Suddenly, the solid ground changed nature, transforming into a turbulent Mud Flow River.

Sand whips whipped out, thrashing and lashing at everyone.

The West Desolation Sect indeed could tread on the sand, not buried alive by the Mud Flow River, but this wide Mud Flow River blocked everyone's path to escape underground.

Nowhere to go above, no doors below.

The people of Tianhuang Mountain, like pigs and dogs being reared, were being slaughtered en masse.

"You! You... ahhhh!"

The Sect Master of Tianhuang Mountain was furious beyond belief, the energy within him swirling, and the surging sand beneath him became even more ferocious.

West Desolate Divine Skill·West Desolate Sand Sea!

"Whoosh~"

Suddenly, a sand whip struck, binding the waist of the Tianhuang Sect Master, forcefully dragging him towards the ground.

The Sect Master of Tianhuang thrust his hand downward, tightly grabbing the sand whip, and ferociously tore it apart.

"Boom!"

The Sect Master of Tianhuang stomped heavily on the ground, the sand rising like a wave, charging straight towards the woman in the phoenix robe in the sky.

"Hmm?" Jiang Ruyi murmured a slight doubt.

She too was shrouded by the sandstorm, unable to see anything.

However, when the peak of the sand sea was within a hundred meters of her, her Divine Weapon and Magic Artifacts immediately perceived the battlefield situation, naturally informing their owner at the first moment.

It must be known, at this time, everyone on Tianhuang Mountain was in constant danger.

At any moment someone could be engulfed by the sea of fire, assassinated by mysterious figures, the disciples fleeing frantically or struggling to hold on.

And yet, at this moment, someone chose to fight to the death?

There was indeed a trace of bloodthirstiness.

"Buzz!" The sword hanging by Jiang Ruyi's waist suddenly began to buzz.

In the slightly ancient scabbard, sheathed a blood-red, extraordinarily magnificent Blood Crystal Sword.

The sword named Blood Flame!

This was a second-rank Divine Weapon, previously belonging to the former Sect Master of the Pear Garden Sect, and was seized by Lu Ran, who then gifted it to the Lady of the Ran Sect.

Since following its new master, the Blood Flame Sword had not yet had an opportunity to show its prowess.

Now with the fierce surge of the sand sea tide, its unique form bore quite a resemblance to the Divine Weapon Domain of the Blood Flame Sword.

Jiang Ruyi originally intended to avoid it, but the sword by her waist suddenly volunteered, inciting a stirring in her heart.

Hmm... very well.

Then let this end faster.

Jiang Ruyi was decisive, immediately drawing the second-rank Divine Weapon·Blood Flame Sword, the energy within her surging vastly.

"Buzz!!"

The Blood Flame Sword trembled violently, also unexpected that its master would give such a face, allowing it to battle.

It immediately synchronized its mind with its master, blood-colored flames igniting on the sword.

"Whoosh!"

The sand sea tide approached fiercely, determined to completely crush the woman running rampant in the sky.

"Whoosh!!"

Jiang Ruyi wielded the sword and slashed down hard, a series of impressive waves of blood fire were swept downward.

Divine Weapon Domain·Blood Flame Burning River!

The scorching waves of blood fire, with the force to incinerate all, collided heavily with the West Desolate Sand Sea.

Yellow sand extinguishes fire.

Blood fire burns sand.

The two forces seemed to be evenly matched.

That couldn't be allowed?!

The Blood Flame Sword became a bit anxious!

Making its debut, how could this performance be justified?

Indeed, the Sect Master of Tianhuang is at the peak of the Sea Realm, and the skills he employed were at the pinnacle within the Sea Grade, but...

"Whoosh!!"

The blood fire tide became even more fierce.

A dignified second-rank Divine Weapon, blessed with enormous fortune, thereby gained understanding of the Divine Weapon Domain, how could it be inferior to ordinary skills?

On the Mud Flow River, the Sect Master of Tianhuang looked vicious, tightly bound by several sand whips.

"Ahhh!" The Sect Master of Tianhuang struggled fiercely, shattering the sand whips.

He stomped heavily on the sand, the sand sea tide crashing in layers.

Suddenly, the Sect Master of Tianhuang's expression changed!

In his perception, a figure appeared behind him.

Feeling as if pricked by needles, the Sect Master of Tianhuang instinctively activated his Divine Technique, transforming into a sandy body.

However, the youth in the cloak behind him did not wield a blade to slash, but extended a hand instead?

From his fingertips, it seemed several threads were emerging...

Sect Master of Tianhuang: !!!

The next instant, he realized what those threads were.

Tethering Silk?!

This... what's this?

In the standoff between sand sea and blood fire, it was already a losing battle.

With the arrival of the Tethering Silk, the energy within the Sect Master of Tianhuang surged chaotically, and the replenishment to the West Desolate Sand Sea was inadequate, leaving him utterly unable to resist.

The scorching wave of bloodfire burned and scattered the Sand Sea, surging from the sky...

Lu Ran remained expressionless, his fingertips gently flicking.

The red thread carried the "Sand Man" into the air, to meet the bloodfire wave.

"Ah! Ah! Ah!" The Sect Master of Tianhuang struggled fiercely. As one at the peak of the Sea Realm, if given enough time, he might indeed break free from the binding of the Tethering Silk.

After all, Lu Ran was at the High Rank of the Sea Realm and couldn't perfectly control a Great Power at the Sea Realm Peak.

But, did the Sect Master of Tianhuang have any time left?

The bloodfire wave had arrived!

"Ah! Ahhh! Ah..." The Sect Master of Tianhuang screamed miserably, his tall and burly body madly switching between the forms of yellow sand and flesh.

Lu Ran used the Sect Master of Tianhuang as a meat shield, blocking the bloodfire wave, while his other hand suddenly released the Divine Weapon Blade and reached towards the side.

His fingertips tested the bloodfire.

It seemed... no problem?

Although the color of the bloodfire was somewhat special and it originated from the Divine Weapon Domain, it was essentially a fire element output.

As long as it was fire, it could not harm Lu Ran!

"Heh." Lu Ran's lips curved slightly, and his entire hand reached into the bloodfire wave.

As if washing away the bloodstains on his hand.

But the more he washed, the thicker the blood became.

While he washed his hands with bloodfire, the Sect Master of Tianhuang, who was being lifted in mid-air, was completely consumed by the bloodfire.

No bones remained.

...

The sun set and the moon rose, stars dotted the sky.

Under the night sky, Tianhuang Mountain no longer had its majestic appearance of yore, having been utterly destroyed.

At the foot of the mountain, a middle-aged man in a white robe trembled as he knelt on the ground, no longer possessing the demeanor of an immortal.

Before him stood a woman in a phoenix robe, her gaze indifferent, quietly watching him.

"Junior sister... junior..." Meng Zhixuan's body trembled, sensing waves of terrifying pressure approaching, he hastily changed his address, "Jiang... My dear lady, you misunderstood me back then!"

I just wanted to help our Jade Talisman squad survive better, to complete the tasks assigned by Lord Jade Talisman."

Jiang Ruyi remained silent.

The Phoenix Attire of the Nine Heavens draped over her body repeatedly informed its owner of the lies from the person before her.

The words were all falsehoods.

Even the address "junior sister" was against his will.

"My lady, it was my fault for my wrong methods and inadequate words and actions back then that led to your misunderstanding and grievances..."

Jiang Ruyi's gaze was cold as she looked at the man who was still arguing.

Back then, was Meng Zhixuan at the Third Rank of the River Realm?

And she was at the Fourth Rank of the River Realm.

Indeed, there was a gap in power, but Meng Zhixuan was undoubtedly one of the frontline fighters in the Jade Talisman squad.

And now, she was at the Third Rank of the Sea Realm.

Was Meng Zhixuan at the Fourth Rank of the River Realm... or at the peak of the River Realm?

It didn't matter.

A former opponent, now looked upon, seemed pitifully weak.

"For the sake of fellow disciples! Yu... Lord Jade Talisman above, forgive me this once! We still have to complete the tasks assigned by Lord Jade Talisman... Ah!"

Meng Zhixuan cried out in surprise as a sharp sword suddenly fell, piercing the ground before him.

"Shut up!" Cold Xu Shuang stabbed the Beauty Sword down, her face covered with frost.

Through the lady's reaction and the man's words, Xuan Shuang Guard naturally realized she had been deceived.

This person wasn't a teammate of the lady?

What old ties, he once harmed the lady instead!

Cold Xu Shuang wished she could turn back time and slaughter this shameless person the moment she saw him to avoid him being an eyesore to the lady.

"Madam, we got the information." Yan Shuangzi suddenly appeared beside Jiang Ruyi. "According to the confessions of the Weak God Disciples, this person was a favorite of the Sect Master, always aiding the sect in capturing slaves.

Several Weak God Disciples in his gourd were captured because of his Electric Shackles Talisman..."

Jiang Ruyi finally spoke: "Gather your energy to the brain and destroy the contract."

Meng Zhixuan was taken aback, taking several seconds to grasp the meaning of Jiang Ruyi's words.

His face gradually turned pale and he stammered, "Junior sister... my lady! We are fellow disciples, we should not harm each other!

We all owe our gratitude to Lord Jade Talisman, and we need to collect Holy Spirit Energy for Lord Jade Talisman..."

"Evil Shadow."

"My lady?"

"Help him break the contract." Jiang Ruyi instructed softly, turning to look at Lu Ran in the distance, and started walking.

"As you command." Yan Shuangzi drew the Divine Weapon-Xiao Ling Blade.

"Jiang... junior sister! I had to survive in Tianhuang Mountain... You do this, and Lord Jade Talisman will never forgive you for such disrespect to the gods... Ah! Ahhh..."

Horrific screams pierced the night, yet Jiang Ruyi's steps never faltered, her gaze ice cold.

Disrespect?

Heh.

Jiang Ruyi came to Lu Ran's side, following his gaze to the bright moon in the night sky: "What are you thinking about, so focused?"

Lu Ran silently gazed at the moon, not speaking a word.

Jiang Ruyi didn't speak again; the screams from behind grew more harrowing.

Lu Ran suddenly said, "Do you think if you lost back then, you could have still found me alive?"

"Yes." Jiang Ruyi reached out and gently linked her arm with his.

"So certain?"

"Mm, definitely." Jiang Ruyi lowered her eyes with a faint smile, holding his arm tighter.

Did I... really find you?

I did.

But it was merely taking one step into Holy Spirit Mountain towards you.

The rest of the thousand miles, you walked.

I might not believe in myself.

But I believe in you.

Chapter 828: Serpent Feast

Three days later, Mo Gu Peak.

In the words of Lu Yuan's master and disciple, this place is one of the few top scenic spots within the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm.

Lu Ran clearly remembers Qin Yanzhi's original words: "The sea of flowers and sunrise at Qianhua Ridge, the sandstorms and sunset at Mo Gu Peak."

Now that Lu Ran stands on the peak, he realizes that Divine General Qin's words were not false!

However, compared to the scenery, the mood here is even more intense.

Mo Gu Peak is located deep within the Great Desert, with nothing but wasteland stretching for hundreds of kilometers around it.

Even the terrain of the extensive Ten Thousand Blade Mountain doesn't reach here.

Between heaven and earth, only this towering peak stands alone here.

Desolate, lonely.

In the past few days, Lu Ran endured the buzzing in his mind and accompanied Jiang Ruyi to admire the sandstorm and sunset.

Every time the blood-like sunset fell on the long river, Lu Ran always had an illusion:

The sunset,

falls at the world's end.

If the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm truly has an end, if one wants to find an end to a bitter life...

Mo Gu Peak is indeed a good choice.

"Your complexion is looking better." A gentle voice came from the side, "Has the Western Desolation Divine Sculpture stopped vibrating?"

"Yes." Lu Ran gazed westward, admiring another sunset, murmuring, "Heavenly Realm now."

Jiang Ruyi pursed her lips, hesitated, and then was silent.

She also noticed that Lu Ran's mood was a bit off these past few days.

Originally, she thought the continuous tremors of the Stone Sculpture made him upset, but now it seems that perhaps this desolate Mo Gu Peak is secretly at work.

"I'll send you back to the Ran Sect's island for secluded cultivation in a while." After a long time, Lu Ran spoke.

That so-called Brother Meng was indeed an unexpected gift.

This time, while eliminating Tianhuang Mountain, he was solved along the way, thinking that little Ruyi would also find some peace of mind?

A few nights ago, that Brother Meng was finally dragged to Lu Ran's feet by the Evil Shadow Guardian, becoming a Spiritual believer, and then turned into nourishment for the Spiritual Stone Sculpture.

"Okay." Jiang Ruyi also felt she was on the verge of a breakthrough, quickly advancing to the Fourth Rank of the Sea Realm was naturally of utmost importance, she turned to ask, "What about you, what's your next plan?"

Lu Ran: "I want to push the Evil Sculpture in the garden to the Heavenly Realm before the next upgrade."

Jiang Ruyi gently nodded, indeed it should be so.

"I'm planning to let Senior Tu stay at the Sky Sparrow Pavilion and send Aunt Bai to the Glazed Realm." Lu Ran pondered, "One in the northwest, one in the southeast, no matter where I am in the Mountain Realm, if something really happens, I can reach there in an instant."

"You'd better carry them with you?" Jiang Ruyi slightly frowned.

"Blazing Phoenix is for you." Lu Ran encircled Jiang Xianzi's slender waist, watching the sunset drop bit by bit, "Leave it for the Ran Sect warriors, to ensure no surprises during the upgrade."

Jiang Ruyi slightly lifted her gaze, looking at Lu Ran's profile.

"Don't worry, I execute tasks stealthily, it's very safe." Lu Ran's attitude was unexpectedly firm, "I need you all to quickly transform into Pseudo God Stone Sculptures, to prepare for ascending to heaven."

"Hmm... Hmm."

Lu Ran suddenly lifted his head, tilting it further back, directly looking at the pointed peak of Mo Gu Peak's highest point: "When I'm in the Heavenly Realm, I'll go up from here, how about that?"

"You seem to have some special feelings about this place?" Jiang Ruyi finally asked the doubt in her heart.

"Hmm... don't you think, this place seems like the end of the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm?"

...

At night, the sky was filled with a myriad of stars.

Lu Ran had already completed all arrangements according to the original plan, and then he visited the Jade-faced Snake Clan's base once again.

Guided by the Magic Artifact · Embroidery Needle, he found this beautiful snake by a riverside.

And the scene before his eyes surprised Lu Ran greatly.

A Jade-faced Snake was meekly snuggling at Bai Rao's leg, letting her softly stroke its head.

It's hard to imagine that such noble and sacred Jade-faced Snake Clan could have such a docile side.

Such behavior inevitably reminded Lu Ran of Bai Rao snuggling at his leg.

Practically a spitting image!

The only difference is, Bai Rao enjoyed it, her fingers entangled with the Jade-faced Snake's hair, playing with it casually.

Whenever Bai Rao snuggled with Lu Ran, he wouldn't dare play with her hair...

"You're here?" Bai Rao slightly turned her head, her eyebrow arched lightly.

Even though Lu Ran was in invisible mode, not revealing an inkling of his aura, he was holding the Magic Artifact · Embroidery Needle in his hand.

"Aunt Bai." Lu Ran responded softly.

"Hiss..." The Jade-faced Snake's delicate body tensed, instantly entering combat mode, hissing dangerously from its red lips.

"Shh!" Bai Rao pressed her hand on the Jade-faced Snake's head, giving a command to be silent.

Lu Ran was dumbfounded!

He saw Bai Rao take advantage of the situation to press the back of the Jade-faced Snake's head, burying its holy face in Bai Rao's own lap.

"Ugh~"

The raspy hissing stopped abruptly, and the Jade-faced Snake let out a muffled sound.

Lu Ran: "..."

This?

Why reward the snake?

Bai Rao raised her jade hand, with a swipe at her waist, turning the soft jade belt into a long sword.

"Swoosh!"

With the sound of the sword piercing flesh, the Sea Realm Great Demon who had buried its head on Bai Rao's thigh was pinned to the spot.

Lu Ran couldn't help shivering.

Goodness~

This woman is truly ruthless!

Just moments ago, she was feeding them legs and playing with their hair, and in the next moment, she slaughters the snake!

"Go ahead and eat." Bai Rao drew out her long sword, the mysterious Divine Weapon, once again turning into the white jade belt coiled around her waist.

Lu Ran stepped forward a couple of steps and quickly sensed the dead soul of the Jade-faced Snake being absorbed into his eyes.

"Alright, Aunt Bai."

"I've prepared 20 Jade-faced Snakes from the Sea Realm for you~" Bai Rao reached out with one hand to the location of the embroidery needle and easily found Lu Ran.

"They've been inhabiting the mountain for a long time and must have accumulated a lot of Holy Spirit Energy." Her movements were elegant and natural as she gently wrapped an arm around him, speaking in a charming voice, "I guarantee little Lu will have his fill~"

Lu Ran asked, "Does this clan listen well to Aunt Bai?"

"I am, after all, a Heavenly Realm disciple of the Jade-faced Snake Lord." Bai Rao said while leading Lu Ran forward, "These little lackeys fear higher-level beings and are probably aware of their status, so they naturally listen to me."

Lu Ran nodded thoughtfully.

No doubt, every Jade-faced Snake lackey carried the traits of the Evil God's true form.

Just like the Rou Papermen.

Every Rou Paperman sister that Lu Ran encountered wanted to take him away for a yin marriage, to join her in the bridal chamber.

The Jade-faced Snake clan is inherently intelligent, made with a touch of awareness and understanding from the moment they were created, knowing Bai Rao is the favored disciple of the Evil God Lord, and surrendering under the pressure of the Heavenly Realm, which is not surprising.

Lu Ran thought secretly.

If he were to become a Spiritual believer, would the Rou Paperman clan also follow his wishes with such a connection in place?

They probably would.

"So, in this view, high intelligence has become a burden instead?" Lu Ran suddenly said.

Bai Rao gently nodded.

For a Heavenly Realm Evil Dog disciple, it should be difficult for Evil Dog lackeys to obey obediently.

"Besides intelligence, the underlying character also matters." Bai Rao continued, "Disciples of the Evil Spear Emperor may also find it challenging to control the Evil Spear Emperor's lackeys."

As she finished speaking, she stopped and waved her hand toward the distance, "Baby, come over~"

Bai Rao's tone was so soft and alluring.

Yet Lu Ran felt increasingly chilled down his spine!

Because within seconds, Bai Rao would kill the snake, but at this moment, her eyes were smiling charmingly, without a hint of killing intent!

A woman's heart,

is truly a needle at the bottom of the sea!

To be honest, Lu Ran was a bit worried Bai Rao would suddenly give him a sword while keeping a smiling face...

"Hiss~" The Jade-faced Snake crawled over obediently.

Under the moonlight, this clan was stunningly beautiful!

Its skin was snow-white, and its Immortal Scales were gleaming, all emanating a strange sheen.

"Screech!" The sound of the sword piercing flesh rang out again.

Bai Rao swiftly and decisively cut down the flower, yet Lu Ran still couldn't detect even the slightest killing intent; instead, he felt her tone was even gentler:

"Go ahead and eat, eat more~"

Lu Ran silently withdrew his arm.

Bai Rao let him go, standing quietly for a moment before suddenly asking in a soft voice, "Did I frighten you again?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Do I not care about face?

"Hehe~" Bai Rao couldn't help but chuckle softly.

Lu Ran felt the dead soul of the Jade-faced Snake entering his gaze and recalled the incredible killing intent Bai Rao once unleashed when the issue of Jade-faced Snake from the Evil God was brought up at Mist Rain Lake!

It was in stark contrast to her current demeanor.

Really, what exactly did the Jade-faced Snake do to her?

Unfortunately, Bai Rao clearly stated she didn't want to mention it.

She is, after all, an extremely dangerous Great Power of the Heavenly Realm, so Lu Ran naturally needed to show the respect deserved.

He would have to wait for their relationship to deepen further in the future to find an opportunity to ask.

Afterward, under Bai Rao's guidance, Lu Ran moved through the Crystal Realm unimpeded, absorbing the dead souls of the Great Demons from the Sea Realm one by one.

In the meantime, the Jade-faced Snake Evil Sculpture of the Third Rank in Lu Ran's garden began to buzz and tremble.

In just over ten minutes, the dead souls of 20 Great Demons of the Sea Realm were all absorbed into the garden.

"Are you full now?"

"Yes, thank you, Aunt Bai, for your hospitality."

"Hehe~" Bai Rao smiled and suggested, "It's late, why not rest at my place, little Lu."

Sleeping soundly in the headquarters of a first-rate Evil Demon?

Sounds quite prestigious, doesn't it?

Lu Ran was indeed tempted but still refused: "No need."

"Why, doesn't little Lu trust me?" Bai Rao's voice was faint.

"You've misunderstood, Aunt Bai." Lu Ran said in a deep voice, "Taking advantage of the late hour, I want to continue completing the task, to grow as quickly as possible, so as to relieve you, Aunt Bai, sooner."

Bai Rao laughed silently, "Indeed, you have a sweet tongue."

He's indeed good at making people happy...

With those words, it's not in vain that I selected these 20 Jade-faced Snakes for you after walking through the mountain again and again.

"Here." Lu Ran handed over the embroidery needle.

"Keep it with you, little Lu." Bai Rao said softly, "Let me know if you encounter danger, and rest at my place if you're tired of executing tasks."

After a moment's hesitation, Lu Ran pinned the embroidery needle to his sleeve: "Thank you, Aunt Bai. I'll be going."

"Mm, take care on the road."

...

Chapter 829: The Edge of the World

Early May, Heaven's Edge.

In the middle section of a cliff thirty to forty meters high, there is a hidden narrow cave entrance.

Inside the cave, Jiang Ruyi sits silently meditating as usual, with a delicate treasure gourd nestled in her arms.

From time to time, she can sense the restless heart of the little Blazing Phoenix.

It's not out of playfulness, but rather a longing for advancement!

As early as February this year, when Lu Ran was promoted, the little Blazing Phoenix was researching the new magical artifact's effects in its master's company.

Trying to control all the enemies it swallowed into its belly!

To this day, the little Blazing Phoenix is venturing further and further down this path.

"Good girl." Jiang Ruyi rarely praised, gently patting the treasure gourd in her arms.

"Buzz~" The little Blazing Phoenix was extremely happy to receive the praise.

Jiang Ruyi smiled warmly, "If you can really advance to a third-rank magical artifact and have this effect, it can indeed help him a lot."

"Caw~"

A golden phoenix pattern quietly lit up, and the Artifact Spirit flew out.

The little Blazing Phoenix, woven from golden threads, flapped its beautiful phoenix wings, circling around Jiang Ruyi before finally landing on her shoulder:

"Help mommy too~"

Jiang Ruyi's face was stunned, then a blush crept up her cheeks.

The little Blazing Phoenix rarely spoke words, usually just phoenix cries.

For it to suddenly come out with a sentence now is really... um.

Who knows what that bad guy is thinking, always instilling such ideas in the little Blazing Phoenix.

Perhaps it's because the little Blazing Phoenix is too cute.

Its voice is tender and childish, like a naive child, endearing to people.

Or maybe, does Lu Ran want a baby?

Thinking of this, Jiang Ruyi became even more bashful inside, but at this stage, it's not a very good time.

Jiang Ruyi remembered Deng Yutang and Bai Manni, that small couple, and their young child, who followed its parents across places and is now at this far end of the earth,

and lived mostly underground on islands.

Fortunately, there are many doctors in the Ran Sect, and Bai Manni herself is the original form of the Jade-faced Snake Ghost Moon Fox, naturally possessing healing techniques that can nurture the mind and body of the Human Clan, ensuring the healthy growth of the baby.

Jiang Ruyi silently sighed, lifting her jade-like hand to her shoulder.

The little Blazing Phoenix hopped on her shoulder, looking joyous yet mischievous, and landed in the woman's palm.

Jiang Ruyi gently placed the Artifact Spirit, the little Blazing Phoenix, back into the treasure gourd, returning it to her embrace.

"Lady?" A deeply magnetic female voice came from the entrance of the tunnel behind her, very recognizable.

Jiang Ruyi turned her head to see Deng Yuxiang coming from the depths of the underground. In the secluded cave, she changed her address:

"Sister Yuxiang, what's the matter?"

"I am ready." Deng Yuxiang's expression was solemn, "I'm planning to break through and advance, and would like to borrow the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd."

"Alright." Jiang Ruyi nodded gently.

If Deng Yuxiang advances again, she'll be at the Sea Realm Peak!

No wonder she was the earliest to accompany Lu Ran into the mountains and the first to bond with the Evil Sculpture.

Jiang Ruyi stood up, "I've almost reached my cultivation bottleneck, let's go, you and I will go into seclusion together."

"Yes!" Deng Yuxiang immediately took steps to lead the Ran Sect's lady to the underground city.

"By the way, the little Blazing Phoenix is eager to advance, always researching how to control the prisoners in its belly." Jiang Ruyi handed over the treasure gourd.

"I'll supervise it." Deng Yuxiang reached out to receive it, her fingertips pressing gently on the gold phoenix pattern.

"Buzz~"

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd trembled gently.

It wasn't rejoicing, nor was it responding.

It was purely out of fear...

Seeing this, Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but smile.

Back in the day, wasn't it through Deng Yuxiang's strict urging that the little Blazing Phoenix ascended to the second-rank magical artifact, realizing the effect of swallowing people whole?

It's good to put some pressure on the little Blazing Phoenix, after all.

Lu Ran, that guy, does pamper the little Blazing Phoenix a bit.

Jiang Ruyi pursed her lips.

They've been apart for over ten days, and she doesn't know where he is now...

These days, the Evil Shadow Guardian, Yan God General, and Deng Yutang, himself the Ghost General in person, all trembled repeatedly.

I suppose Lu Ran should be around the northwest area of the Holy Spirit Mountain?

Meanwhile, in the west-central part of the Holy Spirit Mountain.

On a towering mountain.

Lu Ran concealed himself, eyes full of icy killing intent as he looked at the corpses beneath him that hadn't yet turned cold.

The young and handsome emperor died with eyes open.

The dark clouds gathered in the sky were rolling, yet still failed to rain down long spears.

"Poof~"

The Evil Spear Emperor's body shattered into mist.

Lu Ran activated the Divine Power Bead Strings on his neck, absorbing the dense energy into them.

Since that night, after he savored the feast of the Jade-faced Snake, he went near the Mist Valley, the main base of the Evil Demon and Ghost Talisman Doll clan.

Lu Ran relied on the gale of the Night Charm Clan, wildly blowing away that group of Ghost Dolls.

Because Lu Ran never activated the Evil Sculpture and Ghost Talisman Doll, so he didn't worry about two Stone Sculptures vibrating simultaneously in the garden.

With the Jade-faced Snake Evil Sculpture paused at the Heavenly Realm's lower tier, Lu Ran moved around sharply, ensuring that the garden held only one Stone Sculpture advancing.

To ensure his own combat readiness.

Speaking of which, those Sea Realm third-rank and fourth-rank Stone Sculptures in the Sculpture Garden, after advancing to the Heavenly Realm, all came to a halt without exception at the Heavenly Realm's lower tier.

Lu Ran was also a bit troubled by how to cultivate them in the future.

For a River Realm Stone Sculpture to advance one small rank, it just needed 100 strands of pure Holy Spirit Energy, while a Sea Realm Stone Sculpture required a thousand strands.

Following this trend, for a Heavenly Realm Stone Sculpture to advance one small rank, wouldn't it need ten thousand strands of Holy Spirit Energy?!

The necessary amount of resources is excessive...

Moreover, the Heavenly Realm is different from realms like Jianghai, having only 3 minor ranks.

Who can ensure that some disruption won't occur among them?

Perhaps, the resources needed for the Stone Sculpture to advance are even greater!

Bai Rao once corrected a notion of Lu Ran: Within the Heavenly Realm, there is no differentiation between upper, middle, and lower segments.

She referred to them as the First Heaven, Second Heaven, and Third Heaven, precisely because these three steps are more inclined to be seen as independent Great Realms!

Just like large realms such as Mist, Stream, River, Jiang, and Sea!

At least, that's what Bai Rao believed.

Lu Ran kept this in mind, waiting for the day to consult with Master Immortal Sheep to resolve his doubts.

From this point, it is evident that even a powerful disciple of the Human Clan like Bai Rao cannot communicate smoothly with deities at will.

Bai Rao herself collected some intelligence, only knowing a shallow bit.

The aloof Evil God Jade-faced Snake had no intention to clarify Bai Rao's doubts.

"Rustle~~~"

The sound of the Emperor's Robe's hem flapping echoed from afar.

Lu Ran snapped back to his senses, turned his head to look, and saw a dignified and solemn Evil Spear Emperor.

Because Lu Ran's assassination skills have rapidly progressed, there were indeed no battle marks left on this battlefield.

Yet, dark clouds gathered over the sky!

On the mountain peak, there was no sign of the Evil Spear Emperor, which prompted kin to investigate.

To be honest, the Evil Spear Emperor Clan is the most "noble" creature Lu Ran has seen in his campaigns!

The pride of this clan is rarely seen in the world.

They never travel together.

When Lu Ran faces off against one Evil Spear Emperor, if another appears...

The newcomer won't even glance at the battle, directly leaving.

Even if the kin falls into disadvantage or fights a mysterious invisible enemy, the newcomer won't assist!

Leaving Lu Ran shocked!

It's important to know that even the Evil Demon Leader Blood Skull Clan would gang up on Lu Ran!

Yet, the Evil Spear Emperor Clan disdains using numbers to overwhelm!

Upon witnessing a kin's death, the Evil Spear Emperor wouldn't be infuriated but rather show disdain.

Occasionally, an Evil Spear Emperor might catch the end of a battle and learn that their kin faced an immensely powerful enemy, only then giving reluctant acknowledgment.

Nothing like other Evil Demon races that would fly into a rage, losing face.

It's simply...

Even making Lu Ran feel a bit of respect.

During the two days of battle on Evil Cloud Peak (the base camp of the Evil Spear Emperor Clan), these aloof emperors often reminded Lu Ran of the Fifteenth Night in the human world's Rain Alley.

That night, with the Dawn Blade in hand, Lu Ran opened the Divine Weapon Domain, locked in battle with a Jiang Realm Demon Lord.

Ultimately, when the Evil Spear Emperor's dead soul flew into Lu Ran's eyes...

The opponent even showed an expression of appreciation, nodding in acknowledgment to Lu Ran!

Hmm... Someday in the future, I must meet with this Evil God in person!

"Hmm?" The Evil Spear Emperor's body froze.

Lu Ran, hidden in form, silently descended behind the Evil Spear Emperor, placing a hand on the opponent's shoulder, with five thin red lines extending from his fingertips.

"Swoosh!"

In the next instant, Lu Ran swung his blade, directly severing the Evil Spear Emperor's head.

Respect is respect,

but we still need to collect the dead souls~

Lu Ran's heart stirred, eager to try again.

He then revealed his true form, activating a pair of Pupil of the Dead World.

In his view, just as the Evil Spear Emperor's dead soul floated out, it saw the human youth.

A wide-brimmed bamboo hat and raincoat, with a bizarre blood crystal mask on the lower half of his face.

A pair of lifeless horizontal pupils.

"Humph!" The Evil Spear Emperor coldly snorted.

No admiration, no nodding acknowledgment.

The Evil Spear Emperor slowly flew towards Lu Ran, eyes filled with extreme disdain.

Despicable sneak attacker!

Filthy and cowardly reptile!

Lu Ran: "..."

That look... Is he scolding me?

Lu Ran awkwardly scratched his head but hit the bamboo hat instead, making it even more awkward:
"Uh, sorry about that."

"Humph." The Evil Spear Emperor snorted again.

Lu Ran suddenly laughed mischievously, blurting out, "I'll do it again next time~"

Evil Spear Emperor: "..."

He probably didn't understand human speech, but he could grasp Lu Ran's attitude.

"Slash!"

Lu Ran twirled the blade skillfully, sheathed it, and was looking forward more and more to meeting the Evil Spear Emperor in person in the future.

He turned invisible, while the Stone Sculpture of the Evil Spear Emperor in the garden continued to tremble.

Lu Ran looked around but didn't see the Evil Spear Emperor anymore.

Forget it, better find a peaceful place to relax, it's been so many days, need to have a good sleep.

Lu Ran slowly raised his head, looking towards the overcast sky covered with dark clouds.

So, dear God Demons.

Where should this despicable human ant go to hide and survive?

How about Mo Gu Peak?

Hide at the world's end.

...

Chapter 830: Seven Views of the Holy Spirit

On Mo Gu Peak, inside a mountain cave.

In the corner, a young man sleeping soundly on a straw mat seemed to be having a nightmare, his brows furrowed tightly.

"Brother~"

The young man's sleep was restless, and he turned over groggily.

"Brother?"

Lu Ran suddenly opened his eyes wide.

The scene before him left him somewhat confused, the light of the setting sun seeped through the cave entrance and fell inside.

In the beams of light, dust could be seen faintly swirling.

Lu Ran's eyes gradually regained focus, finally recalling where he was.

For the past fifty or sixty days, he had been fighting everywhere, also wandering throughout the Mountain Realm.

Today, he camped in the snow forest with swirling winds and snow, tomorrow he would hide in the Soul-locking Mountains shrouded in gray mist.

In comparison, the place he visited the most was still the Northwest Desert.

This isolated Mo Gu Peak carried its own unique aura.

Melancholic, lonely.

There was no need to worry about seeing any living creatures.

That's why Lu Ran liked it here; if he couldn't see people, naturally he wouldn't see sad stories.

A bit self-deceptive.

Holy Spirit Mountain gradually returned to its former order.

Batch after batch of Human Clan disciples were thrown in, each small faction, each prestigious sect was rebuilt.

Only to be destroyed again, people dying in waves.

History repeating itself.

Compared to before, the survival conditions of Holy Spirit Mountain had worsened, because there were now patrolling executioners of the Heavenly Realm.

Such people were beyond reasoning.

Just like a person walking on the road, seeing a few ants crawling on the ground.

Unrelated to hatred or affection.

To step on them or not, a decision made in a moment.

Without resolving the dominating God Demon, without fundamentally changing the rules, there will always be people thrown into this slaughterhouse.

"Hah..." Lu Ran let out a deep sigh, holding his forehead with one hand, he sat up.

Having seen so much, shouldn't he be numb?

But why was he growing more and more resentful?

"Brother!"

"Hmm?" Only then did Lu Ran remember, as if someone was calling him in a faint voice, prompting him to wake up.

He searched within the Spiritual World, then set his gaze on an Evil Sculpture—the Black Lantern.

"Yuanxi?"

"Brother!" The girl's call became clear, "You finally responded to me."

"Hmm..."

"You haven't visited me for so long." She spoke softly, with a hint of grievance.

Lu Ran felt a bit guilty, yet didn't know how to respond.

Should he say he was busy?

Indeed.

But if he could rest on Mo Gu Peak, why couldn't he go back to the Ran Sect to rest?

Distance, to him, meant nothing.

So...

He just didn't want to go back, didn't want to face those eyes full of hope.

Everyone there revered him like a deity, so devout.

But this omnipotent deity was leading people to flee their homes, to a pitiful and desperate escape.

Lu Ran knew well what the disciples were hoping for...

"Brother, are you listening? Where are you... um, have you been doing well lately?" Qiao Yuansi cautiously asked.

"I'm in the northwest, on Mo Gu Peak."

"Mo Gu Peak? Is that the beautiful scenery Divine General Qin mentioned?" Qiao Yuansi seemed a bit interested, or perhaps she found a good excuse, as her tone perked up.

"Yes. Do you want to come over?" Lu Ran raised his eyes, looking at the sunset beams falling inside the cave.

"Yes, yes!" Qiao Yuansi quickly responded, her tone much more cheerful.

"Can the Tear Star Pendant teleport so far? I'll come to pick you up..." Lu Ran's voice transmission halted.

Beside him, a teardrop-shaped energy mass quietly appeared.

"Jingle~ Jingle~"

The girl in the black dress stepped out, the exquisite Heavenly Sound Bell at her ankle ringing with a clear and pleasant sound.

Lu Ran was full of praise.

The teleportation range of the Magic Artifact Tear Star Pendant was really this far?

Lu Ran was in the northwest of Holy Spirit Mountain, deep in the desert, while Qiao Yuansi was on a distant sea island far from the mainland, in the east.

This?

"Brother!" Qiao Yuansi smiled, her eyes curving, sweetly calling out.

But then, her smile faded, as she looked around the dusty little cave, then down at the worn-out straw mat under Lu Ran.

Qiao Yuansi furrowed her brows: "Why are you resting here in such poor conditions... why not return to the Ends of the Earth?"

Ends of the Earth,

The collective term for the area where the seven islands of the Ran Sect are located.

It was said that this name was also related to Lu Ran.

Ever since he named the east sea cliff of Ranmen Island "Heaven's Edge," the name "Ends of the Earth" had gradually spread among the disciples of Ran Sect.

"The desert, there's bound to be some sand and winds." Lu Ran smiled, gesturing toward the cave entrance not far away, "Go look at the sunset."

However, Qiao Yuansi wasn't concerned about the scenery.

She half-knelt down, carefully examining Lu Ran's face: "You look more haggard."

Lu Ran: "..."

The intensity of his tasks was indeed very high.

To date, those activated Evil Sculptures in his domain, all had ascended to the Heavenly Realm.

Lu Ran, of course, wasn't idle, continuing to slaughter other Evil Demon Races, preparing for future activation, indeed seldom rested.

No matter how resilient a Sea Realm body was, he couldn't withstand such wear and tear.

"Hmm." Qiao Yuansi's eyes were full of heartache, as she reached out a small, tender hand, placing it on Lu Ran's face.

In her hand, black flames ignited, gradually spreading to cover Lu Ran's entire body.

"Have you advanced to the next level?" Lu Ran broke the silence, changing the topic.

"Yeah, that's why I dared to take this opportunity to bother you." Yuanxi pouted.

"What do you mean bother, you can come to me anytime." Lu Ran chuckled.

Yuanxi continued to pout, looking at Lu Ran.

Indeed, the two were spiritually connected, making communication even easier than a phone call.

However, after Yuanxi bonded with the Stone Sculpture, private exchanges with Lu Ran weren't as frequent.

There's no difficulty in making a phone call.

The real challenge is that moment where you look at the number in your contacts and make that decision to dial it.

The cave was enveloped in silence.

Yuanxi adjusted her posture, sitting on her knees, constantly releasing Cage Fire from her hands, nourishing Lu Ran's body and soul.

After some time, Lu Ran softly said, "If you don't watch the sunset now, you'll miss it."

"Then I'll watch it next time."

Lu Ran was slightly speechless, opened his mouth, and then searched for words: "How is everyone doing?"

"Sister Deng and Sister Ruyi both advanced last month," Yuanxi muttered discontentedly, "They prepared a surprise for you, but you still haven't returned."

"Surprise?"

"Mmm." Yuanxi realized she had slipped, covering her mouth with her hand infused with Black Fire.

"Haha." Lu Ran couldn't help but laugh out loud.

Compared to the Cage Fire, this adorable girl in front of him was even more heartwarming.

Yuanxi quickly changed the subject: "Many in the Ran Sect have also advanced. With so many Fake Gods gathering together, carpooling is practically one after another..."

Previously at the Cloud Sea Cliff, the high-ranking officers of the Ran Sect often advanced in groups during a certain period.

Now, the leaders of many affiliated sects of the Ran Sect, along with numerous Stone Sculptures, all gathered at the ends of the earth, truly helping each other out.

"By the way! Sister Yingying and Niutou also advanced to the Sea Realm!"

"Impressive! How about Yutang?"

"Kuaila-ge has made progress as well, but he's still struggling in the River Realm," Yuanxi couldn't help but smother a laugh with her hand.

Lu Ran also laughed.

Poor Deng Shao, his reputation precedes him.

"Kuaila-ge is quite pitiful, every time he sees Sister Deng, he wishes he could bury his head into the ground..." Yuanxi seemed to recall an image, and a bright smile spread across her face.

Lu Ran, on the other hand, had different thoughts.

Deng Yuxiang was already at the Sea Realm Peak, and most people upon seeing her would lower their heads very low.

"Bro~ are you coming home with me?" Yuanxi suddenly asked.

"Home?"

"Sister Ruyi said, by counting the days, you should be retreating to seek a breakthrough," Yuanxi quickly replied.

"What day is it today?" Lu Ran closed his eyes, silently sensing his physical condition.

"It's already June 23rd!"

"Oh." Lu Ran nodded lightly.

Seems about right.

However, his cultivation progress might not have reached little Ruyi's calculated standard.

The reason was simple—high-intensity task deployments still affected Lu Ran.

Indeed, Lu Ran had long gotten used to cultivating in battle, but since embarking on a path of assassination, he sometimes had to halt absorbing Divine Power to prevent fluctuations.

You win some, you lose some.

The already activated Stone Sculptures in the garden can be checked for their realm. Many of the unactivated key Stone Sculptures should also be at high realms.

For instance, Yin Flower Dan, the other side of the Martial Emperor; the Fisherman, the other side of the Luoshen General.

The Nine Nether Sparrow is the arch-nemesis of the Huang Que Sect.

In the future, Lu Ran plans to incorporate the Pavilion Master of the Sky Sparrow Pavilion, Golden Sparrow, to become the Evil God Nine Nether Sparrow.

"Bro~ go back and rest, you're too tired," Yuanxi hugged Lu Ran's arm, softly pleading.

"Mm, alright."

"Eh, let's go back, I miss you... eh?" Yuanxi was taken aback for a moment, then her face lit up with joy, "You agreed?"

Lu Ran reaffirmed by nodding.

He never wanted to refuse little Yuanxi.

Looking back, when he fought against the Blood Skull Clan at the Galaxy Waterfall of Nine Heavens Cliff, it seemed it was also little Yuanxi who chased after him and brought him home?

Behind the scenes, wasn't it also Jiang Ruyi's orchestration?

What a Ran Sect Lady!

She does know where to hit where it hurts...

Thinking of this, Lu Ran couldn't help but have a peculiar expression.

Actually, little Ruyi could have transmitted the message personally. Lu Ran believed he would find it hard to refuse her request as well.

"Hehe~" Yuanxi happily swayed Lu Ran's arm.

"Let's go watch the sunset then." Lu Ran was also affected by her smile, leading her to stand up.

The sunset is truly beautiful.

Too bad we can't see it.

The siblings came to the cave's entrance, unable to see a bloody red sunset, but they did catch sight of strands of afterglow.

"Wow~" Yuanxi's big eyes sparkled brightly.

"I'll bring you back at twilight tomorrow," Lu Ran said softly.

"Mm-hmm! Oh right, bro, you've seen all the Seven Views of the Holy Spirit General Qin mentioned, haven't you?" Yuanxi turned, raising her eyes to Lu Ran.

Lu Ran slightly raised an eyebrow: "Seven Views of the Holy Spirit?"

Yuanxi reached out her slender jade-like finger, listing them with familiarity: "The sea of flowers and sunrise of Qianhua Ridge, the sandstorm and sunset of Mo Gu Peak;

the light snow of Ice Heart Lake, morning fog of the Hidden Thousand Mountains, stars and moon of Moon Shadow Heavenly Pool;

the delicate rain of Mist Rain Lake, the Galaxy Waterfall of Nine Heavens Cliff..."

"You remember them more clearly than I do." Lu Ran understood in his heart, smiling as he shook his head, "I haven't been to the middle three."

"Great!" Yuanxi's eyes lit up, "Ice Heart Lake reserving for me... no, Moon Shadow Heavenly Pool reserving for me! Let's go see it together!"

"All are reserved for you," Lu Ran directly said.

"No, no, can't be so greedy~" Yuanxi shook her little head like a rattle.

"Why can't you be greedy?"

"Mom will make me kneel as punishment."

"I won't punish you."

"Um... right~"